2. CERTAIN FEATURES OF THE COLLECTION

In December 1867, fourteen months after the death of Dr. Philipp Franz von Siebold, his eldest son Alexander approached the British Museum about the sale of an extensive range of Japanese materials which his father had acquired during the extraordinary career described in the previous article. Negotiations went on for several months, but in July 1868 a purchase price of £1,100 was finally agreed on. Herein lies the origin of what we know as the von Siebold Collection.

A letter from Alexander, dated 20 June of that year and addressed to Mr. Thomas Watts, the Keeper of the Department of Printed Books, is of special significance, for it is a covering note written to accompany the dispatch of a catalogue of the collection. We are told that this catalogue, which Alexander and his father had prepared, was given Japanese-language titles in romanized script though, in addition, English and – in some cases – Latin translations were appended. The whole was divided into two parts. The larger contained 1,045 titles embracing 3,242 volumes collected during his father’s second voyage to Japan (1859–62). The smaller comprised 43 titles in 199 volumes from the collector’s first residence there (1823–9). No duplicate titles were included in either part.

What also was made clear in this letter from Alexander was that another catalogue of the same collection written in Japanese by the vendor’s Japanese teacher had by then been sent to Mr. Watts. Though periodic attempts have been made to locate each of these catalogues no trace of either has ever been found among the Museum’s acquisitions or in its bibliographical records.

In the meantime, the collection itself (apart, that is, from 123 individual manuscript works) has been distributed according to subject throughout the Japanese collection. Furthermore, the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books has never been the sole repository of the collection. Instead, the Map Library and the Department of Oriental Antiquities have received those items which fall respectively within their special fields. Clearly, this division has been in many ways advantageous if not essential. But in the absence of a specific and comprehensive catalogue, a systematic study of this vast collection would always have been a daunting task.

For over a century past, the only way to recognize any individual volume as coming from the von Siebold Collection has been by noting the acquisition date-stamp, ‘22nd July 1868’. Fortunately, however, this primitive and laborious method of identification
has at last been rendered unnecessary by the discovery of a copy of the catalogue of the von Siebold Collection in the Swedish Royal Library at Stockholm. Some three years ago Mr. J. Sören Edgren, a member of the staff there, wrote to the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books to inquire about a catalogue in Japanese in two manuscript volumes, entitled simply Zōsho Mokuroku – i.e. ‘the catalogue of a Japanese collection’ – which he had come across in the course of re-cataloguing the Nordenskiöld Collection. He wondered whether it could possibly refer to the von Siebold Collection, seeing that someone had written on it in pencil the curious advice that it was a catalogue of the ‘Japanese Library in London’.

Thanks to further assistance on Mr. Edgren’s part, the British Library now has a photostat of this catalogue in its possession (fig. 1). However, examination of this has

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Fig. 1. First page of a manuscript catalogue of the von Siebold Collection. Courtesy of Kungliga Biblioteket
shown that, whilst it does indeed cover the von Siebold Collection, it is not the one completed by Alexander's Japanese teacher mentioned above. In fact, it is a variant copy written in three or more different hands. Quite possibly, Nils Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (1832–1901), the Finno-Swedish geographer and Arctic explorer, acquired it from Alexander himself in Japan in 1879, by which time the latter had begun his long career in the Japanese diplomatic service. Nordenskiöld was then paying a brief visit to Japan on the way back to Stockholm, having completed his famous expedition through the North-East Passage on board the steam vessel *Vega*.

Notwithstanding such minor anomalies as the incorrect rendering of some Chinese characters and the inclusion of some duplicate titles, the contents listed in this catalogue correspond closely in layout and scope with that outlined in Alexander's letter. So now at least it is possible to view the von Siebold Collection over all.

It may be helpful in the first instance to give a statistical summary by subject-matter of this collection before we turn to some individual items of interest within it. The classification below is my own and must be regarded as preliminary; it is based on the Stockholm catalogue used in conjunction with Alexander's letter. The headings and their order of presentation roughly follow the subject classification currently employed by the Japanese section in the British Library. Also, except where otherwise indicated, the subject-matter in question is concerned simply with Japan.

