

The Place Names on Route of the Navigation from Lisbon to Nagasaki Recorded
on the World Maps made during the 17th-18th centuries

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The modern style world maps arised in the 15th century in Europe, based in the recognition of the spherical earth and the recognition of the spherical earth and Ptolamaic theory. Many of early works were brought to Japan by European navigators in the mid-16th century, and some of them were copied by the Japanese. While copying, however, the Japanese cartographers changed the style and description of the originals. The present paper deals with the differences between some original European maps and many produced by Japanese copiers, with special emphasis of identification of place names.

The Japanese copies quoted here are

- a, Namban chizu byōbu (World map screen)
owned by H. Yamamoto's collection and six others.
- b, Bankoku sōzu (General map of the world)
published in 1645.
- c, Portolan chart
owned by Tokyo National Museum and three others.
- d, Shibukawa Shunkai's Map of world
owned by S. Nanba's collection.

(1) Differences of the Characteristics.

1. The world maps made by the Japanese gave the place names in Japanese Kana syllabaries and some Chinese characters. In addition, the names of towns where Japanese immigrants lived and of ports where Japanese trading vessels, as well as some other places between Nagasaki and Lisbon via eastern and western routes.
2. The world maps made by the Japanese bear Japan in the center, that is, between the two continents, while the European originals did it at the eastern (or right) periphery of world.
3. The world map made by the Japanese depict Korea and Taiwan in more realistic form, while the European originals showed Korea as a large island and Taiwan as three small islands.
4. These points clarify that the Japanese cartographer did not copy the European originals as they were.

(2) Variety of the Structure.

1. The world maps made by the Japanese were quite often mounted on the large folding screens called Namban chizu byōbu(a), beautiful and colourful artworks for furniture. Of the two-fold screen, one panel depicts the world and another Japan, often illustrated with separate map of foreign cities or pictures of various foreign people.
2. The first world map printed in Japan, under the title of Bankoku sōzu(b) bears the date of 1645. The illustrations printed in the margin suggest that this map followed the style of Namban byōbu. The number of place names, however, increased in comparison with the map on the screen.
3. The portolan charts of East Asia(c) are also available. During the mid-16th century, when European navigators brought their portolan charts of East Indies, the Japanese copied them for the use of their Southeast Asian voyage, although the copies now existing date back only to the mid-17th century. The number of place names grows much more. The reason why the Japanese actively copied such charts at the time of beginning of the closing of the country and prohibition of the Japanese people from going abroad and even coming back home, can be explained with the keen interest in the geographic knowledge of the world among the Japanese of the day.

(3) Observation of the Place Names

1. As aforesaid, the world maps copied by the Japanese bear the place names mostly in Kana syllabaries. There are some names in Chinese characters. It is very difficult to retranscribe in to European names, but we have an idea in order to identify. A comparison of Japanese maps with original European solves this problem. The attached list shows the comparison between four typical Japanese maps (a, b, c, d,) and the available reproductions of some Dutch maps of the days.

The Dutch maps are:

- e. Van Langren's map of Southeast Asia (1596)
- f. Ortelius's Typvs Orbis Terrarvm (1570)
- g. Bleau's The Grand Atlas (1662)

All of which were made in the Netherlands but the place names were written in Latin, while in and after the 18th century in Dutch. Mean while, the first European visitors to Japan were the Portuguese and thus the Japanese learned the Portuguese in the beginning of their Western contact. Thus the combined syllabaries expressed Portuguese pronunciation in many cases, although including erroneous and deformed spellings.

2. Variety of the number of place names is interesting. It increased from a to b, and to c. This variety derives from the purpose of production of the relevant maps or charts. The Namban screen maps(a) were made for interior decoration and owned by the rich, so that many place names were not needed. The Bankoku Sōzu(b) was printed on small paper for the use of general public and must be sold relatively at low cost. The reason why the portolan charts bore largest number of place names was that they were actively utilized by Japanese navigators.

The same list shows the frequency of the place names by the mark ⑨.

