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# Philological and Historical Research on *Dong Eui Bo Gam* at the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* (“Mirror of Eastern Medicine”) is the most important book of traditional medicine in Korea. In 2009, it became the first medical book to be included in the UNESCO world’s inheritance. After its publication in 1613, the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* greatly contributed to medical advances in both China and Japan. Research of the publication history of *Dong Eui Bo Gam* should yield valuable insights into the history of traditional East Asian medicine. The author conducted philological research on the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* at the library of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

**Methods:** I studied the archival records for the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in *The Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Library Bibliography of Traditional Chinese Medicine*, which was published in 1992.

**Results:** The library has 9 editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* (2 Korean editions and 7 Chinese editions); however, the bibliography lists only 8 editions (2 Korean and 6 Chinese editions).

**Conclusions:** Further investigation of collections of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in China will be vital in the historical study of traditional East Asian medicine.

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**KEYWORDS:** Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, *Dong Eui Bo Gam*, classical medical book, woodblock-printed book, history of traditional East Asian medicine

The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* (“Mirror of Eastern Medicine”) is a medical text completed in 1610 (Gwanhaegun year 2 in Korea) by Heo Jun (1539-1615; a Korean royal physician in the Joseon Dynasty) et al. and required 14 years to compile.<sup>1)</sup> In 2009—1 year before its 400th anniversary—it became the first medical text to be recognized by the UNESCO world’s inheritance.<sup>2)</sup> This recognition confirms its historical significance in traditional Korean medicine.<sup>3)</sup>

Although Korean medicine was initially influenced by traditional Chinese medicine, the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was a compilation of Korean medicine by Koreans and was intended for practical use. Unlike most classical Chinese texts, the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* does not contain complicated theoretical concepts, and was the first such text in East Asia to use this innovative approach. The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was later introduced to China and spread to different

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Table 1 List of *Dong Eui Bo Gam* editions presently owned by the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The uncataloged edition is half-tone dot meshing.

Country	Year	Era	Era year	Astrology	Publisher	Edition
Korea	1613	Wanli	41	Guichou	Clinic for the Royal family	Republication of woodblock print
	1634	Chongzhen	7	Jiaxu	Clinic for the Royal family	Reprint of woodblock print
China	1763	Qianlong	28–31	Guiwei–Bingxu	Biyutang	Printed book (No. 8 make-up blocks)
	1766	Qianlong	31	Bingxu	Biyutang	Printed book
	1890	Guangxu	16	Genghu	Shanghai Xiaojing Shanfang	Lithograph
	1890	Guangxu	16	Genghu	Shanghai Qianqingtang	Lithograph
	1908	Guangxu	34	Wushen	Saoye Shanfang	Lithograph
	People's Republic of China	1982	China	34	Renxu	Renmin Weisheng
	2001	China	53	Gengchen	Renmin Weisheng	Movable type

parts of the country. Because the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* also influenced many East Asian countries, including Japan, it is essential in any study of the history of traditional East Asian medicine.

To fully understand the impact of traditional Korean medicine on the history of East Asian medicine, it is necessary to determine how the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was distributed throughout China after its introduction from Korea and to identify changes to the text before its dissemination into Chinese medicine. Thus, it is extremely important to know the publication history of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam*. I recently had an opportunity to study the medical history of East Asia at the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine<sup>4)</sup> and investigated the number and nature of editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* housed in the university's library.

The library of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine was established on October 15, 1954 and currently holds nearly 300000 books. It is one of the most important such collections in China and houses an enormous amount of research material for the study of traditional medicine and medical history. The library's collection includes 5790 books on traditional Chinese medicine, 2042 thread-bound medical books, and 162 books that were woodblock-printed before the Qing Dynasty.

The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was the culmination of traditional Korean medicine and greatly contributed to medical advances in East Asia. I conducted an ownership search of editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in the classical medical text section of the library of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

## Methods

I investigated archival records of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in the 1992 edition of *The Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Library Bibliography of Traditional Chinese Medicine* (hereafter referred to as “the Bibliography”) compiled and owned by The Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. I matched individual editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* actually held at the library with information on editions listed in the Bibliography.

