

THE JAPANESE STUDIES ON INNER ASIAN HISTORY

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The categories of the Japanese historical studies.

The Japanese historical studies are largely divided into three categories, i.e. Japanese history, Asian history and Western history.

Such categories are equivalent to the divisions of educational institutions. In the field of History, there is not any Academy like institution in Japan. So most of the Japanese historians are employed as professors or lecturers at the faculties or the institutes of the Universities besides their academical activities. The courses of historical studies are established in the faculty of humanities in different universities and divided into three categories mentioned above. The students enjoy the fundamental education about the history of each field in the classes of the faculty and advance to graduate schools which also have the same departments of fields. For example I myself graduated from the Department of Asian History of the Faculty of Humanities of Waseda University and advanced to the graduate course of Asian history in the same university. So I am recognized as a specialist of Asian history according to my educational career. I call here these academic and educational categories the "large categories" below.

Each of these "large categories" is divided furthermore into middle categories by chronologically or regionally. To introduce these categories it is convenient for us to use the categorization of the monthly academic journal *Shigaku Zasshi* (Journal of Historical Studies) published by the Historical Society of Japan

which makes up a special edition for the survey of the previous year's historical studies in every May. This survey volume contains 11 chapters which are divided according to their topics. Each chapter is furthermore divided into subdivisions according to areas or eras. I present here the contents of the survey volume of *Shigaku Zasshi* published in May, 1996.

A:General direction.

B:Theory of History.

C:Japanese History.

a:Archaeology

b:Ancient times

c:Medieval times.

d:Early modern era

e:Modern era

D:East Asian History

a:Chinese History

1:Yin, Zhou, Spring and Autumn

2:War era, Qin, Han

3:Wei, Jin, Northern and Southern dynasties

4:Sui, Tang

5:Five Dynasties, Song, Yuan

6:Ming, Qing

7:Early modern

8:Modern

b:Korea

E:Inner Asian History

F:Southeastern Asian History

G:South Asian History

H:Western Asian and North African History

I:African History

J:European History

a:Ancient history

1:Greece

2:Rome

b:Medieval history

- 1:England
- 2:Western Europe
- 3:Eastern Europe
- c:Modern History
 - 1:General
 - 2:England
 - 3:France
 - 4:Germany
 - 5:Eastern Europe
 - 6:Southern Europe
- d:Current History
 - 1:General
 - 2:England
 - 3:France
 - 4:Germany
 - 5:Eastern Europe
- K:American History
 - a:North America
 - b:Latin America

The chapter C is equivalent to the category "Japanese History" and chapters D to I to "Asian History" as well as the Chapters J and K to Western History. As for the Chapters on Asian History, each chapter itself is the middle category of the field. The chapters (numbered by small letters) are further divided into smaller chapters. For example the chapter of Chinese history are divided into chronological subcategories as follows.

Yin, Zhou, Spring and Autumn,
 War era, Qin, Han
 Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern dynasties
 Sui and Tang
 Five dynasties, Song and Yuan
 Ming and Qing
 Modern History
 History after liberation.

Similarly, the chapter of the Inner Asian History is divided into two parts, i.e. the pre-Mongol era and the Mongol era chronologically. Such chapters are written by the most distinguished and active scholars of a comparatively young generation of each field.

The middle categories mentioned before are equivalent to the scholar's units of research fields. For example a certain scholar is first a researcher of Asian History and then a specialist of the Sui and Tang era of Chinese History. The large and middle categories are apt to be equivalent to the academic institutions or associations. For example, a scholar studying the Song era of Chinese History belongs to the Historical Society of Japan or the Institute of Eastern Culture as a researcher of Asian History and he also has a membership in the Society of Song Era History. Similarly a certain scholar studying Mongolian History has the memberships of The Historical Society of Japan and the Association for Mongolian Studies.

