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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


With the advancement of technology, many excellent research materials on Asia are being published in microform and on CD-ROM. Recent examples are: *China through Western Eyes: Manuscript Records of Traders, Travellers, Missionaries and Diplomats, 1792-1942* (Marlborough: Adam Matthew Publications, 1996-) and *Japan through Western Eyes: Manuscript Records of Traders, Travellers, Missionaries and Diplomats, 1853-1941* (Marlborough: Adam Matthew Publications, 1996-). A most significant contribution to bibliography and research on Korea to date is *Western Books on Korea: 1655-1949* by Pak Taehon, published by Hosanbang, in 1996. Pak undertook this vast project single-handedly. A true bibliophile, he spent 10 years in collecting the material and five more years in annotating titles (p. xv), proofreading the galleys 17 times (p. xiii). The title under review introduces 188 titles in 261 editions in 287 volumes, written by “western missionaries, explorers, soldiers, and scholars on their observations on and studies of Korea in the last 300 years.” Although each title and its contents are given in the original language, the introduction is written in Korean and captions providing bibliographic information are in English.

The Preface states the work’s purpose, a list of previous works on the subject, and problems and methodology.

The body of the work follows an accepted chronology of Korean history, which is divided into four periods:

**Period 1. The Formative Period: before the Japanese invasion of 1592-98.**
   The period when Korea was almost unknown to the West. Includes 2 titles (1: 16-49).

**Period 2. The Early Contacts Period: 1592-1876.**
   The period from the Japanese invasion to the Treaty of Friendship (or Kanghwa) with Japan, when Korea was closed to the outside. Includes 28 titles, some of which in different editions (1: 50-161).

**Period 3. The Enlightenment Period: 1876-1905.**
   The period when Japan, Russia, and other western powers competed for influence in Korea. Includes 98 titles, some of which in different editions (1: 162-473).

**Period 4. The Modern Period: 1905-49.**
   The period from Japanese aggression, with the treaty of 1905, till a year before the outbreak of the Korean War. Includes 133 titles, some of which in different editions (2: 475-911).
Additionally, the last section of Vol. 2 consists of (1) a list of Korean translations of western books on Korea; (2) other bibliographic sources; (3) conclusion; (4) a list of western books on Korea by historical period; (5) a list of reference works; and (6) a name index, a title index, and a subject index.

Under each period, Pak lists the important books on East Asia and especially, Korea, in western languages, with information on the author, the historical significance of the book, the different editions and translations into other western languages and Korean, and citations of sources. This introduction is followed by an annotated bibliography and contents of the titles in Pak’s possession, with illustrations (usually the book’s cover, title page, spine, and pictures relevant to Korea). Since not all titles listed in the introduction are owned by the compiler, it is his policy to concentrate on the titles in his possession that he can verify rather than relying on the description provided by other sources.

For example, Period 2, the Early Contacts Period, contains an introduction and a list of important books of the period. The introduction mentions, among other things, the significance of a Spanish priest (G. de Céspedes); the first supposed naturalized Korean citizen (J. J. Weltevree from the Netherlands); a map of Korea appearing in *Novus Atlas Sinensis* (Amsterdam, 1655); Hendrik Hamel (1630-1692), Secretary aboard the Dutch ship *Sperwer* (Sparrow Hawk), who describes his 13 years in Korea.

Pak describes how the name of “Korea” has evolved since the fifteenth century in western sources: for instance, from “Karli,” “Cauly,” “Kauli,” or “Kaoli” for transliteration of Koryo, a medieval Korean dynasty, in *The Travels of Marco Polo, The Venetian* (Pak suggests that the variant spellings depend on which edition of the book a scholar used.) to “Cape Corea” in *The Principal Navigations Voyages Traffiques & Discoveries of the English Nation*, by Richard Hakluyt (the edition used here is that by J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., London, 1926, but it was originally published in London, in 1589), and finally to “Corea” in *Novus Atlas Sinensis*.

The work’s historical significance aside, the 550 excellent color reproductions provide important sources for the study of Korean culture, customs, costumes, and flora and fauna. Pak employed the best available photographic methods to reproduce the materials. The minute details of the old maps (pp. 373, 375, 521, among others) are so clear that one can consider them as art works. Excellent illustrations of Korean costumes (pp. 191 & 195) and hairdos (p. 225) can be good sources for researching costume history. Reproduction of many photographs, including the South Gate Market (p. 387), laying of *ondol* floor for heating (p. 406), boy peddlers (p. 439), a young boy candy peddler (p. 443), a “water carrier” (p.525), and the first Korean delegation to the United States (p.166 ) provide good sources for socio-cultural studies.

The book’s main contribution to scholarship is its introduction to many valuable research materials on the history and culture of Korea. Pak’s painstaking layout, with each section and subsection meticulously numbered, may create some confusion for the reader not familiar with his style.

Someday, we hope that the materials listed in *Western Books on Korea: 1655-1949* will be published on microfiche, so that the contents of the books will become available for scholars and
students. A similar example would be Chadwyck-Healey’s *Nineteenth Century Books on China* (Cambridge, England: Chadwyck-Healey, 1995-), being published on microfiche in association with The British Library. Such an undertaking, no doubt, will require financial support from a foundation(s). Pak’s private collection also needs a good home, such as a national library, or a university library where it will be readily accessible to scholars and students.

Catherine Y. Lee


Chinese administrative districts and geographical names have changed frequently over the course of China’s long history and across its vast territory. An important task for historians and geographers has been to study the history of each place name.

