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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977
Item 10 of the provisional agenda.
Gazetteers

GAZETTEERS IN JAPAN

Paper presented by Japan

The main gazetteers prepared for use in Japan are as follows:

1. Collections prepared by government agencies

(1) Geographic Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs:
Gunku Tyōson Itiran (List of Counties, Wards, Towns and Villages), 1881.

Geographic Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs:
Timei Sakuin (Geographical Name Index), 1885.

The above are the collections of administrative names of places (down to villages).

(2) Geographical Survey Institute, Ministry of Construction: Hyōzyun Timei-syū (Collection of Standard Geographical Names), 1971.

This book is a collection of about 5,000 natural place names determined by the Joint Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The names are not written in Roman letters, nor their location is indicated by latitude and longitude.

(3) Hydrographic Department, Maritime Safety Agency: Nihon Engan Timei-syū (Collection of Geographical Names Along Japanese Seacoasts), 1948.

About 10,000 geographical names used in nautical charts are arranged in alphabetical order. The names are expressed in Roman letters and the location is indicated by latitude and longitude.

(4) Hydrographic Department, Maritime Safety Agency:
Suirosi (Sailing Directions), 1966-75.

The book gives descriptions on the conditions of the major points written on nautical charts. The index at the back of the book may be used as a gazeteer. The geographical names are written in Roman letters.

(5) Ministry of Education: Timei no Yobikata to Kakikata (How to Read and Write Geographical Names), 1958.

This book provides a guideline on how to read and write the geographical names necessary for elementary and secondary education. It is a collection of the names of principal natural regions in Japan and foreign geographical names.

2. Collections prepared by non-governmental agencies

(1) Togo Yosida: Dai-nippon Timei Zisyo (Greater Japan Geographical-Names Dictionary), 1900-1909.

This book is a collection of geographical names which had appeared in a wide variety of literature from ancient times. It contains historical annotations.

(2) Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK): Nihon Timei Hatuon Ziten (Dictionary of Pronunciation of Japanese Geographical Names), 1959-62.

This book is a collection of the names of Mati and Ōaza determined by Si, Mati and Mura, and the names of natural regions shown by district. The volume on Central Japan has

been published but the volumes on Hokkaidō, Tōhoku and Kyūshū Regions have not yet been completed.

(3) Akira Watanabe et al.: Nihon Timei Daiziten (Greater Japanese Geographical Gazetteer), 1968.

(4) Akira Watanabe et al.: Sekai Timei Daiziten (Greater World Geographical Gazetteer), 1973-74.

(5) Sansei-dō: Concise Geographical-Names Dictionary (volume of Japan), 1975.

3. Others

The following ancient books on geographical names are still used:

(1) Hudoki (A Topography)

This book carries the results of a survey conducted in 713 on the origins of geographical names, local products, legends, etc. Those portions of the book which concern the east half of Simane Ken and parts of Ibaraki-Ken, Hyōgo-Ken and Oita-Ken are still preserved.

(2) Minamto-no-Sitagō: Wamyō Ruizyu-syō (Abridged Collection of Japanese Names), 931-937.

Being an encyclopedia, this book contains 128 categories of collection. Descriptions were given on how to read about 4,000 Gō (the lowest unit of administrative division in those days organized for every 50 households).