<p>| TABLE I |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Subject headings</th>
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</thead>
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<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Shintoism</td>
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<td>Buddhism</td>
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As we can see from the above summary, the range of subjects that Dr. Philipp Franz von Siebold had managed to encompass is vast by any standard. Moreover, the highly systematic manner in which he organized his library reveals much about this scholar-scientist. The chief purpose in collecting Japanese materials so far as von Siebold was concerned was that they should be read, not merely admired as *objets d’art*. In other words, the collection was to be capable of supplying information relevant to virtually every aspect of Japanese geography, society, and culture. Naturally, the coverage was historical to some extent. In the main, however, he was concerned with the Japan he himself knew and was, indeed, doing much to influence, a Japan that was emerging confusedly from two centuries of self-imposed isolation.

The emphasis on textual importance rather than aesthetic value, on the recent more than the remote, and on the representative as opposed to the unique explains why the
von Siebold Collection contains relatively few items which a Japanese bibliographer would classify as ‘rare’. This functional approach to the amassing of material can be set strikingly in contrast with that of someone like Sir Ernest Satow (1843–1929). He was the British diplomat and eminent collector of Japanese books to whom the British Library owes most of the rare Japanese editions so important for the history of Japanese art and printing.

Confirmation of von Siebold’s comparative indifference to the antiquarian value of books can be seen in his attitude towards conservation. A good number of the seventeenth-century books in the collection, for example, have the bright and glossy covers characteristic of nineteenth-century Japanese books. What is more, further investigation shows that most of these covers can be grouped into one of several distinctive patterns. This suggests that von Siebold himself was responsible for their being rebound in Japan, in all probability by one and the same firm or team of craftsmen.

This practice of replacing the original book covers with something better able to withstand wear and tear is regrettable from the standpoint of the bibliophile. Perhaps, however, we should forgive von Siebold for evidently he expected future scholars to refer to his library as incessantly as he had been doing himself. It is endearing to come across various particular items annotated in the doctor’s own hand and the numerous direct references made in his published works to the source material in his possession.

Another point to notice is that this material was chiefly acquired from personal friends and students and, most importantly, through the patronage of high-ranking Japanese officials. Manuscripts on such esoteric subjects as religious talismans, maps with a security classification on them, military manuals, and confidential administrative documents from the shogun’s court (to name but a few of the proscribed categories) were hardly likely ever to be found in open book markets. In this respect, too, the von Siebold Collection is quite different from that built up by Sir Ernest Satow, whose main sources were professional dealers in old books. Here may be found the key to the uniqueness of the former.

To describe adequately every part of the von Siebold Collection would require a major book in itself. But perhaps brief notes on a small selection of items may here serve as something of an introduction to the rest.

First of all, the manuscript works (maps in manuscript for the moment excluded) in the collection should be mentioned. They comprise 123 individual titles and amount to nearly half of all the Japanese manuscripts acquired to date by our department. Traditionally scholars have tended not to regard Japanese manuscripts as particularly important sources. This disposition has been largely due to the fact that the technique of printing was introduced to Japan from China via Korea as early as the eighth century. From then on it was mainly used in monasteries to reproduce basic Buddhist texts. However, with the advent of movable type at the end of the sixteenth century, the printed word became a prime means of the secularization of Japanese culture. By 1650, most of the major Japanese classics were to be found in print. Yet, uninfluential though they may appear at first sight, Japanese manuscripts ought never to be ignored as research sources. Not
least does this apply to the history of the Edo period (1600–1867) from which many manuscripts have survived.

In the von Siebold Collection there are quite a number of manuscripts which, for one reason or another, have not been recorded either in Kokusho Somokuroku or Kokusho Kaidai, the two most comprehensive bibliographies of pre-1868 Japanese books and manuscripts. Let us take as an example Tempo Go-kaikaku Nikki (Or. 861). This is a diary in five maki of unknown authorship and dealing with the short but intense wave of political, social, and land reforms at the end of the Tempo era (i.e. between 1841 and 1843).

