The memory and traces of marine exchange: Jeju Island in eastern and western antique maps

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The first historical reference to Jeju Island in Europeans comes in the 16th century. As trade between Europe and the Orient including Asia became more active in this era, the country of Chosun brought into existence to Europe along which Jeju Island emerged in cartography as a southernmost tip of the Korean peninsula. Interestingly, some maps made during this period referred to Jeju Island and the southern coast of Korea, in Portugese, as Ilhas dos Ladrones, or "Thieves' Islands".

The appellation "Island of Thieves" was originally given by F. Mzgellan after his landfall in the archipelago of the present Mariana Islands in 1521. Since then, Spanish Jesuit missionaries named the archipelago Las Marianas in 1668 in honor of Spanish Queen Mariana of Austria. Portugese voyagers in these southern parts of the peninsula may have been advised of pirates, and especially wary of the ancient pirate base at the southern coast of Korea and Tsushima island.

At the start of the 17th century Jeju Island was also marked as "Fungma (or, Fongma)", which appears for the first time in the "Atlas of China" of M. Martini who arrived in China as a missionary in 1655. It can be considered that, taking into account the knowledge and information network of the times, island "Fungma" shown on Western maps is romanized from Chinese name for Jeju. We can see place name 'Fengma (鳳馬)' near the southern Korean peninsular in Chinese old maps. 'Fengma (鳳馬)' may be tsushima (對馬島), but western missionaries confused Jeju Island with 'Fengma (鳳馬)' and depicted 'Fungma' in their maps.

In the late 17th century the name "Quelpart", together with "Fungma", became known among Europeans, which indicates a trading vessel of the Dutch East India Company. On her voyage to Japan in 1642, Jeju island was discovered and named after the ship. More specifically, H. Hamel, a Dutch seaman, who was shipwrecked when on a voyage to Japan and remained on the isle, described Jeju as "Quelpart" in his report, Hamel's Journal, which was subsequently published, thereby making Jeju to be widely known as the name of "Quelpart." "Quelpart," having enjoyed so long as a tradition of use by Western cartographers, was handed down to the early 20th century as a typical name standing for Jeju. The present designation "Jeju" for the island appears since the 20th century, in which it was as long as more than 700 years that has passed after the name appeared during the reign of Goryeo's King Gojong.

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Jeju Island which is located in the center of Northeast Asian sea area has a long history of independent dynasty which had been called 'Tamna'. Jeju Island was variously represented in Chinese old maps. Jeju Island can hardly be seen in the maps of pre Ming dynasties except for maps made in Yuan Dynasty. Jeju Island was more clearly expressed in the maps made in Ming Dynasty. Jeju Island was represented with the historical place name, 'Tamna', in the traditional maps made in 16th century. The plce name of 'Jeju' was seen for the first time in the Guangyutu (atlas of the world, 廣興圖) which was made in 1555. Kunyu Wanguo Quantu (Map of the Ten Thousand Countries of the Earth, 坤興萬國全圖) in 1602.

Created by Matteo Ricci became the turning point in the recognition of Jeju Island, and influenced the western maps. Jeju Island was more accurately represented in the maps of the Qing Dynasty like Huangyu quanlan tu (皇輿全覽圖) compared to those of Ming Dynasty. Jeju Island was correctly described in the southwest of the Korean peninsula, and also had accuracy in coordinates. The recognition of Jeju Island in the Huangyu quanlan tu lasted in Haiguo tuzhi (海國圖志) and Wanguo Dadi Quantu (萬國大地全圖) and became more elaborated in Daqing Diguo Quantu (大清帝國全圖) made in 1905.

Key words: Jeju Island, Chinese old maps, Tamna (耽羅), Kunyu Wanguo Quantu (坤興萬國全圖), Huangyu quanlan tu (皇興全覽圖)