As mentioned before, scholars of Inner Asian History initially belong to the associations which are equivalent to the large category. Most of them are members of the divisions of Asian studies of the academic associations of Historical studies like Shigakukai (The Historical Society of Japan), Rekishigaku kenkyukai (The Historical Science Society of Japan) and furthermore belong to the associations of Asian History like Toho Gakkai (The Institute of Eastern Culture), Toyoshi kenkyukai (The Society of Oriental Researches). Such associations of the large category are highly valued. The success of presentations in their conferences and the chance to publish articles in the Journals of such associations use to become the gateway of further career for young scholars of each field. The associations of the middle categories are also organized in the same way and usual research activities are done at such associations. For example the scholars of Inner Asian history are united in the Nairiku Asia-shi Gakkai (Society of Inner Asian Studies) which organizes an academic conference once a year. Mongolists has the Japanese Association of Mongolian Studies which organizes two conferences annually. Furthermore scholars of some fields of studies have organized numerous small research groups. For example the young scholars studying the ancient and medieval history of Central Asia organized The Research Society of the excavated materials from Turfan and have regular meetings to exchange their achievements and information on the field. Some young historians studying the ancient Turks joined the Society of Turk monuments and so on.

As it is obvious from the organizing systems mentioned above, there are no

practical categories of the academic activities which are equivalent to the European style oriental study. For example, there is not a concept of Mongology or Mongolian Studies which includes not only history but also linguistics, religious studies, anthropology, philology and so on. A scholar can be identified as a historian of Mongolian history or Chinese history or so. But there is almost no scholar who is categorized as Mongolist and studies both philology and history, or anthropology and history or so. The academic exchanges used to be done between the scholars belonging to the large and middle category. Although the interdisciplinary studies between the historical and other fields of study have not been so popular in Japan, some attempts are aimed for conquering such specialization of fields in the recent years in the form of joint study.

Some associations of historians are organized according to their research methods. For example, Shakai-keizaishi gakkai (The Association for Socio-Economic History) is the association of scholars studying the socio-economic history of the world. The scholars of each large category are the members of such associations and publishing their articles in their journals. In the recent years new trends of regional study are being accelerated through the activities of such associations of regional study as the Kingendai Tohoku Ajia Chiikishi Kenkyukai (Association for the History of Modern North-east Asian Region). This association was organized by the scholars of Japanese and Asian Studies for the purpose to communicate and exchange ideas on the historical study of Modern times in North-east Asia. In this Association, some scholars of Inner Asian Study are taking an important role.

Methodologically speaking, Japanese scholars have an advantageous position for the study of Chinese materials because they use Chinese ideographs in the life. So they have splendid skills for the analyzing the descriptions about Inner Asia appearing in the Chinese sources. Such characteristics of literal condition makes Japanese researchers who study Chinese history, literature and linguistic organize the Sinological associations and some scholars of Inner Asian History are also joining them.

The Inner Asian Study in Japan is generally divided into two categories which are reflected in the chapters of the Survey volume of Shigaku Zasshi mentioned before, i.e. the Pre-Mongol era and the Mongol era. The pre-Mongol era includes the history of the nomadic empires like Hun-nu, Xian-bi, Jujan, Turk and Uighur in the Eurasian steppe and the history of Eastern and Western Turkestan before the Mongol invasion or Islamization. The latter includes the entire history of the Mongols. But the scholars of

Islamic studies are rather included in the Western Asian studies.

Now I should like to introduce you some major Japanese associations organized by the scholars of Inner Asian Studies.

Associations of Historical Studies

1: Shigakukai (The Historical Society of Japan)

Their executive office is in the Department of Japanese History of the Faculty of Letters, Tokyo University. Its bulletin journal is *Shigaku Zasshi* (Journal of Historical Studies, monthly). This is the most important association of Historical studies of Japan, and organizes conferences annually, in November at Tokyo University. This conference is divided into three sectional meetings i.e. Japanese History, Asian History and Western History. In the sectional meeting, symposium and presentations are scheduled independently or jointly. For example, in 1996, a symposium about the "merchandise space opened by the Diaspora: 17th-19th century" were held and two presentations of Katsumi Fukazawa and Hisao Komatsu were given there. Katsumi Fukazawa's presentation was "Diaspora and the merchandise space of pre-modern Europe" and Hisao Komatsu's was "Tatar merchants and Central Eurasia". mainly, the scholars of European and Asian History joined this symposium. The presentations given to the session for the Asian history include Shigenori Kojima of ancient Chinese history, Kojiro Taguchi of the history of Ming era, Tomomasa Ikeda of the history of the ancient Turk, Kazuhiko Shiraiwa of bibliographical study on Jami a'tavarif of Rashid ad'din, Yuzo Shitomi on the history of the Southern Arabia and Mari Nagatomo of African history. In this program African history is included in the Asian history.

