

Special Exhibition

China did not consider the Senkaku Islands to be part of its territory

- Featuring three historical materials -



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Introduction

There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands.

It is only since the 1971 that the Government of China began making their own assertions over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands.

China claims that, because the Senkaku Islands appear in records of its envoys to Ryukyu (present-day Okinawa) and military books, it was the first to have discovered, named, and exploited the Senkaku Islands. China also claims that the Senkaku Islands “had long been under China's jurisdiction” as a part of Taiwan, and are thus “an inherent territory of China.”

However, numerous documents show that until it began asserting its claims in 1971, it had consistently recognized the Senkaku Islands to be outside its territory, or to belong to Japan as part of Okinawa.

For example, the *Da Ming Yitong Zhi*, an official geographical text from the Ming dynasty, defined the jurisdiction of Fujian Province — which later governed Taiwan — as extending only to the mainland coastline. Consequently, both the Senkaku Islands and Taiwan itself lay outside Fujian Province's boundaries. In the Qing dynasty's official geographical text, the *Da Qing Yitong Zhi*, and in the Qing dynasty's official map, the *Kangxi Huangyu Quan Lan Tu*, Fujian Province's boundaries were depicted as extending only to western Taiwan and the Senkaku Islands were not included within the area depicted.

These panels present three documents from the late 19th century to the post-WWII period which demonstrate that China did not consider the Senkaku Islands to be part of its territory; rather, it recognized them as belonging to Japan as part of Okinawa. In this regard, please also refer to the following materials, which were displayed in the exhibition room or included in our reading materials: the letter of appreciation from the Consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki (1920); the 'World Atlas' (1960 and 1972 editions); and the 8 January 1953 article from the People's Daily.

* These panels were made with advice from experts, as a part of a Government-commissioned project. Their contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the Japanese Government.

No.1 : *You li Riben tu jing* (Maps, Figures and Depiction of Japan based on field research) (1889)

Qing official Fu Yunlong took part in a diplomatic mission to study various countries, including Japan, at the behest of the Qing government. He stayed in Japan from November 1887 to May 1888 and again from May to October 1889. During this time, he conducted detailed research on Japan's geography, history, statistics and institutions, and authored the *You li Riben tu jing*. This work earned praise from Emperor Guangxu and other highranking officials.

The book lists the islands of the Nansei Islands in its tables of Japanese islands, and the Senkaku Islands are included among them. Furthermore, the map “General Surveyed Map of Japan” in the same book depicts the Senkaku Islands and states that “all islands south of the Main Island of Okinawa belong to Ryukyu.”

The book is an official one as it features a preface by Li Hongzhang, who was responsible for Qing diplomacy at the time, as well as the seal 'Imperial Review' by Emperor Guangxu. These elements clearly demonstrate that the Senkaku Islands were not considered to be part of Qing.



Collection of the National Diet Library

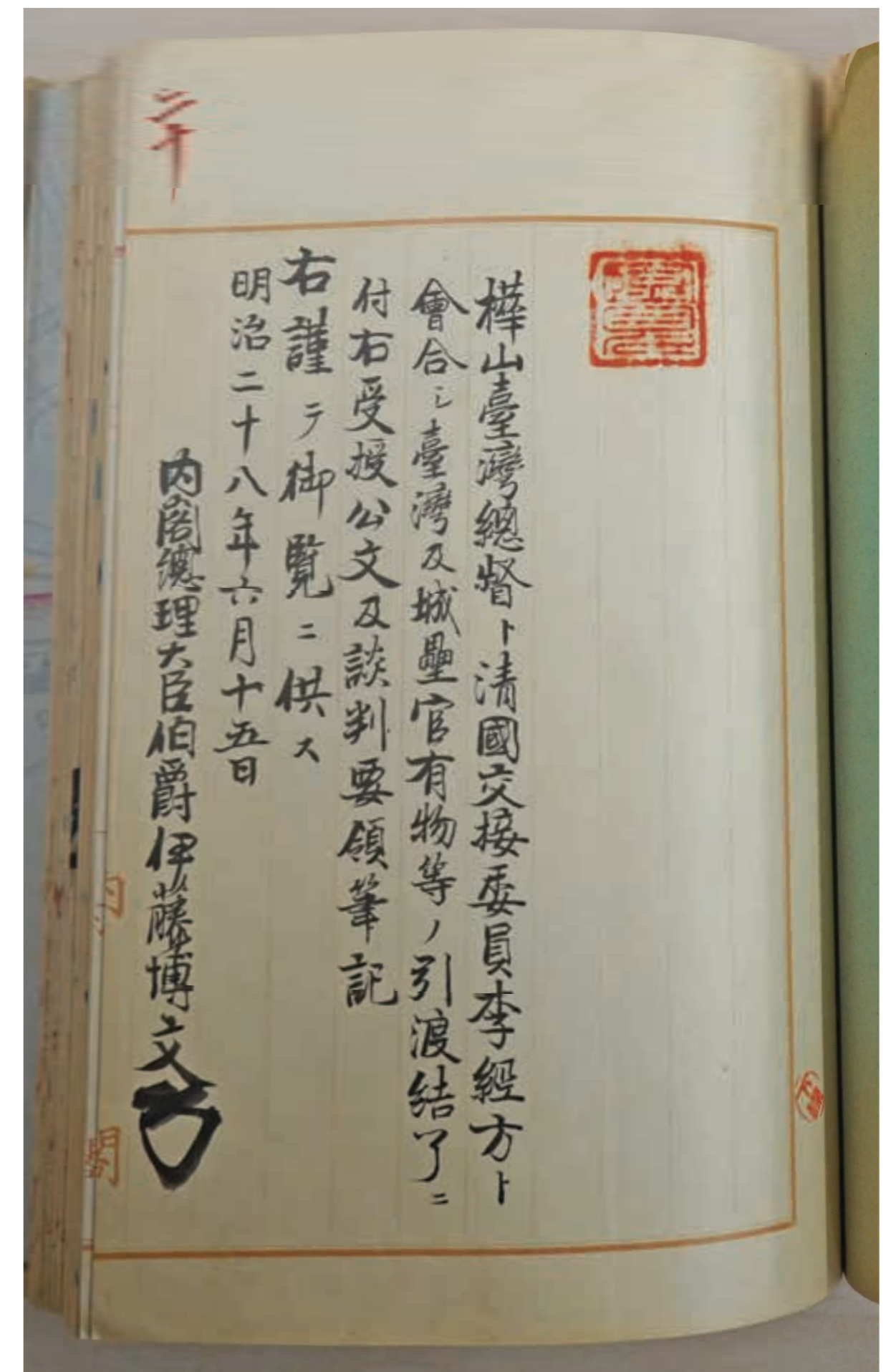
No.2: 'Notes Concerning the Handover of Taiwan' and the record of the meeting held at the time (1895)

Following the conclusion of the Treaty of Shimonoseki at the end of the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895, Qing and Japanese delegations led by Li Jingfang (the adopted son of Li Hongzhang) and Kabayama Sukenori, respectively, held talks regarding the handover of Taiwan.

Concerned that Japan might later claim sovereignty over islands near Fujian Province as 'the islands appertaining or belonging to Taiwan', Li Jingfang asked whether it was necessary to list the names of these islands in a catalogue attached to the Notes.

The meeting records indicate that the Japanese side declined, stating that listing island names could lead to omissions and pointing out that islands that have not yet been named could end up belonging to no country. The meeting records also indicate that Japanese delegation stated that Japan would not claim sovereignty over islands near Fujian, which are located further west of the Penghu Islands, as 'the islands appertaining or belonging to Taiwan'.

Taking this exchange into account, alongside the aforementioned *You li Riben tu jing*, it is evident that the Qing government was not interested in the Senkaku Islands at the time, nor did they recognize that they were included in 'the entire island of Taiwan and all the islands appertaining or belonging to it ', as defined in Article 2, Paragraph 2 of the Treaty of Shimonoseki.

