

- ⁴ “*Kokuji ni azukaru mono, chiri o shirazaru toki wa, chiran ni nozomite shitsu ari* 国事ニ与ル者地理ヲ不知トキハ治乱ニ臨テ失有.” Hayashi Shihei, *Sangoku tsūran zusetsu* (1 vol. and 5 maps, Edo: Suharaya Ichibei, 1786); cf. Hayashi Shihei, *Shinpen Hayashi Shihei zenshū*, 5 vols. + suppl. vols., Yamagishi Tokuhei and Sano Masami, ed. (Daiichi Shobō, 1978–1980), vol. 2: 19.
- ⁵ “*Sore, kono sangoku wa jō o honpō ni sesshite jitsu ni rinkyō no kuni nari* 夫此三国ハ壤ヲ本邦ニ接シテ実ニ隣境ノ国也”. *Ibid.*

Session 1

History that Lies within the Antique Maps

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Antique maps are one of the most critical materials for researchers to study historical development, at the same time, they are one of the major resources for researchers to learn about how people in the historical period perceived the surrounding environment. However, in the early years, research on ancient maps was not prevalent. It was only used as annotations for historical papers instead of being seen as a key part of historical evidence, which was a shortcoming for the study of antique maps.

In recent years, cartography has begun to drift apart its attachment from the study of history and become an independent subject for academic research. With the help of scholars who dedicate themselves to cartographic studies, such trend may very well expand and prosper. When cartography gradually formed into its own branch of study, theories and methodology were also brought into life. Researchers got to enter the world of maps with a different perspective and combine the outcome with historical studies and therefore opening a new horizon to map reading. Such a development in cartography deepens and broadens the scope of map studies.

For a long time, maps have always played a supporting material role in the research fields of various disciplines; in other words, although the development of research on maps was early and functional, this study had not yet become an independent discipline. In the premodern era maps were considered no more than a reproduced picture which was distinct from text. This view limits our understanding of maps, because maps were confined to the historical data of the map, and its interpretation must be transformed into a narrative by the reader, and thus the map is positioned as an auxiliary tool in the historical material category. However, in recent years, the study of graphs has shown a booming trend, making cartography gradually become a professional discipline. The researchers interpret the illustrations from different aspects such as the style, beauty, genre, epochal meaning and historical data reflected in the map. From the information revealed on the surface to the hidden meaning behind it, they are gradually being deeply explored. Therefore, the map evolved from the original practical object to the later generation to understand the special carrier of the previous generation, and as a document interpretation; its importance has greatly increased.

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