

MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES GROUP

WORKSHOP IN VENICE

2004, 10/12 September

ABSTRACTS

TAKEUCHI Keiichi

Geographical Societies and Colonialism. Comparative Considerations of Italy and Japan

The geographical societies established mainly in many western cities advocated commonly the promotion of geographical exploration and research and the diffusion of geographical knowledge. This coincided the dawn of new era of western civilization: the appearance since the 18th century of new philosophical and scientific currents, the possibilities given by the development of material culture with industrialization and just emerging system of colonial exploitation by western powers and the innovated task imposed to geographical practices especially to school geography for the formation of national identity in the process of nation-building. This is a comparative study, from a such a view point, of La Societa' Geografica Italiana founded in 1867 and the Tokyo Geographical Society founded in 1887. In the first years of the 20th century both societies experienced a transformation of their character as many other geographical societies did; its involvement in colonialism now took more indirect form or in the guise of the praxis of the professional geographers. The SGI remained more influential institution under the fascist regime than the TGS under the Japanese militarism.

TAKENAKA Katsuyuki

Development of Wine Industry in Spain: Three Pioneer Regions in Commercial Wine Production

Commercialization of wine production arrived in Spain in relatively recent periods and was limited, in the initial stages, to some few areas of the country. In this presentation, three pioneer regions, Jerez, Penedès and Rioja, are selected to analyze the transition to commercial wine production in a comparative perspective. Special attention is paid to the leading entrepreneurs of each region that played an important role to develop the potential of the sector with modern vinification methods. What distinguishes each region from the others is not only the geographical or economic origin of the leading entrepreneurs, but the way they responded to the physical and locational conditions proper to each region. Distinctive behaviors of the leaders also conditioned to a great extent the relationship to be established with the other operators involved in the wine industry. Finally, some spatial implications of this relationship are pointed out through considerations on the physical and functional differences found inside of the region.

BRIGUGLIO Lino

Business in Gozo: Taking Advantage of Small Size

The paper outlines the strengths and weaknesses of small Gozitan firms, and argues that the chances of survival of such firms in a competitive setting depend on their ability to exploit the advantages and/or to minimise the disadvantages associated with small size. Gozo is a small island forming part of the Maltese archipelago, with an area of about 67 sq km and a population of about 30,000. Its economy depends heavily on agriculture, tourism, and the public sector. The gainfully occupied population, when compared to that of mainland Malta, contains a larger proportion of self-employment. The average size of firms is smaller than that of mainland Malta, and many firms are family businesses, often consisting of one or two employees. There are a number of areas where the Government can and should intervene, however this should not be aimed at promoting protection, but to enable Gozitan firms to compete better with imported products.

USUKI Akira

Rewriting the History of Palestine/Israel?

The historiographies of Palestine and Israel by the Palestinians and the Israelis have conflicted with each other for a long time on the background of the ongoing Arab-Israel conflict and the Palestine Question. Both of the peoples have made energetic endeavors to justify their own causes from the viewpoints of nationalism. Recently, however, since the late 1880s new historians emerged in Israel so as to challenge traditional Zionist historiography based on the discourses of Jewish nationalism. How do the new historians reinterpret and rewrite the history of Israel/Palestine as one land with two peoples. In this paper I try to survey a new trend of historiography in Israel, that is, the new history of Palestine/Israel. While such survey will demonstrate the emergence and development of new academic discourse in Israel, deep perception gaps among the Palestinians and the Israelis will be bridged by a newly-constructed discourse on Palestine/Israel.

TATEISHI Hirotaka

The National Holiday and Hispanity (Hispanidad) in Spanish Nation-Building

A National Holiday is normally considered as the day when the modern nation state celebrates various civil ceremonies, which symbolize the foundation or the origin of the nation. Spain, like England and France, is a nation state founded on the ethnic state of the ancient regime. But her national holiday, October 12th, is not meant to signify her continuity from the past like England's, or to signify her discontinuity from the past like France's. As is well known, on October 12th 1492 Christopher Columbus, the Genovese navigator, reached America and opened a new era in human history, the so called "Discovery of America". Of course, this occurrence symbolizes the beginning of Imperial Spain, but not the foundation of the nation state of Spain in any way. Why did Spain in 1918 have to choose this day as the national holiday and why does it continue to celebrate it as such even today?