Shigakukai edits the useful bibliographies of the up-to-date achievements of Japanese historical studies in every volume. Volumes 2, 6, 10 of each year are dedicated to Asian history, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12 are dedicated to Japanese History, and 1, 5, 9 are dedicated to European history.

2: Rekishigaku Kenkyukai (The Historical Science Society of Japan)

This is another representative association of Japanese historians. It is also divided to several departments according to their fields, i.e. Japanese history, Western history and Asian history. It publishes its journal *Rekishigaku Kenkyu* (Journal of Historical Studies) monthly. But comparatively small numbers of scholars from the field of Inner Asian Studies joined in this association.

Academic associations on Asian Studies

3: Toyoshi Kenkyukai (The Society of Oriental Researches)

This is an association of the Japanese scholars of Asian Studies. It is the most highly evaluated association of the field, located in Kyoto Univ. This Association is publishing a quarterly journal Toyoshi Kenkyu (The Journal of Oriental Researches). Its conference is held in autumn of every year at the University. A splendid and up-to-date bibliography of articles and books published in Japan, China and Korea are also published in each volume. Furthermore this journal informs about the current educational activities in the Universities including the topic of courses and the name of lecturers of different universities and graduate schools. So this journal is essential to know the current situation of academic and educational activities in Japan.

4: Toho Gakkai (Institute of Eastern Culture)

This institution is also a representative of equivalent institutions of Asian studies in Japan and was organized as independent foundation which "is composed of persons, Japanese, and foreign, who are engaged in the study of Eastern culture" and which "aim shall be the encouragement and promotion of the said study". The directors' board consists prominent Japanese scholars of all kinds of Asian studies. It means that the members of this association are not only historians but also scholars of Asian philosophy, religion, archaeology, anthropology, linguistics and literature. Japanese studies are also included. The Toho Gakkai organizes a large-scale international conference in every year. It is called "International conference on Eastern Studies". The association publishes the journal Toho gaku (Eastern Studies) twice per year and Acta Asiatica annually. In every volume of the journal, the reminiscent round table talks about the lives and achievements of some Japanese scholars of Asian studies is published.

Associations of Inner Asian Studies

5: Nairiku Asia Shi Gakkai (Society of Inner Asian Studies)

This is only permanent association established by the scholars of Inner Asian studies. The executive office locates at the School of Literature of Waseda University in Tokyo and Prof. Jun'ichi Yoshida is the current president. Its conference is held in

November, in Tokyo and Kansai areas in rotation. More than two hundred scholars are registered as members. The research fields of the members include the history of Mongolia, ancient Turk or other nomads in the pre-Mongol era, Manchu studies, history of the Central Asia and Islam countries, archaeology of the region, and linguistics. This association is publishing its annual journal *Nairiku Ajia shi Kenkyu* (Inner Asian Studies).

6: Japanese Conference of Altaic Studies (Nojiri Lake quriltai)

This is not a association but a conference organized by Japanese scholars of Inner Asian Studies. A numbers of scholars, graduate students and foreign guests who stay in Japan meet at a hotel beside the Lake Nojiri, Nagano prefecture and give presentations for 4 days once a year in the summer. The present organizer of the quriltai is prof. Hiroshi Umemura of Chuo Univ. This conference was modeled after the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC) as its style. Although the proceedings are not published, the summary is published by the directors of the conference in the Journal of Research Department of the Toyo Bunko Toyo Gakuho and the Newsletter of Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

7: Nihon Mongoru Gakkai (The Japan Association for Mongolian Studies)

This is an interdisciplinary association of Mongolian studies. Its office located at the Department of Mongolian Language of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The president is Dr. Shigeo Ozawa, a famous linguist of Mongolian and the president of International Conference of Mongolian Studies. This association consists scholars of such academic fields as linguistics, history, anthropology, economics, literature and archaeology. Its conference is held two times per year in May and November. In 1996, the spring session was held at Waseda University, Tokyo and the autumn session at Ryukoku University, Kyoto. The spring session of 1997 was held at Teikyo University, Tokyo. This association keeps constant contact with the Mongolian scholars of Mongolia and Inner Mongolia. At every conference at least one presentation used to be given by Mongolian scholars. For example, at the spring conference, Burinsayin, and R. Otgonbaatar, Bayildughci, Irincin at the autumn conference in 1996. Kokebaghatur, Wangcug and Ts. Batbayar in the spring session of 1997. It publishes the annual Bulletin of The Japan Association for Mongolian Studies. But the scholars of Russia and western countries rarely participate.

