

Discussion

LEE Sang-Tae*

The public use of the name of the *East Sea* in Korea begins with the founding story of Goguryeo recorded in "Samguksaki (三國史記)". It was 59 years B.C when Silla was not built yet. It means that the name of the *East Sea* was used publicly before the three kingdoms were formed. The name "*East Sea*" has a history of over 2,000 years.

Another example that proves that the name of the *East Sea* has a long history in Korea is derived from the tomb of King Gwanggaeto, built in 414 by King Jangsu in Goguryeo. On the eighth line of the third section of the tombstone, three people living near the *East Sea* are engraved to guard the tomb of King Gwanggaeto. The name Sea of the *East Sea* was also used in the tombs made in the 5th century.

In particular, Takahashi Kageyasu, a Japanese astronomer, produced the "Nibonhenkaiyakuju (日本邊界略圖)" in 1809, following the instructions of the king, which marked the *East Sea* as "the Korean Sea" rather than the Japanese Sea.

The following year he published the world map "Sintimankokujenju (新訂萬國全圖)." This map also shows the *East Sea* as the Korean Sea. This map is the official map of Japan. This is because these maps were ordered by the King of Japan.

Thus, in Japan, it was Japan's official position to call the *East Sea* the Korean Sea during the Edo period. In Japan, this sea is traditionally called the North Sea. It is also called the Korean Sea.

Some time later, in 1854, Japan made a peace treaty with the United States. The sea that Japan called the *Sea of Japan* called the Pacific Ocean and called it the Korean Sea began to be called the *Sea of Japan*.

Especially during the Russo-Japanese War, Japan called this war is the battle of the *Sea of Japan*. After the victory of Japan in this war, the name of Japan Sea began to be widely used. In 1910, as Korea became a Japanese colony, the *East Sea* became a *Sea of Japan*. In 1945, Korea became independent. It is fair to write the name of the sea together with the *East Sea* and the *Sea of Japan*.

* Former Senior Researcher, National Institute of Korean History, Republic of Korea.