

Research Report

Name : Gyewon Kim

Organization (at the time of the grant):

McGill University (Art History and Communication Studies)

Title of Research:

The Links between Geomancy and Geography in Early Modern Maps in Japan and Korea

Purpose of Research:)

The aim of the proposed research is to investigate a shared or overlapping space between traditional geomancy and modern geography. Geomancy and geography are generally understood by way of contrast or opposition. While the former denotes the pre-modern, non-scientific, and superstitious thoughts and practices of the land, the latter designates a neutral and objective approach to physical space. By contrast, my research attempts to move beyond this fixed binary opposition. I aim to explore the overlapping space between geomancy and geography by focusing on their mutual transformations, as illustrated in early modern Japanese and Korean cartography.

It was during the period of colonial surveyance that Korean geomancy and Japanese geography were first linked. Meiji physiographers (地文学者) tried to draw on traditional geomancy not only to enhance their understanding of the Korean landscape, but also to construct a negative image of it. Conversely, Korean nationalists resisted Japanese colonial surveyance by relocating geomancy within the framework of physiography, which then represented the enlightenment knowledge they strove to achieve. By looking at the intersecting boundaries between Korean geomancy and Japanese geography, my research seeks to investigate the interplay between the two different conceptions, examining the interchange and negotiation of ideas, while tracing the specific reasons and motivations for the connections discovered.

Content/Methodology of Research:)

I conducted archive research in Tokyo during three months from the beginning of 2008 (**January 2008 ~March 2008**). The location of my research was **the Library of Geography in the University of Tokyo Library** (Chigaku Kenkyushitsu), which has a special collection devoted to the work of early Meiji geo-science. I also plan to supplement primary data with historical reference housed in the **National Archives of Japan** (国立公文書館).

During my research in Tokyo I particularly investigated intellectual activities of **Meiji Chimongakusha** (地文学者), and made an annotated bibliography regarding Chimongaku. As my primary concerns lie in the relation between knowledge and visual representation, I've gathered seminal visual sources, especially lithography and etching images, crucial to my doctoral project. The images data I collected in Tokyo is as following:

『日本銅版画史展 - キリシタン渡来から現代まで』東京都美術館、1982
 安田雷州、『江戸近国風景』の挿絵
 『特命全権大使『米欧回覧実記』銅版画集』久米美術館、1985
 『幕末維新の銅版画玄々堂とその一派展 - 絵に見るミクロの社会学』神奈川県立近代美術館、1998
 『近代日本版画の諸相』町田市立国際版画美術館、中央公論美術出版、1997
 『磐梯山・猪苗代の地学 - 磐梯山噴火 100 周年』東京地学協会、1988、VOL.97 NO.4
 『会津磐梯山 - The Special Exhibition of Mt. Bandai』福島県立博物館等、2008
 『大北斎展』朝日新聞社、1993
 『描かれた幕末明治 イラストレイテッド・ロンドン・ニュース：日本通信 1853-1902』東京：雄松堂出版、1986
 菅野陽『日本銅版画の研究 近世』美術出版社、1974

I also collected and analyzed the data from the academic journal such as “Chigaku Zattshi (地学雑誌)” and “The Bulletin of College of Science at the Imperial University of Tokyo (東京帝国大学理学部研究紀要),” published from 1890. I particularly made an index of the geographical surveys and survey reports that employed photography and lithography as a prime research tool.. I put here part of the index that I made for your reference:

- 1887 菊池大麓、明治 20 年 8 月 19 日の皆既日食観測についての調査報告書
- 1890 関谷清景と菊池安、明治 21 年 7 月 15 日の磐梯山の水蒸気暴発による地震調査報告書
“The Eruption of Bandai-San”
- 1889 矢津昌永、『日本地文学』の図版 (シカゴ万博で受賞)
- 1893 小藤文次郎、明治 24 年の 10 月 28 日の農尾大地震の調査報告書
“The Archaean Formation of Abukuma Plateau”
“On the Cause of the Great Earthquake in Central Japan, 1891”
- 1900 “Notes on the Geology of the Dependent Isles of Taiwan”
- 1901 伊東忠太、土屋純一、北京皇城内諸宮殿の建築学的調査
- 1905 田中茂男、“Descriptions of One New Genus and the New Species of Japanese Fishes”
小藤文次郎、“On Some Muriceid Corals Belonging to the Genera Filigella and Acis”
小藤文次郎、“Journey through Korea II: The Geology and One Deposits of the Hol-gol Gold Mine, Su-An District, Korea”
“K. Korla and Koirito’s Photography on Japanese Plants” (連続写真)

Conclusion/Observation

The 2007 Panasonic Global Research Grant made possible my research in Tokyo for three months from the beginning of the last year. The purpose of the research was to gather primary and secondary sources on early Meiji geography, which has been customarily interpreted as offering a hodgepodge of ambiguous knowledge to be superseded for lending credence to pre-modern assumptions. By highlighting the importance of Chimongaku in the formation of Japanese geography, I would articulate the bridging role it once played between indigenous and modern forms of knowledge about the land. The image sources that I gathered in Japan also made possible to support my argument of Japan-Korean relations, as they explicitly indicate the connecting linkage between the strands of Japanese and Korean geographical traditions, which have been conceived as sharply divergent. All in all, the research in Tokyo provided me fruitful academic experiences. The data I collected was both stimulating and encouraging and I expect to finalize my work for publication. I would like to thank the Panasonic Global Research Grant Program for this opportunity.