

## European Cartography of Korea in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

Kazutaka UNNO

Meijo College, Osaka

As many scholars have pointed out, it was a Portuguese Ruy de Araujo, then the chief of the trading house of Malacca, who referred to Korea firstly among Europeans. He states in his letter dated Feb. 6, 1510, addressed to Afonso de Albuquerque, that men called 'Gores' would come to Malacca for trade after forty days' voyage. Albuquerque, then the governor-general of India, also mentioned 'Gores' in his letters to the King, dated April 1, 1512, and Oct. 20 and Nov. 30, 1513, respectively. However, we are not made known the detailed information of 'Gores'. These letters just say that the people so-called came on voyage to the Malacca region. Where 'Gores' were living was not touched on. Probably the first book referring to the place 'Gores' reside in is Tomé Pires' *Suma Oriental* (ca. 1515). In the fourth part of the book, he writes what he heard from Chinese: "Between the Chinese and the Tartars are certain places where there are the *Guores*." And another place of the book says, "The *Lequos* are called *Guores*—they are known by either of these names. *Lequeos* is the chief one." Generally, Portuguese confused Korea and Riu-Kiu in the early period. This was because the people in Riu-Kiu carried Korean goods to Malacca and sold them.

It was in the chart of the world (1561) of Bartolomeu Velho that Korea firstly appeared on European cartography. In it, one of the islands is called 'Core', which lies off the shore of a breast-shaped peninsula, 'Puturus', attached to the northeastern area of China, with its tip to the south. The place name 'Core', as well as 'Gore', may derive from the Chinese pronunciation Kao-li of Koryŏ. Koryŏ was an ancient dynasty of Korea (918—1392). This chart is followed by Lazaro Luiz's chart of the East Indies (1563), and Fernao Vas Dourado's atlas (1568). The former calls the little island 'Chosiao', which seems to come from Japanese pronunciation 'Chosen' of Joseon. Joseon was the Korean dynasty immediately after Koryŏ. In the latter atlas the words 'Costa de Conrai' are seen in the middle of the breast-shaped peninsula, besides the name of the 'Chore' island. This indicates that the peninsula, too, is part of Korea. The atlas was the first to show this. Considering that Japanese used the name Kōrai along with Chōsen for Korea in those days, 'Conrai' may be the misspelling of 'Courai.' The supposition is strengthened by the fact that Vas Dourado uses large quantities of Japanese materials.

The map of the East Indies, appendix to Jan Huygen van Linschoten's *Itinerario* (1596), describes a large and almost circular island called 'Corea', besides the namesake, little island. Plainly the author here detaches the said breast-shaped peninsula from the continent and changes it into an island. As Martino Martini points out in his *Novus Atlas Sinensis* (1655), there

were two tides of theories among Europeans about Korea's shape, namely of peninsula and island, even in the middle of seventeenth century; so that Linschoten may well be mistaken. Korea is depicted also as a big island but icicle-shaped in the chart of the East Indies written by Joan Martines in 1591. Separated from the continent by a narrow strait, the island has no place name, but it is undoubtedly Korea as described in Chinese cartography. This so because *Ku-chin hsing-sheng chih t'u* (Map of ancient and modern places of fort, 1555), or *Huang-ming yü-ti chih t'u* (Map of the territory of the imperial Ming, first Printed 1536(reprinted 1631), published in China, describe the Yalu River so wide that the Korea strikes us as an island. One of these, *Ku-chin hsing-sheng chih t'u*, was sent to Spanish royal house from Manila in 1575, sixteen years earlier than the chart of Martines was written.

In Petrus Plancius' map of the world (Van Linschoten, *ibid.*, appendix), which was made in 1594, three years after Martines' chart, Korea had similarly an icicle shape though it was delineated as a peninsula whose north part was attached to the continent. 'Tiauxem' and 'Corea' were recorded as names of the peninsula in this map. In Luis Teixeira's map of Japan, contained in the enlarged edition of Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* published in 1595, Korea took a shape of a carrot like island, lying north and south with its middle part bulging out. Two years later, Fausto Rughesi's map of Asia was published in Rome in 1597. Although the shape was delineated as that of a carrot, and he clearly showed Korea as a peninsula, calling it 'Corai' on the map. Even in the aforementioned P. Plancius' map, printed in 1594, it was depicted as a peninsula, with the part of the peninsula connected to the continent being drawn unusually narrowly. Here it should be noted that Rughesi's Korea was so clearly marked that no one could fail to identify it as a peninsula. This was probably because Rughesi could use knowledge obtained from both the folding screen map of China and the Chinese atlas with the Jesuit Michael Ruggerius had brought back to Rome from China in 1590 after staying in China for eight years. It is also possible that the shape was based on the *Huang-ming yü-ti chih t'u* above-mentioned.

