

## Three Databases of Japanese Imperial Maps

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Japanese imperial maps attract the attention of researchers of historical cartography and East Asian history. A workshop was held in October, 2011 on the role of Japanese imperial maps (Gaihozu) as sources of East Asian history and a series of papers were published (Cross Currents, 2012). The recognition of these neglected maps was stimulated partially by the following databases.

One is the Gaihozu Digital Archives of the geographical department of Tohoku University. It provides mainly images of topographical maps of Southeast Asia. As for China and Korea, only catalogs are opened.

Another is a collection of military maps of East Asia and western Pacific of Ochanomizu University. In spite of its small number, it deserves to see because of the military intelligence they contain and skillful presentation.

In addition, A Database of Early Japanese Imperial Maps of China and Korea was opened recently. The manuscripts drawn by Japanese Army officers in 1880s had been originally garnered at the Japanese Land Survey. They were confiscated by U. S. Army Map Service after WW II and transferred later to the Library of Congress. Young Japanese army officers made a traverse survey of main routes of China and Korea taking bearings with compasses and measuring distance by pace. This database was constructed utilizing the photos of the maps taken at the Library of Congress.

With these databases, the authors hope to open a new field of study of Japanese imperial maps, which show the changing process of geographical intelligence collection in East Asia and the Pacific.