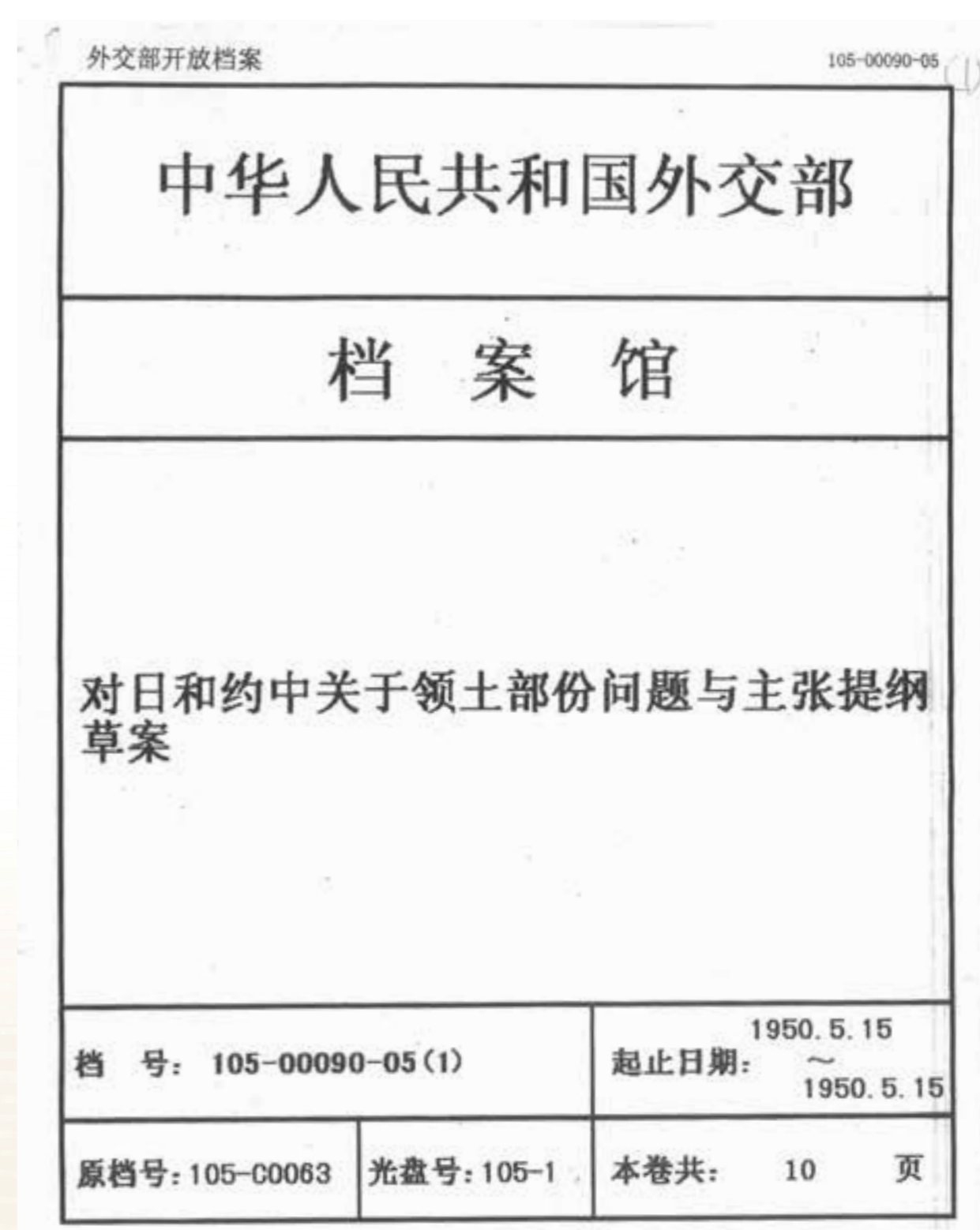


'Notes on the handover of Taiwan and relevant records from the meetings between the Governor-General of Taiwan, Kabayama, and the Qing Dynasty Reception Committee member, Li Jingfang, regarding the completion of the handover of Taiwan, including its cities and government-owned properties.'
Collection of the National Archives of Japan

No. 3: 'Draft Outline of Issues and Claims Concerning Territorial Matters in the Peace Treaty with Japan', Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (1950)

In 1950, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China held a meeting to determine policy regarding the peace treaty with Japan. Prepared within the ministry as a 'working draft' for the territorial discussions at the meeting, the document was titled 'Draft Outline of Issues and Claims Concerning Territorial Matters in the Peace Treaty with Japan.'

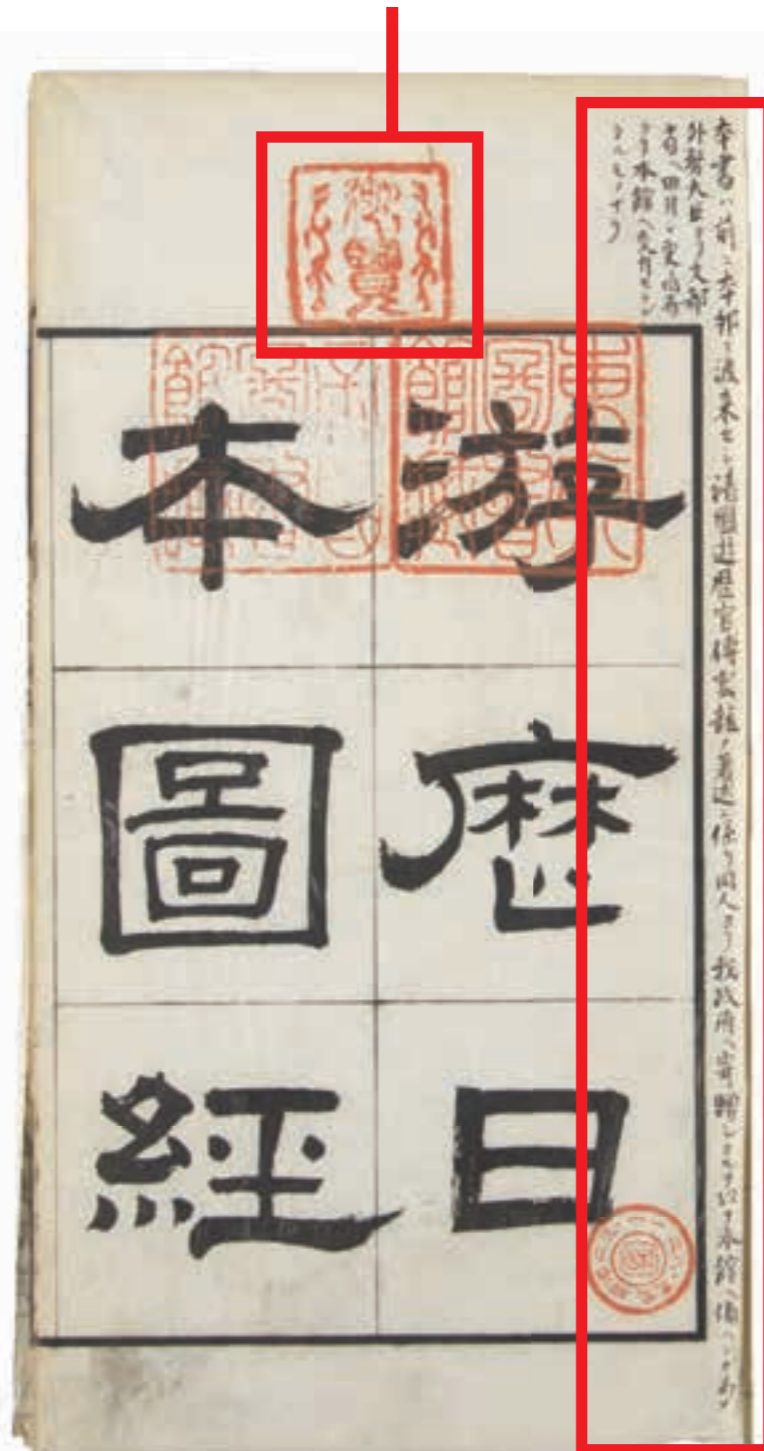
In this document, the Senkaku Islands are referred to as the 'Sentou Islands' and considered part of the Yaeyama Islands in the Ryukyu archipelago. Another section of the document, titled 'The Issue of Demarcating the Boundaries of Ryukyu', suggests a possible option to incorporate the Senkaku Islands into Taiwan on the basis of proximity. This is based on the Chinese government's acknowledgement that the Senkaku Islands had historically been part of Ryukyu (Okinawa). Therefore, contrary to China's current claims, this document serves as evidence that, as of 1950, China did not consider the Senkaku Islands to have historically belonged to Taiwan.