As the Edo period drew to its close, Japanese art and culture began to show signs of decline, rampant monetary inflation being accompanied by widespread corruption and venality. In an attempt to check these social ills, the statesman Mizuno Tadakuni (1794–1851) resolutely carried out a series of radical reforms, despite bitter opposition from other feudal lords. On the 15th day of the fifth month, Tempō 12th year (1841), he issued the first reform decree. The diary here referred to began with this decree and ended on the 22nd day of the eighth month, Tempō 14th year; and the following month Mizuno himself was to be overthrown in circumstances that still await scholarly analysis. Thus, whereas Ofuregaki Shiran, a collection of official notices published by the government ended its records abruptly in the last month of Tempō 13th year, this virtually unknown Tempō Go-kaikaku Nikki manuscript followed the entire course of the reform movement.

Throughout this time new decrees were promulgated every day or two. Moreover, the regulations contained therein were often vexatious in the extreme. Thus, on the 29th day of the 10th month of Tempō 13th, Mizuno himself proclaimed as follows, 'All men and women are reminded that only garments made of cotton, hemp and plain silk can be worn and that nobody is to be clothed in any elaborate silk fabric. Should anyone be seen walking in the street clad in the aforesaid fashion, he or she will be severely punished.' Clearly, this strange phase merits further study.

Then again, Kyūsō Isseki-wa (Or. 870), is a collection of essays in six maki on interesting historical anecdotes of the early Edo period. It is by the outspoken neo-Confucian scholar, Muro Kyūsō (1658–1734), who was a tutor to Shogun Tokugawa Yoshimune and, in addition, played an important part in politics. Although the von Siebold copy is anonymous and not dated, it is in fact taken from Muro’s Kyūsō Shōsetsu written during the Shōtoku era (1711–15). This work was not published in print until the first quarter of this century. Prior to this, however, a number of variant manuscript copies had appeared and to them Kyūsō Isseki-wa may now be added.

A memorandum entitled Oranda-jin sampu hairi o-itoma no setsu henshi nado kokoroe-kata (Or. 872) describes in minute detail how a tribute-paying visit, in the spring of 1838, from the Dutch delegation in Dejima to the Court of Edo was to be scheduled and supervised. This memorandum was kept by Arai Tauemon who was one of the five petty officials assigned to look after the Dutch party. The manuscript, which is probably in his own writing, provides first-hand insight into Dutch-Japanese encounters during the close of that country’s great era of seclusion. Among the interesting information
given is some concerning the severe measures taken to ward off unlicensed merchants trying to approach the Dutch with bribes.

This 1838 visit had been the second allowed to the Dutch by the Shogunate since von Siebold’s fateful excursion in 1826. It is likely that Arai Tauemon presented this document to von Siebold in person during the latter’s final stay in Edo.

Another subject that figures prominently in the von Siebold manuscripts is the art of war and military equipment. This is especially fortunate because even after the secularization of the printing trade referred to above (and a concurrent decline in the importance of the samurai at a time of diminishing internal strife) many military topics continued to be dealt with only in manuscript in order that they should remain a samurai preserve.

Let us now turn to the splendid assortment of printed books and other materials on natural history. As was indicated in the previous article, when von Siebold first went to Japan the Dutch East India Company gave him a specific mission to collect as many botanical, zoological, and geological specimens as possible. As a physician, he was particularly interested in herbs which were, after all, the main natural agents employed in traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine. In fact, herbalist had long been a synonym for pharmacist.

It is appropriate to begin with (Shinkan) Honzō Kōmoku (Or. 59. bb. 1), a Japanese edition of the famous Chinese pharmacopoeia, Pen-ts’ao kang-mu, which was compiled by Li Shih-chen (1518-93) and first published in Nanking in 1596. This standard work in 52 chüan lists 1,880 herbs and other substances regarded as having medicinal properties; and it took Li no less than twenty-six years to complete (fig. 2). This von Siebold copy belongs to the 1669 Japanese edition, sometimes referred to as tenji-bon for its title-slip is written in tenji, i.e. decorative 'seal script'. Since the original Chinese edition was imported into Japan around 1607, Japanese scholars had studied it unceasingly. In fact, over seventy commentaries were written on it in the course of the Edo period alone.