3. Among the names of places located on the coast of South China Sea, there are some names not deriving from those known by European cartographers. They are: "Takasago" for Formosa, "Amakawa" for Macao, and "Imoshima" for Pulo Hube. Pulo Hube or Pulo Uby is located on the coast of Vietnam and has the meaning "Potato Island". The Japanese called it Imoshima, after the original naming. This fact proves that the Japanese frequented these are many times and their experience produced their own maps and charts instead of making exact copies of European works.

(4) Observation of Shibukawa Shunkai's Map of the World.

Shibukawa's World map(d) was drawn ca 1698 and worthy of notice. He was a famous astronomer and geographer of the 17th century Japan and made some globes and world maps, although here exists only a few of them. One exists map of the world, also bearing Kana place names is characteristic with drawing many islands in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean following in the wake of preceding anonymous maps and charts of the century. A comparison of this map with Matteo Ricci's world map(1602) proves that Shibukawa gathered more information to add some islands in the Indian Ocean and correct the form of such islands as Taiwan, Piri-pin, Burunee, Celebes, etc. Taiwan was composed of three islands on Ricci's map, but only one island on Shibukawa's.

In fine, we can observe that Japanese cartographer gathered geographical knowledge during the 17th century.

Concordance of Place Names on World Maps

Made in Japan in comparison with

Those made in Europe

All place names are classified by area. The Roman names in the parenthesis are taken from other maps than Langren's, Ortrilius' and Blaeu's.

◆ and ☆ show respectively Japanese colony and port of call by Japanese traders.

Japanese map a, b, c, d, Kana Convreted to Hepburn	Langrens' map(1596) and two others Entries in Latin	Town or Port
(1)The Coast of China		
① ① ① Nankin	Nanquin	
① Nankin	Sumbor	
① ① ① Fukuchyu	(Focchieu)	
① Fukken	Foqvien	
① Iirazosorata	(I. de Prata)	
① ① Chakuchyu	Chincho	☆
① ① ① Hiyau	(Pescadores)	☆
① ① ① ① Takasago	(Formosa)	◆ ☆
① ① ① kanton	Cantam	
① Rankabau	Lampacao	
① ① ① Amakawa	Macao	
① Itorofuranko	I. Brancos	
① Nanmou	I. Iamao	
① Sanchoan	I. Sanchoan	
① Iradeheyato	I. Jeniagd	
① Mantaten	Mandari	
① Furutsushyo	Fulotio	
① Tainan	Dantam	
① Teraaruta	Terra Alta	
① ① ① ① Ainan Tou	I. Ainan	
(2) Indo-China		
① ① ① Tonkin	(Tonkin)	☆
① ① Kauchi	Cochin	☆

② ②	Susuhai (Fue)	(Hue)	◆	☆
②	Glan	(Caccian)		☆
② ②	Toron	(Turan)	◆	☆
② ② ② ②	Banri Cyosa	I, Pracel		
②	Wareu	Auarella		
② ② ② ②	Chyanpa	Campaa		☆
② ②	Sebiwa	Pulo S. Polo		
②	Horokarin	Pulo Coram		
②	Puro Syaru	Pulo Ceciru		
② ②	Puro Kondoru	Pulo Condor		
② ②	Imo Shima	Pulo Hube		
② ② ② ②	Kabouchya	Camboia (Ponhealu)	◆	☆
② ②	Shame	Siam (Ayutia)	◆	☆
(3) Malayan Pe.				
(Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia)				
② ② ② ②	Heguu	Pegv		
② ②	Marutaban	Martaban		
② ②	Tanoshiri	Tanacerim		
②	Chiyaya	(Chaiya)		
② ②	Patani	Patane	◆	
② ②	Rokkon	Ligor		
②	Ilawan	(Pahan)		
② ② ② ②	Maraka	Malacca	◆	
②	Sorankobaru	(Carencubar)		
②	Muaru	Muar		
② ②	Jyohoru	(Iohor)		
②	Furiteman	Puro Timao		
②	Iloro Furanko	Pedra Branca		
(4) Philippines				
② ② ② ②	Luson	Lyconia, Luzon	◆	☆
②	Ilabayan	Babuyanes		
②	Kagayan	(cagayan)		
②	Kajyatouru	C. Ba jador		
② ②	Iroko	Ilocos		
②	Ilakashian	Pancasian		