Collection of the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

1. Official seal 'Imperial Review' by Emperor Guangxu and preface by Li Hongzhang

Official seal 'Imperial Review' by Emperor Guangxu

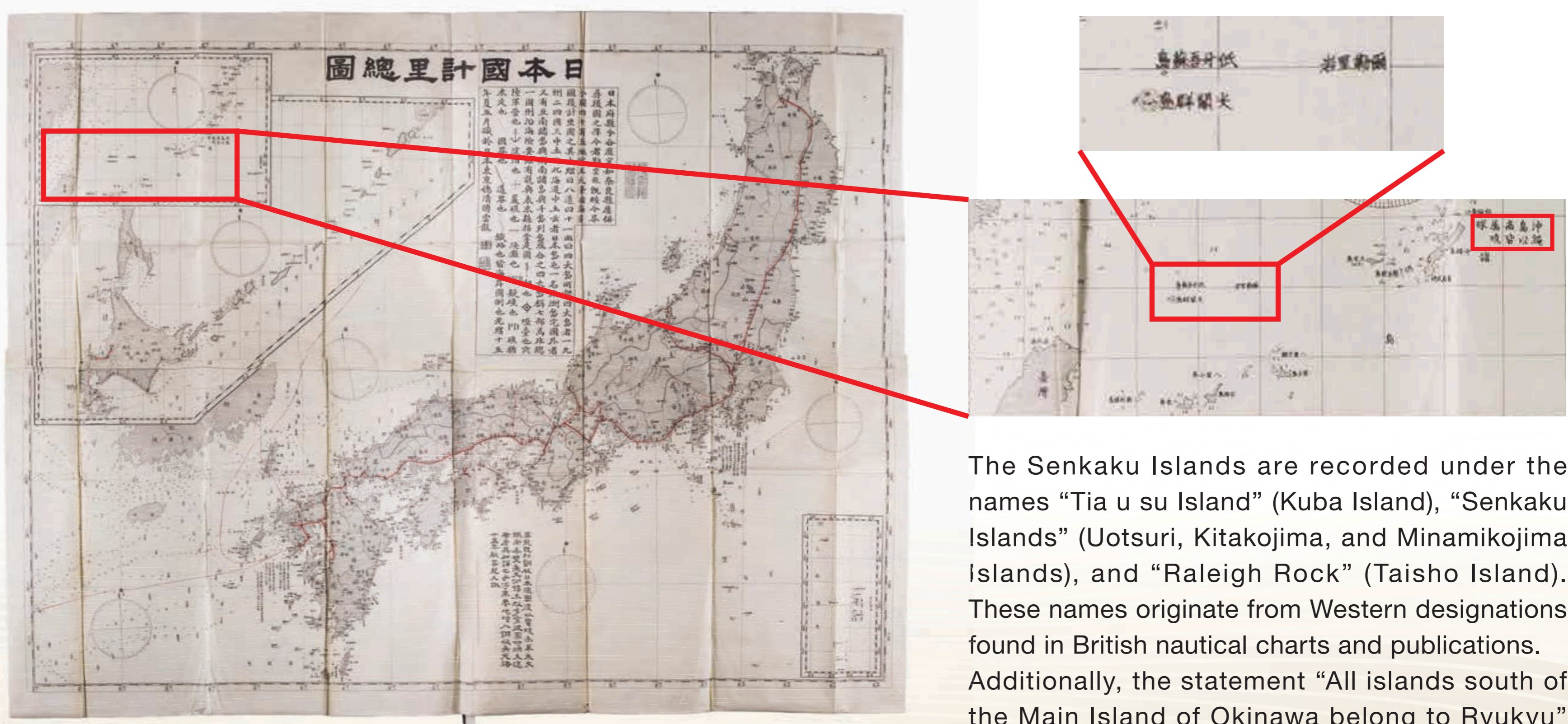


This handwritten part states that "this volume pertains to the writings of Fu Yunlong, a Qing Dynasty official who had previously traveled to Japan. It was donated by him to the Japanese government and subsequently transferred from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Education for the purpose of being placed in this library. It was then delivered from the ministry to this library." It is presumed that Fu Yunlong donated this particular volume to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that it was delivered to the Tokyo Library (the predecessor of the National Diet Library) on November 28, 1890.



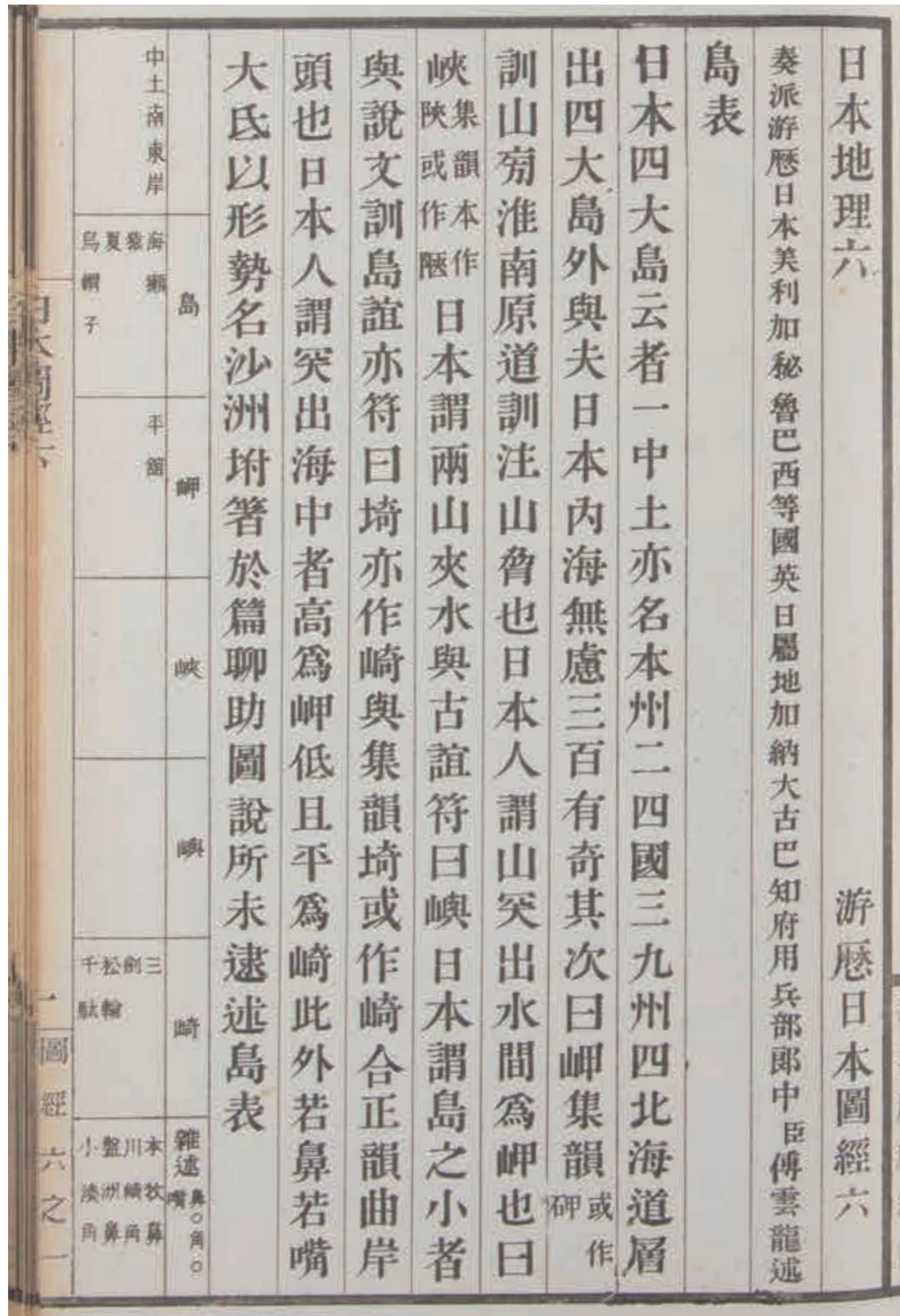
In his preface, Li Hongzhang praised Fu Yunlong's extensive, detailed, and concrete research as "a tremendous effort," and noted Japan's rapid modernization during the Meiji period.

