

## Chasing Wang Yingming's *Li Ti Lue* : On Two Japanese Rare Copies Printed in 1646

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### Abstract

Around 1609 Wang Yingming began to learn western learning from Li Zhizhao, who was Zhifu of Kaizhou. Unfortunately, Wang died in 1614 and left his manuscript of the *Li Ti Lue* which was thought as the first work written by a Chinese *literatus* under the impact of western learning. In 1639, his second son Wang Yang was the leading official of Xiangyuan, Shanxi and printed the first edition of the *Li Ti Lue*. After the fall of the reign of Chongzhen and Hongguang, Wang Yang surrendered himself to Qing. He was assigned as Yushi and sponsored the southern area of Yangtze River. In the middle of 1646, he went to Changshu for the inspection of the transportation of grain by ships in that area, under his influence Mao Jin produced the *Chong Ke Li Ti Lue*, i.e., the reprint of the *Li Ti Lue*, in the Jiguge.

Beside following six extant 1646 copies of the *Chong Ke Li Ti Lue*, the author chased two Japanese copies in the Seikado Bunko and Tohoku University, confirmed them as the *Chong Ke Li Ti Lue* printed in 1646, went back to their individual histories of transformation into Japan, and found their connections and prominent differences. In 1907 in its deal with the family of Lu Xinyuan, Seikado Bunko bought a copy which had the same formal title page made in the Jiguge as that of the National Central Library at Taipei. Since late 1930s Fujiwara Matsusaburo had been interested in history of Japanese mathematics and related fields, in 1940 he purchased a copy. Since then he visited Seikado Bunko several times, he made 4 hand-written items in his copy to reflect the connections and prominent differences between those two rare copies in Japan. It becomes a very special case in history of publication, book keeping and reading.

**Keywords:** Wang Yingming, Wang Yang, Jiguge, *Chong Ke Li Ti Lue*, Seikado Bunko, Tohoku University, Fujiwara Matsusaburo