Though this Chinese-based herbalism, honzō-gaku, continued to flourish in its original form, a distinctive Japanese school gradually arose alongside it. Its founder was Kaibara Ekken, the author of Yamato Honzō. This was first published in 1709 though von Siebold’s copy (16033. c. 7) belongs to the 1715 second edition. Among the works of which the indefatigable von Siebold secured a first edition was the earliest known history of medicine in Japan. This was Kurokawa Dōyu’s Honcho Iko (Or. 59. b. 3), published in 1663 (fig. 3).

Then there is Ka-i (16033. e. 6), a delightfully illustrated botanical dictionary collected by von Siebold during his first voyage and with his own annotations above each picture (fig. 4). This work is divided into two sections: so-bu (grass section) and moku-bu (trees section), the first written and illustrated by Shimada Mitufusa and the second by Ono Ranzan. The first edition was published in 1759. Whilst the illustrations themselves are of the standard sumizuri type, in the case of von Siebold’s copy (1765 second edition), each one has been carefully hand-painted in the colours of the actual plant. Judging from the western technique used to effect this, the person responsible for this highly skilful artistry might be Karl Hubert de Villeneuve. He was the Dutch artist who assisted von Siebold greatly, both in Japan and in Europe, and whose work is also reproduced.
Fig. 2. Dragon's bones (right) were regarded as effective in curing absent-mindedness, kidney troubles, etc. Illustrations from Honzo Kōmoku. Or. 59. bb. 1, maki 43
extensively in *Nippon*. Incidentally, *Ka-i* was translated into German by von Siebold for inclusion in this work.

Another example of a book acquired during the first voyage and annotated by von Siebold himself is *Butsuhin Shikimei* (16121-b.9), a Japanese-Chinese dictionary of natural history, by Mizutani Hōbun and published between 1809 and 1825. This particular copy was presented to von Siebold by his pupil Ito Keisuke and was used as a textbook during his tutorials (fig. 5). Both Mizutani and Ito had an intensive exchange of medical knowledge with von Siebold during his tribute-paying visit to Edo in 1826. It was through this encounter that Ito was persuaded to enter his academy in Dejima.
Fig. 4. Birō (Livistonia chinensis), the leaves of which were used for making straw hats and fans. 16033, c. 6

Subsequently this young man became one of von Siebold’s most celebrated pupils. Among his achievements was a Japanese translation, Taisei Honzō Meishō (Or. 910) (fig. 6), from the Latin original of Flora Japonica (1784) by Carl Peter Thunberg, von Siebold’s predecessor at Dejima. By means of this translation Linné’s scientific method of botanical classification was widely adapted in Japan, thereby effecting a departure from her traditional honzō-gaku.

Unfortunately this work was scheduled for publication in 1829, just at the time when the von Siebold affair described previously was reverberating through Rangaku circles all across Japan. Fearing proscription and persecution, Itō concealed his master’s
name by using instead an assumed Japanese name, Wakai Hachirō, when quoting his commentaries.7

Afterwards, Itō Keisuke made an important contribution to the advance of western medicine in Japan. Indeed, in 1888 he became one of the first five Japanese scholars to be awarded a doctorate of science in Japan. In addition, he was twice decorated by the Emperor Meiji.

Another unusual item worthy of special mention is a set of three scrolls (Or. 918–20) of colour drawings on silk in traditional *yamato-e* style which vividly depicts Japanese
workmen and tradesmen engaged in various stages of the manufacture and use of gold, silver, and copper coinage. The third scroll has some fascinating scenes of miners at work in tunnels and of their community life (fig. 7). These manuscript drawings are both undated and unsigned and their sociological implications have yet to be unravelled by specialists.