## Results

The Bibliography lists 8 editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam*: 2 in Korean and 6 in Chinese. However, I discovered that the library held 2 Korean editions and 7 Chinese editions (2 woodblock print editions, 3 lithograph editions, 1 photocopied edition, and 1 edition printed with movable type), thus accounting for 9 editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* (Table 1). The edition that was not documented in the Bibliography was a lithograph by the Saoye Shanfang publisher. In addition, the original Korean script, *ie, onmun*, in the Book on Liquid Medications in the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* had been deleted from the lithograph editions produced during the Qing Dynasty and from the present-day edition printed with movable type.

A comprehensive study of existing editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in China is central to mapping the historical distribution and transformation of the text in East Asia. The results of this study suggest that re-evaluating and re-documenting the Bibliography will yield valuable information on the historical development of traditional medi-

Table 2 Contents of *Dong Eui Bo Gam*

Topic	Number (Volume)	Content
Overview of the Inner Body	1	Body constituent · Essence · Qi · Mind
	2	Blood · Dream · Voices · Language · Fluid of Humor · Phlegm-retained fluid
	3	Five viscera and six bowels · Liver · Heart · Spleen · Lung · Kidney · Gallbladder · Stomach · Small Intestine · Large Intestine · Bladder · Triple Energizer · Placenta · insect
	4	Urine · Feces
External Appearance	1	Face · Complexion · Eye
	2	Ear · Nose · Speech · Tooth · Throat · Neck · Back
	3	Chest · Breast · Abdomen · Umbilical Region · Back · Side body · Skin · Flesh · Pulse · General terms · Bones
	4	Hand · Foot · Hair · Sex Organs · Anus
Various Disease	1	Heaven and Earth Arc-pushing-qi · Diagnosis · Pattern Identification · Pulse Diagnosis · Medicinal · Vomit · Sweat · Excrement
	2	Wind · Cold Book One
	3	Cold Book Two · Summer Heat · Dampness · Dryness · Fire
	4	Internal Damage · Consumptive Disease
	5	Cholera · Vomiting · Cough
	6	Aggregation-accumulation · Dropsy · Abdominal Dropsy · Wasting-thirst · Jaundice
	7	Ague · Pestilence · Pathogenic Factor Noble · Carbuncle and Deep-rooted Carbuncle Book One
	8	Carbuncle and Deep-Rooted Carbuncle Book Two · Various Sore
	9	Various Injury · Detoxification · Emergency · Mystery Illness · Various Direction
	10	Woman
	11	Infant
Liquid Medications	1	Decoction Rating · Water part · Earth part · Grain part · Human part · Fowl part · Beast part
	2	Fish part · Insect part · Fruit part · Vegetable part · Herb part Book One
	3	Herb part Book Two · Tree part · Jade part · Stone part · Gold part
Acupuncture and Moxibustion	1	Acupuncture and Moxibustion

This table is made omitting 2 volumes of catalog.

cine. The discovery of an undocumented edition of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* suggests that other unrecorded editions of this historical text might be present in other research and educational institutions.

The original *Dong Eui Bo Gam* has annotations in Korean script in the Book on Liquid Medications. I found that this script remains in all Korean and Chinese woodblock print editions, but is absent from the Qing Dynasty lithograph editions and from the present-day textbook edition. The Book on Liquid Medications contains various prescriptions and was written in a practical rather than a theoretical manner. The inclusion of Korean script in this book must have been for the benefit of the general public, because Chinese characters were not common. The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was written in a simple, colloquial style to make it easier for people with little medical knowledge to understand and use the text. Thus, its therapies were available to remote farming communities that otherwise had little or no access to medical care.<sup>5)</sup> The Korean script was prob-

ably left out of the Qing Dynasty woodblock print editions and the present-day textbook edition because Korean script is not used in China.

