

Preface

The International Symposium of Old Maps in Asia was held in the context of building a new database for ancient map research, and the results were published as a collection of papers in this volume. We hope to use this volume as an opportunity to create a wider information network on research databases for multifaceted mapping research.

In pursuit of material research that contributes to diverse research, Toyo Bunko is pursuing comprehensive material research and research expression based on digitalization. To this end, not only textual materials but also research databases, which incorporate a variety of material forms such as textual materials, maps, photographs, video works, and moving images, are being utilized.

In recent years, the Old Map Research Group, Toyo Bunko has been working on deciphering old maps and creating a database for related research. The *Daimin chiri no zu* 大明地理之図 (Map of East Asia) and the *Shuijing zhu tu* 水經注圖 (Annotated map of *Shuijing zhu* 水經注) described below are representative research examples.

The *Daimin chiri no zu* is a large East Asian map depicting Ming-dynasty China, Korea, Japan, Ryukyu, Annan, and other regions in different colors. It is not known whether the original edition has survived, but from the characteristics of some surviving copies, it is assumed that it was probably established in Japan in the early Edo period and that several copies began to be produced from the late 17th century onward. Hosoya Genshun 細矢玄俊 (1786–1849), who was born into a family that practiced medicine for generations in Yamagata, copied the map in Kyoto in 1814 and it has been in the Hosoya family ever since.

Each scroll is approximately 345 cm long and 90 cm wide, with the first, second, third, and fourth scrolls from east to west. Sailing ships are divided into Japanese and Chinese ships, with each showing different passengers on board. The land is color-coded by area, and the names of major regions and cities of the Ming Dynasty, as well as ancient place names and famous historic sites, are depicted in detail, with notes in Chinese text added throughout. Among existing reproductions of the *Daimin chiri no zu*, the Hosoya family's version is an outstanding example in terms of how elaborate it is and its state of preservation.

In the Edo period (1603–1868), the Japanese were prohibited from travelling abroad. By copying the *Daimin chiri no zu*, people such as Hosoya Genshun and others who lived in a period of “seclusion policy” probably attempted to understand the history and geography of the continent. This is a valuable source of information on the actual state of map-making and East Asian perceptions in Japan during the Edo period. In 2014, Dr. Hosoya Yoshio 細谷良夫, the current head of the Hosoya family, donated this map to Toyo Bunko.

As an example of new material research, Toyo Bunko is also working on the processing and classification of large-scale material information by introducing the latest comparative technology and place-name search systems. This will be used to create a database of the *Shuijing zhu tu* compiled by Yang Shoujing 楊守敬 and Xiong Huizhen 熊会貞 (published in 1905 by Yang's 楊氏 Guanhaitang 觀海堂 in Yidu 宜都, overprint in red and black, eight volumes).

The study of ancient Chinese regional history on the *Shuijing zhu* is one of the most representatives of Toyo Bunko's traditional studies of basic Asian historical source materials, which has accumulated numerous research resources and results, including precise translation notes, indexes, and field photographs. These are to be incorporated into a database linking data such as place names and images of materials and developed into an open-access database linking maps, images of documents, the original text of the *Shuijing zhu shu* 水經注疏 (Annotations of *Shuijing zhu*), transcriptions, translation notes, and local photographs, with the place names and images of the *Shuijing zhu tu* as a hub. As a result, it will be possible to promote joint use and research with researchers and research institutions at home and abroad. We believe that this will lead to new research results in the study of ancient Chinese regional history and enable the discovery of new research topics.

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HAMASHITA Takeshi
Research Department Head
Toyo Bunko

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