

Changing in the Name of the “Japan Sea”

Takehide HISHIYAMA and Masatoshi NAGAOKA

1. Introduction

At the 6th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1992, New York), the representatives of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter, “the ROK”) and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (hereinafter, “the DPRK”) made statements that purportedly made clear that the sea area presently named the “Sea of Japan” was formerly known also by such names as the “Sea of Korea” and the “East Sea” and that the appellation “Sea of Japan” came into general use as a consequence of Japan’s policies of expansion (aggression). They further insisted that this relic of imperialism must be abolished and that talks be held for the purpose of changing the name. The representatives of these two countries reportedly made similar assertions at the 17th meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (1994, New York) and at several other international conferences and meetings.

The vast majority of countries worldwide presently call this sea area the “Sea of Japan,” while the ROK and DPRK respectively label it the “East Sea” and the “East Sea of Korea.” Given that the “Sea of Japan” is enclosed by the Asian continent, the Korean peninsula, and the Japanese archipelago, it is not the least surprising that the body of water termed the “Sea of Japan” as seen from Japan would be called the “Sea of Korea” by those on the Korean peninsula.

The authors of this paper have taken the opportunity offered by the presentation of this issue to conduct research on the names given this sea area on maps made in Japan and in other countries to determine when the name “Sea of Japan” came into use and how it has been used to the present day.

It should go without saying, but the purpose of this paper is neither to argue in favor of or against the present name of “Sea of Japan” nor to determine whether the name is a product of Japan’s earlier policy of aggression. It is instead an examination of the historical facts and a compilation of the information available at the moment

(1994) to provide basic reference material for any discussions that might arise in future.

2. Overview of study

(1) Scope of study

This study examined the names given to the present “Sea of Japan” and the location of these names on approximately 370 maps from the 16th century onwards: approximately 170 maps produced in Japan and about 200 maps produced in other countries. Targeted for this study were the maps of Japan, Asia, and the world depicting the “Sea of Japan” dating from the Edo Period to the present in the archives of the Geographical Survey Institute (Japan) as well as those in pictorial records such as antique map collections and cartographical exhibits. These maps were not selected on the basis of whether or not a name was given for this sea area.

(2) Research methods

We attempted as far as possible to include in this study all the maps available to us, with the result being that many of the maps from Japan dated to the 19th century and those from other countries to the 17th and 18th centuries. In terms of numbers, a considerable proportion of the maps made outside Japan were manufactured in the Netherlands, France, and Great Britain.

We prepared one survey sheet form for each map,

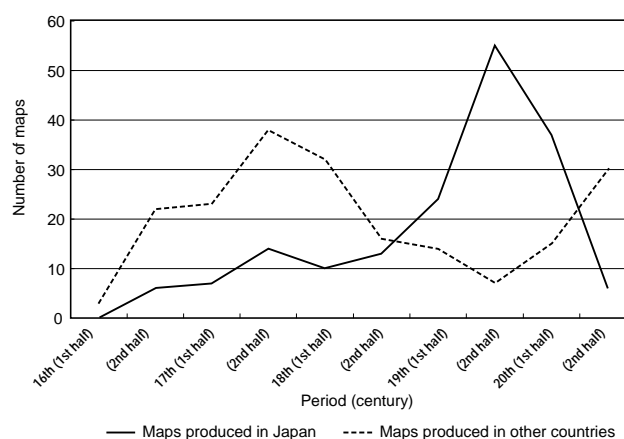


Fig. 1 Number of maps used in study by period of production.

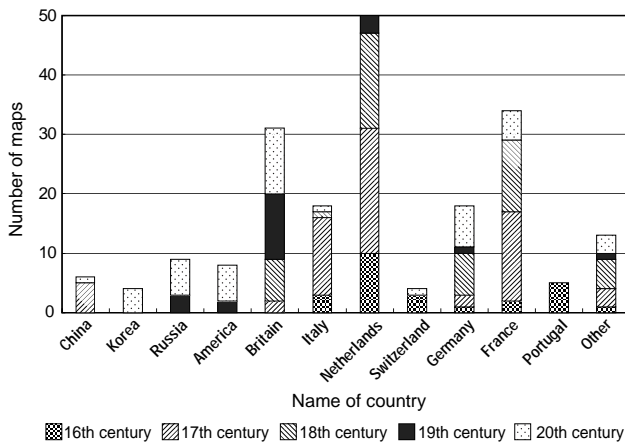


Fig. 2 Number of maps used in study by country and period of production.

Notes) “Korea” refers to both the ROK and the DPRK.
 “Russia” includes the Soviet Union.
 “Other” includes those maps where the country of production was unknown.

listing on that form the name of the map/material, its classification (map of Japan, map of Asia, map of the world, etc.), the scale of the map, the year it was made, the country of production, the source, the name given to the present “Sea of Japan,” and a brief description of the names given to sea areas vis-a-vis present-day maps. This information was then compiled in a datafile for further processing, including the elimination of redundant entries.

(3) Analysis

Using this datafile, we classified these materials by country and period, translated the names given therein for the present “Sea of Japan,” and grouped them into the categories “Sea of Japan,” “Sea of Korea,” “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea),” “Sea of China,” and “Other.” We then totaled the place names in each category and prepared aggregate tables for each period and category.

3. Study results

(1) Percentage of maps labeling the present “Sea of Japan”

The present “Sea of Japan” was first labeled on maps in the 16th century. These 16th century maps, however, are considerably ambiguous with regard to the shape and position of the Japanese archipelago, making it unclear at times whether the present “Sea of Japan” is in fact depicted. However, we considered any name given to



Fig. 3 TARTARIAE SIVE MAGNI CHAMI REGNI (1570, Abraham Ortelius, Netherlands).

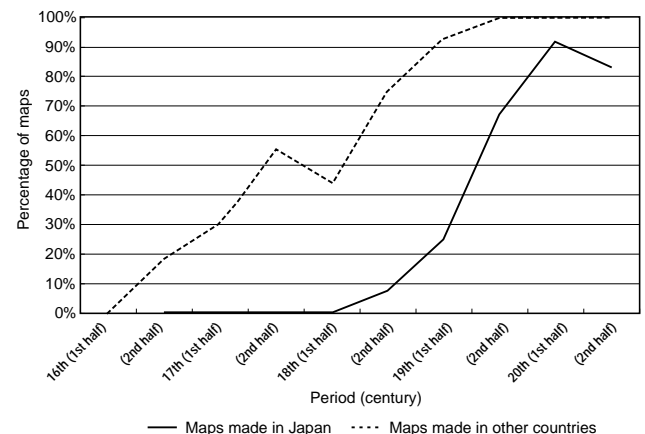


Fig. 4 Percentage of maps labeling the present “Sea of Japan”.

the sea area between the islands labeled Japan and the Asian mainland to refer to the present “Sea of Japan.”

The percentage of maps from European and other countries showing a name for the present “Sea of Japan” gradually increased from the latter half of the 16th century, with a name listed on more than half of the 18th century maps in this study and on almost all of those from the 19th century onwards.

It was not until nearly two centuries later, in the latter half of the 18th century when Russia and Britain were seeking trade with Japan and frequently sent ships to call on Japan, however, that maps produced in Japan came to include a name for the present “Sea of Japan.” From then until the end of the Edo Period, the percentage of Japanese maps giving a name for the present “Sea of Japan” also increased sharply.

(2) Changes in the name of the present “Sea of Japan”

On the maps studied, the present “Sea of Japan” was labeled “the Sea of Japan” as well as a variety of somewhat different names: “the Sea of Korea,” “the Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea),” and “the Sea of China.” Of these names, the one that appeared earliest on maps was “Sea of China,” which can be seen in the form “Mer Cin” on maps by Abraham Ortelius (Fig. 3) and Gerardus Mercator from around 1570.

Maps made in Europe began using “Sea of Japan,” “Sea of Korea,” “Oriental Ocean,” and other names from the 17th century. “Sea of China” and “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)” were used until the first half of the 18th century, but these names virtually disappeared from maps in the 19th century, leaving only the descriptions “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea.”

The appellation “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)” was used in combination with “Sea of Japan” or “Sea of

Korea” in the 18th century, but finally fell into disuse in the 19th century. The only maps using the name “Oriental Sea” as of the latter half of the 20th century were those produced in the ROK.

It appears that the name “Sea of Japan” came into general use on Japanese maps in the late 18th or early 19th century. There were few Japanese maps showing a name for the sea area until the first half of the 19th century.

