

# A Study on the Naming of East sea

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## I . Introduction

This paper will investigate 2 cases. Global sea naming is standardized in twice.

First, it was standardized by "The Universal Gazetteer" in 1760.

Second, it was standardized by "The Limit of Ocean and Seas" which was published by IHO in 1928.

The content included here is referred from conventional theses studying the changing process of the East Sea naming, and from maps and reference material that date from ancient times to the present.

## II . The Principle of Eastsea

### 1. The Size of the East Sea

The East Sea is historically and geographically located northeast of the Asian Continent and west of the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by the Maritime Province and Sakhalin Island in Russia and the Japanese Islands. The East Sea was also called "Sea of Korea" and "Sea of Chosun," and it has the Tatar Strait to its north and the Korea Strait to its south.

It is said that the East Sea was created about 30 million years ago in the early quaternary period of the Cenozoic Era. There are two theories on the cause of its formation; the ingression sea theory where what was once a continent became a sea and the continental drift theory where the Japanese Islands, originally attached to the continent, moved east and formed a sea.

The East Sea forms an ellipse with the northeast-southwest apse line. It is 1,700 kilometers long from north to south, maximum 1,100 kilometers wide from east to west, and 1,361 meters deep in average. Particularly, the area near the Maritime Province of Russia and the Korean Peninsula is deeper and forms a steep slope of about 3,000 meters. The deepest part is on the northeast near the Ogiri Island and 3,762 meters deep, and its capacity is 1.361 million cubic kilometers.

Particularly, the continental shelf with the depth of water less than 200 meters is formed narrowly along the coast and covers an area of 280,000 square kilometers. The deep ocean floor with the depth of water exceeding 3,000 meters is 300,000 square kilometers in area.

## **2. Geopolitical Characteristics of the East Sea**

In the geopolitical point of view, adjacent to the East Sea are vital industrial countries like South Korea and Japan, and adjacent to the East China and Yellow Seas, which are connected to the East Sea, are vigorous China and Taiwan. Therefore, the East, Yellow, and East China Seas region are worthy of the world's attention. As for the East Sea, it is adjacent to South Korea and Japan, and since the late 1980s, Russia has also been showing a great interest in the East Sea.

Looking back into the world's sea-related past, the center of the world shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and now it is again shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On the Pacific times like this, the sea in a

very important position is the East Sea.

In the strategic point of view, the East Sea is important in maritime and national defense, insurance of the military influencing power in the East Sea and the Pacific (this point means more than a simple maritime and national defense to the future South Korea in its importance.), and the maritime influence on the Pacific region which is what the future Korea should aim to get.

Thus, the East Sea is a prospective sea which, with the close-by coastal waters, is increasing its importance in the global economy and politics. This point is what the governments of Korea and other neighboring nations cannot help but pay a great attention to.

With a narrower, regional view, the East Sea is a meeting place where the four coastal nations, South Korea, North Korea, Japan, and Russia, interact with each other. These four nations are the coastal, regional nations adjacent to the East Sea, and among these, Japan and South Korea are socially and economically vigorous, and Russia, though economically less vigorous, has been showing a great interest in the East Sea-Pacific region since the late 1980s. North Korea is making efforts to become economically vigorous by making the Sunbong(Woongi) area a free region and by establishing atomic energy-related facilities at Shinpo on the east coast region.

At present, there are not many great transactions among the neighboring nations of the East Sea, however, once North Korea and Russia become economically more vital, the role of the East Sea as a passageway to interdependence will become more important. Considering the potentiality of Russia, China, and North Korea's economic vital power, it is expected that the East Sea will play a greater role as a passageway to the mutual dependence.

### III. Case Study I – The Universal gazetteer(1760)

#### 1. Introduction

GEOGRAPHY is the art of deferibing the figure, magnitude, and pofitions of the feveral parts of the terraqueous globe.

This art has been cultivated from the earieft times, but its progrefs towards perfection very flow and tedious; nor will this appear ftrange, when it is remembered that the ancients were ignorant of a vaft variety of particulars neceffary to be known. America, and all the northern countries were wholly unknown to them; they knew not that the world could be failed round, nor that the torrid zone was inhabited ; they were even ignorant of the figure, and magnitude of the earth; they knew nothing of the motion of the fea, its flux and reflux, and with regard to the trade-winds, they never fufpected their exiftence.