8:Manzoku shi Kenkyukai (Association for Manchu history)

This is a comparatively small association for Manchu studies. The director is Dr. Nobuo Kanda, who is also the president of Toho Gakkai (Institute of Eastern Culture). It is located at the Toyo Bunko which is the largest library of Asian studies in Japan. This association continually keeps relationships with Chinese historians or archivists. The leading members of the association Dr. Nobuo Kanda and Dr. Jun Matsumura have published the Japanese translation of "Man-wen lao-dan" (old Manchurian documents) 7 vols. in 1950s-60s and "Jiu man-zhou dan" in 1970s and other Manchurian documents with prof. Hidehiro Okada of Tokiwa University. Originally these scholars are doing the academic activities as researchers of the Department of Qing History of the Toyo Bunko. The annual Manzoku shi Kenkyu Tsushin (Newsletter of Manchu Historical Studies) is published by the association. Academic meeting is held once a year. Sessions were held in Tsukuba University in 1996 and in Kyoto Prefecture Univ. in 1997. The bibliographical study on Manchu archival sources is one of the characteristic study of the members of this association. In every sessions the new information about Manchu archival sources or books are presented by the members.

9:Nihon Seizo Gakkai (Japanese Association for Tibetan Studies)

This is only Association for Tibetan Study in Japan. It was established in 1954 under the directorship of Dr. Juntaro Ishihama for the purpose for communication of Japanese Tibetologists. The current director is prof. Hajime Kitamura. This association organizes annual conference in autumn of every year. The fields covered by the members are Buddhist philosophy, Linguistics, History and anthropology. It publishes Report of the Japanese Association for Tibetan Studies.

10:Hoppo Yurashia Gakkai (North Eurasian Society)

The membership of this society is opened not only to scholars but to the public, too. The president of the society is Dr. Namio Egami, an archaeologist. They have 5 regular meetings which are held at Aoyama-Gakuin University in 1995 and organizes a series of Seminar named "Eurasian Forum". This society publishes a newsletter three times a year. Their joint studies with Russian scholars are notable among its activities. In 1995, three Russian scholars gave presentations at the regular meetings, i.e. A. Startsev, V. Podomaskin and Shakhkunov and the articles of Brojanski,

Jushchikhovskaya and N.A. Klyuev were published in the journal.

Minor circles of Inner Asian Studies

Some active young scholars studying different fields of Inner Asian History organized small scale academic circles which are in full activities. Here I should like to introduce some of them.

11:Uiguru Rekishi Bunka Kenkyukai (Research Society for Uighurian History and Culture)

This is a circle of young scholars and students studying Xin-jiang and the Uighurs. The leader is Associate prof. Yasushi Shinmen from the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Their meeting is held every Saturday and publishes the Newsletter *Risara*.

12:Sogen Koko Kenkyukai (Research Society for the Archaeology of the Steppe)

This is the circle organized by young archaeologists who made the Eurasian Stepp region their field. Its representative is prof. Shigehiko Fujikawa of Waseda University. Their meetings are held in every Friday at Waseda University. This circle publishes a Newsletter, the *Sogen Koko Tsushin* (Stepp Archaeological Newsletter).

13:Chuo Ajia Kenkyukai (Research Society for Central Asia)

This circle was established in 1993 and has held 20 times meeting up to now. The members' fields of study include history, international relations, literature, cultural anthropology and so on. The leader is Prof. Hisao Komatsu of Tokyo University. It has no any publication.

14:Chuo Yurashiagaku Kenkyukai (Research Society of Central Eurasian Studies)

This society does not organize any meeting or conference but publishes *Nairiku Ajia Gengo no Kenkyu* (Studies on the Inner Asian Languages). The leading figure of this society is prof. Yutaka Yoshida of Kobe City University of Foreign Studies and prof. Takao Moriyasu of Osaka University.