ARMANGUÉ I HERRERO Joan

Poetic multilingualism in Sardinia during the eighteenth century

We are going to present a series of observations related to the work of the noble Bartolomeo Simon of Alghero. His poetic production, neglected systematically by the fundamental texts that analyze the end of XVIII century, was supposed to be read only in a family context and characterised by the use of Catalan and Sardinian (reserved to popular poetry), Spanish (to perpetuate the family's traditional nobility of Castilian origins) and Italian (for formal poetical situations).

During the second half of the eighteenth century, when the Italian aesthetic traditions arrived in Sardinia, the social classes who seized literary academies were the middle class and the nobility of Alghero. A series of reforms were made in order to free Sardinian teaching from hits decadence. Despite Latin being the main lingua franca in teaching, modern languages were also in use; however, Spanish and Sardinian, artificially introduced in the poetical habits of the city, did not manage to survive to our days, while the only language of traditional poetry in this city is its characteristic Catalan.

OHTOSHI Tetsuya

The Supervision of the Hereafter: The Egyptian City of the Dead and the Public Locus During the Mamluk Egypt

On the outskirts of Cairo city, there stands Muqattam Mountain. From beneath it, toward the south of the Fustat ruins was the area termed “The City of the Dead (al-Qarafas).” The area was known not only as a huge cemetery historically including tombs of Muslims, Christians and Jews, but also as “the most famous pleasure resort” of the Egyptian Middle Ages.

The Egyptian City of the Dead was for all social strata. For the elites of the dynasty, it was a stage from which they could show off their authority and power. They reiterated therein official parades and mass prayers, while building enormous religious institutions. Meanwhile the common people, including women, rushed into the City of the Dead, to visit famous mausolea and fulfill their prayers through the mediation of buried Muslim saints. Also, they were often eager to change the names on the tomb stones, or even to create/fabricate tombs for well known persons.

Thus the City of the Dead formed a public locus where all strata of Cairo citizens willingly interacted and formed relationships. For these reasons, *muhtasib*, the superintendent of markets and public moral behavior, was ordered to supervise these cemetery areas. This presentation aims at discussing the modes of existence for both authority and the public in Islamic Egypt, through reconsidering people's relationships to the City of the Dead.

KATO Hiroshi

Modern Alexandria: a Mediterranean City

The aim of my presentation is to give a general view of Alexandria, a typical cosmopolitan city in the modern Mediterranean world, in the context of the modern history of Egypt, and to point out some characteristics of the city, being based upon the demographic, economic and social statistical data and GIS maps in the end of 19th century and the beginning of 20th century. The emphasis is put on the distribution and composition of foreign inhabitants and the educational situation in Alexandria. The presentation is composed of two chapters as follows. Chapter 1: Alexandria: a modern city. (1) Alexandria in modern history of Egypt. (2) Demographic trend. (3) Residential development. Chapter 2: Alexandria : a cosmopolitan city. (1) European city or Mediterranean city? (2) Middle of 19th century: a crossroad of Mediterranean Alexandria. (3) Composition of the inhabitants of Alexandria by district. (4) Educational situation in modern Alexandria.

EL-SHAZLY Ali

Neo-Colonial Buildings in Modern Alexandria

This study shows how a single transformation of building interior may influence the city structure. The historical Arabic “Wekala” building in Alexandria was characterized by arcaded courtyard of commercial activities and residential flats in the upper floors. In 1855 the expansion of the town projected from the zone of “Wekala” buildings, but transformed the traditional courtyard into interior “gallery” and named “Okelle”. The Italian engineer, F. Mancini, designed these “Okelle” buildings around a plaza named Place des Consuls. Later in 1905 the “Okelles” redeveloped into crossing galleries of Italian Neo-Renaissance “Galleria” building style. In the same year of 1905 the plaza was extended to form a new promenade along the sea. From the plaza projected a regular network of streets and open spaces for the expanding city. At present Place des Consuls with its “Galleria” buildings forms the essence of modern Alexandria to preserve.

