

## Medical History in Japan

*Historical Significance of the Standardization of Acupoint Locations”, the Second Japanese Acupoint Committee (7) “Detailed Guide to the Location of Acupoints” from the classics to the WHO standardization”, pp411-422, Tokyo, Ishiyaku Publishing, June 2009 (partially revised)*

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6 Tertiary standardization – unification on a national level



Figure 10 Bronze figure (Tokyo National Museum)

After the Tang period and through a period of 5 generations of confusion China was reunited under the Northern Sung government, and maybe also due to the emperor's pursuit of a civilian controlled policy, attached great importance to medical policies. On this foundation "Su Wen", "Ling Shu" and similar medical classics were revised, books on herbology also enlarged and revised a large portion of medical encyclopedias newly compiled and using the wood-block printing technique that had spread at that time governmental editions published. The effects of acupuncture and moxibustion too were acknowledged by the emperor himself, so that he ordered the medical officer Wang Wei Yi to correct the confusion about meridians and acupoints. By imperial command Wei Yi prepared his "Illustrated Meridians" (illustrations and descriptive text) and in the following year based on that work created a 3-dimensional figure, that was "newly cast" and he revised the 14 meridians and 354 acupoints in 1026, publishing the "Illustrated Meridians" as the 3-volume work "(Newly casted) Tong Ren Shu Xue Shen Jiu Tu Jing [14].



Figure 11 Rubbed copy of a gravestone

By the way, the Northern Song editions of the time used characters of coin size and even B4 paper size large characters, were mostly luxury books for the court and government officials and consequently too expensive for ordinary people or physicians. Therefore, subsequent publishing of small print editions for the general population was common for medical books. Yet, trying to create a small printed version of the "Tong ren shu xue shen jiu tu jing" makes it difficult to contain the bronze figure illustrations. Presumably this seems to have been the reason why there has been no small print edition of this work, but the government had this book carved as a stone relief that was then erected in the capital of Bianjing (today's Kaifeng) and spread by having people make rubbed copies of it. The casting of this bronze figure and publishing of the book, and again the rubbed copies obtained from the stone relief were used as a means for the careful spread of this knowledge and had the purpose of achieving unification on a national level. It is no exaggeration to call precisely this the tertiary standardization.

Incidentally, quotations in the "Xia Ma Jing" or "Ishinpo" derived from the "Chang Jing" or Pelliot text No. 2675 show that the discourse pertaining to the determination of the type of meridian or the acupoints to be avoided depending on the location of the human spirit was very popular until the Tang period. Whether this view already prevailed from the stage of the "Ming Tang" is unknown, but they are referred to twice in the "Illustration of the Brass Man Acupuncture and Moxibustion". The widespread discourse could apparently not be neglected.

Figure 10 shows the bronze figure at the Tokyo National Museum, which had originally been cast in Northern Song and had been called "Tensei dojin". This originates according to Chen cunren theory to the joining of the Japanese army when the allied forces of eight countries attacked Beijing during the Boxer Rebellion and carried it away from the old palace in Beijing. However, Professor Hiroshi Kosoto from Kitazato University showed beyond any room for dispute that this particular bronze figure had been cast by the acupuncture medical officer Jizen Yamazaki upon order from the shogunate during the

Edo period by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and been in the possession of the Edo Medical School [15].

Figure 11 shows a rubbed copy of the stone relief immediately after it had been set up in Bianjing [16] and "First Volume of the Newly Cast Bronze Figure Illustration of Acupuncture and Moxibustion" is found in the left lower corner. This stone relief was moved during the Yuan period to Beijing and had there been preserved until the Ming period. This particular stone remnant was discovered during excavations at Beijing's castle wall and a portion of it is now on display on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the The Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Further, the Ming government also completely replicated the Northern Song stone relief because of damage and wear and allowed to make rubbed copies of it to spread the knowledge. The library of the Imperial Household Agency is in the possession of a complete rubbed copy from the Ming period that originally had been together with the bronze figure shown in Figure 10 in the possession of the Edo Medical School.

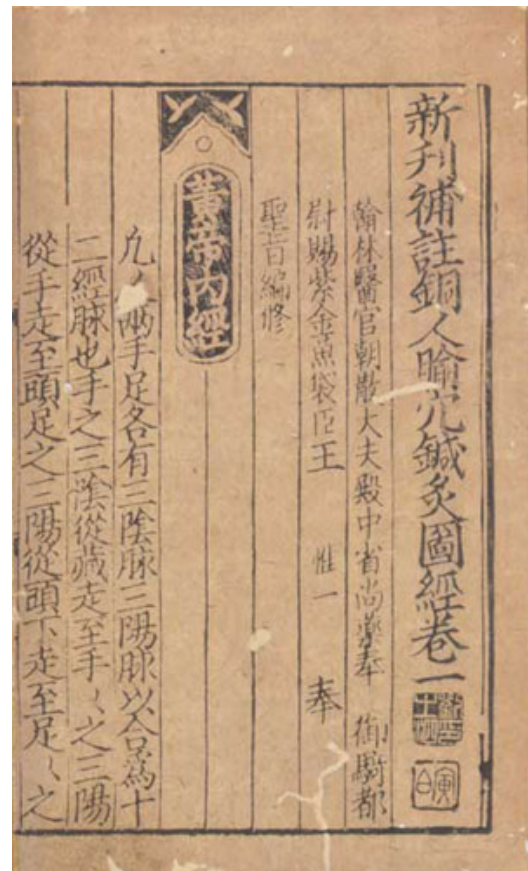


Figure 12 [Newly published with supplementary notes] *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng*

On the other hand, the 1027 year Northern Song edition of the *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng* does not exist any more. Later, in the year 1186 during the Jin dynasty an enlarged, 5-volume edition, the [Newly published with supplementary notes] *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng* was reprinted, but this Jin edition too did not survive to the present day. Figure 12 is called the popular [Newly published with supplementary notes] *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng*, but is actually a Yuan replica, the only extant copy of which is in the National Library of Taiwan. Yang Shoujing obtained this particular book while visiting Japan during the early Meiji period, which is part of the shogunate acupuncture medical officer Yamazaki family collection, who casted the bronze figure. Later, it was transferred by Shoujing to Liu Shih-heng and Shih-heng, while knowing that this was the Yuan edition called the book Jin edition that was then reprinted by the end of the Qing dynasty. This has today been published in China as an imitation gold reprint [17]. On the other hand, this book itself has been in the possession the Central Library founded in Nanking by the Chinese government in and until the present day undergone many modifications.