

Imperial Prize and Japan Academy Prize to:

Yukio FUJIMOTO
 Emeritus Professor, University of Toyama
 Visiting Professor, Reitaku University
 Researcher, Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library)

for *A Study of Old Korean Books Extant in Japan: History*

***Outline of the work:***

Throughout history, many Chinese books have been brought to Japan via the Korean peninsula. Prof. Yukio Fujimoto has spent approximately 50 years investigating well-preserved Korean editions of such Chinese books extant in Japan, including ones written by Koreans that were printed from the Silla period to the early twentieth century. This publication *A Study of Old Korean Books Extant in Japan: History* [Tongguk Taehakkyo Ch'ulp'anbu, Seoul, 2018] brings together the bibliographical details of the books, including some that were in Japan until the Bakumatsu period in the mid-nineteenth century but are now held at the British Library, National Palace Museum and National Central Library in Taipei, and elsewhere, having been taken overseas in the first years of the Meiji era. While the works taken up in this publication follow the format of China's traditional fourfold classification of books, they are arranged in the order of the Japanese syllabary in line with the conventions of bibliographical research on old Korean books. The results of the author's investigations of close to three thousand works are set out for each text with detailed and meticulous comments under twenty-eight subheadings. There is no other publication, not even in Korea, that presents such an exhaustive investigation of old Korean books extant in Japan. In Japan, many Chinese books were printed using old Korean editions as their base texts, and these old Korean editions have had an enormous influence on scholarship in Japan. This book will not only provide a solid foundation for Korean studies in the future but will also contribute greatly to the related fields of Chinese studies and Japanese studies.

This book makes it easy to differentiate between editions printed from the same woodblocks and those printed from different woodblocks, later revised editions, and later reprints. In addition, the author has done his best to collect and record the names of all the woodblock engravers, and by piecing together these minor details, he clarifies for the first time the year and place of publication of many books. Further, with regard to the routes whereby old Korean books entered Japan, Prof. Fujimoto compares the Edo-period book catalogs of the Sō family, i.e., the former lords of the Tsushima domain who were in charge of diplomacy and trade between Japan and Korea in the Edo period, with extant books in the Sō Family Archives. By doing so, he shows the significance of the old Korean books that entered Japan via the Sō family and are now scattered throughout the country. Viewed from various angles, this book may be considered to mark a watershed in research on old Korean books.