② ②	Manira (Is)	Manilha	◆
②	Kadatoan	(Cataduanes)	
② ②	Manto, medoro	Mindora	☆
②	Karamian	Caramian	
② ②	Paraau	Palawan	
②	Pinai	Panama	
②	Nekoro	Negros	
② ②	Metanao	Mindanao	
②	Karankan	Carangao	
②	Kantharu	Candagari	
②	Tachima	Tagima	
②	Soroku	Solor	
②	Hochiran	Boqueiran	
(5) Indonesia			
② ② ② ②	① Sumatar	Svmatara	
②	Bankan	(Bangkehs)	
②	Jynbi	(Jambi)	
	(Is.)		
② ②	Bintan	Bintan	
② ②	Batan	(Batam)	
②	Rinka	Linga	
②	Banka	(Bangka)	
② ②	Heritan	(Billiton)	
② ② ② ②	② Buruneru	Burneo	☆
②	Karimata	Crimata	
②	③ Manto	Manado	
② ② ② ②	Makasaru	Makassar	
	(Is)		
②	Sangin	Sagin	
②	Shyau	Sian	
②	Panchisaru	Pangicaz	
② ② ②	④ Maroku	Malucca	☆
② ② ②	Anboino	Ambuyno	◆
②	Banda	Banda	◆

①	Terunade	Ternati	
①	Chidoru	Tidor	
① ①	Seira	Cailao	
①	Sarayaru	Salajar	
①	Nusanchyu	Nijajira	
①	Rabata	Loboc	
① ① ① ①	⑤ Jawa	Java	
① ① ①	Jagataran	Simda Calapa	◆
① ①	Bantan	Bantam	◆
① ①	Biima	Bima	
① ①	Ende	(Ende)	
(6) Indian Ocean			
① Bay of Bengal			
①	Andaman	Andeman	
①	Nikobaru	Nikobar	
① ① ① ①	Santomei	St. Thomas	
① ① ① ①	Seiran	Ceilan	
② Arabian Sea			
① ① ① ①	Goa	Goa	
① ① ① ①	Kochin	Cochin	
① ① ① ①	Manchira	Maldiuae	
① ①	Hasyade Chaaka	Baixas des Cagos	
① ①	Seite Iruinan	Sete Irmanas	
① ①	Masukareinasu	I. do Mascarenhas	
① ①	Arumiterante	Do Almiterate	
① ①	Sayade Maare	Saya de Malhe	
① ①	Karajyaose	Dos Garajos	
① ①	Nazare	I. de Nazare	
① ①	Masukarenyasu	I. do Mascarenhas	
① ①	San Rorenso	Saninet Laurens	
(6) Africa			
① East Coast			
① ① ①	Sokotora	I. Zocotora	
①	Baisyasu	C. das Baixas	
①	Merinde	Melinde	

①	Aruko	I. do Arco
① ①	Monbaasa	Monbaza
①	Kaabo deru Gaata	C. del Gado
① ① ①	Wasanbiike	Mozambique
① ① ① ①	Kabodeboa	C. De bona Esperanca
	Esuperansa,	
	② West Coast (Is.)	
① ①	Santome	(S. Thome)
① ①	Santa Ereika	(St. Helena)
① ①	Teranitate	(Trinidad)
①	Kanariya	(Canariae)
① ①	Iloahiuta	(Fortunatae)
① ①	Madera	(Madera)
	(7) Pacific Ocean (Is.)	
① ① ①	Rataran	(Ladorones)
①	Maruchiresu	(Martires)
①	Samubetau	(schavedra)
①	Mataroa	(Matelates)
①	Areretesu	(Alrelotes)
① ① ①	Kintou, Gintou	?
	(Gold, Silver)	
①	Papuasu	Papvas
① ① ①	Noba Gine	(N. Guinee)