Thefe difcoveries, have been happily made by the moderns; and the ftrange ideas formed by the ancients, with regard to the figure, magnitude, and divifion of the aerth, proved inadequate, and many of them abfolutely falfe. They have alfo opened a paffage to a new world, and found the torrid parts of the old, which the ancients thought uninhabitable, filled with people, being refrefhed with cooling fhowers, and copious dews during the night. The Antipodes, which had been the fubject of too much controverfy, they demonftrated; and by the many difcoveries they have made in navigation and aftronomy, failed round the whole globe, with lefs difficulty, perhaps, than the Phoenicians could hae coafted the Mediterranean.

There are, however, ftill parts enough undifcovered, to check our vanity; for by a modeft computation, they will amount to nearly one fourth part of the whole; nor have we yet been able to furmount one grand difficulty in navigation, I mean that of accurately fixing the longitude; for tho' feveral new methods, have been lately tried for this purpofe, they have

been found encumbered with so many difficulties, that the situation of few places, when compared with the whole, have been accurately ascertained.

It appears therefore, that geography is far from having yet received its final perfection; practical sciences make the least progress; geography, which would require an infinite number of observations, is imperfect, both with regard we may therefore justly suppose, that the description of the terrestrial globe, tho' it has been to considerably rectified, is still very inadequate and confused.

## 2. Of the political division of the Earth.

By the political division of the earth is meant the different countries, empires, kingdoms, states, and other denominations established by men, either by the ambition of tyrants, or for the sake of good government.

The earth is divided into four principal parts, namely Europe, Asia, Africa, and America; and there into various parts, according as the power of different princes has prevailed. Sometimes one large empire has comprehended astonishing tracts of country, and gave laws to the greatest part of the known world. At others, the vast empires have been subdivided into a great variety of small states and kingdoms, enjoying their own governors, liberties and laws.

Hence the political division of the earth is continually fluctuating, tho' the natural division is always the same. Nor is this the only difficulty that attends the political division of the earth; the names of places change with their inhabitants, so that it is often difficult to determine the true situation of cities, rivers, mountains, promontories and the like, mentioned by ancient writers.

### 3. The principle Seas, Bays, and Gulfs in Asia, are,

The Caspian Sea, bounded by Siberia on the north, by Persia on the east, by Persia on the south, and by Georgia on the west.

The Korean Sea, lying between Korea and the islands of Japan.

The Yellow Sea, situated between China and the Japanese islands.

The Gulf of Cochin China, washing the shores of Tonquin and Cochin China.

The Bay of Siam, formed by the countries of Siam and Malacca.

The Bay of Bengal, contained between the two parts of India, on both sides the Ganges.

## IV Case Study II – Limits of the Oceans(1928)

### 1. The first edition (1928) was discovered for the first time.

The writer discovered the 1st edition(1928) "The Limits of the Oceans and the Seas" in which the Sea which had been called the East Sea for thousands of years was changed into the Japan Sea, in the library of Harvard University for the first time.

After the writer traced the historical process of the East Sea's being changed into the Japan Sea for 30 years. I ended up with the discovery of the book for the first time at Harvard University Library.

So far, only the 2nd revised edition(published in 1937) and the 3rd revised edition(published in 1953) are available at home, so that the writer had difficulty in investigating.

Even the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization had no 1st edition published in 1928. In this book the author expects to shed light on the real entity of the error of the East Sea having been changed

into the Japan Sea, by comparing and analyzing the editions of 1928, 1934, and `1953 which had formulated the changing of the East Sea into the Japan Sea.

## **2. The attachment of Color World Map**

Among the three editions published so far(1928, 1934, 1953), only the 1st edition discovered by the author is attached with a colorful world.

For the first time in the history of the world, this world map divided the borderlines of 58 oceans and seas and gave names to respective water bodies. Because of this, the borderlines of all the oceans and seas came to be established for the first time and the names of the seas also came to be written. Subsequently, because "Limits of Oceans and Seas" gave guideline in writing, whenever world maps and a charts were made throughout the world, the borderlines and names of the oceans and the seas were presented systematically.

## **3. The division of 58 seas and oceans**

Unlike what has been known so far, "Limits of Seas and Oceans" divided the seas into 6 Oceans(such as the Indian Ocean) and 26 seas, 13 gulfs, 3 bays, 2 channels, 1 sound, 2 inner sea, 2 archipelago, 2 spot names of the spot names of the spot regions 1 coastal waters.

**4. Among the names of the seas, only the Japan Sea has been given a specific name of a country.**

Among the 26 names of the seas listed in the "Limits of Oceans and Seas, the Japan Sea is the unique one that has been given the name of a specific country.

**5. The number of the seas that have been written in two names is 6.**

The number of the seas that have been written in two names in the 'Limits of Oceans and Seas' of 1928 is 6.