2. General Survey Map of Japan



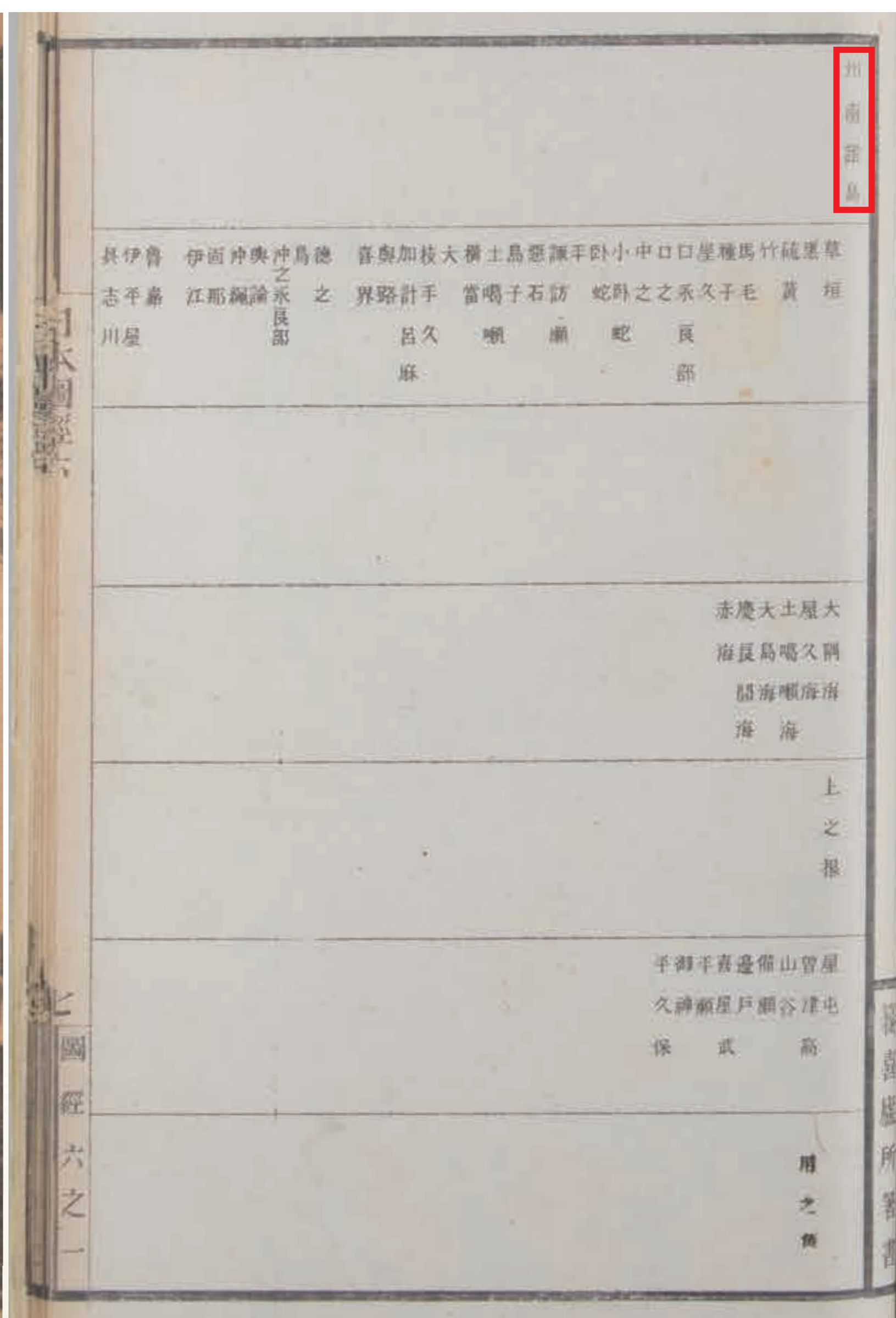
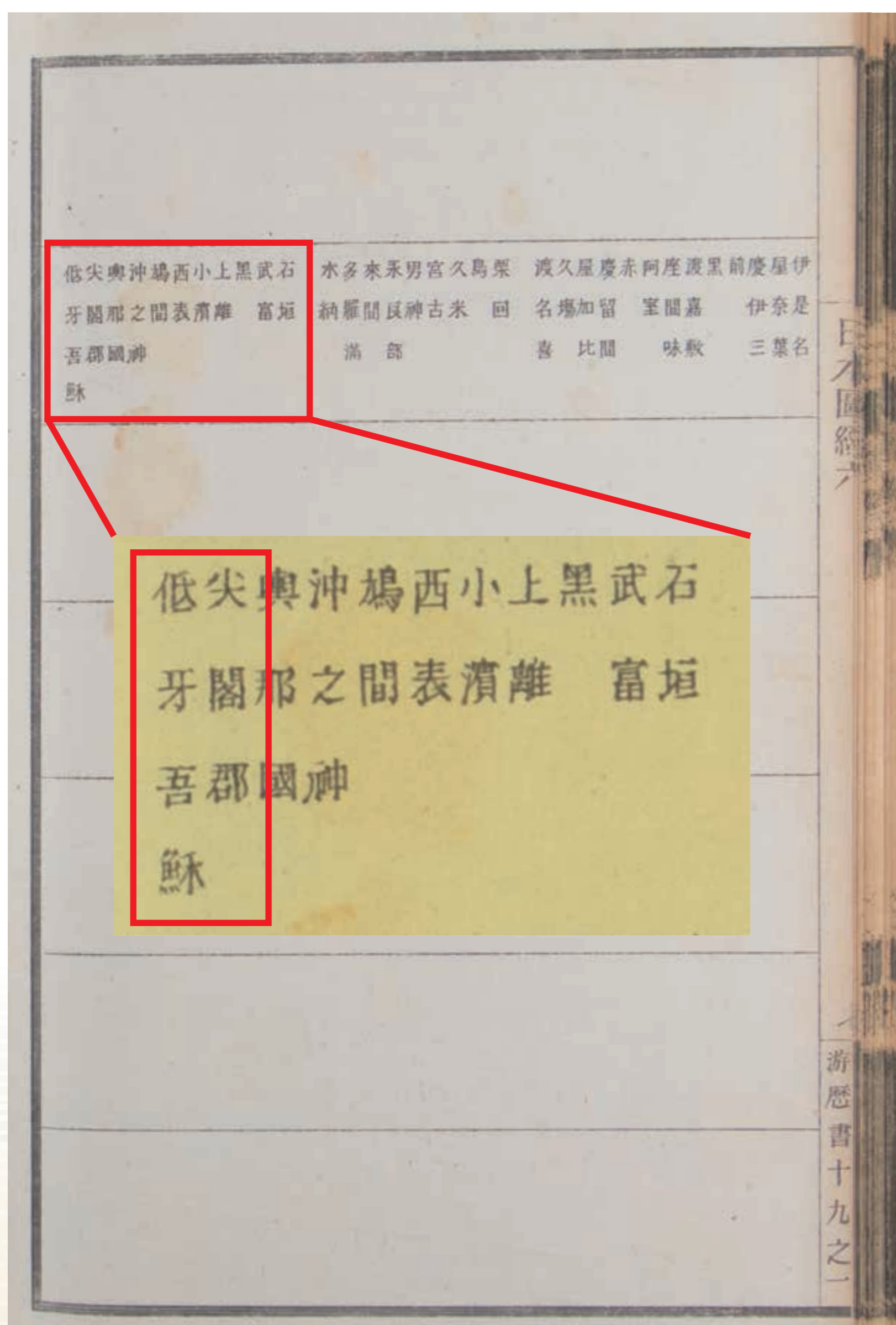
The Senkaku Islands are recorded under the names "Tia u su Island" (Kuba Island), "Senkaku Islands" (Uotsuri, Kitakojima, and Minamikojima Islands), and "Raleigh Rock" (Taisho Island). These names originate from Western designations found in British nautical charts and publications. Additionally, the statement "All islands south of the Main Island of Okinawa belong to Ryukyu" and the description in the "Tables of Japanese Islands" mentioned later suggest that Fu Yunlong considered the Senkaku Islands to be part of Okinawa.

3. Table of Japanese Islands



Japanese Geography Volume 6: "Tables of Japanese Islands" introduce characteristics of various topographical features such as islands, capes, straits, islets, and promontories in its preface, and includes tables listing these features across Japan.

Among these, the list of the "Shunan Islands" (the term used for the Nansei Islands in Imperial Japanese Navy nautical charts at the time) includes the "Senkaku Islands" (a collective term used referring to Uotsuri, Kitakojima, and Minamikojima Islands) and "Tia u su Island" (Kuba Island). This clearly indicates that the present-day Senkaku Islands were recognized as part of the Nansei Islands.