Still, quite the most extensive categories in this collection are the maps and other geographical works. The intensity of von Siebold’s own interest in this field can be seen

*Fig. 6. P. F. von Siebold’s own descriptive slip for *Flora Japonica* translated into Japanese by his disciple, Itō Keisuke. Or. 910*

*Fig. 7. Japanese miners at work in tunnels. Section of a hand scroll, Or. 920*
from *Nippon*, two whole sections out of a total of seven being devoted to geographical studies of Japan. Nor should we forget that it was, above all, his attempt to smuggle Japanese maps back to Europe that led to his summary expulsion from the country in 1829.

Among the Japanese scientists whom he had met in Edo in 1826 was the veteran explorer Mogami Tokunai (1754–1836). Feeling threatened by the advance of the Russians towards Ezo, which had begun in the early part of the eighteenth century, the Shogunate had dispatched its first expedition there in 1785, and Mogami had been included in it. By 1808 he had participated in nine such expeditions. Therefore, it was mainly from him that von Siebold was to learn so much about Ezo, Karafuto, and the Kuriles. As indicated in Table I, Ezo is today known as Hokkaido and Karafuto as Sakhalin. Since 1945 Sakhalin has been entirely under Soviet control.

In particular, Mogami informed him of the discovery of the channel, only about four miles across, which separates Siberia and Karafuto. This discovery had been made in 1808 by Mamiya Rinzō, another very distinguished Japanese explorer. It resolved what had been a long and fierce debate over the insularity of Karafuto and confirmed, too, that it was the same entity as Sakhalin. Von Siebold it was who brought this information to the West. One person to whom he broke the news face to face was Adam John de Krusenstern, the Russian explorer who had himself tried to establish this fact in 1805. Furthermore, what appears to have been the first geographical reference to Strait Mamiya (or Mamia as he called it) was made in 1832 in his monumental *Nippon*. But here is one respect in which his influence has not survived. For in the twentieth century Western geographers have generally followed Russian practice which is to name the passage in question after G. I. Nevelskoy, the Russian navigator who ‘discovered’ it in 1849.

As has just been indicated, knowledge of the geography of Karafuto had remained hazy in the two centuries before 1808, in Japan no less than in Europe. This state of affairs is exemplified by Hayashi Shihcī’s *Ezo no Kuni Zenzu* (Maps 62980. (120)). For in this complete map of Ezo and its immediate vicinity a major error is to be observed, quite apart from the badly distorted shape of the island itself. It is that Sakhalin and Karafuto are depicted as separate, being an island and peninsula respectively (fig. 8).

The map in question was one of a set of five published in 1785 to accompany Hayashi’s *Sankoku Tsūran Zusetsu* (16054. d. 1), an illustrated commentary on three territories (i.e. Ezo, Korea, and the Ryukyus) brought out the following year. It was the looming threat of a Russian invasion that had prompted Hayashi to write what was, in fact, a treatise on military geography. Unfortunately, however, in 1792 the Shogunate, fearful of its causing panic among ordinary Japanese people, not only prohibited all further printing of either the maps or the text but also imprisoned the author. He died the year after. Since the original woodblocks were confiscated at the same time, very few prints have survived. Under these circumstances, the complete set of five maps plus the commentary in the von Siebold Collection assumes an added importance.

In recent years, renewed interest has been shown in Hayashi’s work. Thus his map of the Ryukyus and its neighbouring islands has been quoted by several interested parties as an authentic historical source with which to resolve the territorial dispute between
Fig. 8. Map of Ezo by Hayashi Shittei, showing Sakhalin and Karafuto separately, being a large island (far left) and a peninsula (lower left) respectively. Maps 62980 (120)
Taiwan and Japan over Tiao-yü-yü, a tiny island near Taiwan and in an area that may contain offshore oil deposits. The map says this island belonged to China.\textsuperscript{11}

Another map in the von Siebold Collection, the designer of which was to meet an unhappy fate, was Izu Shichitō Zenzu (Maps 149.e.2(22)), a complete map of the seven islands of Izu. By means of it Tōjō Shinkō highlighted the strategic importance of this island chain which lies across the entrance to Edo Bay; and for this indiscretion he was sent to gaol for seven months. Though Tōjō gave the date 1842 in his preface to the map, it was not until 1848 that a limited edition of 500 copies was printed, albeit not for sale.