The maps of Japan produced around this time had already abandoned the labels “Sea of China” and “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea),” but the name “Sea of Korea,” which had almost entirely disappeared from usage by other countries, was essentially used to the same degree as “Sea of Japan.” Use of the description “Sea of Korea” declined during the latter half of the 19th century, however, and none of the maps produced after the start of the 20th century featured the name “Sea of Korea.”

Furthermore, many of the maps from the latter half of the 19th century using the name “Sea of Korea” date to the very late Edo Period, and such maps disappeared almost entirely with the start of the Meiji Era. Of the maps prepared during the late Edo Period and the early Meiji Era, a very few used both “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea.”

(3) Name of the present “Sea of Japan” in maps from other countries

Place names and other information given on maps appear to differ by the country of production. In light of this fact, we examined the ways in which the name “Sea of Japan” was used by some of the principal mapmaking countries.

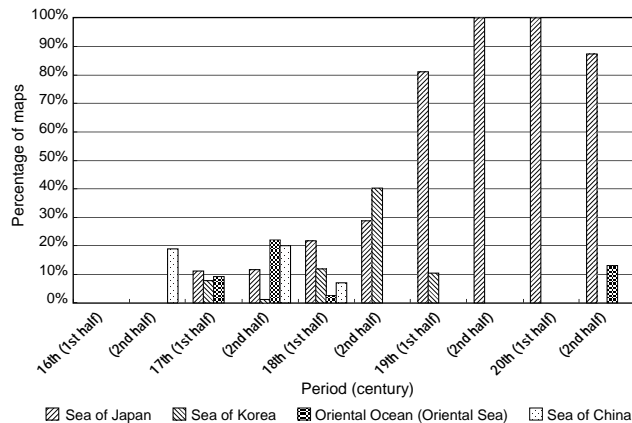


Fig. 5 Changes in the name of the present “Sea of Japan” in maps produced in other countries.

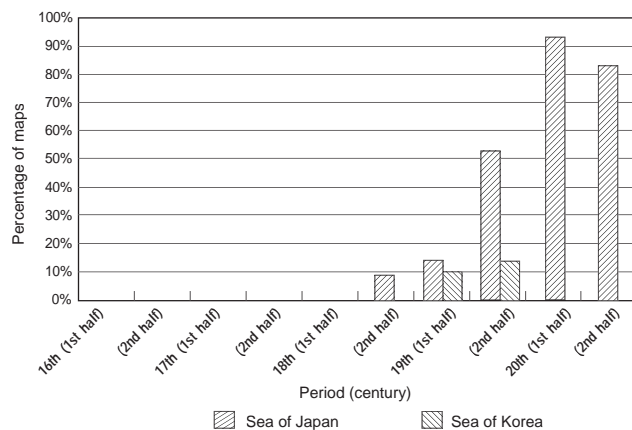


Fig. 6 Changes in the name of the present “Sea of Japan” in maps produced in Japan.

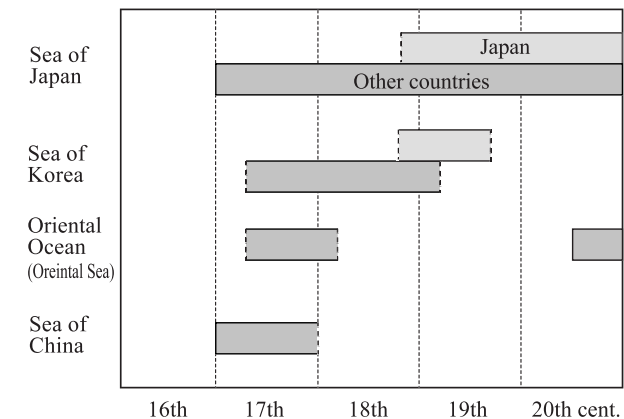


Fig. 7 Use of names for the present “Sea of Japan”.

a) Netherlands

The Netherlands was home to many cartographers most notably Ortelius and Mercator in the latter half of the 16th century and Jan Blaeu in the first half of the 17th century and was the only country engaged in trade with Japan throughout the Edo Period. The Dutch thus produced numerous maps of Asia and of Japan, accounting for the greatest number of maps from any of the countries examined in this study.

The maps of Ortelius and Mercator depict Japan as an oval-shaped island off the eastern shore of the Asian continent. These cartographers did not realize that the present "Sea of Japan" was an inland sea enclosed by the Asian continent and the Japanese archipelago, so strictly speaking the sea area should not perhaps be identified as the present "Sea of Japan." Nevertheless, if this name is regarded as referring to the present "Sea of Japan," then these can be viewed as the first maps in Europe giving a name for the present "Sea of Japan."

The present "Sea of Japan" is described on these maps by Ortelius and Mercator as "Mare Cin," that is, "Sea of Qin" or "Sea of China." The name "Sea of China" continued to be used by later cartographers such as Jan Janssonius and Pieter van der Aa, albeit at times in alternative forms such as "Oceanus Chinensis" and "Mare della China," and appears to have been used in the Netherlands until the early 18th century.

Janssonius began in the mid-17th century to use the name "Sea of Japan," and in the end of the 17th century Witzen Nicolaas used both "Oriental Sea" and "Sea of Japan." Later, such as Isaak Tirion's maps used the names "North Sea of Japan" and "North Sea."

Of the maps produced in the Netherlands, only one map by Jacob Keyzer & Jan de Lat from the latter half of the 18th century featured both "North Sea of Japan" and "Sea of Korea," but the name "Sea of Korea" did not appear on any other Dutch map.

b) France

The present "Sea of Japan" was first labeled on French maps at the end of the 16th century using the names "Sea of China" and "Oriental Ocean." Phillippe Briet, Nicolas Sanson, Pierre Du Val, and other mapmakers principally used the name "Oriental Ocean" until around

the end of the 17th century. Sanson and Allain Manesson-Mallet also used the name "Sea of China," while certain other maps used both "Oriental Ocean" and "Sea of China."

Combinations of "Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)" and "Sea of Korea" still appeared on maps at the beginning of the 18th century, but the names "Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)" and "Sea of China" were quickly dropped, and replaced by the "Sea of Japan" and "Sea of Korea."

French mapmakers in the 18th century often used the name "Sea of Korea," but from around the middle of the 18th century their maps also began showing both "Sea of Japan" and "Sea of Korea."

La Pérouse surveyed the area around Japan in 1787 and used the name "Sea of Japan" in his report; at the end of the 18th century. After that the sea area was consistently termed "the Sea of Japan" in France.

c) Great Britain

In the British maps examined in this study, names were given for the present "Sea of Japan" on maps from around the mid-17th century. The description "Sea of Korea" appeared in the 18th century in the maps of such cartographers as Herman Moll, E. Bowen, and Robert Sayer, and this use continued until around the end of that century. Aaron Arrowsmith was still using "Sea of Korea" in his maps at the end of the 18th century, but the 19th century ushered in a consistent use of "Sea of Japan."

d) Other

From around the mid-17th century German maps by Gabriele Bucelinus used the name "Sea of Japan," while those by Jonas Korte and others in the 18th century used "North Sea of Japan." No German maps from the 19th century to the present, however, were found that listed any other name than "Sea of Japan."

Italian maps marked with "Sea of Japan" can be found from the beginning of the 17th century. Only a few maps of Italian make were examined in this study, with a disproportionately large number of these produced in the 17th century, during which the names "Sea of Japan," "Sea of Korea," "Oriental Sea," and "Sea of China" were used. The maps of Christopherus Blancus and Sir Robert Dudley in the first half of the 17th century used the name "Sea of Japan," but the maps of Vincenzo Maria Coronelli in the

latter half of that century made use of the term “Sea of China” and other maps additionally used “Oriental Ocean.” The map by Dudley (Fig. 9) also features the lettering “Sea of Korea” running along the Korean peninsula.

All maps made in Russia from the time of A.J. Krusenstern, who surveyed the Japanese coastline at the beginning of the 19th century, used the name “Sea of Japan.”

Many 16th century maps were made not only in the Netherlands but in Portugal and Switzerland as well, but none of the 16th century Portuguese or Swiss maps give any name for the present “Sea of Japan.”

(4) First maps to use “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea”

a) Sea of Japan

The first map in the world to use the name “Sea of Japan” was probably “Kunyu Wanguo Quantu” (Fig. 8), produced in China in 1602 by Matteo Ricci’s, a Jesuit priest. In this map, the wording “Sea of Japan” can be seen in the center of the sea area bounded by the Asian mainland and the Japanese archipelago.

