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The Route Maps of the Korean Peninsula drawn by Japanese Army Officers during 1880s

Abstract

During 1880s, Japanese Imperial Army dispatched young officers to China, Korea and Taiwan for intelligence gathering. Their mission was to prepare geographical handbooks and maps of strategic areas of East Asia, where contemporary Japanese military supposed to debouch. Recently the authors found a series of drafts of maps drawn by these officers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. In this presentation, we give an outline of this series of draft and examine their activities in field survey. Cartographic features of these drafts are also the target of the analysis.

Most of the drafts are maps on middle scale (1: 100,000 or 1: 200,000) and describe main routes of Korea, which connect central places. The officers found bearings with compass and measured the distance by pace. The results were recorded on plotting papers. Among them, *Chosen zen zu* (A complete map of Korea, 1: 1,000,000) is remarkable because it is an index map of the routes which the officers surveyed.

Chosen Hanto niyu man bun no ichi zu (Maps of Korea on a scale of 1:200,000) were compiled from these drafts up to 1894 and distributed to the military units at the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895). We confirmed that the Emperor *Meiji* also had perused this kind map according to those left in a collection of the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan.



Madison Bldg of the LC

The Route Maps of the Korean Peninsula drawn by Japanese Army Officers during 1880s

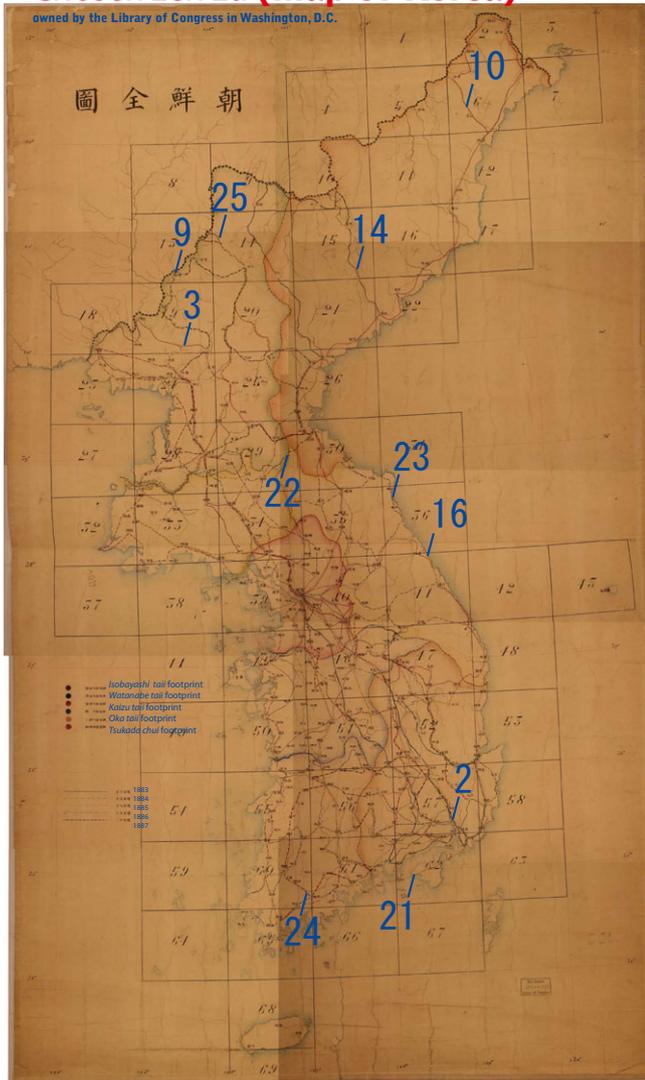


G&M Reading Room

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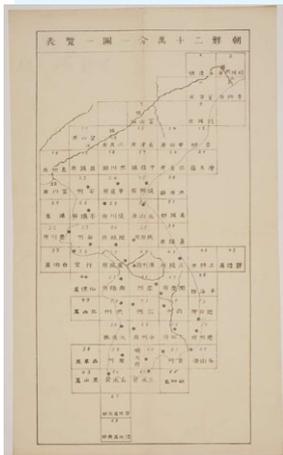
Chosen zen zu (Map of Korea)



Kankoku zenzu : Isobayashi Taii aka rokumei, Meiji 16-nen yori 21-nen itaru ashiato shiteizu G7900 1887. K3 Vault Geography & Map Reading Room (Madison, LMB01) 113.0x67.0cm

An Index Map of the Korean Peninsula at a scale of 1:200,000

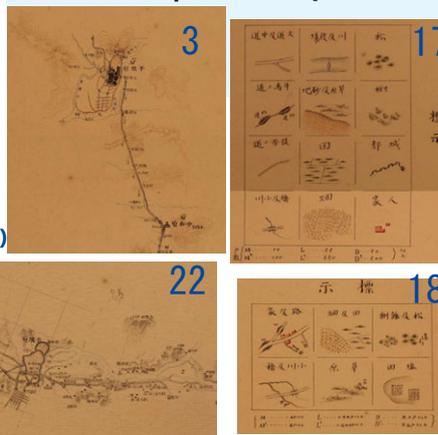
- The numbers in "Chosen zen zu" are different from those in this map
- This new numbers for this map are written in pencil in "Chosen zen zu"
- This map was made about 1894 when "Kasei toa yochizu" was printed
- Emperor Meiji also perused this kind of map, which is now part of "Chiyo-da collection" of the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan



"Kasei toa yochizu" printed in 1894 (1:1,000,000*200%) by National Diet Library

5. Conclusion

- A lot of topographical information was given in a series of drafts
- The survey in Korea by Japanese Imperial Army was begun earlier than generally believed
- These maps were distributed to the military units during the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)



