

Expanding Network of Asian Studies

長谷川朋子
伊藤真実子

本報告はサントリー・2015・16年度 公益財団法人サントリー文化財団「人文科学社会科学に関する学際的グループ研究助成」に採択された「19-20世紀、欧米における日本学の形成」(代表伊藤真実子)を現在にいたるまで継続している共同研究の成果の一部である。

本研究は、伊藤を代表とし、国際センター(旧国際研究教育機構)のPD共同研究員、およびリサーチアシスタントを務めた長谷川朋子、三瀧みづほ、丸亀裕司、犬飼崇人、湯川真樹江、杉山真佑美らと共同研究をおこなってきた。その成果の一部として、2017年にリスボンで開催された第15回EAJS(ヨーロッパ日本研究協会)にて、同じく共同研究者であった松本佐保(名古屋市立大学)、アントニー・ベスト(ロンドン大学スクール・オブ・エコノミクス)とのパネル *Foreign perceptions and interactions with Japan in the late Tokugawa/early Meiji periods.* で報告をおこなった。当時、彙報に報告題名のみ記載しただけであったので、今回、その報告内容を記載する。

なお、本共同研究については、すでに犬飼により「フランスにおける日本研究—19世紀後半から第二次世界大戦前夜までの日仏交流史の一側面」(国際研究教育機構研究年報第4号所収)として論文掲載されている。合わせて参照されたい。

I. Introduction

Asian studies, such as Japanology, Sinology and Koreanology, developed alongside the expansion of imperialism by Western countries in the second half of the 19th century. One of the oldest and the most influential institutions for Asian studies is the “Royal Asiatic Society” (hereafter the RAS), which was established in London in 1823. Western diplomats and scholars pursued Asian studies through the branches of the RAS, creating networks both in Asia and their home countries. The first branch of the RAS was founded in Bengal

and the scale of the Society gradually expanded from India to the Far East by creating more branches in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In Japan, Sir Harry Parkes, the British Minister then, established the Japanese Asiatic Society (hereafter the JAS) not only for the British but for the other Western diplomats and scholars based on his experience as the Chairman of the Shanghai branch.

It was planned Royal Asiatic society in Japan at first, but the other westerners were interested in it and offered to join it. He opened for the others and it established Japanese Asiatic Society not Royal Asiatic Society,

This research focuses specifically on the Royal Asiatic Society Korean Branch (hereafter the Korean Branch). The Korean Branch was founded in 1900 and suspended for several years due to the Russo-Japanese War and political turmoil in Korea. It resumed after the annexation by Japan. This research will reveal the Korean Branch had political meaning for checking by Westerns, especially the US, so that Japan would not abuse its power over Korea.

My concern is Japanese modern history but I would like to have a wide “global” view. I think studies of Society and network are good tool for having more wide view not international relationship but geopolitical.

II. History of RAS and JAS

At first, I will briefly explain the history of the RAS and the JAS. The establishment of the RAS was strongly connected with the British control over Bengal. Indology became so popular and developed by the local British people in India that the requests for founding a research institute in UK increased. In 1823, following a proposal by Sir Henry Thomas Colebrooke, an eminent Sanskrit scholar and a former president of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was established in London.

The scale of the RAS expanded through the 19th century, two more branches in India (Bombay and Madras) and one in Hong Kong and Shanghai respectively.

The JAS was created in Yokohama in 1872 as the first academic research institution in Japan. Sir Harry Parkes, who was the Chairman of the Shanghai branch, came to Japan as British Minister in 1865 and took the initiative for founding the JAS. It has been suggested that the JAS was not established solely for the purpose of developing Japanology, but also for promoting integration between Americans and Britons, between whom relations were

often quite frayed. The JAS gradually expanded throughout the Meiji era and contributed enormously to the development of Japanology.

III. The birth of Koreanology in the latter half of the 19th century

Next, I will explain how Koreanology began in the 19th century.

After Korea was forced to open its ports for international trade in the latter half of the 19th century, many Westerners came to Korea and settled there. They commenced research about Korea in order to encourage more Westerners to come to Korea. This was the beginning of Koreanology. Early Koreanology is generally divided into two categories; that conducted by individuals and that conducted by missionaries.

From the 1880s to the 1890s, many Protestant missionaries came from North America to settle in Korea. The missionaries were extremely active in developing Koreanology, and they issued “The Korean Repository” in 1892. This journal was the first English journal aimed at understanding Korea and sharing missionary activities. However, because of inadequate financial resources and with distributors returning to their countries, the Korean Repository ceased publication in December 1898.

However the missionaries did not abandon their research on Korea. The core members of the Korean Repository considered founding an academic society in order to integrate individual activities in the area of Koreanology. They concluded that support from the RAS in London was essential to boost their academic activities. Therefore, they directly requested permission from London to establish the Korean Branch. Thanks to the positive response from the RAS, they founded the Royal Asiatic Society Korean Branch on June 16th, 1900, at the Seoul Union Club, which was a social meeting place for foreign residents located within the American embassy.

IV. The establishment of the Korean Branch: from 1900 to 1910

From its foundation, the Korean Branch was profoundly affected by the JAS and the Shanghai Branch. John Harrington Gubbins, the first President, called attention “to the work of the Asiatic Society of Japan in indicating the probable lines on which the society would work here.” In addition, the constitution and by-laws were to “correspond very closely with those of the Asiatic Societies of Japan and of China.”

Gubbins, a British diplomat who had just become the chargé d'affaires in Seoul, was an eminent Japanologist. After he returned to UK, he was appointed as a lecturer in Japanese at the University of Oxford from 1909 to 1912, though his class was closed due to a decline in the number of students.

