

A Study on the Historical Geography of East Sea

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to show, by historical geography study, how the printed world map developed from the earliest years of printing in 13th century up to the turn of the 19th century.

There is nothing which has been so symbolic of a nation and intellectual weapon as a map in the disputes over a territory which A nation and B nation assert their sovereign right over C territory.

Focussing on the historical and geographical analysis of the marking of the East Sea, this research has analyzed by evidences and made use of the ancient world maps to reach the following conclusion. The sea names marked on the current world maps have some fixed principle as follows.

The first principle is "the North Sea(direction marking) model," in which the directions of north, east, south and west are recorded in the sea names. In particular, the typical examples are the indication of the sea names such as the East Sea, the West Sea and the North Sea on the ancient western maps and the marking of the East Sea on Vinland map by Carpinus(1245-1247) above stated. Meanwhile, recording the sea between France and England as the North Sea can be the representative case among the extant direction markings. "Ocean Orientalis" recorded on the world maps including the one by Martin Waldseemüller(1507) is also the case.

The second one is "Norway-Greenland(nation marking) model." The sea name between Greenland and Norway represents the case in which the sea names are recorded by using all the names of nations located between two countries at least. In the direction of Greenland, the sea is marked as Greenland Sea, and in the direction of Norway, it is marked as Norway sea respectively on the map. The third one is "Continent marking(Western countries geographical designation) model." In this model, the geographical designation are used as the sea names. for instances, the sea in the east of Okhotsk in Russia is named as

the Okhotsk sea and the eastern sea of China in the west of Okinawa is named as the East China Sea. The fourth one is discoverers name model (Bering sea) The fifth one is characteristics of sea model(black sea)

Analyzing the ancient world maps led to the conclusion as follows. On vinland map inserted in Tartar relation by Carpini(1245-1247) who traveled Mongolia 750 years ago, the marking of the East Sea first appeared, which was 350 years earlier than the time when the marking of the Japan Sea was first shown on world map by Matteo Ricci (1602) The record of the East Sea also continued in the 16th and the 17th centuries. To take representative examples first of all, the East Sea was marked as 「Ocean Orientalis」 on the world map made in 1507 by Waldseemüller 「MARE ORIENTALE」 in 1528 by Bordone and 「OCEANVS Orientalis」 in 1504 by Sebastian Münster.

Among the world maps, there is a map on which the name of 「the East Sea」 is first recorded in Chinese letter, and that is 'SIHAI HUA TI ZONGTU', where the sea between Korea and Japan is named east sea in Chinese letter.

On the world map made In 1619, the sea between Korea and Japan is exactly indicated as "Mer Orientale." In addition, it apperars as 'Ocean Oriental' on the world map produced in 1640 by Philippe Briet, as 「OCEANO ORIENTALE」 on the one in 1658 by Rossi and as 「Oriental sea」 on the one in 1694 by Bickell and J. Gluer.

As above, the name of the East Sea indicated the sea east of the continent in the 13th century, and the sea neighbouring Korea and Japan in the 15th and the 16th centuries. In the 17th century, the sea between Korea and Japan was exactly recorded as the East Sea, and this lasted in the 18th and the 19th centuries.

Consequently, it can be recognized that the North Sea(direction marking)model is most reasonable among the fivee model above.

World Maps