## Discussion

The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* is composed of books comprising 25 volumes: an Introduction and Table of Contents (2 volumes), an Overview of the Inner Body (internal organs and mind; 4 volumes), a Book on External Appearance (external organs, including sense and reproductive organs; 4 volumes), a Book on Various Diseases (11 volumes), a Book on Liquid Medications (prescriptions; 3 volumes), and a Book on Acupuncture and Moxibustion (1 volume) (Table 2). Each book starts with basic theory and ends with systematic descriptions of evidence-based clinical approaches. Its most notable characteristic is the presence of annotations in Korean script in the Book on Liquid Medications.<sup>6)</sup> After publication of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* in 1613, Korean medicine established a unique medical system, known as

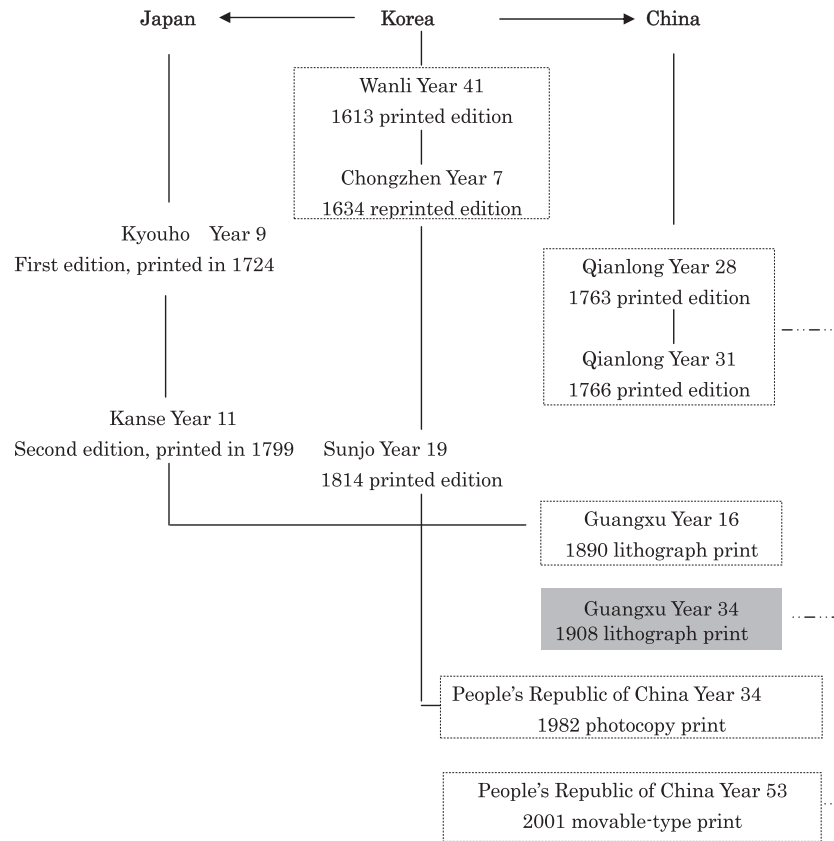


Fig. 1 Editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* housed in the classical medical text section of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The editions are shown by boxes and dotted lines. The uncataloged edition is half-tone dot meshing.

### *Dongui.*

*Dong Eui Bo Gam* is a master compilation of Korean medicine that greatly influenced traditional Chinese medicine and contributed to the development of Japan's medical system, known as *kampo*. It is truly the key to understanding the development of East Asian medical systems.<sup>7)</sup>

With its prominent educational centers, such as the Chinese Medicine Training Center and the International Acupuncture Education Center, the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine has been the leading research institute since its establishment in 1954. This study revealed that the library houses Korean, Chinese, and Japanese versions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* and that one of the lithograph editions, dating from 1908 (Guangxu year 34 in China), was not recorded in the Bibliography. This lithograph edition from the Saoye Shanfang was reprinted from the Chinese edition published by Biyutang. Another lithograph edition, dated 1890 (Guangxu year 16 in China), originated from a Japanese version. In contrast, the edition published by the People's Medical Publishing House in

1982 was reprinted from an edition of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* published in 1814 during the King Sunjo era in Korea (Fig. 1). The latter book is still in print in Korea, China, and Taiwan. It is apparent that the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* remains a valuable reference not only in present-day China, but also in surrounding countries.<sup>8)</sup>

### Conclusion

The present results indicate that the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Library Bibliography does not include all Chinese versions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* that are housed, along with Korean editions, in the Classical medical text section. In addition, with regard to the woodblock editions, the Korean and Chinese editions have different characteristics and have been edited differently, in line with the country and era of publication. The photocopied version is currently the most commonly distributed edition in China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, and has been quoted in several books on Chinese medicine.

