



Edited by Wu Shicun

What One Needs to Know about the Disputes between China and the Philippines



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Where are Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef ?

Huangyan Island, known internationally as Scarborough Shoal (formerly Minzhu Jiao or Democratic Reef), lies at $15^{\circ}07'N$ and $117^{\circ}51'E$ in the South China Sea and is part of China's Zhongsha Islands. Its reefs and rocks make a ring with a circumference of 55km, which encloses a lagoon with an area of about 130 sq km and a depth of 10 -



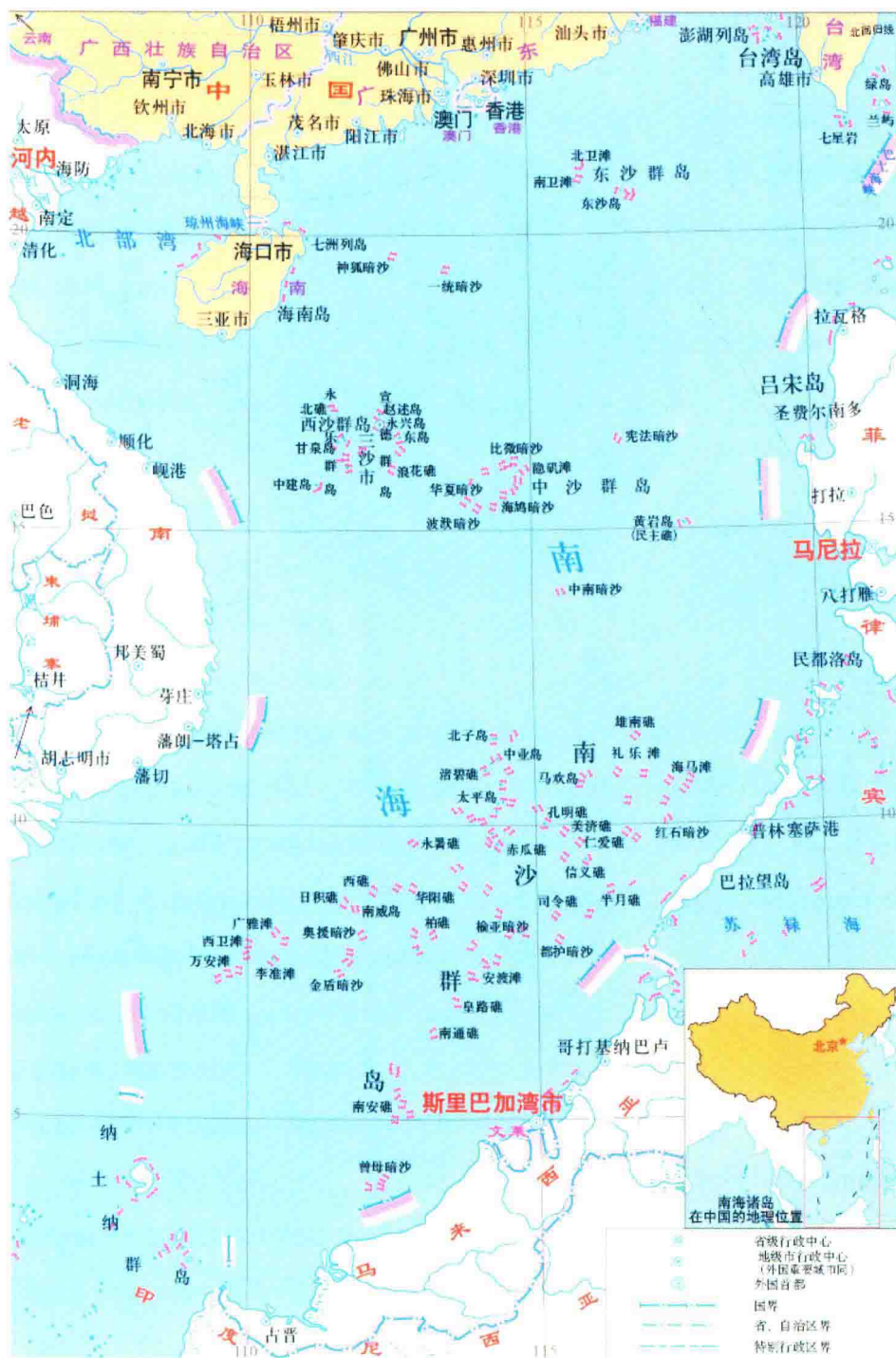
An Aerial View of Huangyan Island

20m.