LANARO Paola*Periferie senza centro. Sistemi fieristici nella Terraferma veneta*

In una ideale continuazione della ricerca avanzata nel volume pubblicato nel 1999, *I mercati della Repubblica*, si intende dimostrare come più che una regione economica, si siano formati all'interno dello stato di terraferma bacini economici che si muovevano indipendentemente o quasi dalla capitale Venezia. Il ruolo delle fiere all'interno di questi bacini risulta fondamentale: le merci entravano e uscivano dai *fora* fieristici evitando il pagamento di dazi totalmente e/o in alcuni casi e per talune merci parzialmente. In questo senso era vivo l'interesse dei mercanti veneti, italiani e stranieri a fare confluire le loro merci e a scambiarle durante i periodi di fiera. Verona e Bergamo-inserite in reti ampie che vedevano al loro interno la prima collegamenti con quelle di Vicenza e Bolzano, la seconda con quella di Brescia e in stretta relazione con l'economia e la finanza della società milanese- costituivano gli incontri più dinamici e più rilevanti come giro d'affari. Facendo perno su queste occasioni di scambio le merci trattate si spalmarono su uno spazio che andava a coprire l'Italia centro-meridionale e l'Oltralpe in stretta sintonia con alcune fiere dell'Europa centrale che mantenevano inalterato il loro dinamismo ancora in età moderna. Le fiere dello stato veneto rimangono vitali per tutto il sei-settecento, vale a dire in un periodo che registra il fallimento e la crisi di altre fiere dell'Europa occidentale, ma non di quella centro-orientale. Anzi con il passaggio verso le cosiddette "fiere in muro" tentano una risposta di maggiore modernità in competizione con i grandi centri portuali come Londra. Tacitamente consapevoli di una pratica dello scambio che sfuggiva ad ogni rilevazione centrale, le magistrature della Dominante nel corso del Settecento, tuttavia, espliciteranno in vari documenti il loro sconcerto davanti a tale comportamento e tenteranno, inutilmente, di porvi rimedio.

Peripheries without a centre. Fair systems in the Venetian Terraferma.

The aim of this paper is to proceed with a research which has already produced a book in 1999 (*I mercati della Repubblica*), i. e. we want to prove that the Venetian Terraferma was not an homogeneous economic region but was formed by different economic zones which were almost independent from the capital city. The role of the fairs present in these economic zones was of capital importance: goods went in and out of the fairs without the payment either of all duties or of part of them. For this reason the Venetian, Italian and foreign merchants were interested in bringing and selling goods during a fair period. The most important and dynamic centres were Verona and Bergamo. They were within two large commercial networks: the first one was linked with the fairs of Vicenza and Bolzano, the second one with that of Brescia and Milanese economics and society. Using these pivotal points, goods reached the central and Southern Italy and the other side of the Alps, in accordance with some fairs of central Europe, still important in the Modern Age. The fairs of the Venetian Republic remained lively during the 17-18th c.; in the same period other Western European fairs decayed, while those of Eastern Europe went on functioning. The Venetian ones tried also to renew themselves: they developed towards the so-called "fiere in muro" which could compete with the great ports, as London. During the 18th c., the Venetian central offices were silently aware of the economic uses which escaped to their direct control; however several documents show that they were upset by this behaviour and tried in vain to contrast it.

SAITO Hiromi*Venice after the Battle of Prevesa (1538)*

The Smuggling of Greek Wheat and Confiscation of the Cargos of Captured Foreign Ships.

In 1540, a Venetian agriculturalist, Alvise Cornaro, drafted a petition directed at high government officials, of which the main contention had to do with the food problem. According to him, Venice

was finally brought to accept unfavorable peace conditions, not through battle, but through starvation.

After the battle of Prevesa, Venice was no longer the most potent sea power in the Mediterranean region, but had begun to be a minor power that lived in fear of any interruptions to her food supply. A Florentine merchant named Francesco Lioni ran a commercial company in Venice in the 1530's and 40's. He left us seven business documents. Among them, there are two letter-books dated 1539 and 1540 (preserved in the Archivio di Stato di Firenze), in which we can follow how the Venetian government made every effort to get wheat immediately after the Battle of Prevesa, when Venice was suffering a great food crisis caused by an Italian famine and a Turkish embargo on Greek wheat bound for Venice.

