

The Geographical Names for the East Sea(Sea of Japan)
In Old European and Japanese Maps

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The change of the geographical names for the East Sea(Sea of Japan)in old European and Japanese maps is discussed by this paper.

Matteo Ricci, A missionary from Europe, published his map *World Map* in 1602, in which the sea area was named Sea of Japan first. But the name didn't be spread in Europe and Japan. The area of Northeast Asia was draw incorrectly on the world maps and Asia maps before 1670s. There was no any sea area where matched the range of Sea of Japan today, no geographical names for the sea area of Sea of Japan. Because of this, we couldn't regard some geographical name as the name for Sea of Japan. After 1770s, European geographers understood the area of Northeast Asia, started to draw the water area of Sea of Japan and gave it's geographical name. The names with "Corea", specially "Sea of Corea" or "Mer de Corea", were used most in the whole names for the sea area on the maps read by me. And the names with "Japan", specially "Sea of Japan" or "Mer du Japan", are the second most. Besides, the geographical name of Mer Oriental was written on few maps. The Geographical names with "Corea" were used often, and another ones were used occasionally on most of maps before the last years of 18th century. The geographical names with "Japan" were used relatively more on maps since 1890s. But the maps used the names with "Corea" still are more than the ones used the names with "Japan" in early stage. The name of Sea of Japan was admitted by most of European geograpers around 1827.

A copy from Matteo Ricci's World Map, published by a Japanese scholar in 1670-80s, used the name of Sea of Japan for calling the area of Sea of Japan today, after Matteo Ricci's World Map was spread in Japan. Because the map is only a copy, it didn't mean the geographical name of Sea of Japan had been admitted in Japan. Besides the copy, Shiba Kokan used the name of West Sea of Japan, which came from an European map and was made a change, to refer the sea area in his *Map of the World* published in 1792. But other Japanese geographers didn't use the name of Sea of Japan probably. In their maps, there was no any geographical name on the sea area, while the sea name was written on other sea area. It means the sea area of Sea of Japan had no any geographical name admitted by most people. Since 19th century, the sea area was written its geographical names. Besides the name of Sea of Japan, other name was used for the sea area. For example, Takahashi Kageyasu, a famous geographer, used the name Sea of Korea to refer to the west part of the sea. In his map, the name of Sea of Great Japan, which means Sea of Japan, was used for the east sea area of Japanese Islands, not for the sea area of Sea of Japan. The name of Sea of Japan had been used widely during the middle of the 19th century.