As all these maps have shown, there had been some versions of Korea's shape in the 16th century European cartography: first, a breast-shaped peninsula and nearby islets, second, an icicle-shaped island or peninsula, third, a carrot-like island which could be viewed as a variation of the icicle shape, fourth, a carrot-like peninsula. It does not follow, however, that this transformation of Korea's shape on the maps took place one by one precisely in accordance with the passage of time. Each shape was coexistent throughout the 16th century.

Early in the 17th century, Korea was, first of all, delineated in a small map of China on the baroque title page of 1618 edition of Trigault's *De Christiana expeditione apud Sinas suscepta ab Societate Iesu*. Apparently, the peninsula that extended north and south had greater width from east to west. Given the fact that Trigault stayed in China from 1610 to 1613, it is likely that he consulted Chinese maps. It may be pointed out in this connection that in the first edition (1615) of the same book a map of China on the title page depicted Korea as an icicle-shaped island. Therefore, he must have had no certain information about Korea. The map of China, contained in Samuele Purchas' *Hakluytus Posthumus or Purchas His Pilgrimes*, vol.3, (1625), also indicated that Korea was a wide peninsula, although the whole shape was not available because

Korea's east coast was outside the map.

On the other hand, Portugues seem to have acquired almost accurate information on Korea's coastline in the 1610's. Manuel Godinho de Eredia's atlas (1613) and his presumed atlas (ca.1615-ca.1622) provided a rather practical figure despite simplicity. Presumably, in those days, Dutch also obtained credible intelligence on Korea, which was perceived from the figure of Korea in a chart of the Pacific Ocean (1623) drawn by Hessel Gercitsz, a cartographer working for Duth East India Company. This chart simply cited 'Coray' as a placename, but its elaborate delineation of east and west coastline of the peninsula seemed quite real. In general, Korea's contours depicted in published maps were bound to go out of date. In the maps published in the middle of the 17th century, such as Claes Janszoon Visscher's map of the world (1650) and Franois van den Hoeye's map of the world (1661), Korea still remained a carrot like (Teixeiratype) island.

Nevertheless, the shapes of the carrot like island were varying in the meantime. In Joan Blaeu's map of the world published in 1648, the south part of the island was wide, the coastline of this area was sharply indented, and a number of off-lying islets were depicted. This map indicates that at that time the cartographer had received more accurate information on the south part of Korea than ever. The map of China in Nicolas Sanson's *L'Asie* published in 1652, inherited this type of Korea, but the width being far more broader than the length, the Korea looked short and thick.

In the middle of the 17th century two more types of Korea came into being. One was drawn in the map of China made around 1653 by Michael Boym, 'a Jesuit who had come back from China. This type was a long and narrow peninsula which turned its end toward the southwest. The other type was delineated in *Novus Atlas Sinensis* (1665) by Martion Martini, who was also a Jesuit just returned from China. He drew a peninsula that had a salient in the middle of the east coast. The Boym type was found in N. Sanson's map of China (published in 1656), his map of Asia (published in 1667) and Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola's map of Tartaria (published in 1683). Korea drawn in Martini's atlas seems to have followed one depicted in Matteo Ricci's map of the world (1602), for both contours assumed affinity. Martini type was prevalently adopted in cartography in the latter half of 17th century: for example, maps of China contained in Jean de Thévenot's *Relations de divers Voyages*, vol.2 (published in 1664), Johann Nieuhoff's *Het gezantschap der Neerlandtsche Oost-Indische Compagnie* (published in 1665), and Athanasius Kircher's *China Monumentis* (published in 1667).

Some of the types I have mentioned had been coexistent until the mid-eighteenth century. What made an epoch was Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville's map of Korea, which was contained in Jean Baptiste du Hald's *Description de l'Empire de la Chine*, published in 1735.