1. 'Notes Concerning the Handover of Taiwan' (Provisional Translation)

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the Emperor of Qing, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, hereby hand over the Province of Taiwan. His Majesty the Emperor of Japan appoints Grand Admiral, Governor-General of Taiwan, Junior Second Rank, First Class Order of Merit, Viscount Kabayama Sukenori as plenipotentiary. His Majesty the Emperor of Qing appoints former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Second Rank, Li Jingfang as plenipotentiary. Then, the Plenipotentiary Commissioners met at Keelung and executed the following matters:

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty of Peace concluded at Shimonoseki on the 17th day of the 4th month of the 28th year of the Meiji era or the 23rd day of the 2nd month of the 21st year of the Guangxu era, the plenipotentiaries of the Japanese and Qing Empires have hereby completed the handover of sovereignty as well as the fortifications, armament factories, and government property listed in the separate catalog in each area of Taiwan and islands appertaining or belonging to it, as well as the Penghu Islands, which are located between 119° and 120° east longitude and 23° and 24° north latitude, from the Qing Empire to the Empire of Japan in perpetuity, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Treaty.

As evidence of this, the plenipotentiary commissioners of both empires have signed and sealed this document.

The 2nd day of the 6th month of the 28th year of the Meiji era, corresponding to the 10th day of the 5th month of the 21st year of the Guangxu era. Two copies made at Keelung.

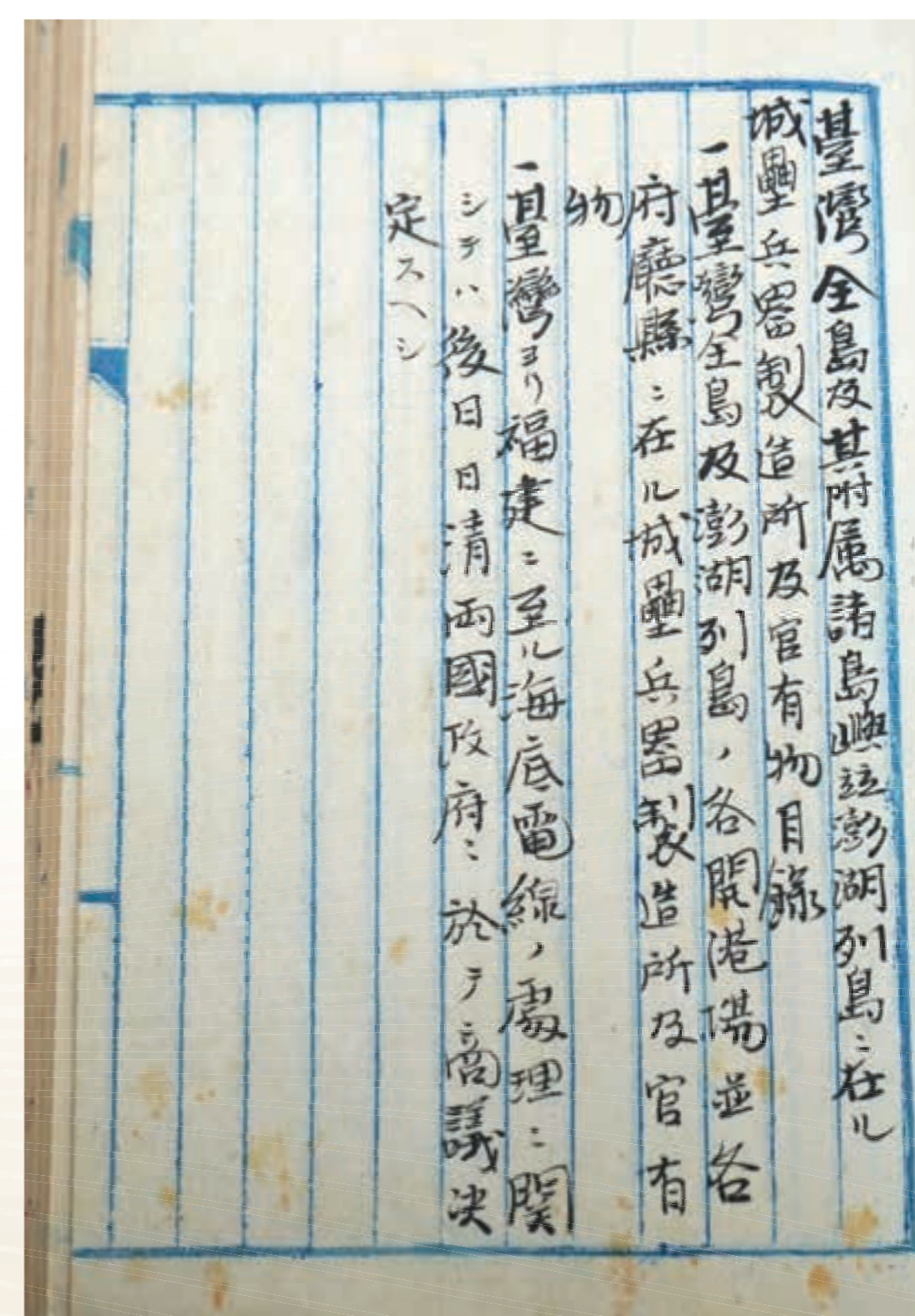
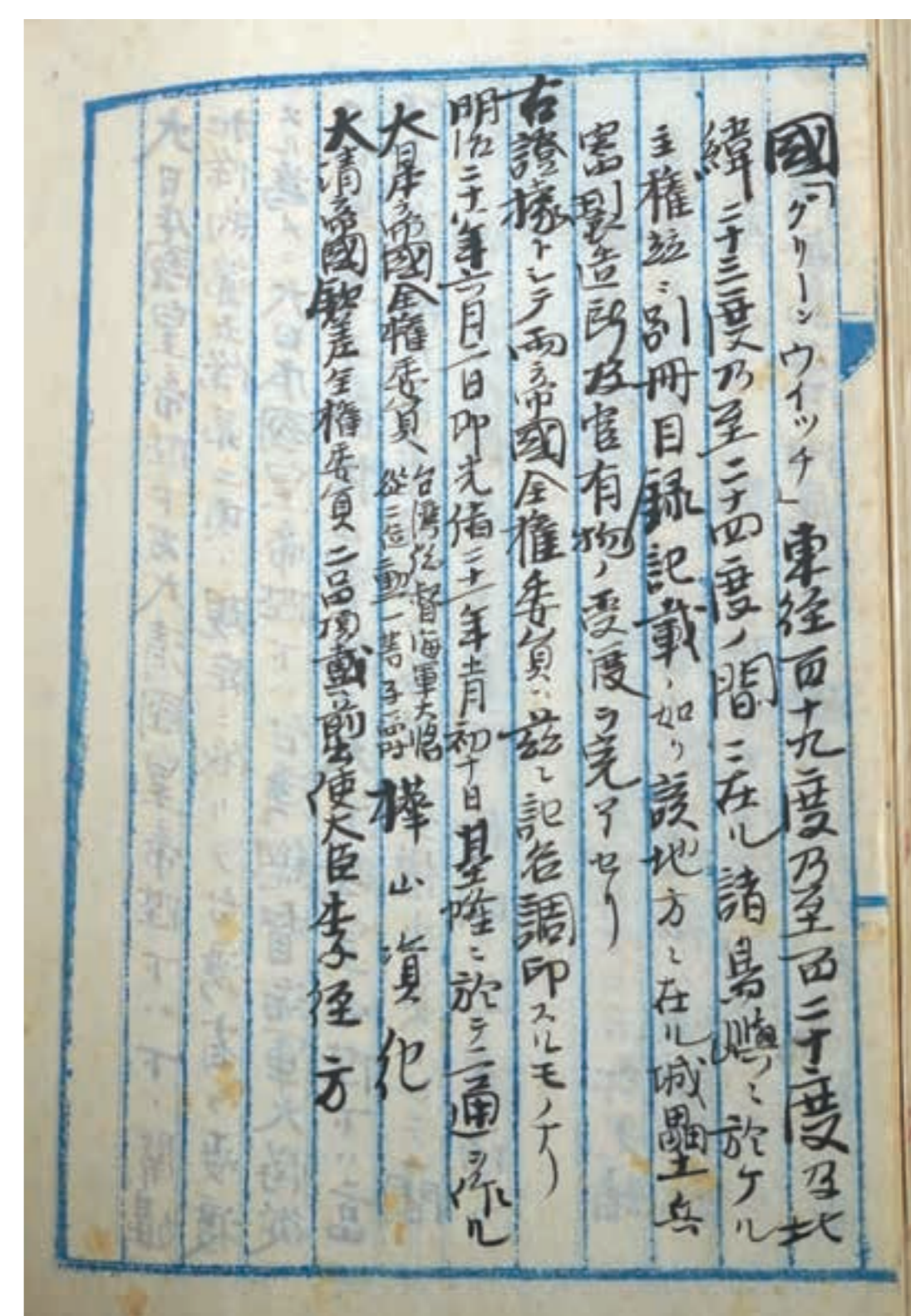
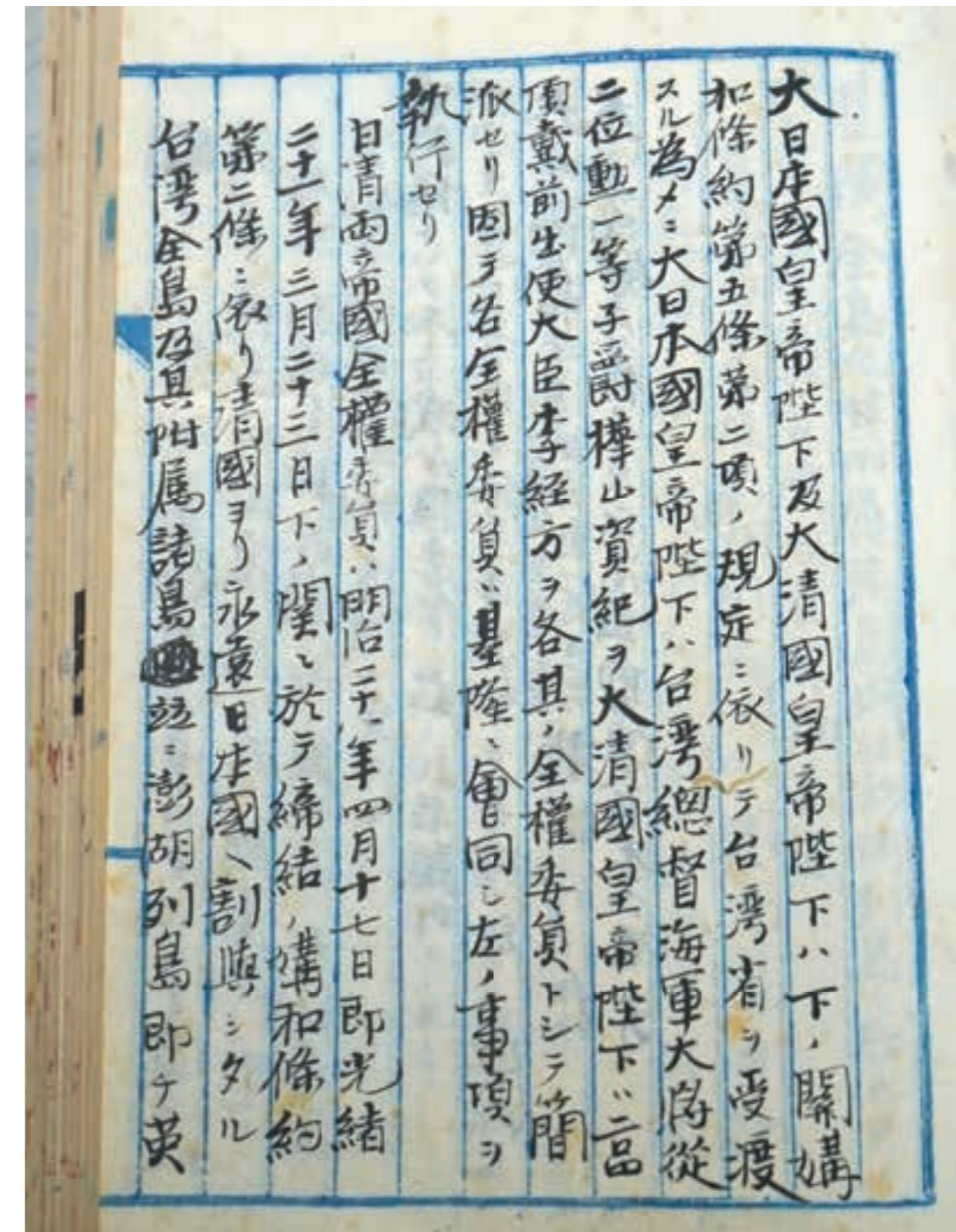
Viscount Kabayama Sukenori, Grand Admiral, Governor-General of Taiwan, Plenipotentiary of the Empire of Japan, Second Rank, First Class Order of Merit