Copies of Matteo Ricci’s “Kunyu Wanguo Quantu” were eventually brought to Japan, where apparently it served as the foundation for several world maps prepared in Japan during the Edo Period.

None of the maps from the early Edo Period provide any name for the present “Sea of Japan,” however, and it is only from the 19th century that the description

“Sea of Japan” came into general use on maps made in Japan.

Among the maps produced in Japan examined for this study, Shiba Kōkan’s “Chikyū Zenzu (Map of the World)” (1792) was the first to assign a name to the present “Sea of Japan.”

The first European map of those examined to use the name “Sea of Japan”-given as “MARE JAPONICUM”-was the “IAPONIA” (1617) produced in Italy by Blancus. This Blancus map is thought to be based on a map drafted by the Italian cartographer and Jesuit priest Ignacio Moreira, who visited Japan with Valignano from 1590 to 1592 (Takahashi Tadashi: 1985); unfortunately, the Moreira map is no longer extant.

b) Sea of Korea

The first of the maps studied in this survey to mention the “Sea of Korea” was a 1646 map by Dudley centering on Korea and Japan and found in a sea-atlas (Fig. 9). Next to the Korean peninsula in this map is the label “MARE DI CORAI” (Sea of Korea), and next to the Japanese archipelago can be seen the description “OCEANO BORIALE DEL GAPPONE” (North Sea of Japan).

It has been claimed that the first use of the name “Sea of Korea” in Europe was in the 1615 map of Asia by Godinho de Heredia, and the first use in Japan on the 1794 map of Asia drafted by Kasragawa (possibly Katsuragawa Hoshu). However, the authors were unable, to locate these maps and confirm these assertions.



Fig. 8 “Kunyu Wanguo Quantu” (portion) (1602, Matteo Ricci’s, Beijing).

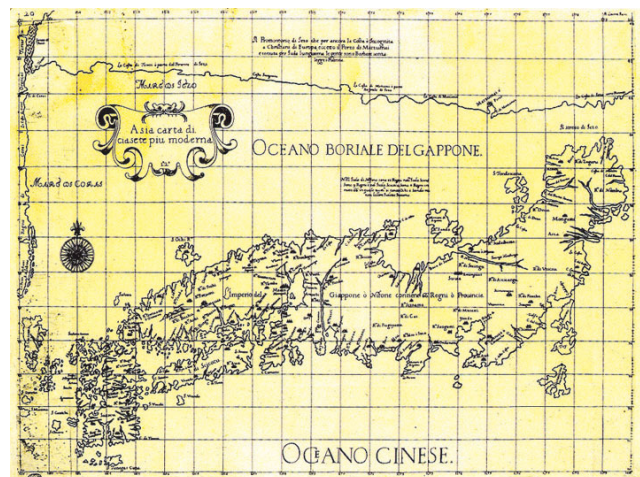


Fig. 9 “Asia carta di cia sete piumoderna” (1646, Dudley, Florence).

(5) Awareness of the present “Sea of Japan”

“The Chronicles of Wa” in the “History of the Kingdom of Wei” (known in Japan as “Gishiwajinden”), a Chinese document that offers a valuable record of ancient Japan, begins with the following description of Japan’s location: “The people of Wa (Japan) dwell in the middle of the ocean on the mountainous islands southeast of the Commandery of Tai-fang...” Tai-fang is located near present-day Seoul in the ROK, and Wa, home to the Japanese of that era, was thought to be an island in the middle of a vast ocean lying to the east of the Asian continent.

From that age until perhaps the 15th century, the people of Japan and neighboring countries saw Japan as an island in the middle of a vast ocean. The seas surrounding Japan were considered simply as “the Great Sea,” and little need was seen to divide and name these seas.

When necessity compelled that some distinction be made, the name of the nearest province was used, e.g., “The Sea of Koshi Province” or “The Sea of Hitachi Province.” The “sea” in this case refers to the offshore area along the shoreline of the province in question, and it can be deduced that the names “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea” were applied in a similar fashion.

It was not until the Europeans began frequently visiting Japan and China that the Sea of Japan came to be recognized on maps as an inland sea enclosed by the Asian continent, the Korean peninsula, the Japanese archipelago, and Sakhalin.

The first map examined in this study in which the present “Sea of Japan” is drawn as an inland sea is the aforementioned “Kunyu Wanguo Quantu” (Fig. 8) by Matteo Ricci. The sea is drawn on this map as an inland sea bounded by the Asian continent, the Korean peninsula, and the Japanese archipelago from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

On maps produced in Europe, the present “Sea of Japan” came around the 17th century to be drawn as an inland sea enclosed by the Japanese archipelago and the Asian continent.

It can be seen that descriptions such as “Sea of China” for the sea area northwest of the Japanese islands found on maps of the 16th century depict not the present “Sea of Japan” as an inland sea but as a vast ocean to the

east of China. In such instance, Japan can be seen as an island in the midst of this “Great Sea” corresponding to the views of Japan and neighboring countries before the 16th century.

The 1530 map of Japan known as “*Ri ben kao lue*” produced in Ming Dynasty China indicates an “East Sea,” a “North Sea,” a “West Sea,” and a “South Sea” around the Japanese islands, but these are not proper names such as the “Sea of Japan;” instead, they appear to be explanatory in nature, referring respectively to “the sea to the east,” “the sea to the north,” etc., from a Japanese frame of reference. The names “East Sea” and the “East Sea of Korea” used at present by the ROK and the DPRK were likely used originally in the same sense. As some maps printed in the ROK do show a “West Sea” on the western side of the Korean peninsula and a “South Sea” on the southern side complementing the “East Sea,” the ROK’s “East Sea” and the DPRK’s “East Sea of Korea” are probably based on this approach.

(6) Names of the present “Sea of Japan”

European and Chinese maps preceded Japanese maps in giving names to the sea area presently known as the “Sea of Japan;” there do not appear to have been any instances of such a name appearing on any map made in Japan prior to the Edo Period.

The sea area presently known as the “Sea of Japan” is marked in a variety of ways on these European and Chinese maps, including “Sea of China,” “Oriental Ocean,” “Oriental Sea,” “Sea of Japan,” and “Sea of Korea.”

The descriptions “Sea of China” and “Oriental Ocean” appear not only on the “Sea of Japan” side but often on the present “Pacific Ocean” side of Japan, too, and the name “Oriental Ocean” was used on maps until the early Meiji Era to indicate the same sea area as the present “North Pacific Ocean.” “Sea of China” was first used as the name of that portion of the present “North Pacific Ocean” closest to the Asian continent, but once “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea” came into general use, it became the name for the sea area further south that is presently subdivided into the present “East China Sea” and the “South China Sea.”

Table 1 Descriptions of the “Sea of Japan” on maps

Category	Name used	Period of use
Sea of Japan	Nihonkai	From 17 th century
	Dai Nihonkai	19 th century
	Japan Sea	From 20 th century
	Japanische-See	19 th century
	Japanisches Meer	From 19 th century
	Sea of Japan	From 18 th century
	See Von Japan	18 th century
	Zee Van Japan	18 th century
	Marr von Japan	19 th century
	Mer du Japon	From 18 th century
	Mare Iaponicum	17 th and 18 th centuries
	Mer Japonicum	17 th century
	Mare di Giappone	17 th century
		From 20 th century
	Nihon Hokkai	19 th century
DE NOORD ZEE VAN JAPAN	18 th century	
Sea of Korea	Chosenkai	19 th century
	Sea of Corea	From 18 th century
	Mer de Coree	17 th and 18 th centuries
	Mer von Corea	19 th century
	Corease Zee	18 th century
Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)	Ocean Oriental	17 th century
	Mer Orientale	17 th and 18 th centuries
Sea of China	Mare Cin	16 th century
	Oceanus Chinennisis	17 th and 18 th centuries
	Mer dela China	17 th century

The name “Sea of Japan” increasingly appeared on maps produced in countries other than Japan from the 17th century, and almost all countries - with the exception of the ROK and the DPRK on the Korean peninsula - have since the 19th century come to use the name “Sea of Japan.” While “Sea of Korea” was used about as commonly as “Sea of Japan” through the 18th century, even being used more often than “Sea of Japan” in 18th-century Britain and France, its use declined sharply in the 19th century. As this corresponded to the period in which the countries of Europe frequently opened negotiations with Japan to establish trade and the period in which the results of surveys conducted in the vicinity of Japan by La Pérouse, Krusenstern, etc., were made known in Europe, this change can be attributed to a rising European interest in Japan.

