

Takeshima in Antiquated maps in Japan and Korea

A comparison between Japan and Korea regarding the presence or absence of detailed maps of Takeshima on old maps

The map on the lower right (Figure 1) is the first map of Takeshima (based on modern surveying methods) produced by the ROK government (Hydrographic Division under the Operations Department of the ROK Navy) in 1954. In Japan, detailed maps of Takeshima (maps showing the two main islands) were made in the Edo period (17th century) based on the practical knowledge of the Japanese people (Figs. 2-1, 2-2, 2-3). In addition, a survey map of Takeshima was made in 1908 using modern surveying methods in Japan (Fig. 3).

To date, no detailed maps of Takeshima made during the Joseon Dynasty, including the Korean Empire period, have been confirmed. This difference in the timing of the production of detailed maps of Takeshima in Japan and Korea shows that Korea, unlike Japan, had no real use for Takeshima in the pre-modern period.

Japan



Repository: Historical Institute, The University of Tokyo

Figure 2-1
“Map of Matsushima” (Edo Period)
A copy made in the Meiji period (1895) of the original map drawn by the Murakawa family.
A map specialized for Matsushima (present-day Takeshima)



Repository: Tottori Prefectural Museum

Figure 2-2
“Illustrative map of Takeshima submitted by Ihe-e Kotani” (partial)
A copy of a picture submitted to the Edo Shogunate by Tottori Domain in 1696.



Repository: Tottori Prefectural Museum

Figure 2-3
“Takeshima no Zu” (No. 8442) (partial)
This is the original drawing of a map submitted by the Tottori Domain to the Edo Shogunate in 1724. It is believed to have been acquired from the Oya and Murakawa families.



Repository: The Japan Coast Guard

Figure 3
1908: Original Record of Longitude and Latitude Measurement (partial)
Compiled by the Japanese Imperial Navy

1868: Establishment of the Meiji government

1905: Incorporation of Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture

Joseon Dynasty (including the Korean Empire) 1910

1910

1948

Republic of Korea era

Korea

The ROK Government’s survey to produce Figure 1 began on September 30, 1954, that is, five days after Japan proposed on the 25th of the same month that the dispute over the sovereignty of Takeshima be referred to the International Court of Justice!



Explanation of Figure 1 from “Korean Hydrographic History 1949-1980” (compiled and published by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency, 1982)

“For the first time in the history of Korean surveying, it was decided to conduct not only depth measurements but also topographic surveys for the production of topographic maps on an uninhabited and unexplored island in the middle of the ocean.”

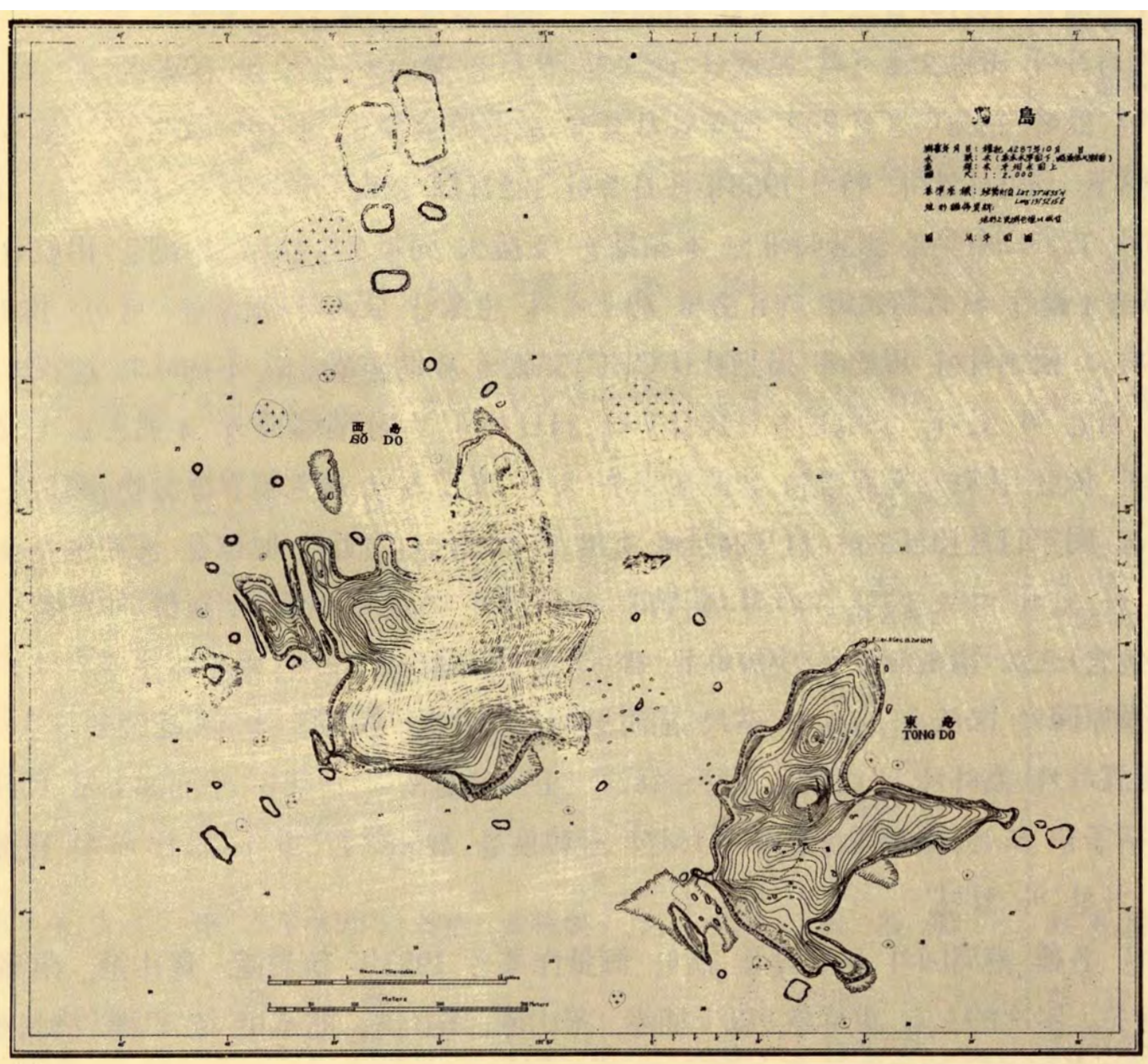


Figure 1
“Original map of the Dokdo Island hydrographic survey”
Produced by the ROK Government, 1954.

In Japan, maps depicting the two large islands of Takeshima were made as early as the Edo period. On the other hand, it has not been confirmed that maps depicting the two large islands of Takeshima were made in the Joseon Dynasty, which lasted until the beginning of the 20th century. You can see the difference in the knowledge that Japan and Joseon had about Takeshima!