Li Jingfang, Second Rank, Former Minister to Foreign Affairs, Imperial Plenipotentiary of the Empire of Qing

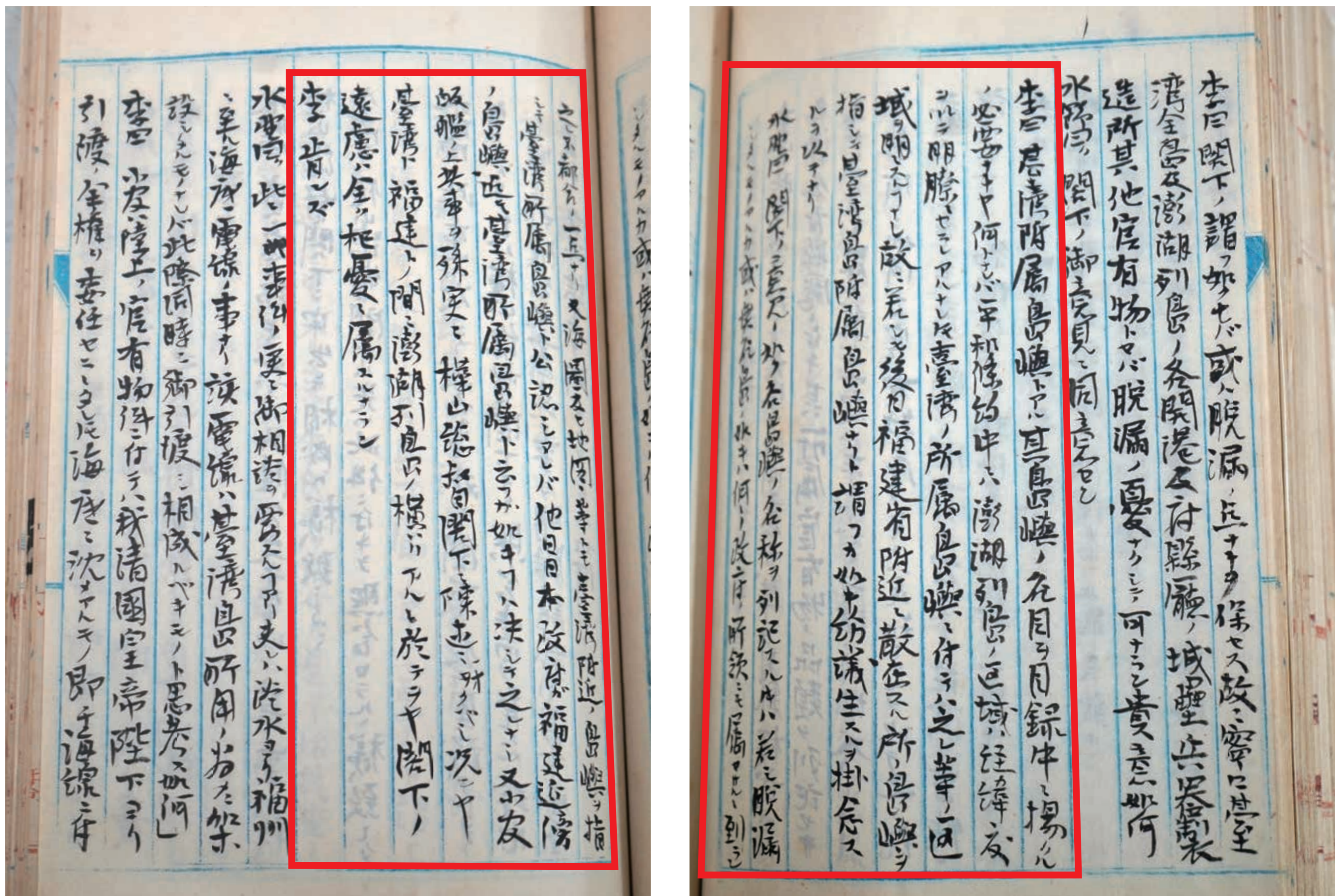
Catalog of Fortifications, Armament Factories, and Government Property on the Island of Taiwan and islands appertaining or belonging to it, and the Penghu Islands

I. Fortifications, Armament Factories, and Government Property at Each Open Port and Prefecture, City, and County Office on the Entire Island of Taiwan and the Penghu Islands

II. The handling of the submarine cable from Taiwan to Fujian shall be decided through future negotiations between the Japanese and Qing governments.