Traditional artists of the ukiyo-e (painting of the ‘floating world’) school played an important part in Japanese cartography. But their concern was more with aesthetic appeal than with scientific accuracy. However, with the publication in 1779 of Kaisei Nihon Yochi Rotei Zenzu (Maps 629.e.11), a revised map of Japan, Nagakubo Sekisui rendered the ukiyo-e style cartography obsolete overnight. Accordingly, this work came to be accepted as the most authoritative map of Japan until Inō Tadataka’s survey map was printed c. 1865.

The Sekisui map, as it is commonly known, was the first map of Japan produced in that land to have on it meridians and parallels plus a clearly demarcated scale of distance. Understandably enough, von Siebold could not resist adding this epoch-making work to his collection.

Mention should be made, too, of a manuscript route map of peculiar interest. This is in two painted hand scrolls bound in concertina fashion and entitled Edo yori Osaka made Yado tsuki Meisho Kyūshī and Osaka yori Nagasaki made Senro Meisho Kyūshī respectively.\textsuperscript{12} The first scroll shows the land and sea routes between Edo and Osaka, the second between Osaka and Nagasaki.

One consideration was that, during the greater part of the Edo period, the lord of each fief was required to make regular trips to attend the shogun in Edo, the capital, every two or three years. He would be accompanied by retainers and servants and would have his family with him. Once it arrived at Edo, each party stayed for a year or so.

These journeys became an established routine, as a governmental measure to centralize its power, often entailing huge expenditure and hardship for those involved. All the same, this so called sankin kōtai system did much to accelerate the development of towns and cities and the increasing flow of goods all over Japan.

Furthermore, since all Japanese were then forbidden to go abroad, many of them became extensive travellers at home, either on business or else simply for pleasure. As a result, route maps and guide books were produced in abundance. And a variety of these is to be found in the von Siebold Collection.\textsuperscript{13}

The two picture scrolls mentioned above belong to the early genre of route maps. Although distances by road and sea and also well-known inns and temples are clearly marked, the display in question does not aim at geodetic precision. Instead, the anonymous cartographer(s) mainly sought to render a pictorial impression of the entire voyage from Edo to Nagasaki. Therefore, without moving from his armchair, anyone thus equipped can gaze at misty mountains in the distance and then pass straight on to inspect...
the remains of famous sites along the road. He can soar round towering castles and then swoop down to the travellers wending their way along the coastal road or plying their oars across the water.

A close comparison of this von Siebold pair of scrolls and one entitled Dōchū Emakimonon from Namba Matsutarō’s Collection in Nishinomiya, Japan, reveals the two maps to be identical in content and general presentation. However, the former is slightly less elaborate in artistic detail than the latter, which suggests it may be rather later in origin than the mid-seventeenth century, the period from which Namba’s copy is believed to derive. It is possible, however, that the von Siebold scrolls were copied from Tōzai Kairiku no Zu, a map of sea and land routes between Eastern and Western Japan. This was the first route map known to have been printed in Japan, the year being 1672.

One interesting feature of these scrolls is that the name of what was by 1860 the rapidly developing port of Yokohama has been added by a different hand, together with katakana phonetic syllabaries beside most place-names. Probably these additions were contemporaneous with another one, a small picture of a Dutch ocean-going sail-cum-steam ship dating from about the time of the second von Siebold voyage (1859–62) (fig. 9).

Another manuscript map entitled Shimōsa no Kuni Go-fushimba Ichiran no Zu (16084. e. c. io), is interesting in that it depicts a rather rare but significant subject, a big canal works in progress in Shimōsa province in central Honshū. This is drawn by a woman called Suzuki Baiei and dated 1843.

One of the last maps to be collected by von Siebold may have been Go-kaikō Yokohama no Zu (Maps 653145. (2)), by Ichikawa Yoshikazu, a latter-day ukiyo-e artist. This map shows the port of Yokohama soon after it had been opened to foreigners under the Treaty of Amity and Commerce of 1858 between the United States and Japan. The coverage of the residential area for foreigners, with small national flags drawn on the various installations and with many foreign ships in the harbour, captures the exotically cosmopolitan flavour lately acquired by the city in which von Siebold himself resided during his second stay in Japan.