Ren'ai Reef, known internationally as Second Thomas Shoal (formerly Ren'ai Shoal), is situated in the South China Sea between $9^{\circ}39'N$ to $9^{\circ}48'N$ and $115^{\circ}51'E$ to $115^{\circ}54'E$ and is part of China's Nansha Islands. Stretching about 15km from south to north and 5.6km from east to west, Ren'ai Reef is a ring of reefs and rocks, most of which show above the water at low tide. The northern half of the circle is mostly connected while the southern half is broken up into pieces, forming several reef gates.



An Aerial View of Ren'ai Reef



Map of Islands in the South China Sea 【审图号：GS(2015)77 号】

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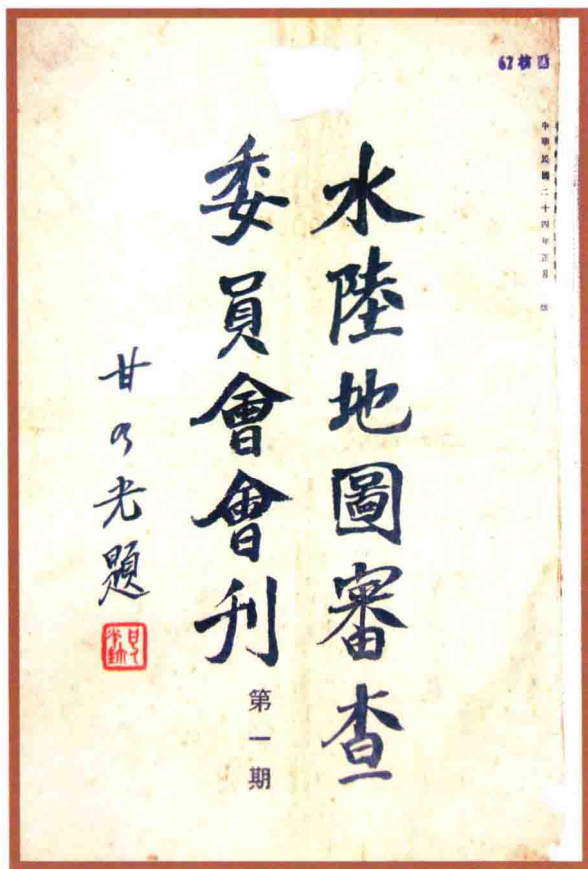
**When did China discover
and name Huangyan Island
and Ren'ai Reef ?**

China discovered the South China Sea islands early in the Eastern Han Dynasty (first century AD to third century AD) and named the South China Sea, Zhanghai, and the Nansha Islands, Qitou. From the 1000s to the early 1900s, China called the Xisha Islands, Shitang and the Nansha Islands, Changsha. Detailed information on historic island names and locations in the South China Sea can be found in *the Genglu Bu*, an ancient Chinese navigation log written by Chinese fishermen during the Ming and the Qing dynasties, which records navigational routes in the South China Sea.

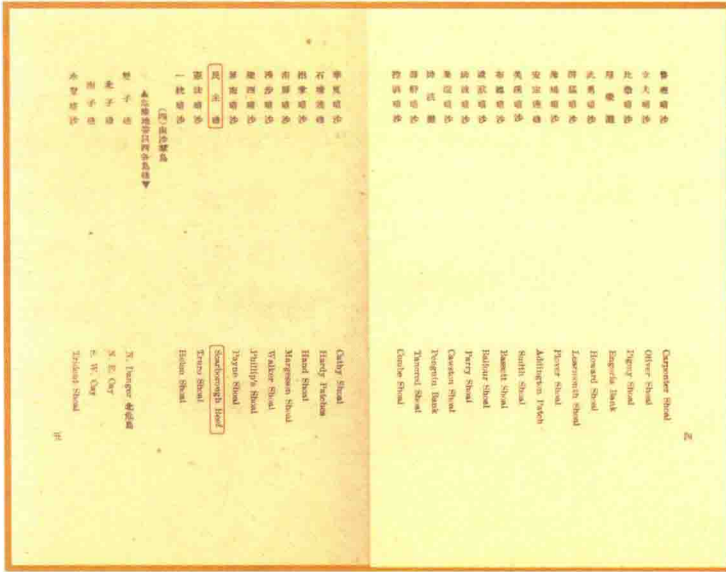
In 1935, the Water and Land Mapping Review Committee of the Chinese government approved and published the Chinese and English Names of the Nanhai (South China Sea) Islands, in which Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) and Ren'ai Reef (the Second Thomas Shoal)