In addition to the Gubbins statement, the proposed purpose of the Korean Branch was to “investigate the arts, history, literature and customs of Korea and neighboring countries.”

Considering these factors, the Korean Branch was established not only to focus on Korean studies but to deepen its ties with Japanology and Sinology and to develop Asian studies.

Koreanology was developed through general meetings, where at least one research paper was presented and the members discussed the presentation. The general meeting was organized in a seminar style, and the members were so active that three general meetings were held in 1900 and again in 1901.

Despite the energetic activity of the early phase, the Korean Branch was suspended temporarily. The exact reason for this suspension has never been determined, but some probable reasons have been suggested by previous studies. The most common suggestion is that the suspension was due to the unstable political situation in Korea. The Russo-Japanese War broke out in 1904 and Korea was annexed by Japan in 1910. The legations were closed and many diplomats returned to their home countries. Therefore, the fact that the main members left Korea was one of the reasons for the suspension of the Korean Branch.

Another suggestion was the fact that missionaries became too busy to conduct activities for the Korean Branch. In Korea, more and more people converted to Christianity and the missionaries were occupied with these tasks. Hence, the missionaries became less involved in the Korean Branch.

The final suggestion is a conflict which developed within the Korean Branch between the pro-Japanese and pro-Russian factions. The biggest supporter of the pro-Japanese faction was Homer Hulbert, an American missionary. On the other hand, Dr. Horace Allen, an American medical doctor and missionary, was pro-Russian. Hulbert expressed his direct support for Japan in a research paper, which angered Allen. Allen's positive attitude toward Russia created a bad impression to the US government, and Allen was called to return to the US in 1905. It has been claimed that this division within the institution added up and led to the Korean Branch being suspended temporarily.

According to the minutes of a meeting in 1911 when the Korean Branch was restarted, it appears that general meetings were held on an irregular basis although no research papers were presented at those meetings.

V. The restart of the Korean Branch

Interestingly, the Korean Branch was restarted because of the annexation by Japan. The members had a positive view of Japanese control over Korea, and they assumed that the political situation would be stable. In 1911, the year after the annexation, a general meeting was held, on the 23rd January to be precise. There were nine committee members present, and the total number of members was between 40 and 50. Another general meeting was held the following month, on February 8th, and it was decided that they would invite George Scidmore, the American consul general in Seoul. Scidmore was a career diplomat who first came to Japan in 1881, and after he became a member of the Korean Branch, several meetings were held at his invitation at the US Consulate General.

After the Korean Branch was resumed, the first paper was presented by Midori Komatsu, who was the Japanese Director of Foreign Affairs of the Government General of Chosen. Komatsu studied in the US for 8 years and got a Bachelor degree of law at Yale University and Master of Arts at Princeton University. After he came back to Japan, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worked at the Japanese embassy in the US. His paper was titled “The Old People and the New Government”; it basically praised Japanese control over Korea. Komatsu explained the annexation was a “reunion of the separated two separated sections of one nation” by introducing the ancient myth which insisted Japan and Korea used to be a one nation. His paper was published in the *Transaction* a few months later. There were some unfounded claims that this publication was against the will of the Korean Branch. In fact, many foreigners took a positive view of Japanese control. Other politically influential Japanese were Isoh Yamamoto, who was the editor of “Seoul Press”, and Morihiro Ichihara, who earned a Ph.D. in finance from Yale University and became the first governor of the Bank of Chosen.

However, the positive view of Westerners of Japanese control would change gradually. One factor was the “105 People Incident” in 1911, where 105 Koreans were arrested on suspicion of planning to assassinate Masatake Terauchi, the first Governor-General of Korea. Moreover, Japan adopted a new rule in order to limit business activity by foreigners,

which raised concern and anger among the foreign community in Korea. It has been suggested that the turning point in Western attitudes and views towards Japanese control came with the emergence of the March 1st Independence Movement in 1919. These changes were reflected in the activities of the Korean Branch. For example, research papers by Japanese were included in the Transaction issued in 1911, but there were none published in 1912.

Despite the negative attitude towards Japanese control, the Korean Branch was active after its restart. The Transactions were sold not only in Seoul, but in Yokohama, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Paris and New York until 1918. In addition, the Korean Branch interacted with other branches. At the general meeting on January 17th 1912, there was an instruction to ask the Japan Asiatic Society to reissue publications related to Koreanology. Moreover, the Korean Branch decided to build a new library in order to collect not only Korean literature, but also Japanese and Chinese literature. In 1915 alone, as many as new 40 members joined, and a general meeting was held almost monthly that year.

This period is known as the “Trollope Era”, after Mark Trollope, a British missionary, who made a considerable contribution to this expansion of the Korean Branch. Trollope served as the President of the Korean Branch for 13 years, and during this time, the Branch issued 19 transactions, including 30 research articles.

VI. Conclusion

At first, the Korean Branch was established by missionaries for their activities and developing the Koreanology. After its temporary suspension, the Korean Branch resumed and its venue and the members' occupation had more political meaning. The general meetings were held at the US Consulate General and the Japanese officials started to join its activity. This reflects the changing international relations in the Far East which means the Western countries did not let Japan have a free-hand over Korea anymore.

Now we face a new question. They became more active and international by selling their transactions in many countries. Why did they become active after its resumption? The Korean Branch was mainly led by foreigners in Korea. Why did they develop Koreanology and emphasize their works internationally under the Japanese annexation? It is understandable that Midori Komatsu justified their control. However why did other foreigners

were energetic for expanding Koreanology? We have more 3 years to solve this issue.

(はせがわ ともこ 元・学習院大学旧国際研究教育機構 PD 共同研究員)
(いとう まみこ 学習院大学国際センター教授)