At the same time, Japanese interest in its own region also grew, with surveys of the Ezo (Ainu) lands being conducted by the shogunate in response to the

southward expansion of Russia, and maps manufactured in Japan began labeling the present “Sea of Japan” based on European information.

According to Akioka (1955), no strict distinction was drawn in usage between “ocean” and “sea” in Europe during this period.

(7) Location of the name “Sea of Korea” on maps

The location of a place name on a map shows the location and scope of the identified feature, and this location thus provides important information when reading a map.

On the “Shintei Bankoku Zenzu” (Fig. 10), prepared in 1810 by Takahashi Kageyasu, chief astronomer for the shogunate at the beginning of the 19th century, the “Sea of Korea” was marked alongside the Korean peninsula. As later maps from the end of the Edo Period to the early Meiji Era show the “Sea of Japan” alongside the Japanese archipelago and the “Sea of Korea” alongside the Korean peninsula, it would seem that the name “Sea of Korea” as used in Japan encompasses a different scope than that of the present “Sea of Japan,” and



Fig. 10 “Shintei Bankoku Zenzu” (portion) (1810, Takahashi Kageyasu, Edo).

indicates the sea area along the coastline of the Korean peninsula.

Neither did the name “Sea of Japan” refer to the present “Sea of Japan;” in light of the fact that the name “Great Japan Sea” also appears on the Pacific Ocean side of Japan, “Sea of Japan” was probably used as the name for the sea area immediately surrounding the Japanese archipelago. The appellation “Great Japan Sea” appears to have been used in the sense of the “larger Sea of Japan” to distinguish that sea area from the “Sea of Japan.”

(8) Use of multiple names on maps

The maps produced in Europe between the latter half of the 17th century and the early 18th century contain various combinations of four names of the sea areas: “Sea of Japan,” “Sea of Korea,” “Oriental Ocean,” and “Sea of China.” The pairing of “Sea of China” and “Oriental Ocean” appears in the latter half of the 17th century, and that of “Sea of Japan” and “Oriental Ocean” from the 17th century to the beginning of the 18th century, but the combination of “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of China” was not used in any of the materials examined.

When multiple names are given for a sea area, there can be two instances: one in which boundary lines divide mutually independent sea areas and the other in which sea areas of varying sizes or with separate names partly or wholly overlap.

The combination of “Sea of China” and “Oriental Ocean” (including the Lesser Oriental Ocean and the Greater Oriental Ocean) on European maps of the 17th and 18th centuries does not seem to indicate two separate and independent sea areas but rather an inclusionary relationship between two sea areas of differing sizes.

The terms “Sea of Japan” and “Sea of Korea” in Japanese maps produced during the Edo Period likely indicate separate and independent sea areas, despite the absence of clear boundary lines between the two. On the other hand, while some European maps used combinations of names to indicate mutually independent sea areas similar to maps in Japan, others gave multiple names for the same sea areas.

The pairing of “Sea of Korea” and “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea),” too, is used in some maps to show an

inclusionary relationship and in some to indicate multiple names for the same sea areas. The former is exemplified by the use of “Oriental Ocean” to denote the “North Pacific Ocean,” and the latter by the present use of “East Sea” and “East Sea of Korea” by the ROK and the DPRK.

The name “Oriental Ocean” is thought to indicate the Pacific Ocean when used in conjunction with “Sea of China” or “Sea of Japan” on the present “Sea of Japan” side, and both the “Sea of China” and “Sea of Japan” appear in this case to be parts of the “Oriental Ocean,” i.e., part of the Pacific Ocean.

(9) Other

As the use among countries of different names for the sea areas of the world would create difficulties in navigation and oceanographic research, the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) published the “Limits of Oceans and Seas” (1st edition) in 1928 and encouraged the use of the ocean/sea names and boundaries given therein. Revisions were made to this publication for a second edition in 1937 and a third edition in 1953, and work is underway on revisions for a fourth edition. The preface to this publication makes it clear that the limits described therein have been drawn up solely for hydrographic purposes and that this publication must not be construed as having any legal or political connotation whatsoever; the publication has nevertheless had an undeniable impact on standardizing the names of various sea areas worldwide.

4. Summary

As clearly shown above, the use of the name “Sea of Japan” on maps did not begin in Japan but was already a common practice in China and in Europe from around the 16th century, only being introduced into Japan in the 18th century.

Although few materials from the ROK or DPRK were available for this study, making it impossible to determine with any certainty the historical use of the name “Sea of Korea” within both countries, it can be surmised that use of this name did not originate in Korea but rather, like “Sea of Japan,” was first used in Europe and only later adopted in Japan and Korea.

The present “Sea of Japan” was marked on foreign

maps in the 16-18th centuries with a variety of names - including “Sea of Japan,” “Sea of China,” “Sea of Korea,” and “Oriental Ocean (Oriental Sea)” - but the vast majority of maps from the 19th century onwards have used “Sea of Japan” only. The name “Sea of Japan” came into general use somewhat later on Japanese maps, from the latter half of the 19th century.

Before 1900, a multiplicity of names existed not only for the present “Sea of Japan” but also for the Pacific Ocean: “East Indian Sea,” “South Sea,” “Great Ocean,” “Western Ocean,” “Eastern Ocean,” “North Pacific Ocean,” “Great Sea of Japan,” “Ning Hai,” etc. The names and boundaries used in Japan for the present “Sea of Japan” and the other sea areas around the Japanese archipelago were adapted to correspond with those of European and other countries when national mapmaking projects employing modern surveying techniques became the norm from the Meiji Era on.

Principal books for reference

Akioka Takejirô (1955): “History of Japanese Cartography,” Kawade Shobô, 217 p.
 Akioka Takejirô (1971): “Anthology of Antique Maps of

Japan,” Kajima Institute Publishing Co., Ltd., 156 p + 89 reproduced maps.

Akioka Takejirô (1988): “History of World Mapmaking,” Kawade Shobô Shinsha, 272 p + 12 reproduced maps + 48 map slides.

Okamoto Yoshitomo (1973): “The Development of Maps of Japan in the 16th Century,” Yagi Shoten, 306 p.

Oda Takeo (1974): “History of Maps - Japan,” Kôdansha, 185 p.

Oda Takeo (1974): “History of Maps - World,” Kôdansha, 218 p.

Takahashi Tadashi (1985): “On the earliest maps of Japan brought from the West (with particular focus on the maps of I. Moreira),” Osaka University, “The journal of Japanese Studies,” No. 4, 1-33 p.

OAG-Germany Oriental Culture Research Association (1993): “Maps of Japan Drawn by Westerners - From Zipang to Siebolt” (Pictorial Record), 221 p.

The antique maps used in the illustrations for this study are taken from the “History of World Mapmaking,” “Maps of Japan Drawn by Westerners,” and the “Antique Map Selection of the Kobe City Museum.”

