

The TOYO BUNKO(TB) & The Silk Road

Brief accounts of the Central Asian Studies at The TB



Introduction

- ◆ Founding: <The TB Foundation> is a legal person to operate a research library for Oriental Learning 東洋学. It was officially founded by Iwasaki Hisaya 岩崎久弥, CEO of Mitsubishi, Ltd., in 1924, who also donated two world-renowned collections to the library as the cornerstone of the holdings: Dr. G. E. Morrison's collection (24,000 works) on China and its neighbors, and the Iwasaki Collection (38,000 vls.) on the history of printing culture in Japan and its adjacent countries.

Background of the Founding

- ◆ Modern scientific historiography: The Meiji government introduced in the 1870-90s the scientific method of historiography from the West (thr.Dr. L.Riess). Three research arms are required for it:
 - ① association of academic circle (with its journal):
→The Research Dept.of the Association of Oriental Learning 東洋協会調査部 with The Journal of Oriental Learning 東洋学報 in 1908→incorporated into The TB in 1924.
 - ② training of methodology (curriculum and chairs):→
The Curriculum for Asian Studies 東洋史学科 in 1907 (Kyoto Univ.), in 1910 (Tokyo Univ.).
 - ③ repository for books and materials to push forward such inquiry:→The Toyo Bunko in 1924.

How to Practice New Inquiry?

- ◆ While L. Riess taught scientific method of facts-finding, he recommended to explore several themes for filling the vacuum of knowledge in Asian history:
 - ① history of East-West contact,
 - ② geography and archaeology,
 - ③ linguistic inquiry into the languages of Asian peoples,
 - ④ history of the 'peripheral areas' which had hitherto been belittled by traditional type of historiography.

The Study of the Central Asia at TB

- ◆ ① Morrison Collection (MC) contains the treasures of books and materials for the reconstruction of the multi-faceted history of E-W contact, the Central Asian issue being just a part of it.
- ◆ ② Later additions to the MC in the field of Central Asian studies.
 - ① Tibetan & Mongolian Buddhist Scripts (1931,34,36, 40), ② Dunhuang/Turfan MSS. [British Museum & India Office Library: ca 16,000 titles, ca 92,000 shots, 1956~ , Bibliotheque nationale: ca 7,000 titles, 54,000 shots, :Beijing Tushuguan, ca 9,000 titles, ca 13,000 shots: Institute for East Asian Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, ca 19,000 titles, ca 250,000 shots, 1955-2001, (cf.池田温、「東洋文庫の敦煌吐魯番文書研究」 in 『東洋文庫八十年史II 寄稿と各論 80-Year History of The Toyo Bunko II』 2007, The Toyo Bunko)]
- ◆ For the acquisition up to now by The TB of books on Central Asian studies, refer to URL: <http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/>

[Appendix] Preferred topics on the history of maritime East-Asia: based on the titles of articles in major journals, the 1890s-1930s

Topics		Journals	史学雑誌 1889~	歴史地理 1899~	東洋学報 1909~	藝文 (京都) 1910~31	史林 (京都) 1916~	歴史と地理 (京都) 1917~35	史学 (東京) 1921	史学研究 (広島) 1929~
A	0	East-West contact by seaway : general	3							
	1	East-West contact before 16th c.	25	4	6	2	5	3	5	2
	2	East-West contact after 16th c.	10	11	1	1	11	1	1	2
	3	arrival of Portugese & Spanish	1	7	1					2
	4	arrival of Dutch	3	4						
	5	arrival of British, Russian & American	3	17				1	1	2
	6	Hirado & Nagasaki		2	1		1			
	7	Christianity in East Asia	9	11	4	3	4	4	8	1
B	0	Intra-East Asian contact: general		3			5	4	3	5
	1	Intra-East Asian contact in Southseas: general		13						
	2	Liuchiu or Ryukyu (& Taiwan)	24	9	3	3	2	3	4	2
	3	Taiwan	13	4	2		1		3	3
	4	Philippines	2						2	
	5	Java & Outer Islands	6	2	2	1	5		2	2
	6	Indochina	13	1	6		6	1	14	2
	7	Burma, Siam & SW China	9	2	3	1	2	1	2	3
C		Intra-East Asian contact in Northern Waters: general	2		3				2	
	1	Early Sino-Japanese-Korean-Manchurian contact	3	3	5	6	4	5		
	2	Problem of Himiko & Yamatai	10	4	1	1	2	1	1	
	3	Southern Korean-Peninsula and Japan	3				2		1	
	4	Korean colonies in Japan		1				1	3	
	5	Sino-Japanese-Korean contact: Sui,& Tang	14	5	4		1	2		
D	1	Chinese navigation to South Seas: Song & Yuan	25	10	3	1	4	1		1
	2	Mongol invasion upon East Asian countries	13	15	2		1	3	2	2
	3	Early piracies		2			1		1	
	4	Wo-piracy	11	10			2	1		
	5	Ming expedition to South Seas						1	2	
E		Participation of Westerners into East Asian trade								
	1	International bullion flow:15th-18th c.	3	5	3			4		
	2	Trade within East Asia since 14th century	25	18	1	7	13	5	5	4
	3	Japanese invasion upon Korea: Hideyoshi & Ieyasu	10	8	1	2	2		3	1
F		Japan's Seclusion		2						1
		Japan's contact with Korea via Tsushima	1	2				2	1	
		Korean Embassy to Japan	3	3					1	
G		Affairs of Modernization in East Asia	2	3	2		2	2	2	1

(Source: Catalog of articles concerning Oriental history in Japan, 『日本における東洋史論文目録』1964)