

Medical History in Japan

Historical Significance of the Standardization of Acupoint Locations”, the Second Japanese Acupoint Committee (8) “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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7. Yuan, Ming, Qing periods and the influence on and changes within the Chinese character culture area

The Jin edition of [Newly published with supplementary notes] *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng* has been reprinted during the Yuan period at least once. Further, it is also known that the Ming government allowed to make rubbed copies of the "Newly Cast Bronze Figure Illustration of Acupuncture and Moxibustion" stone relief, but during the Ming and Qing periods numerous books entitled "Bronze Figure" were published and became popular. Thus the bronze figure or the Ming Tong came to be representative names for books illustrating meridians and acupoints, but on the other side led to the development of differences between the various books. The Korean government reprinted, based on the Jin edition of [Newly published with supplementary notes] *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng*, the Chonghua Yuzhi'an Qinyoushutang edition four times which presumably continued to exert a considerably influence. On the other hand, in Japan the Ming edition has been reprinted during the early Edo period only once and thus had not as much influence as the "Elaboration of the Fourteen Meridians" (*Shi Ji Jing Fa Hui*), that has been reprinted as many as 17 times [18]. Currently, examination of about 500 Vietnamese ancient medical texts by the author did not allow to demonstrate any direct influence of the *Tóng Rén Shù Xué Zhēn Jiǔ Tú Jīng*.

8. Modern spread throughout the world and fourth standardization by the WHO

The third standardization by the Song government had varying degrees of influence on the Yuan, Ming and Qing periods as well as in the individual countries within the culture sphere using Chinese characters. However, depending on the degree of emphasis on the classics as well as employed techniques and tools, these differences and the accumulation of clinical experiences led in postmodern times to extensive fluctuations between the individual texts in the various countries, in particular regarding acupoint locations.

Today, with the support of the WHO, acupuncture and moxibustion has developed to the point, where it plays an important role in the global medical care. The WHO began around 1980 within the framework of a traditional medical program its attempts at standardization of acupoints. In 1991 the Western Pacific Office published the "WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region". The Part 1 of this work is based on the Tensei or Tiansheng bronze figure of the Song period, while The Chinese Academy of Sciences uses a picture of a replica of the Ming period bronze figure manufactured by Professor Ma jixing, and in Part 2 a picture of the bronze figure in the possession of the Tokyo National Museum is used. However, at that point the determination of standardized expression of meridians and acupoints reached a limit. And in 2006, after repeated discussions researchers from Japan, China and Korea completed an international standardization of acupoint locations.

Conclusion

Meridians and acupoints as the framework for acupuncture and moxibustion medicine have been standardized on a conceptual first level. The second level was standardization on the theoretical level, the third one a standardization on a national level. In order to establish logically unified concepts for the

discovered phenomena, and furthermore a theoretical unification to generalize changes obtained through experiences and the relevant deducted concepts can be said to have been performed within an expanding scope of this history. However, this very process, even if it had subjectively been unified logically, still remained hidden behind a pseudo-scientific veil but was not yet science. Ultimately, it was inevitable that differences will emerge later on.

Yet, through the standardization of the locations on this occasion objectivity has been added and led to the fourth standardization on a global level. It is precisely the reflection on these first to fourth standardizations that shows a typical example of the history related to the transmission of traditional skills to the present that then further develop, deepen and spread as a firmly established scientific technique.

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