Greenland or Norwegian Sea

Andaman or Burma Sea

Irish Sea and George's Channel

China Sea or Tung Hai

Naikai or Inland Sea

The Coastal Waters of Alaska and British Columbia

**6. The principle of the names of the seas between two nations**

According to the 'he Limits of Oceans and Seas', it was indicated that in giving the name to a sea lying between two states, they follow the principle of not giving the name of a specific country. Instead it is preferred to use a name related to a continent, or to use a third name. Alternatively, both names may be recorded together. Seas named according to this procedure include:

1) North Sea - England, France, Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands

2) Tasman Sea- Australia and New Zealand

3) Andaman or Burma Sea India and Myanmar

4) The Coastal Waters of Alaska and British Columbia USA, Canada

**7. Used only hydrography**

According to the Foreword of the "Border between the Oceans and the Seas," the borderlines and names classified by "Limits of Oceans and Seas"

have no political significance in any circumstances and are intended to be used only for hydrography.

## **8. The process until "The Limits of Oceans and Seas" has been published.**

In Japan, 1919, the first International Hydrographic conference attended by the delegates of the 18 nations was held in London, Great Britain, and adopted a resolution(Resolution, section IV-B Recommended plan for providing for the notice of geographic navigation so that waterway charts and indication of lighthouses can be coincided)

All the member nations have presented the data concerning the borderlines of the corresponding seas in accordance with the above resolution to the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization. The Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization distributed this tentative plan to the member nations in the form of a circular (No. 1-H of 23) and inquired into whether there existed dissents about the resolution and plan of the International Hydrographic Organization.

In this tentative plan which specified the borders of the seas, the East Sea was changed into the sea of Japan for the first time, and this changed name was distributed to all the member nations.

This tentative plan shows that the borderline of the "Japan Sea(Mer du Japan)" came to be specified in accordance with direction concretely. The borderlines of the 58 oceans and the seas and the names of respective seas were registered.

And from February,15,1923, the Japan Sea began to be circulated to the member nations, replacing the East Sea in order to be publicly recognized in the International Community. After that, the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization has coordinated the borderlines regarding the problematic regions raised by member nations and presented

the finally published special Pub. No. 3 (Published in August,1928) to the 1st Complementary International Hydrographic Conference held in Monaco in 1929, and it came to be officially recognized.

Thus, the East Sea which had been marked as the East Sea for thousands of years has come to be changed into the Japan Sea in the world maps and charts.

## **9. The Korean territorial waters are also the Japan Sea.**

If Korea had dispatched a delegate to the International Hydrographic conference held in 1919 along with the representatives from 18 other countries including Great Britain, France, Italy, would it have resulted in a situation similar to that of today? Korea, which had been annexed by Japan was a a Japanese colony at that time and, thus, could not dispatch its delegate abroad.

Because Korea couldn't receive any circulation correspondence, it couldn't present any opinion. For the past 86 years, the sea area some of whose territorial waters fall under Korean sovereignty have been known as the sea of japan. It is conceivable that if a marine accident were to occur in these territorial waters today, significant confusion could arise since the waters are indicated as belonging to Japan.

Regarding the issue of the borderline and name of the seas that were raised at the time when the first edition was released in 1928, came out, many countries expressed unease and the result of those anxieties were reflected in the second edition(published in 1937) and in the third edition (published in 1953). Consequently, in the 4th edition that is still to be published as a revised edition, the concerns regarding the East Sea would have to be resolved.

The author paid a visit to the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization in Monaco in February,2002, carrying 177

university professors' letters of opinion attached with their signatures in which they asked the error in the East Sea to be corrected, delivered them and demanded the correction of the error.

As a result, in August, 2002, the International Hydrographic Organization attempted to circulate the 4th revised edition "The borderline between the Oceans and the Seas" in which the East Sea was erased as a blank, to the 72 member nations and tried to pass the revised edition by the votes through pros and cons. However, the circulation of it was revoked.

For 52 years after the 3rd revised edition (published in 1953), the International Hydrographic Organization thought that the publication of the 4th revised edition would be urgent because of the sudden change of marine environment, is in a hurry to publish the 4th edition of "Limits of Oceans and Seas," and is persuading Korea and Japan to reach agreement.

## V. Conclusion

"The Universal Gazetteer" and "The Limit of Ocean and Seas" had a significant role in history.

Global sea boundaries and naming are decided by these books.

Also, sea boundaries and names of the world were standardized by these two books.

Based on the investigation results of case studies, these two cases are demonstrated historically because marine boundaries and names were globally standardized by these two cases.

Therefore, these two cases will be standards of "The Limit of Ocean and Seas" which is published in 2012.

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