Table 2 “Sea of Japan” in maps produced in Japan

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1592-1598	(Map of Japan on Sensu (fan))	—	—
1592-1598	(Map of Japan on Byōbu (screen))	—	—
1596-1615	Dai Nihonkoku Zu (Shūgaishō)	—	—
1598	(Map of Japan on Kagami (mirror))	—	—
1598	Nansenbushū Dai Nihonkoku Seitō Zu	—	—
1598>	(Map of Japan on Byōbu (screen))	—	—
1600<	(Map of Japan)	—	—
1600<	(Portolan chart of Japan and East Asia)	—	—
1600<	Gyōki Bosatsu setsu Dai Nihonkoku Zu	—	—
1600<	(Map of Japan, compiled by the Tokugawa Shogunate)	—	—
1600<	(Portolan chart of Japan)	—	—
1637	(Map of Japan on Byōbu (screen))	—	—
1638<	(Portolan chart of Japan)	—	—
1651	Nihonkoku no Zu	—	—
1654	(Map of Japan)	—	—
1656	Nihonkoku no Zu	—	—
1661-1673	(Map of Japan on Ōkagami (mirror))	—	—
1662?	(Map of Japan)	—	—
1666	Fusōkoku no Zu	—	—
1678	Nihon no Ezu	—	—
1678	Dai Nihon Zukan	—	—
1686	Shinpan Nihonkoku Ōezu	—	—
1687	Honchō Zukan Kōmoku	Ishikawa Ryūsen	—
1688-1704	Dai Nihonkoku Zensonae Zu	Mabuchi Jikōan	—
1688-1704	Kaisei Dai Nihon Zenzu	Mabuchi Jikōan	—
1691	Nihon Kaizan Chōriku Zu	Ishikawa Ryūsen	—
1691	Shinpan Nihon Ezu narabini Meisho iri	—	—
1700-1750	Takasebune Tsūkō Kaiun Ryakuzu	Sōkei	—
1701?	Dai Nihon Yochi Zenzu	—	—
1702	Honchō Zukan Kōmoku	Ishikawa Ryūsen	—
1702	(Map of Japan)	—	—
1703	Nihon Sankai Zu Dō Dai Zen	Ishikawa Ryūsen	—
1703?	Dai Nihon Ezu	—	—
1708	Bankoku Sōkaizu	Ishikawa Ryūsen	—
1709	Nansenbushū Bankoku shōka no Zu	Rōkashi	—
1720	Bankoku Zu	—	—
1723	(Map of Japan, compiled by the Tokugawa Shogunate)	Takebe Katahiro	—
1754	Nihon Chido Zu	Mori Kōan	—
1755	Nihon Bundo Zu	Mori Kōan	—
1757?	Nihonkoku Tairyaku no Zu	—	—
1768	Dai Nihonkoku Hōgaku Bunkei Zu	—	—
1779	Kaisei Nihon Yochi Rotei Zenzu	Nagakubo Sekisui	—
1783	Chōsen Nihon Yochi Zenzu	—	—
1783	Chikyū Ichiran Zu	Mitsubishi Chōkaku	—
1785	Sangoku Tsūran Yochi Rotei Zenzu	Hayashi Shihei	—
1790?	Bankoku Zu	—	—
1790?	Chikyū Zu	—	—
1790?	Chikyū Bankoku Sankai Yochi Zenzusetsu	Nagakubo Sekisui	—
1792	Chikyū Zenzu	Shiba Kōkan	Inland Sea of Japan
1796	Oranda Shinyaku Chikyū Zenzu	Hashimoto Sōkichi	—
1802	Kon'yo Zenzusetsu	Inagaki Shisen	Sea of Japan
1802	Enkyū Bankoku Chikai Zenzu	Ishizuka Saikō	—
1808	Dai Nihon Saiken Shishō Zenzu	Shitomi Ōdō	—
1809	(Map of Japan)	Inō Tadataka	—
1809	Bankoku Ichiran Zu	Koyano Yoshiharu	—
1809>	Dai Nihon no Zu	—	—
1810	Shintei Bankoku Zenzu	Takahashi Kageyasu	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1810	Chikyū Yochi Zenzu, Ajia Kita Amerika sakai	Yamada Eikisai	Sea of Japan
1811	Dai Nihon Kaisei Zenzu	Miki Kōsai	—
1811	Kaisei Nihon Zu	Asano Yahei	—

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1816	Dai Nihon Setsujō Sangoku no Zenzu	–	–
1821	(Part of Map of Japan)	Inō Tadataka	–
1824	Nihon Meisho no E	Kuwagata Keisai	–
1824>	Dai Nihon Meisho Ichiran	Kisai Risshō	–
1826	Kōsei Nihon Yochi Zenzu	Amaki Kenshi	–
1830-1844	(Map of Japan on Plate)	–	–
1830-1844	(Map of Japan on Plate)	–	–
1837	Kōsei Dai Nihonkoku Zenzu	–	–
1837	(Map of the World, view from the North pole)	Kosai Dōgō	Sea of Japan
1838	Yochi Zenzu	Kurihara Shinchō	Sea of Korea: Sea of Japan
1843	Tenpō Saisen Kaisei Nihon Zu	Kikuchi Toramatsu	–
1844	Shinsei Yochi Zenzu	Den Ken	–
1844	Shinsei Yochi Zenzu	Mitsukuri Shōgo	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1846	Dōhan Bankoku Hōzu	Nagai Soku	–
1850	Kaisei Bankoku Yochi Zenzu	Shirai Tsūki	–
1850<	Nihon Yochi Zenzu	Suidō Hō	–
1850?	Dai Shin Ittō Zu	Shibata Shūzō	–
1852	Shinte Kon'yo Ryaku Zenzu	Shibata Shūzō	Sea of Japan
1852	Chikyu Bankoku Zenzu	Suidō Hō	Sea of Korea
1852	Dai Nihonkoku Zu	Okada Syuntōsai	–
1853	Dai Nihon Kaigan Zenzu	Seiken Gengyo	–
1853	Bankoku Chikyu Zenzu	Suzutei Kokuga	Sea of Korea
1854	Dai Nihon Enkai Yokyō Zenzu	Kudō Tōhei	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1854	Kōsei Dai Nihon Yochi Zenzu	Yūki Kansen	–
1855	Chōtei Bankoku Zenzu	Yamaji Yukitaka	Sea of Japan
1855	Daiyo Chikyūgi	Numajiri Bokusen	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1857	Bankoku Shishō	Ōtsuki Bankei	Sea of Japan
1858	Yochi Kōkai Zu	Takeda Kango	Sea of Japan
1859	(Chart of France)	–	Sea of Japan
1860?	Sekai Bankoku Zenzusetsu	Kobayashi Kōhō	–
1860?	Bankoku Jinbutsu no Zu	Eijudō	–
1861	Kankyo Shinkan Yochi Zenzu	Satō Masayasu	Sea of Japan
1862	Shina Chizu	Colton	Sea of Japan
1862	Kankai Kōro Shinzu	Hirose Hoan	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1862	(Map of Japan)	Colton	Sea of Japan
1865	Chikyū Bankoku Zenzu	Kikutei Saneyori	–
1865	Dai Nihon Yochi Zenzu	Hashimoto Gyokuransai	–
1865	Dai Nihon Sōkai Ryakuzu	Kikutei Saneyori	North Ocean: Sea of Korea
1867	Ajia Ryakuzu	Army bureau Tokugawa shogunate	Sea of Japan
1867	Dai Nihon Enkai Ryakuzu	Katsu Kaishū	–
1867	Dōhan Dai Nihon Seizu	Satō Masayasu	–
1870	Dai Nihon Shishin Zenzu	Hashimoto Gyokuransai	West Sea of Japan: Sea of Korea
1871	Dai Nihon Kunigun Yochi Rotei Zenzu	Suzuki Kien	–
1871	Ajia Roshia Zenzu	Heiyō Chiri Kyoku	Sea of Japan
1871	(Map of Japan)	Kawakami Hiroshi	–
1872	Dai Nihon Yochizu	Hashimoto Gyokuransai	–
1874	Bankoku Shinzu	Miyazaki Ryūzō	Great Sea of Japan
1875	Sinchō Sekai Kōkai Zu	Ishimura Teiichi	Sea of Japan
1875	Zōtei Yochi Kōkai Zenzu	–	Sea of Japan: Sea of Korea
1875	Dai Nihon Kunigun Binran	Tsuda Satarō	Sea of Japan
1875	Kaitei Sinsen Chōsen Zenzu	–	Great Sea of Japan
1877	Nihon Zenzu	Miyamoto Sanpei	–
1877	Dai Nihon Kunigun Seizu	Takeoka Reizō	Sea of Japan
1877	Shōran Nihon Chishi Ryakuzu	Miyajima Junki	Sea of Japan
1880	Shakuyō Yochizu	Sada Kaiseki	Sea of Japan
1884	(General Chart of Japan (No.128))	Hydrographic office of Japanese Navy Department	Sea of Japan
1885	(Globe)	Horiuchi Naotada	Sea of Korea (along the Korean Peninsula)
1887	Meiji Bankoku Zenzu	Iwashashi Shōzan	Sea of Japan
1887	shōgaku Chishi	Tsuboi Shō	Sea of Japan
1889	OUTLINE MAP OF JAPAN	W.N.Whitney	–