2. Relevant part of the record of the meeting



翻刻

李日 臺灣附屬島嶼トアル其島嶼ノ名目ヲ目錄中ニ掲クルノ必要ナキヤ何トナレバ平和條約中ニハ澎湖列島ノ區域ハ經緯度ヲ以テ明瞭ニセラレアルナレトモ臺灣ノ所屬島嶼ニ付テハ之レ等ノ区域ヲ明ニスルコトナシ故ニ若シモ後日福建省附近ニ散在スル所ノ島嶼ヲ指シテ臺灣島附屬島嶼ナリト謂フカ如キ紛議生スルヲ掛念スルヲ以テナリ

水野日 閣下ノ意見ノ如ク各島嶼ノ名称ヲ列記スルトキハ若シ脱漏シタルモノアルカ或ハ無名島ノ如キハ何レノ政府ノ所領ニモ屬セサルニ到ラン之レ不都合ノ一点ナリ又海図及ヒ地図等トモ臺灣附近ノ島嶼ヲ指シテ台湾所屬島嶼ト公認シアレバ他日日本政府ガ福建近傍ノ島嶼迄モ臺灣所屬島嶼ト云フガ如キコトハ決シテ之レナシ又小官舩艦ノ上其事ヲ殊更ニ樺山總督閣下ニ陳述シオクベシ況ンヤ臺灣ト福建トノ間ニ澎湖列島ノ横ハリアルニ於テヤ閣下ノ遠慮ハ全ク杞憂ニ屬スルナラン

李 肯ズ

Provisional Translation

Li: "It (the draft of the Notes) mentions islands appertaining or belonging to Taiwan. Shouldn't we list the names of those islands in the catalog? Because while the Penghu Islands' boundaries are clearly defined by latitude and longitude in the peace treaty, the areas of islands appertaining or belonging to Taiwan are not specified. Therefore, I am concerned that issues might arise in the future, such as claims that scattered islands near Fujian Province are islands appertaining or belonging to Taiwan."

Mizuno: "Specifying the names of each island could lead to omissions. Islands that have not yet been named could end up belonging to no country, which would be unacceptable. Furthermore, nautical charts and maps also recognize the islands near Taiwan as belonging to Taiwan (see the next page). Therefore, the Japanese government will absolutely never claim that the islands around Fujian Province are also part of Taiwan. Also, when I return to the ship, I will specifically mention this to Governor Kabayama. The presence of the Penghu Islands between Taiwan and Fujian Province makes this even more certain. Your concern is entirely unfounded."

Li: "Okay."

*Mizuno refers to Mizuno Jun, Minister Resident. He was a subordinate of Kabayama Sukekazu, Governor-General of Taiwan.

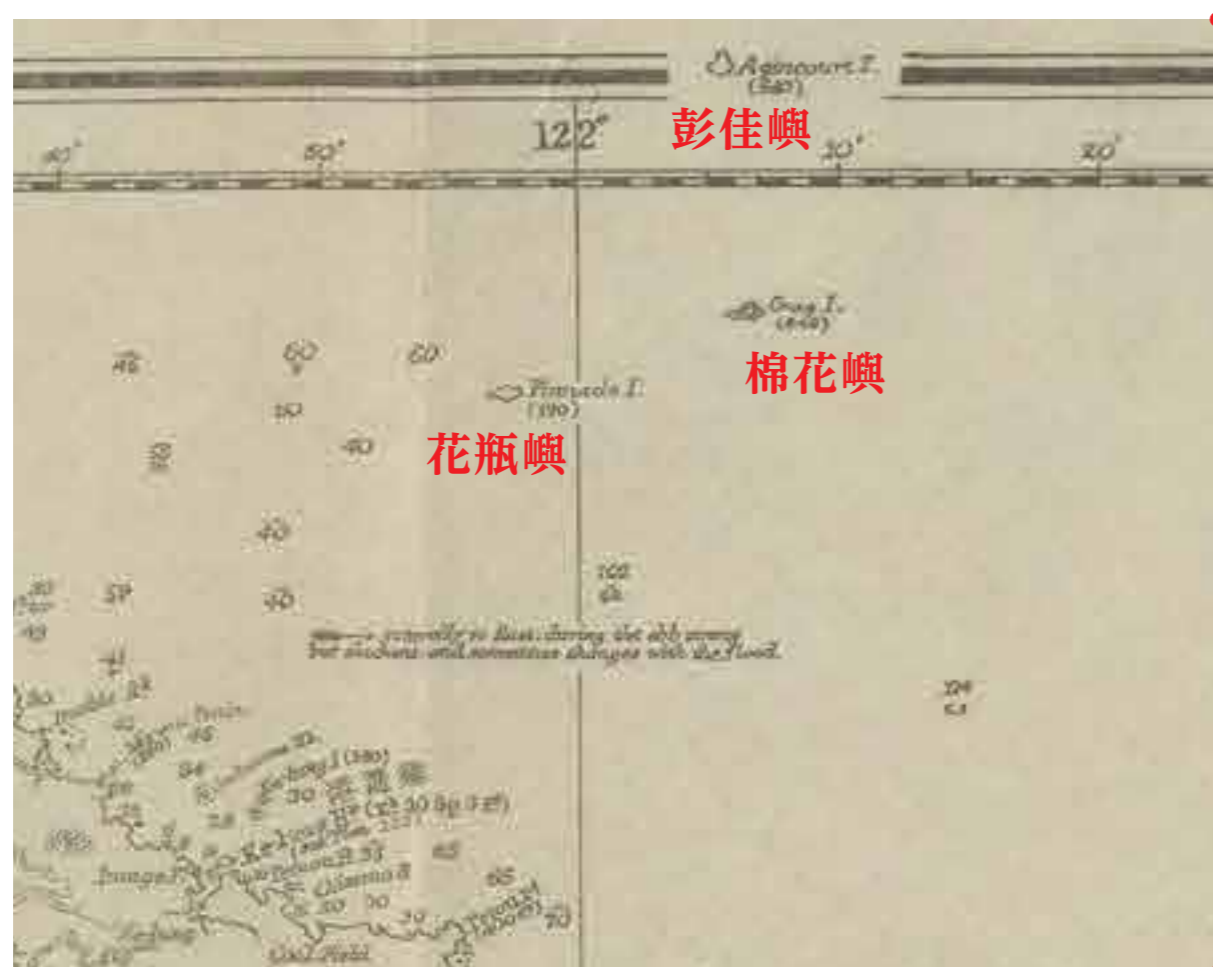
(Reference) The area covered in maps of Taiwan at the time.

During the meeting referred on the previous page, Japanese Minister Resident Mizuno stated, “nautical charts and maps also recognize the islands near Taiwan as belonging to Taiwan.”