## Future Research

Compilation of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Library Bibliography started in 1985 and continued for 5 years. During that time, 5790 different books on Chinese medicine were catalogued, of which 2360 and 3430 were published before and after 1949, respectively. There are 2024 thread-bound books, including 163 (excluding duplicates) woodblock-printed books dating before the Qing Dynasty. These books have been classified into 23 categories: (1) Medical Politics (dated after October 1949), (2) Classical Medicine, (3) *Shoukan* (acute febrile infectious diseases, such as typhoid), (4) *Kinki* (various chronic diseases), (5) Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine (Comprehensive Medicine), (6) Basic Theory of Traditional Chinese Medicine, (7) Traditional Chinese Medicine, (8) Prescriptions, (9) Traditional Chinese Medicine Therapy, (10) Acupuncture and Moxibustion, (11) Clinical Cases/Clinical Controversies/Narrative Medicine, (12) Case Studies, (13) Infectious Diseases (Traditional Chinese Epidemiology), (14) Internal Medicine, (15) Surgery, (16) Orthopedics and Traumatology, (17) Gynecology and Obstetrics, (18) Pediatrics, (19) Otorhinolaryngology/stomatology, (20) Philological Perspective on Traditional Chinese Medicine, (21) Classical Medicine, (22) Lexicons (Bibliographies and Indexes), and (23) Publication Series. The *Dong Eui Bo Gam* is listed in the Outline of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Comprehensive Medicine).

As the present study revealed, the Bibliography does not list all editions of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* housed in the library, which casts doubt on the true value of the Bibliography. Thus, compilation of a new bibliography may be necessary. Future research on the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* should include (1) reclassifying woodblock-printed editions published in China and constructing a detailed table of descent based on this reclassification, (2) determining which Chinese medical texts have quoted the *Dong Eui Bo Gam*, (3) determining when the *Dong Eui Bo Gam* was introduced to

China, and (4) evaluating the overall impact of the text on Chinese medicine. It should be noted that the present study was not conducted to discover a new edition of the text or to search for a specific edition of the text. It was simply initiated, as part of a long-term research project, to accomplish the abovementioned goal of emphasizing the value of the *Dong Eui Bo Gam*. It was essential to conduct this study using the Bibliography at the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine because of the historical significance of that university in Chinese medicine.

## Note

Part of this study was presented as a poster presentation at the 15th International Congress of Oriental Medicine.

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(J): in Japanese

# 南京中医薬大学に所蔵する「東医寶鑑」の文献学的調査

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## 要約

**背景：**『東医寶鑑』は朝鮮の伝統医学を代表する重要な書物であり、2009年ユネスコ世界記録遺産に医学書としては世界で初めて登録された。本書が成立して以後、中国はもとより、当時の日本の医学に及ぼした功績は少なくない。したがって、中国における本書の版本を調査し、歴史的な出版状況を明らかにすることは、東アジアの医史学研究において大変価値のある情報となり得るものと言える。

**目的：**南京中医薬大学の古医籍部に所蔵されている『東医寶鑑』の文献学的調査を行ったので報告する。

**方法：**今回、1992年に刊行された『南京中医学図書館館蔵中医書目』をもとに版本の調査を行った。

**結果：**今回の調査結果から、南京中医薬大学図書館に所蔵されている『東医寶鑑』の版本は、「書目」に記載されていた8部（朝鮮版本2部、中国版本6部）よりも1部多い9部（朝鮮版本2部、中国版本7部）が存在することが明らかとなった。

**結語：**この版本の調査をもとに、今後は中国全土における『東医寶鑑』の所蔵調査などを行うことが、東アジアの医史学を研究するうえで重要な課題であると考えた。

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