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1889	Sin Kaitei Shinsen Bankoku Kōkai Senzu	Kataoka Kenzō	Sea of Japan
1889	Shōmitsu Sekai Zenzu	Johnston	Sea of Japan
1889	Chigaku Sinpen Jin'i Chizu	Uchida Kaichi	Sea of Japan
1892	Kyōka Tekiyō Dai Nihon Chizu Chiri Tōkeihyō	Yamane Akisato	Sea of Japan
1893	Gakusei Tekiyō Nihon Bunzu, Dai Nihonkoku Zenzu	Nogiwa Kaoru	Sea of Japan
1896	Kyōka Tekiyō Dai Nihon Shin Chizu	Nakamura Yoshimatsu	Sea of Japan
1897	Nissinkan Sangoku Zenzu	Miyoshi Morio	Sea of Japan
1897	Chōsen Kairiku Zenzu	Kohashi Suketo	–
1898	Dai Nihon Teikoku Zenzu	Agricultural Department, Bureau of Mines, Geologic Section, Japan	Sea of Japan
1900	Kyōka Tekiyō Shinan Nihon Chizu	Suzuki Kumajirō	Sea of Japan
1901	1:500,000 Kyōto oyobi Ōsaka Kinbō Chizu	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1903	Kanbun Bankoku Chizu	Kojima Hikoshichi	Sea of Japan
1904	Saishin Shōmitsu Sekai Zen Chizu	Tokyo Geographic Survey Association	Sea of Japan
1904		The General Staff Office	Sea of Japan
1907	1:1,000,000 Tōa Yochizu (Niigata)	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1909	1:1,000,000 Tōa Yochizu (Kudō)	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1909	1:1,000,000 Tōa Yochizu (Matsue)	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1914	Saishin Sekai Zenzu	Kuroiwa Hōma	Sea of Japan
1915	(Pocket Map of the World)	Kuroiwa Hōma	Sea of Japan
1918	I	JAPAN TOURIST BUREAU	Sea of Japan
1921<	Kaizō Sekai Chizu	Hakubunkan	Sea of Japan
1922	Hyōjun Sekai Chizu	Tōkyō Kaiseikan	Sea of Japan
1926	Yochizu (Toyama)	Land Survey Department, Japan	–
1926		JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS, JAPAN TOURIST BUREAU	Sea of Japan
1926<	JAPAN	JAPAN TOURIST BUREAU	Sea of Japan
1927	Visit Japan	JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS	Sea of Japan
1927	1:1,000,000 Bankoku Zu (KANAZAWA)	Land Survey Department, Japan	–
1927	1:2,000,000 MAP OF JAPAN	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1929	Saishin Nihon Zenkoku Kotsu Chizu	Hōchi Shinbunsha	Sea of Japan
1931	Dai Nihon Shin Meishō Yūran Chizu	JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS	Sea of Japan
1933	Saishin Dai Nihon Chizu	Dai Nihon Yūbenkai	Sea of Japan
1934	Ajia Tairiku Zu	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1935	1:2,000,000 Tōa Tairikuzu (No.1)	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1936	Sekai Gensei Dai Chizu	Tanaka Keiji, Yamabe Heisuke	Sea of Japan
1937	1:2,000,000 Nihon Zenzu	Land Survey Department, Japan	–
1937	1:2,000,000 Dai Nihon Yochizu	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1939	Saishin Sekai Dai Chizu	Ishihara Hiroshi	Sea of Japan
1942	Zen-So Gyōsei Kukaku Zu	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1942	Taiheiyō Zenzu	Land Survey Department, Japan	Sea of Japan
1943	Saishin Sekai Chizu	Matsumoto Tamanosuke	Sea of Japan
1946	Nihon Shin Bunken Chizu	Nihon Chizu co.	Sea of Japan
1947	1:800,000 Kokudo Jittaizu ; Nihon Tochi Riyouzu (No.2)	Geographical Survey Bureau	Sea of Japan
1947	1:2,000,000 Nihon Zenzu	Geographical Survey Bureau	Sea of Japan
1948	1:2,000,000 Nihon Shubu	Geographical Survey Bureau	Sea of Japan
1948	Sekai Zenzu	Geographical Survey Bureau	Sea of Japan
1949	Shinseiki Sekai Chizuchō	Nihon Chizu co.	Sea of Japan
1950	Chōsen Zenzu	Nihon Chizu co.	Sea of Japan
1952	Hyōjun Sekai Chizu	Zenkoku Kyōiku Tosho co.	Sea of Japan
1957	1:2,500,000 Nihon to sono Shūhen	Geographical Survey Bureau	Sea of Japan
1965	1:1,000,000 International Map of the World (IMW) No.1, 2	Geographical Survey Institute	Sea of Japan
1968	1:500,000 Corographic map of Japan	Geographical Survey Institute	–
1971	1:3,000,000 Nihon to sono Shūhen	Geographical Survey Institute	Sea of Japan

(Remarks)

1. A dash line (–) in the “Drawn by” column and “Notation of corresponding region” column indicates that the map contains no description or details of these items.
2. The number of maps drawn increased rapidly after the Taisho era (which ended in 1926), and those listed here, which are mainly official maps, represent only a fraction of the total. It should be noted that though some of the maps carry no name for the corresponding sea area, none of them contain any notations other than “Sea of Japan.”
3. The symbol (>) after the year in the “Drawn in” column indicates prior to the corresponding year; the symbol (<) after the year indicates subsequent to the corresponding year. A question mark (?) indicates that the year given is an estimate.
4. In spaces in the “Notation of corresponding region” column containing two or more sea area names, a colon (:) indicates an independent sea area with a different name or range. The symbol (<) indicates that the sea area to the left is enveloped by the sea area to the right.

Table 3 “Sea of Japan” in maps produced in other countries

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1511	World, woodblockprint	Bernardus Sylvanus	–
1522	Tabula Superioris Indiae & Tartariae Maioris	Martin Waldseemuller	–
1546	Universalis Cosmographie	Johannes Honter	–
1546?	Tabula nousrum insularum	Sebastian Munster	–
1550<	TAR'TARIAE SIVE MAG NI CHAMI REGNI	Abraham Ortelius	MARE CIN
1554	(World map)	Lopo Homen	–
1560	(Western Pacific Ocean)	Bartolomeu Velho	–
1561	(World map)	Bartolomeu Velho	–
1563	STA TAVOATEM BEM	Lozaro Luíz	–
1567	(Asia)	Abraham Ortelius	–
1568	East Asia	Fernão Vez Dourado	–
1569	(World map)	Gerhard Mercator	–
1570	TAR' TARIAE SIVE MAG NI CHAMI REGNI	Abraham Ortelius	MARE CIN
1570	ASIAE NOVA DESCRIPTIO	Abraham Ortelius	–
1570	INDIAE ORIENTALIS	Abraham Ortelius	–
1575	INDIAE ORIENTALIS INSVLARVMQVE ADIACIENTIUM TYPVS.	Gerhard Mercator/Abraham Ortelius	MARE CIN
1584	CHINAE	Abraham Ortelius	–
1584	CHINAE	Ludovicus Georgius	–
1586	Der grossen namhaften neuwlich erfundenen Japponischen Insel warhaffte und eigentliche Beschreibung	Renward Cysat	–
1589	DESCRITTIONE E SITO DEL GIAPONE	Giacobo Piccaglia / Urbano Monte	–
1590	Giapone Isola	Urbano Monte	–
1590?	JAPAN	André Thevét	LA MER DE CIN
1595	IAPONIAE INSVLAE DESCRIPTIO	Abraham Ortelius / Luis Teixeira	–
1596	JAPONIA REGNVN	Natalius Metellus	–
1596	EXACTA & ACCURATA DELINEATIO	Hendrick Florent van Langren	–
1600-1650	ASIA	Guilielmus Blaeu	–
1602	Kunyu Wanguo Quantu	Matteo Ricci	Sea of Japan
1605	IAPANIAE REGNVN (on one sheet together with maps of the East Indies)	Cornelis van Wytfliet	–
1605	CHINAE REGNVN (on one sheet together with map of the East Indies)	Cornelis van Wytfliet	–
1605	INDIA ORIENTALIS (on one sheet together with map of the East Indies)	Cornelis van Wytfliet	–
1605	Totius Orbis Cogniti Universalis Descriptio	Paulus Merula	–
1606	Iaponia	Jodocus Hondius	–
1607	Sankai Yochi Zenzu (Inserted in Getsurei kôgi)	Okin	–
1607	Sankai Yochi Zenzu (Inserted in Chiri Vol 1, Sanzai Zue)	Okin	–
1617	IAPONIA	Christopherus Blancus	MER JAPONICVM
1620	(Globe)	Arnold & Henriks Å Langren	–
1623	Asiae Nova Descriptio Auctore Jodoco Hondio	Jodocus Hondius	–
1623	Bankoku Zenzu (Inserted in Shokukata Gaiki)	Giulio Aleni	–
1635?	(Asia)	Jan Blaeu	–
1635	Asia noviter delineata	Jan Blaeu	–
1636	Iaponia Nova Descriptio	Joannes Janssonius	–
1640?	Ido Zu (Inserted in Hôyo Syôryaku)	Ban Koso	–
1640's	ROYAUME DU IAPON	Phillippe Briet	OCEAN ORIENTAL
1641	Nuova Descrittione del Giappone	Bernardino Ginnaro	OSEANO BOREALE
1646	DESCRIPTION DES ISLES DV IAPON	Antonio Cardim	OCEAN ORIENTAL
1646	IAPPONIAE Nova & Accurata Descriptio	Antonio Cardim	–
1646	Asia carta di cia sete piumoderna	Sir Robert Dudley	OCEANO BORIALE DEL GARPONE: Mare di Corai
1647	Carta Paticolare della Grande Isola de Giappone di Ieso con il Regno di Corai et altre Isole in toeno	Sir Robert Dudley	MARE DI CORAI: II Mare Swenurional é di Iappone ò Giappone
1650	CHINA veteribus SINARVM REGIO nunc Incolis TAME dicta	Jan Blaeu	–
1650	(Map of Japan)	Pieter jun Schenk & Gerard Valk	OCEANVS CHINEN
1650	ROYAUME DU IAPON	Phillippe Briet	OCEAN ORIENTAL
1651	IAPONIA et TERRA ESO	Jan Janssonius	MARE IAPONICUM

