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OFFSHORE ASIA

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OFFSHORE ASIA

MARITIME INTERACTIONS IN
EASTERN ASIA BEFORE STEAMSHIPS

EDITED BY

FUJITA KAYOKO • MOMOKI SHIRO • ANTHONY REID



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Cover Image: Painting of a Japanese vessel trading to Southeast Asia under the system of red-seal passes (*shuinjo*) issued by the Tokugawa Shogunate. The ship in question belonged to the Sueyoshi merchant family of Hirano, Osaka, and a very diverse group of Asian and European merchants are shown celebrating its successful return voyage to Tonkin (northern Vietnam). The painting was done in 1633/4 by the artist Kimura as a votive tablet presented to the Kiyomizu-dera temple in Kyoto, where it remains until today.

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PREFACE

This book was stimulated by the aim of deepening comparison and dialogue between historical research on Northeast Asia and that on Southeast Asia. Two centres collaborated in the joint research project which provided the groundwork for the book. One was the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. The Institute's Southeast Asia–China Interactions Cluster brought together scholars working on European-language, Chinese-language and Southeast Asian sources in an effort to understand the long-term relationships between China and her southern neighbours. The other was the Kaiiki Ajiashi Kenkyūkai — the Research Group of Maritime Asian History or Kaiikiken, established in 1993 and headquartered in Osaka, Japan. In cooperation with research groups on Central Asian history and early modern global history, the main axis for the activities of Kaiikiken's members was provided by the 21st Century Centre of Excellence Program “Interface Humanities” at Osaka University, 2003–7. Kaiikiken's principal research theme was the medieval and early modern maritime history of the area spanning Northeast and Southeast Asia. This work included exchange with scholars from Korea, China, Taiwan, and other regions. The Singapore and Osaka groups jointly hosted two international workshops: one in October 2004 in Okinawa titled “Northeast Asia in Maritime Perspective: A Dialogue with Southeast Asia” and one in Nagasaki in October 2006 titled “Dynamic Rimlands and Open Heartlands: Maritime Asia as a Site of Interactions”. This book is a selection of papers presented at these workshops, all extensively revised for publication. A series of smaller panels and seminars were also held on related themes, including a session titled “the European Presence in Early-Modern East and Southeast Asia: Examination of the Concept of Early-Modern Empire” at the International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) conference in Taiwan in December 2004.

We are grateful for the support for these activities furnished by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (the 21st Century Centre of Excellence Program at Osaka University “Interface Humanities”), the Suntory Foundation (“A Theoretical Study of Continuity and Discontinuity in ‘Early Modern’ and ‘Modern’ East and Southeast Asia”), and the Asia Research Institute. The editors acknowledge a special debt to Geoff Wade of the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (ISEAS), who was a critical part of the dialogue and infrastructure which enabled the conferences to take place, and again played an invaluable role preparing the book for publication. Deborah Chua of ARI was also very helpful in bringing some consistency to the usages of research papers coming from different traditions, and Joyce Zaide of ISEAS in formatting the manuscript and maps.

Because of the nature of this cooperative interaction, we have included Chinese, Japanese and Korean characters as well as Romanized names of authors and titles in the extensive combined bibliography. We hope that the book will thereby be of value to those working within both Asian language and European language traditions.

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Map 1 Eastern Asia in the 13th–16th Centuries



Source: Recreated from a blank map available at http://d-maps.com/carte.php?lib=east_asia_map&num_car=70&lang=en.