In the 1920s Liu Chūn-jen 劉鈕仁 and Tsang Li-ho 譚石, respectively, compiled *Chung-kuo ti ming ta tz’u tien* 中國地名大辭典 and *Chung-kuo ku chin ti ming ta tz’u tien* 中国古今地名大辞典. These two works have been the main reference tools for Chinese historical place names since their publication. However, even though there are over 20,000 entries in the first dictionary and over 40,000 entries in the second dictionary, many geographical names that appear in historical documents are not included in these two dictionaries. Many entries either lack notes or give erroneous information. Moreover, there have been great changes in administrative districts in the seven decades since these two dictionaries appeared, and the annotations of many entries do not reflect the present situation.

The intensification of scientific study and teaching that accompanied the rapid development of society, economy, and culture following the establishment of the PRC soon made felt the need for a work of comprehensive and accurate geographic reference. The compilation of *Chung-kuo li shih ti ming ta tz’u tien* was intended to meet this need for social scientists in the fields of culture, anthropology, collation of ancient books, geographic census, and compilation of local gazetteers, as well as college professors and students of literature and history.

*Chung-kuo li shih ti ming ta tz’u tien*, the most comprehensive and up-to-date Chinese dictionary of Chinese geographical names, includes more than 90,000 entries in over 60,000 categories. It covers places mentioned in historical documents, domains of military rulers in the T’ang dynasty, military stations in the Ming dynasty, important mountains, rivers, islands, cities and towns, fortresses, guardhouses, bridges, roads, village markets, town streets, court yards, terraces and pavilions, temples, tombs, and irrigation works. The names of historical places in Taiwan are also included. Sources of the names in the dictionary are Chinese written records from ancient times to 1949, including official histories, special histories, poems, prose, essays, books on rivers and irrigation, geographical records, travelogues, local gazetteers, and archaeological studies of historical sites.
To make the dictionary as accurate as possible, the forty-some compilers under the direction of Wei Sung-shan investigated the history of place names as found in the historical records of all dynasties, compared maps, and consulted archaeological discoveries. Some historical place names no longer within the present boundaries of the PRC were included for the convenience of the reader and to reflect accurately the history of the place name. When a place has had a variety of names, all names are listed separately. When several different places have the same name, all are included under the same entry but are separately annotated.

Present place names are based on administrative districts as of 1990. Explanatory notes give historical administrative areas above the hsien level and indicate changes through history in place names, locations, and administrative systems. The annotations also include important historical incidents, famous people, and geographical names of economic significance.

Dates up to the end of the Ch‘ing period, with few exceptions, are indicated by both the dominical (B.C. and A.D.) year and the emperor’s reign year. After the Ch‘ing, all dates are given in the dominical year. Simplified characters are used with certain specific exceptions where traditional characters are used. Useful appendices include a stroke number index of the first character of the entry, an index according to pinyin romanization of the first character of the entry, and chronological tables of Chinese history.

Scholars and researchers in many fields will greatly benefit from this important reference tool. Chūgoku rekishi chimei daijiten 中国歴史地名大辞典 (Tokyo: Ryōun shobō 凌雲書房, 1980; 6 vols.), an enlarged and updated version of Liu Chün-jen’s Chung-kuo ti ming ta tz’u tien, is a very comprehensive and well-organized dictionary. Readers may find it beneficial to use this Japanese dictionary along with Wei’s dictionary.

Wen-kai Kung


This dictionary, the most comprehensive Japanese dictionary of important living Chinese people, is one of very few dictionaries in the Japanese language which include personal names in many fields at various levels in the PRC (including Hong Kong) and Taiwan. It was compiled by a number of Japanese China specialists and derived its information from major newspapers, periodicals, yearbooks, and various biographies and dictionaries of Chinese people. The biographical information on important persons was contributed by Watanabe Hideo 濱田英信, an official in the China Office of the Bureau of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry.

The first edition of this dictionary was published in 1957, and new editions have been published every few years since then. This volume, the ninth edition, is an update of the 1991 edition and includes 5,800 names (excluding names appearing in the appended lists), about 5,700 fewer names than in the previous edition, but it greatly increases the biographical coverage of important persons. Names of persons are divided into two major geographic areas: (1) mainland China (PRC); (2) Taiwan and other areas. Hong Kong residents, with the exception of officials and
Other representatives from Taiwan, are included in the mainland China. Chinese political refugees now residing in foreign countries are also included in the mainland China section.

This dictionary includes high-ranking officials and other important persons of each circle, such as party officials, officials in government administration, judiciary officials, members of the National People’s Congress, members of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, military officials, leaders of the democratic parties, leaders of social, economic and cultural groups, famous artists, and well-known sports figures. People now deceased, with the exception of very important persons, are not included.

Commonly-used Chinese characters (jōyō kanji 常用漢字) are used in the text. The romanized index of Chinese characters uses the simplified form of the characters for names of mainlanders and the traditional form for people in Taiwan. Names of mainlanders are romanized in pinyin; the Wade-Giles method is used for names of people in Taiwan.

Each entry lists the real name of the person and all known pseudonyms. Known birth dates are given, and the date of death is provided for very important persons. Other information provided includes native place, race, family members, party affiliation, academic background, present post, awards received, hobbies, and publications.

The entries in the main body of this dictionary are arranged in Japanese syllabary order. Three indexes to surnames are appended: a pinyin index for mainlanders, and a Wade-Giles index and stroke-number index for people in Taiwan. Dominical years are used throughout the text.

Eleven appendixes are added at the end of this volume, six more than the five in the 1991 edition. They include charts of government and party organizations, a list of members of the National People’s Congress, a list of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, and lists of people who died after the publication of the 1991 edition.

This dictionary is very useful for Japanese readers and foreign Sinologists who can read Japanese. Since an updated edition of this dictionary is issued only every several years, for the most current information, the reader may find it useful to also consult the China Directory (Chūgoku shoshikibetsu jinmeibo 中国組織別人物名帳), published annually by Radiopress in Tokyo.

Wen-kai Kung