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1652	LES ISLES DV IAPON	Nicolas Sanson	OCEAN ou MER DELA CHINE <OCEAN ORIENTAL
1655	IAPONIA REGNUM	Jan Blaeu (Martino Martini)	–
1655	IMPERII SINARVM	Jan Blaeu (Martino Martini)	–
1658	IAPONIAE Delerintio	Gabriele Bucelinius	MARE IAPONICVM
1658	IAPONIA TERRA ESONIS	Jan Janssonius	OCEANVS CHINENSIS
1660	DESCRIPTION DES ISLES DV IAPON	Nicolas Sanson	OCEAN ORIENTAL
1660?	MAGNE TARTARIAE	Frederic de Wit	–
1660?	ASIAE Nova Defcriptio	Frederic de Wit	–
1661	ISLES DV IAPON	Pierre Du Val	OCEAN ou MER ORIENTALE
1661	Asia carta di ciasete piu moderna	Sir Robert Dudley	OCEANO BORIALE DEL GAPPONE
1661	L'ASIE	Pierre Du Val	–
1662	DESCRIPTION DES ISLES DV IAPON	Nicolas Sanson	OCEAN ORIENTAL
1662	L'Asia	Nicolas Sanson	MAR DELA CHINE
1663	COLLEGIEN oft RESIDENTIEN	F. Bouttats	–
1669	L'ASIE	Nicolas Sanson	–
1675	Pascaert van t'Ooster gedeelte van Oost Indien van C.Comorintot Iapan	Frederic de Wit	–
1676?	TABULA TARTARIAE	Frederic de Wit	–
1679	CARTE DES ISLES DV IAPON	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	OCEAN ORIENTAL: MER DE COREER
1680	IAPONIA REGNVM	Frans Jacobsz Visschr	–
1680	Japonae ac Terrae Iessonis Novissima Descriptio	Robert Morden	–
1681	ISLES of IAPON	Herman Moll	OCEANUS MARE ORIENTALE
1682	Il Regno della China detto Presentamente Catay e Mangin	G.C.d. Vinōra	–
1683	La Gran Tartaria	Giacomo Rossi	–
1683	LES ISLES DV IAPON	Nicolas Sanson	OCEAN ou MER DELA CHINE <OCEAN ORIENTAL
1683	ISLES DV IAPON	Allain Manesson-Mallet	OCEAN ORIENTAL<Mer de La Chine
1683	LA GRAN TARTARIA	Giacomo Cantelli	–
1690	ISOLA DEL GIAPONE	Vicenzo Maria Coronelli	MARE DELLA CHINA <OCEANO ORIENTAL
1690	MARE DEL SVD, MARE PACIFICO	Vicenzo Maria Coronelli	–
1690	ASIA ORIENTAL	Vicenzo Maria Coronelli	MARE DELLA CHINA
1690	EXACTISSIMA ASIAE DELINEATIO, IN PRAECI- PUAS REGIONES	Carel Allard	–
1692	ISOLA DEL GIAPONE PENISOLA DI COREA	Vicenzo Maria Coronelli	MERE DELLA CHINA <OCEAN ORIENTALE
1692	JAPON	Johann Ulrich Müller	Oceanus Niphon Inf.
1692	TARTARIA	Witsen Nicolaas	MER ORIENTALE ou DU JAPON
1695?	(Globe)	Vicenzo Maria Coronelli	MER DELA CHINE
1704	L'ASIE	Priviledge du Roy	MER DV JAPON
1705	Carte des Indes et de la Chine	Del'isle	Mer Orientale ou Mer de Coree
1705	Asia	Heinrich Scherer	–
1706	William Adams Reystogt na Oost Indien	Pieter van der Aa	OCEANUS CHINENSIS
1712	IAPON or NIPHON	Herman Moll	SEA of COREA
1714	IAPAN	Pieter Van Der Aa	OCEANUS CHINENSIS
1715	IMPERIVM JAPONICVM	Adrien Reland	–
1715	LE JAPON DIVISE EN SOISSANTE ET SIX PROVINNOIS	Adrien Reland	–
1716>	Manuscript map of Japan	Engelbert Kaempfer	–
1719	Carte du Japon	Henri Abraham Chatelain	–
1719	L'EMPIRE DU JAPON TIRE DES CARTES DES JAPONNOIS	Henri Abraham Chatelain	–
1720?	BENEVOLE SPECTATOR	Johan Baptist Homann	MARE IAPONICUM OCCIDENTALE
1720?	Imperium Japonicum	Adrien Reland	–
1720?	CARTE DES INDES, DE LA CHINE & DES ILES DE SUMATRA, JAVE & C	–	MER ORIENTALE OU MER DE COREE
1727	Imperium Japonicum in sexaginta et octo Provincias Divisum	Engelbert Kaempfer/Johann Caspar Scheuchzer	–
1728>	Manuscript map of Japan	Johann Caspar Scheuchzer	–
1728	NAAUW-KEURIGE KAART VAN'T KEIZERRYK JAPAN	Isaak Tirion	DE NOORD ZEE VAN JAPAN
1730?	DIVERSI GLOBI TERR-AQVEI	Matthaeus Seutter	–
1730?	ASIA	Covens, Mortiet	MARE IAPANICUM OCCIDENTALE