As has already been noted, the great bulk of the von Siebold Collection as a whole was obtained in the course of this visit. However, some of these items merely replaced ones von Siebold had acquired thirty years previously and had sold to the Dutch government in 1837. Furthermore, in the long years between the two voyages he had systematized his unique knowledge of Japan in voluminous works of scholarship and, most particularly, in his definitive study Nippon.

Therefore, we can fairly regard this amassing of Japanese materials during his second expedition as the most tangible fruit of a full forty years of dedicated research. Already von Siebold had enriched the world he lived in through his analysis of Japan at the time of transition from almost total isolation to deep, and often abrasive, involvement with the world outside. But sadly, his death in 1866 precluded his doing much work on the materials he had brought back four years before. So this potential mine of information still lies virtually untapped in the British Library (and the British Museum), awaiting the attention of any who would explore further the genesis of modern Japan.
Fig. 9. Section of a route map, showing a party of daimyo heading towards Edo (Tokyo) Castle on the next section. Yokohama is on the extreme left. Maps 12.c.25
The Keeper of the Department of Printed Books was also responsible for acquiring Oriental materials (chiefly printed books) as an independent Oriental library department did not come into being until 1892.

In point of fact, forty-three items from the von Siebold Collection are kept, by virtue of their rarity, in the select cases in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books.

Professor Iwao Sei’ichi, who recently visited the Royal Ethnography Museum in Leyden, has informed the author that a large number of Japanese paper samples collected by P.F. von Siebold (and now preserved in Leyden) are in patterns identical to those used as book covers in this von Siebold Collection.

Here attention is focused on the von Siebold items in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books and on the Map Library, since both are now part of the British Library whereas the Department of Oriental Antiquities has remained within the British Museum.

Hereafter, press marks are indicated immediately after the titles. Those beginning with ‘Or.’ and ‘16’ are located in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books whilst those with ‘Maps’ are, of course, in the Map Library.


Itô’s marginal notes in Taisei Honzō Meisho regarding Wakai Hachirō reads as follows: ‘Wakai Hachirō, a native of Izu, is now deceased.’ See Or. 910, fol. 6.

Ezo has been known as Hokkaido since 1869. Nowadays Karafuto and Sakhalin are used interchangeably in Japan for the large island immediately to its north.

See Nippon, Hft. 1 (plates). The map of Japan and its vicinity in which the name Str. Mamia first appeared was translated from Takahashi Kageyasu’s Nihon Henkai Ryakuzu and not, as suggested in footnote 9 of my previous article, copied from Inō Tadataka’s map. However, von Siebold’s famous map of Japan, Karate von Japanischen Reiche (1840), was based on Inō Tadataka’s map.

The other four maps are: Chōsen no Kuni Zenzu (Maps 60660. (1)), a complete map of Korea; Ryūkyū Sanshō narabi-ni Sanjū-rokutō no Zu (Maps 62870. (1)), a map of the Ryukyus and its neighbouring islands; Mujimō no Zu (Maps 63405. (1)), a map of the Bonin Islands; Sankoku Tsūran Yochi Rotei Zenzu (Maps 62980. (12)), a comprehensive map extending from the Ryukyus to Hokkaido and the Kamchatka peninsula.

See Wu Fu-yüan, ‘Ts’ung San-kuo t’ung-lan t’u-shuo k’an Tiao-yü-yü’, Tung-fang tsa-chih, vol. 8, no. 6 (Taipei, 1974).

To date the two scrolls have inadvertently been treated as two different maps, the former being kept in the Map Library (Maps 12. c. 25), and the latter in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books (Or. 2875).

In addition, seventy-eight provincial maps have been bound in one volume and shelved in the Map Library (Maps 149. e. 2). Fifty of these are in manuscript and the rest printed.

See Namba Matsutarō, Muroga Nobuo, and Unno Kazutaka, Old Maps in Japan (Osaka, 1973), pl. 35.