1. Aim of this presentation

- To give an outline of a series of drafts that Japanese Imperial Army drew during 1880s
- To examine their activities in field survey

2. Background of "Chosen zen zu" During 1880s:

Japanese Imperial Army dispatched young officers to China, Korea and Taiwan for intelligence gathering

Their mission: to prepare geographical handbooks and maps of strategic areas of East Asia

After the Imo Incident(1882):

Japanese officers could survey inside the Korean Peninsula

Table1 Maps of Korea before 1883

| Title in English | Year (Year of Issue) | Scale | Surveyor | Remarks |
|---|----------------------|--------|---|---------|
| Road from Chemulpo (Inchon) to Hwangso (Seoul) | 1879 | 40,000 | Kobayashi | |
| Mouth Chango River between Chungchong-do and Cholla-do Okku Bay, Cholla-do, Chongau Bay, Chungchong-do | 1879 | 28,800 | Kobayashi | |
| Mouth Chango River between Chungchong-do and Cholla-do Okku Bay, Cholla-do | 1879 | 60,000 | Kobayashi | |
| Chongau Bay, Chungchong-do | 1879 | 30,000 | Kobayashi | |
| Brief map of the Alan River and Alan Bay between Kyon-gi-do and Chungchong-do present (Shanghaigang-shan) | 1882 | 40,000 | Isobayashi | |
| Brief map of the Irin River (from Chongau Bay, Kyong-gi-do to north of Alan River) | 1882 | 40,000 | Isobayashi | |
| Road from Incheon (Chemulpo) to Hwangso (Seoul) | 1882 | 20,000 | Shanghaishi, Isobayashi, Fukushima, Kikuchi | |
| Road from Sihung-hyon (Kyon-gi-do) to Incheon | 1882 | 20,000 | Takeda | |



"Road from Incheon to Hwangso" (part)



3. Research at the Library of Congress, USA

About: a series of drafts of maps drawn by Japanese officers at the Geography & Map Reading Room of the LC in Washington, D.C.

Dates: ● Mar.2-10,2008 ● Sep.22-Oct.4,2008 ● Mar.3-13,2009

Cartographic features:

- routes; positions and sizes of villages; the topography
- compass bearings ● distances paced out

(1) Road maps: at medium scale (1: 100,000 or 1: 200,000)

(2) Area maps: at large scale (1:2,000 ~)

(3) Brief maps

4. Analysis of "Chosen zen zu"

- An index map of the routes which 6 officers surveyed
- A map of Korea, at a scale of 1: 1,000,000 (in 69 sections)
- Surveyors and years indicated by colors and types of line
- Compilation of almost medium scale road maps

Table2 Maps of Korea in 1883-1887

| No. | Title in English | Year (Year of Issue) | Scale | Surveyor | Remarks |
|-----|--|----------------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| 1 | Map of Korea | 1883 | 1:1,000,000 | Watanabe | |
| 2 | The Chado Road, Kyongsang-do | 1883 | 200,000 | Watanabe | |
| 3 | Korea map of Uju to Kyongsong (Seoul) | 1883 | 40,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 4 | Wonsan harbor and settlement, Hamgyong-do | 1883 | 2,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 5 | Korea map of road from Wonsan to Manchoung-Hangyong-do | 1883 | 40,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 6 | Korea map of road from settlement Wonsan to Yongjuon-Hangyong-do | 1883 | 40,000 | Isobayashi | |
| 7 | Area west of Seoul, including Chemulpo, Korea, etc. 1883 | 1883 | 20,000 | Isobayashi | |
| 8 | Korea Road map Hamgyong-do and Pyongan-do, Korea 1884 | 1884 | 200,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 9 | Road in Hamgyong-do | 1884 | 200,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 10 | Road from Mapo to Manju, Kyongsang-do | 1884 | 40,000 | Isobayashi | |
| 11 | Mapo | 1884 | 10,000 | Isobayashi | |
| 12 | Mapo | 1884 | 10,000 | Isobayashi | |
| 13 | Japanese settlement in Chemulpo, Hamgyong-do | 1885 | 200,000 | Chiba | |
| 14 | Chungyongjin, in Hamgyong-do and Pyongan-do, Korea | 1885 | 200,000 | Chiba | |
| 15 | Overview from the settlement at Chongyong-bu, Hamgyong-do | 1885 | 100,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 16 | Yon-ha-don-ri, road to and from Kangwon-do | 1885 | 20,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 17 | Road from Chongok Bridge to Kwangju, via Sorae-Ohn and via Incheon, Kyongsang-do | 1885 | 20,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 18 | Road from Chemulpo to Sokchohon, Kyongsang-do | 1885 | 2,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 19 | Chemulpo the cemetery area | 1885 | 2,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 20 | Plan of the settlement at Chemulpo 1884 | 1885 | 2,000 | Kobayashi | |
| 21 | Road map to Kyongsang from Pusan to Chwasuyong-Cholla-do | 1886 | 100,000 | Mura | |
| 22 | Road map, from Kyongsang (Seoul) to Wonsan, Hamgyong-namdo | 1887 | 200,000 | Chiba | |
| 23 | Road from Albon Pref. Hamgyong-do to Kyongsang | 1887 | 200,000 | Chiba | |
| 24 | Korea (south)-Road from Seoul-Cholla-do, via Taegu, Kyongsang-do, to | 1887 | 200,000 | Takeda | |
| 25 | Road from Kyongsang to Suwang, Yongpung-gun, Hamgyong-do | 1887 | 200,000 | Mura | |
| 26 | Road map of the Kyongsang (Seoul) area, with in travelling distance | 1887 | 100,000 | Mura | |