

## Editor's Note

This volume, No. 77 of *Memoirs of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko*, publishes five articles. Four of them are under a special theme and one is a research on texts of Tibetan Buddhist studies by Professor Kishino Ryōji.

The special theme of this volume is about “*Connectivity between Inland Trade and Maritime Trade*.” Basic interest of this special theme is to search and find connectivity and inter-relations between inland trade and maritime trade.

In these decades maritime history studies have been broadening their research fields, with the range of their discussion covering maritime trade, port cities, shipping, maritime routes, maritime defense, maritime governance and so on. The more deeply these maritime history studies developed their research and discussion, the more controversial methodological agenda emerged. They include even paradigm issues which are very peculiar to maritime history studies by departing from inland history studies.

There also emerged some questions whether methods of maritime studies are just extension of those of inland studies which have been based on nation states and inter-national relations. There is also some discussion that inland history and maritime history have their methods and objectives respectively differentiating each other.

Here in this volume authors in the special theme raise several relevant and new questions regarding connectivity and relationship between maritime trade and inland trade by contrasting each other and connecting both of them through different aspects of methodology and objectives.

Searching connectivity and relationship between inland trade and maritime trade, it might be possible for us to remove the geographical, regional and even paradigmatic boundaries between the two, so that we can extend our research interest towards both global and local dimensions more intensively.

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