



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	NIHON HOKUHEN KANKEI KYUKI MOKUROKU : HOKKAIDO, KARAFUTO, CHISHIMA, ROSHIA [AN ANNOTATED CATALOG OF JAPANESE MANUSCRIPT SOURCES ON HOKKAIDO, SAKHALIN, THE KURILES AND RUSSIA IN HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY], Edited by Hokkaido University Library, Hokkaido Daigaku Tosho Kankokai, 1990, 400 pages, 57 pages of index., ¥8,755
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Although his name does not appear in the cover page, this beautifully produced, and valuable book is a creation of Akizuki Toshiyuki, a bibliographer and a well-known historian on Russo-Japanese relations in the 18th and the 19th centuries. It is a pity that the absurd Japanese regulations governing activities of government libraries prevent this impeccable craftsman from attaching his name to the glorious achievement of his labor.

This is a carefully annotated catalog of the manuscript collection of the Northern Regions Collection of Hokkaidō University Library. Since its inception in 1937, the Northern Regions Collection has made conscious effort to collect sources related to Hokkaidō, the Kuril Islands, and Sakhalin that are scattered all over Japan. Under the strong leadership of Akizuki for the past few decades, it has now amassed an enormous amount of valuable source materials both in Japanese and in Russian, a large bulk of which are handwritten manuscripts. This book is the first annotated catalog of the handwritten manuscripts in Japanese deposited in this collection.

The book is divided into general books, geography, history (chronologically classified), history (classified by subjects), the Ainu, the Kuril Islands, Sakhalin, relations with Russia, foreign relations with other countries, and special collections. Although it includes manuscripts written in the Shōwa period, the bulk of manuscripts described here are of the pre-Meiji period. Altogether more than 3,500 items are listed, though some are duplicated. Description of each item includes title, publication date, form of manuscript (original, hand-copied, or microfilmed), size, page, availability in published form, location of the original, annotation, and catalog number. Such generous information makes it possible for researchers to request a microfilm copy for specific material without traveling to Sapporo.

In addition to containing valuable information on Hokkaidō, particularly at the time when Hokkaidō was governed by Matsumae, and equally priceless ethnographic materials related to the Ainu, this book is a treasure book for those who are interested in early Russo-Japanese relations. It includes various writings and papers by Kudō Heisuke, Hayashi Shihei, Mogami Tokunai, Kondō Jyūzō and others. The section on the Laxman mission includes 40 items, including materials related to Daikokuya Kōdayū, the Rezanov mission—37 items, the Khvostov-Davydov Incident—126 items, the Golovnin-Takadaya Hostage crisis—59 items, and the Putiatin mission—33 items. This is truly a gold mine still untapped by historians. The book also contains the title index and the author index.

Not only is this book a great scholarly contribution, but also the book itself is beautifully produced. The book cover is a color reproduction of the two

castaways, Kōdayū and Isokichi, clothed in Western costume, when they accompanied the Laxman mission. It also includes 17 color photographs of sample manuscripts, some of which are extremely interesting in their description of the Ainu customs.

What is mind-boggling is that the manuscripts represent only a small portion of the Northern Regions Collection, which also houses an enormous amount of published sources in Japanese and in Russian. Recently it acquired the George Alexander Lensen Collection from the Slavic Research Center. I hope that this invaluable book will be followed by other catalogs introducing the rich, but hitherto unknown treasures that are contained in the Northern Regions Collection of the Hokkaido University.

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