15:Tokkutsu Hibun Kenkyukai (Research Society for Turk inscription study)

This is a circle organized by the scholars who study the history of the ancient Turks and Uighurs. The organizer of this circle is prof. Akio Katayama (Tokai University). It holds monthly meeting mainly at the Waseda University, but does not publish any newsletters.

16:Torufan Shutsudo Bunbutsu Kenkyukai (Research Society for the study of the excavated sources from Turfan)

As is indicated in the name, this circle consists of the scholars who study the historical sources excavated from Turfan, China. The achievements and information gained through studying these sources are exchanged by the members through their "Newsletter", which is published two times per month. The organizer is prof. Masaharu Arakawa of Osaka University.

Some other Organizations

There are some other organizations for the Asian Studies in Japan, which I should like to introduce below.

17:Toyo Bunko

This is the library containing books about Asia which was established on the bases of the Ernest Morrison's collection purchased by Hisaya Iwasaki in 1917. This library has research departments which are divided into the studies of China, North-east Asia, Central Asia, Islam, Tibet, India, South-east Asia and Japan. It publishes the Journal Toyo Gakuho (The Journal of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko) and The Memoirs of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko in which articles and miscellaneous on the aforementioned fields are published. It also publishes the Monograph series and the reproductions of rare books and materials.

18:Jinbun Kagaku Kenkyujo (Institute for Research in Humanities of Kyoto University)

This is one of the largest and most representative research institute for Asian Studies which was established in 1929 as an institute for Sinology. Its publications are Toho Gakuho (Journal of Oriental Studies), Zinbun Gakuho (Journal of Humanities), Zinbun (Annals of the institute for Research in Humanities) and the Social Survey Report Series and Monograph series. This Institute annually publishes an useful

bibliography of the new articles and books on Asian studies published not only in Japan but also in China and in other countries.

19:Toyo Bunka Kenkyujo (The Institute of Oriental Culture, The University of Tokyo)

This is also the institute for Asian studies established in 1941. This institute has the department for the studies of Pan Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Western Asia and publishes the Bulletin and the Journal Toyo Bunka (Oriental Culture). The library of the Institute has a great collection of books on Asia.

20:Ajia Afurika Gengo Bunka Kenkyujo (Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa)

This institution was established as an Inter-University Institution of the humanitarian and social sciences in Japan and consists of 4 research sections. Some members are engaged in the study of Inner Asia and take a leadership to organize joint studies in which dozens of scholars of the field are joining. As for the Inner Asian studies, prof. Tatsuo Nakami organized the Joint Study called "The Social Transformation and The International environment in East Asia", and Associate prof. Yasushi Shinmen "The General Study on the creation of Nationalities in Central Asia".

21:National Museum of Ethnology

This museum was established as an Inter-University Research Institute in 1974. The current director-general is Prof. Naomichi Ishige. It has a world-wide collection of ethnographical materials, including Central Asia and North Asia, too. This museum also has a Graduate Course. The articles of the staff are published in its journals namely the Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology and Kikan Minzokugaku.

22:Slavic Research Center.

Although this Institute is for Slavic study, it is covering, to some extent, the study of the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union. Its periodical publications are Acta Slavica Iaponica and Slavic Studies.

As it is mentioned above, there is a number of associations and research circles in Japan. Most of them are publishing academic journals or newsletters. The scholars of Inner Asian studies belong to one or more of them while carrying out their

academic activities.

The Japanese achievements in the field of Inner Asian History are usually published in Japanese. The western languages are rarely used for publication. This may be disturbing for the international exchange between Japanese and western scholars. On the other side, Japanese historians read the publications not only in English but in Russian, German and French as well as the languages of the objects for their study i.e. Mongolian, Turkish or Chinese. The difficulty what the Japanese scholars are facing is the lack of information about the academic activities of the former socialist countries, especially Russian Siberia. Furthermore, it is almost impossible to procure the publications from Siberia. But such difficulty is expected to be solved by the change of the political situation of these countries and the improvement of the foreign relations between Japan and Russia.