

## Overview of Archival Records of Astronomy and Meteorology in Japan

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In this report, I shortly summarize historical records of rare natural phenomena in Japan, mainly relating to astronomy and partially to meteorology. Astronomical and meteorological records written in the Japanese official chronicles go back to the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. In 1934, Shigeru Kanda (神田茂, 1894-1974) published the monumental three-volume books entitled 『日本天文史料』 (Japanese Astronomical Records). He also wrote in 1947 『日本天文气象史料』 (Japanese Astronomical and Meteorological Records). The former covered the period from the 7<sup>th</sup> century up to 1600. Shoji Ohsaki (大崎正次) published in 1994 『近世日本天文史料』 (Japanese Astronomical Records of Edo Period) whose data span the period of 1601-1867. This book is supposed to be a continuation of Kanda's work. Those two works list and describe in chronological order, solar and lunar eclipses (日月食), conjunctions between the Moon, planets and stars (月星接近, 惑星现象), day-light stars (星昼见), comets (彗星), meteors and meteorites (流星, 陨石), auroral events (赤气), etc., with reference annotations.

Another valuable data source of rare natural phenomena that has not been explored well yet is diaries and reports by European travelers and the Jesuit Missionary who visited the Japan archipelago on sailing ships. Their observations are sometimes important in comparing an event in Japan with the corresponding one in other countries, because the native people often tend to look over it as a non-rare phenomenon. Several tens of such traveling records written by the Europeans are currently available in Japanese as 『异国丛书』 (Book Series of Foreign Travelers, 1927~) and 『新异国丛书』 (New Book Series of Foreign Travelers, 1964~), with many others that have not yet been translated into Japanese. I also briefly introduce the project now conducted by our team[1], which collects and catalogs books and documents on Japanese astronomy and relating disciplines written and published before 1870, and make a general inventory book of them. The inventory may be of some help in archiving rare natural phenomena as well.

### References

[1] Tsuko Nakamura (2004): The Japanese Astronomical Archives Project, *Journal of Astronomical Data*, **10**, 43