Venice did the smuggling of Greek wheat and confiscation of the cargos (included wheat) of captured foreign ships. A similar logic was applied in the capture of wheat-bearing ships during a food shortage, and of ships carrying other types of merchandise during a goods shortage. Because it seems that Venice deemed it necessary to forestall a goods shortage that might cause a decline in her status as an international market, so she captured ships bound for Ragusa or Ancona carrying "Levante" goods.

DAL BORGO Michela

Popoli, etnie e religioni nei dispacci degli ambasciatori veneziani (secc. XVI-XVII)

«Se la verità è l'anima della storia, della verità storica le memorie e le relazioni possono dirsi la fonte» (Sebastiano Foscarini, 1684).

La comunicazione intende illustrare come, attraverso i dispacci e le relazioni degli ambasciatori veneziani, presenti sin dal XV secolo e fino alla caduta della Serenissima (1797) presso le corti straniere, sia possibile ricostruire la storia europea nell'Età moderna.

Gli ambasciatori descrivevano, con dovizia di particolari, ogni aspetto dello Stato ove erano stati inviati: dalle figure dei regnanti, alle trame della Corte sino a penetrarne la politica, l'amministrazione, l'economia, la struttura militare ma pure la geografia, gli strati sociali, i diversi "credo" religiosi, gli usi ed i costumi delle diverse etnie.

"Diversità" e "concordanze" dei popoli del Mediterraneo emergono chiare da questi documenti – oggetto di varie edizioni critiche a stampa – e li rendono preziosa fonte per comprendere, in una prospettiva storica lunga secoli, le possibilità e le difficoltà dell'attuale progetto di riunificazione europea.

Nations, peoples and religions in Venetian ambassadors' letters (16-17th c.)

«If truth is the soul of history, memoirs and diplomatic reports may be called the source of historical truth» (Sebastiano Foscarini, 1684).

Venetian ambassadors had used to write official reports and letters since the 15th c. till the end of the Republic (1797). The aim of this paper is to show how this kind of source allows to reconstruct the European history in the Modern Age.

Ambassadors used to describe fully every aspect of the state where they had been sent: they wrote not only about sovereigns, court plots, politics, administration, economics, army, but also about the geography of the country, its social classes, and the religions, usages and customs of different peoples.

Differences and likenesses appear in these documents, which had been edited many times. They are a precious source to comprehend, also after many centuries, the possibilities and the difficulties of the present project of unifying Europe.

HORII Yutaka

The Venetian Consulate in Alexandria under the Circassian Mamluks

In the Later Middle Ages, Alexandria functioned as a center of the Levant trade engaged in by European merchants; the Venetian consul residing there played a part of pivot in the administrative network connecting between Egypt and Venice. The Venetian Levant trade in the Circassian Mamluk era was characterized by the general tendency of growing until the end of the fifteenth century on the one hand, and the conflicting commercial interests between the sultanate and the Venetians on the other; the latter was temporarily serious in the second quarter of the fifteenth century and caused the stagnation of trade at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The analysis of role played by the consul during the era will shed some light on the conditions of continuing trade and show an example of the structure of cross-cultural contact in the Mediterranean World.

PEDANI Maria Pia

The Venetian Consuls in Egypt and Syria in the Ottoman Period

At the beginning of the 16th c., when the Ottoman ruler conquered Egypt, the Venetian consular network spread from London to Bruges, from Messina to Naples, from Alexandria to Damascus. The official representatives of the Republic had to protect the Venetian communities abroad, as well as to inform the central government about trade and international politics. Their letters and reports are still a valuable historical source. A close analysis of the consular reports from Egypt and Syria from 1525 to 1664 informs us that the Venetian Syrian trade suffered in the first half of the 16th c. and then recovered in the following years; on the contrary the Venetian Egyptian trade flourished till the plague and famine of 1554-55 and then experienced a more and more dangerous crisis; however, in the following century they both declined; then, the long war for Crete put a momentary end to the Venetian consular presence in the Ottoman Empire. The aim of this paper is to study the reasons of the growth and decline of the Venetian Levantine trade on the basis of consular reports.