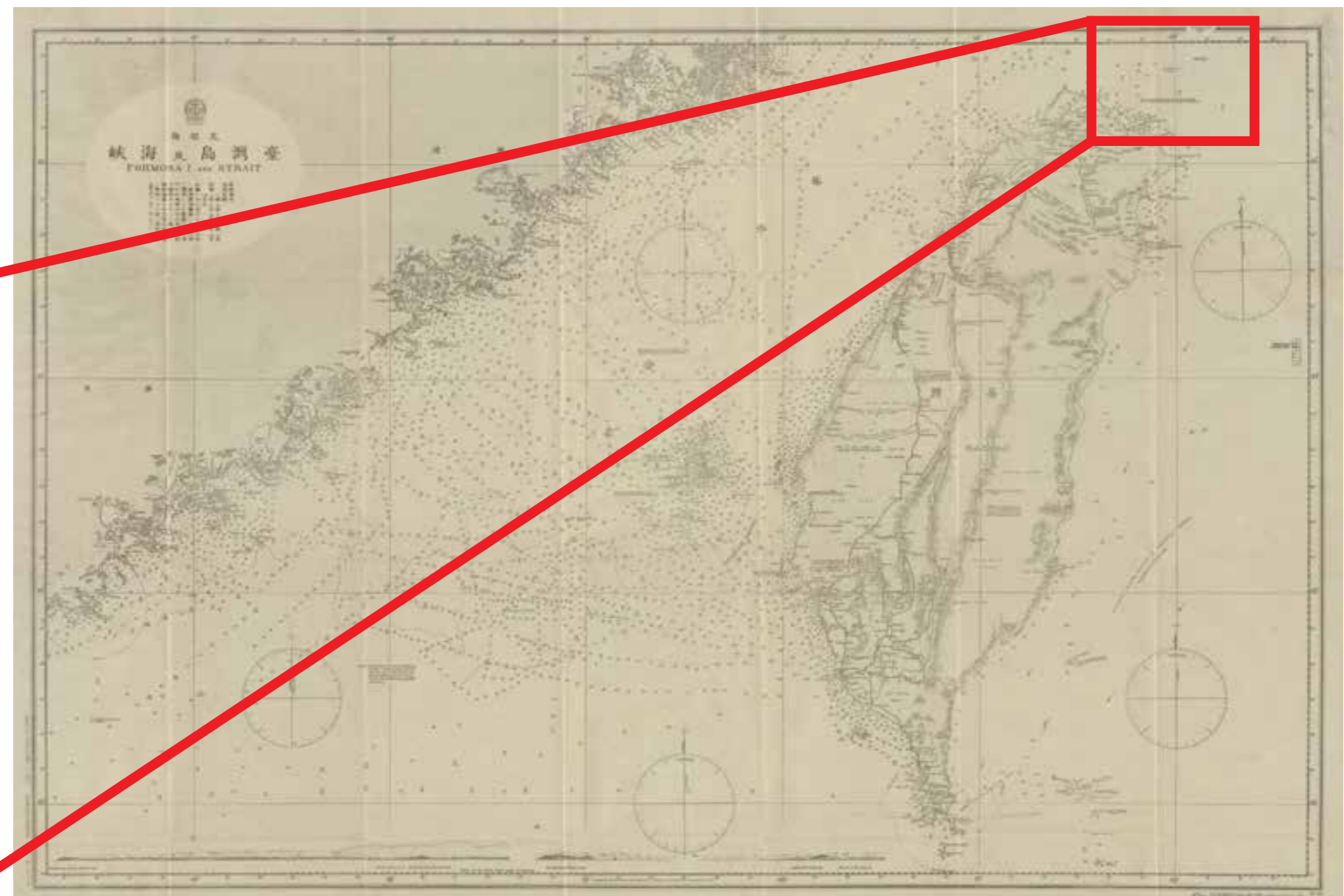
At the time, it appears that none of the maps of Taiwan produced by Japan, the Qing dynasty, or Western countries included the Senkaku Islands. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that there was common understanding that the Senkaku Islands were not part of Taiwan. The following are examples of such maps.

In the case of Japanese maps:

The nautical chart “Taiwan Island and Strait” (1894) produced by the Imperial Japanese Navy Hydrographic Department includes the Three Northern Islets of Taiwan, but does not include the Senkaku Islands.



The Three Northern Islets of Taiwan



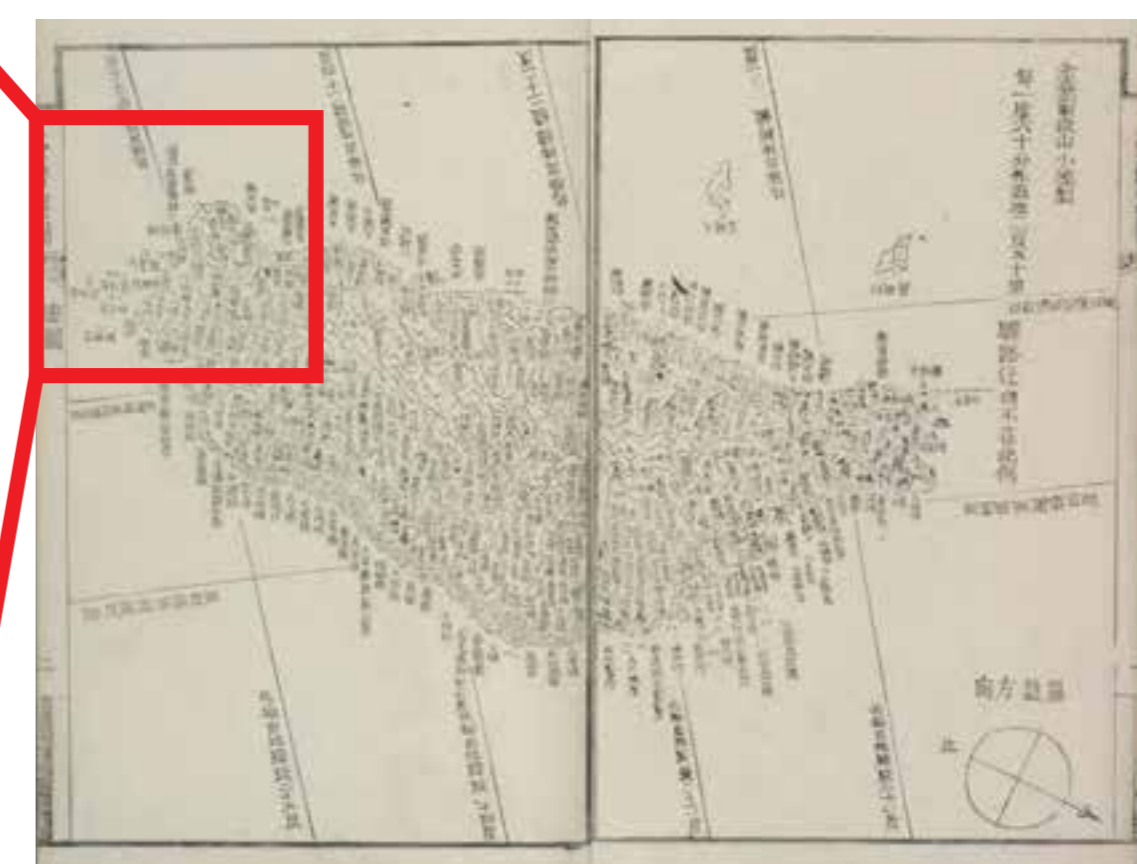
“Taiwan Island and Strait” (1894) produced by the Imperial Japanese Navy Hydrographic Department (1894) (Chart No. 267)
Collection of the Archives of the Imperial Household Agency

In the case of Qing maps:

the *Taiwan Yu Tu Bing Shuo* (Atlas of Taiwan with Explanations), or the *Quan Tai Yu Tu* (Complete Atlas of Taiwan) (1880), was compiled by Zhou Maoqi who served as prefect of the Taiwan Prefecture from 1872 to 1876 and again from 1879 onwards. It contains only a description of Pinnacle Island, which is the island closest to the coast of Taiwan's main island among the Three Northern Islets.



Northern Coast of Taiwan
Collection of the U.S. Library of Congress



Taiwan Yu Tu Bing Shuo

In the case of Western countries:

In 1870, Charles W. Le Gendre, then U.S. Consul in Xiamen, created the map “Taiwan Island and the Penghu Islands” based on his experience searching for shipwrecked American sailors in Taiwan. The map does not even include the Three Northern Islets of Taiwan.



Charles W. Le Gendre, Formosa Island and the Pescadores, China (1870)
Collection of the U.S. Library of Congress

No.3 'Draft Outline of Issues and Claims Concerning Territorial Matters in the Peace Treaty with Japan', Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (1950)

Provisional translation of the section relating to the Senkaku Islands (red outline).

2. The issue of the return of the Ryukyu Islands

A. Overview: The Ryukyu Islands encompass the entirety of Okinawa Prefecture and the Oshima District of Kagoshima Prefecture. They are located between 24°N and 30°N (including Kuchinoerabu Island), and between 122°3'E and 129°3'E. They are divided into three regions: North, Central and South. The central region comprises the Okinawa Islands (the Iheya and Kerama Islands), the southern region comprises the Miyako and Yaeyama Islands (the **Sento Shōshō**), and the northern region comprises the Tanegashima, Amami, and Tokara Islands. The northern region falls under the jurisdiction of Kagoshima Prefecture. The Amami and Tokara Islands are referred to as the Oshima District, while the Tanegashima Islands are called the Kumage District. (Omitted)

C. The Ryukyu Boundary Delimitation Issue

The Senkaku Islands, located between 123°E and 124°E longitude and 25°30'N and 26°N latitude, and Sekibisho, located between 124°E and 125°E longitude and 25°30'N and 26°N latitude, are even closer to Taiwan (compared to the Yaeyama Islands). Whether they could be included within Taiwan requires further research.

*The Sento Shosho was the name used by the Imperial Japanese Navy Hydrographic Department for the Senkaku Islands in nautical charts and hydrographic publications prior to World War II.