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1730?	Asia	R&J. Ottens	–
1735	NIE UWE KAART VAN'T KEIZERRYK JAPAN	Isaak Tirion	DE NOORD ZEE VAN JAPAN
1735?	IAPONIA	Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay	–
1736	Carte des Isles du Japon	Jaques Nicolas Bellin	–
1740	REGNI JAPONIAE	Engelbert Kaempfer	MER DU NORD DU JAPON
1740?	Het Koninkryk Japan	Engelbert Kaempfer/Johann Caspar Scheuchzer	–
1740?	REGNI JAPONIA	Matthaeus Seutter	MER DU NORD DU JAPON
1740?	IMPERIUM JAPONICUM	Matthaeus Seutter	–
1744	A New and Accrate Map of the EMPIRE of JAPAN	E. Bowen	SEA OF KOREA
1745?	IMPERIVM JAPONICVM	Adrien Reland	–
1746<	Carte des Isles du Japon et la Presque Isle de Corree	Jaques Nicolas Bellin	–
1748	CARTE DU JAPON et dela Coree	George Louis Le Rouge	–
1749	LE JAPON	Gilles Robert de Vaugondy	MER DE CORÉE
1750	Neue Karte von Kayserthum JAPAN	Jonas Korte	DIE NORD SEE VON JAPAN
1752	CARTE DES ISLES DU JAPON	Jaques Nicolas Bellin	MER DE COREE
1754	Carte de l'Empire du Japon	Jaques Nicolas Bellin	MER DE COREE
1757	L'EMPIRE DU JAPON	Gilles Robert de Vaugondy	MER DE COREE: MER DU JAPON
1758	CALTE ORIENTALE	Gilles Robert de Vaugondy	MER DE COREE
1770?	(Map of Asia)	Issued by Schneider	Meerbusen con Rovca?
1773	(Map of Asia)	Covens, Mortiet	–
1778	EMPIRE DV JAPON	Gilles Robert de Vaugondy	MER DE CORÉE: MER DV JAPON
1783	JAPAN	Jacob Keyzer & Jan de Lat	DE NOORD ZEE VAN JAPAN OF COREASE ZEE
1790	The EMPIRE OF JAPAM	Robert Sayer	COREAN SEA
1793	(Map of Asia)	Johan Baptist Homann	–
1793-1794	Calte de l'Empire de la Chine	E.Mantel and others	MER DU JAPON
1794	THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN	Robert Sayer	COREAN SEA
1797	LE ISOLE DEL GIAPPONE ELA COREA	Giovanni Maria Cassini	–
1797	CARTE DES DE'COUVERTES	La Pérouse	MER DU JAPON
1797	A part of "Carte Generale des Decou vertes "in" Atlas du Voyage de La Perouse	La Pérouse	–
1807	EMPIRE OF JAPAN	Aaron Arrowsmith	SEA OF COREA
1809	JAPAN	John Pinkerton & L. Hebert	SEA OF JAPAN
1811	A part of map of JAPAN, Kurile etc.	Aaron Arrowsmith	SEA OF JAPAN
1812	Charte von Japan mit seinen VII Provinzen nach Robert's	–	MER VON COREA: MEER VON JAPAN
1812	JAPAN	Aaron Arrowsmith	SEA OF JAPAN
1813	ISLANDS OF JAPAN	E. Jones	SEA OF JAPAN
1815	Mer du Japon	A.J. Krusenstern	Sea of Japan
1815	ALL GEMEINE WEL CHRTE	A.J. Krusenstern	JAPANISCHES
1815	COREA AND JAPAN	John Thomson	SEA OF JAPAN
1832	Pacific Ocean	J. Arrowsmith	SEA OF JAPAN
1835	MONNDE ENIER	J. Henry	MER DU JAPON
1835	EMPIRE OF JAPAN	J. & C. Walker	SEA OF JAPAN
1840	Nihon Henkai Ryakuzu	Philipp Franz von Siebolt	Japanische-See
1840	Karte von Japanischen Reiche	Philipp Franz von Siebolt	–
1851	Planisphaerium Terrestre	John Tallis	JAPAN SEA
1851	The Eastern Hemisphere	John Tallis	JAPAN SEA
1856	KARTE DER KUSTE von CHINA und den JAPANISCHEN INSELN	Wilhelm Heine	JAPANISCHES MEER
1861	EMPIRE OF JAPAN	Stanford	SEA OF JAPAN
1890	I	Russian Empire	
1898	KEITH JOHNSTON'S ROYAL ATLAS OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY	KEITH JOHNSTON	SEA OF JAPAN
1900>	JOHNSTON'S NEW ERA SCHOOL ATLAS	W&A.K. Johnston	SEA OF JAPAN
1915			
1916	POCKET ATLAS OF THE WORLD	Rand.Mc.Nally & Co.	JAPAN SEA
1925	STILER'S ATLAS MODERN GEOGRAPHY	HAACK	JAPANISCHES
1930	ANDREES ALL GEMEINER HANDATLAS	EANST AMBROSIUS	JAPANISCHES
1933	THE READERS'S REFERENCE ATLAS OF THE WORLD	George Philip & Son. LTD.	SEA OF JAPAN
1936	PHILIPS' CENTENARY MERCANTILE MARINE ATLAS	George Philip & Son. LTD.	SEA OF JAPAN

Drawn in	Map	Drawn by	Notation of corresponding region
1939	PHILIPS' NEW IMPERIAL ATLAS	George Philip & Son. LTD.	SEA OF JAPAN
1940		Soviet Union Geodetic Mapping Agency	
1940		Soviet Union Geodetic Mapping Agency	
1941		Soviet Union Geodetic Mapping Agency	
1943	PACIFIC OCEAN	National Geographic Society	SEA OF JAPAN
1948	THE REGIONAL ATLAS	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW AND SON LTD.	Sea of Japan
1948	DIERCKE WELT ATLAS	Georg Westermann Verlag	Japanisches Meer
1948	1:1,000,000 WORLD (ASIA)	U.S. Army Map Service	SEA OF JAPAN
1950	COLUMBUS WELTATLAS	Columbus Verlag	JAPANISCHES
1950	1:250,000 AMS	U.S. Army Map Service	SEA OF JAPAN
1951	ATLAS REX	M. JEAN MARTIN	MER DE JAPON
1952	PHIRIPS' RECORD ATLLAS	George Philip & Son. LTD.	Sea of Japan
1952	THE CITIZEN'S ATLAS	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW AND SON LTD.	SEA OF JAPAN
1952	WELT ATLAS	UEB BIBLIOGRAPHISCHES INSTITUT LEIPZIG	JAPANISCHES MEER
1953	Nouvel ATLAS GENERAL	LA FRANCE-L'UNION FURANCAISE LE MONDE	Mer du Japon
1953	THE UNIVERSITY ATLAS	George Philip & Son. LTD.	Sea of Japan
1954	THE OXFORD ATLAS	OXFORD UNIVERSITY Press	SEA OF JAPAN
1954	OXFORD ECONOMIC ATLAS	OXFORD UNIVERSITY Press	Sea of Japan
1954	F.W.PUTZGER HISTORISCHER SCHULATLAS	ALFRED HANSEL	Japanisches Meer
1954		Soviet Union Geodetic Mapping Agency	
1955		Soviet Union Depatment of the Interior	
1955	HANSA Weltatlas	HANS KLEINERT	JAPANISCHES
1956	ATLAS GEOGRAFICZNY	POLSKI	M. JAPONSKIE
1957	ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANICA WORLD ATLAS	William Benton	Sea of Japan
1958	THE TIMES ATLAS OF THE WORLD (Volume I)	THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD	Sea of Japan
1960	GOODE'S WORLD ATLAS	Rand Mc.NALLY	SEA OF JAPAN
1961	nouvo atlante geografico lattes	ARBERTO MPRI,S.LATTES & C. -EDITORI-TORINO	M. del Giappone
1962	Eduard Inhof Schweizerischer Mittelschul atlas	Eduard Imhof	Japanisches Meer
1962	ATLAS GEOGRAFICZNY	POLSKI	MORZE JAPONSKIE
1964	FOLDRAJZI ATLASZ	A KOZEPISKOLAK SZAMARA	JAPAN TENGER
1968	ASIE-EST	Institut Géographique National	MER DU JAPON
1971	atlas hachette	Librarie Hachette	MER DU JAPON
1972	Tokyo-Ulan-Ude	Institut Géographique National	MER DU JAPON
1974	1:1,000,000 Map of Korea	Ministry of Education, ROK	DONG HAE (East Sea)
1974	Hammond Ambassador WORLD ATLAS	Hammond Incorporated	Sea of Japan
1975	The Times Concise Atlas	THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD	Sea of Japan
1975	National Atlas of Korea	National Geography Institute	DONG HAE (East Sea)
1976	1:250,000 Topographic Map	National Geography Institute	DONG HAE (East Sea)
1976	1:1,000,000 Map of Korea	National Geography Institute	DONG HAE (East Sea)
1980	中国卫星彩色影象图索引	Chinese Academy of Sciences	Sea of Japan

(Remarks)

1. A dash line (–) in the “Drawn by” column and “Notation of corresponding region” column indicates that the map contains no description or details of these items.
2. The number of maps drawn increased rapidly in the 20th century, and those listed here represent only a fraction of the total.
3. The symbol (>) after the year in the “Drawn in” column indicates prior to the corresponding year; the symbol (<) after the year indicates subsequent to the corresponding year. A question mark (?) indicates that the year given is an estimate.
4. In spaces in the “Notation of corresponding region” column containing two or more sea area names, a colon (:) indicates an independent sea area with a different name or range. The symbol (<) indicates that the sea area to the left is enveloped by the sea area to the right.

Provisional translation, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, of;

Hishiyama and Nagaoka, “Nihonkai kosyō no hensen ni tsuite” [Changing in the Name of the “Japan Sea”], Chizu kanribu gijyutsu houkoku No.1 (Kokudo-chiriin Gijyutsu Shiryou E-3-No.1) [Technical Report of Map Management Department No.1 (Technical Report of Geographical Survey Institute of Japan E-3-No.1)] p.16-25, 1994, Geographical Survey Institute, Japan.