

1:50,000 Topographic Maps of Korea in the Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century

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The 1:50,000 topographic maps produced between the late 19th Century and the early 20th Century based on Japanese geographical surveys of Korea are divided into three groups according to their production years: first topographic maps, second topographic maps and third topographic maps.

This study reviewed 1: 50,000 topographic maps owned by the *Jangseo-gak* Library, an affiliate organization of the Academy of Korean Studies, where historical materials of the Joseon Dynasty are kept and the National Geographic Information Institute by using GIS.

The National Geographic Information Institute has a total of 894 third topographic maps : 715 first edition maps made in the 1910s and revised maps of 179 regions.

The 1: 50,000 topographic maps owned by the *Jangseo-gak* Library comprise 492 maps included in <<*Joseon Topographic Maps*>>(K2-4578), 81 in <<*Joseon Topographic Maps*>>(K2-4579) and 36 in the <<*Joseon Topographic Maps*>>(K2-4580), 609 maps in total. 81 of these maps were the first, 34 the second, and 494 the third topographic map. Of particular merit worth mention is that the 81 first and the 34 second topographic maps, far unknown, have now been found. They are expected to provide precious information for the studies of early topographic maps of Korea.

The first topographic maps owned by the *Jangseo-gak* Library include 9 sketch maps missing in the photocopy are important for providing new references to the first topographic maps.

The third topographic maps collected by the *Jangseo-gak* Library include 247 maps that were printed and published earlier than the maps in the photocopy.

About half of the second and the third topographic maps, on their covers and in the maps, carried marks such as rectangles or numbers drawn in pencil or red pen. It is believed worth special attention as they suggest they were used for specific purpose.