were marked as part of the Zhongsha Islands and the Nansha Islands respectively. In 1947, the Department of Territory of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chinese government approved and publicized the names of 172 islands in the South China Sea, including Huangyan Island, then named Minzhu Jiao, as part of the Zhongsha Islands and Ren'ai Reef, then named Ren'ai Shoal, as part of the Nansha Islands. The Map of Islands in the South China Sea marking the island names and locations was officially published in 1948.

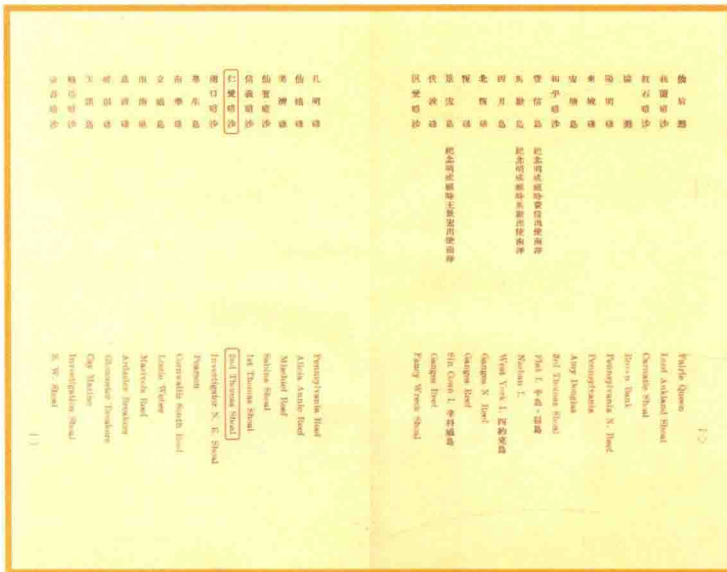
In the early 1980s, the Chinese government conducted a survey on island names in the South China Sea. In 1983, China Committee on Geographical Names was authorized to publicize a list of geographic names of some South China Sea islands, which used Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef as the standard names of the islands, with Minzhu Jiao as an alternative name for Huangyan Island.



Issue No.1 of the Journal of the Chinese Government's Water and Land Mapping Review Committee in 1935.



In 1947, the Department of Territory of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chinese government approved and publicized the geographical names of 172 islands in the South China Sea, including Huangyan Island, which was then named Minzhu Jiao in Chinese as part of the Zhongsha Islands.



In 1947, the Department of Territory of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chinese government approved and publicized the geographical names of 172 islands in the South China Sea, including Ren'ai Jiao, which was then named Ren'ai Ansha in Chinese as part of the Nansha Islands.

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How has China developed and exploited Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef and exercised effective jurisdiction?

Huangyan Island, Ren'ai Reef and their surrounding waters have been China's traditional fishing grounds since ancient times. Chinese fishermen have fished in this area for generations and have used Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef as a safe haven for their voyages in the South China Sea. *Genglu Bu*, an ancient Chinese navigation log recording navigational routes in the South China Sea, and other documents and literature contain records of Chinese fishermen's activities around Huangyan Island. Since the Eastern Han Dynasty, Chinese people have developed and exploited Huangyan Island, Ren'ai Reef and its surrounding waters, and the Chinese government has exercised effective management and jurisdiction over their activities. These historical facts are supported by official documents, local chronicles and official maps. Since the nineteenth century, many foreigners travelling to the islands in

the South China Sea have documented the Chinese people's developing and exploiting the islands in the South China Sea. For instance, the China Sea Directory published by British Royal Navy in 1868 recorded that Hainan fishermen lived by capturing sea cucumbers and shellfish and had left their traces on every island of the South China Sea, and that some fishermen lived permanently on islands in the Zhenghe Reef.



Genglu Bu (Route Map of the South China Sea)

The Water and Land Mapping Review Committee of the Chinese Government approved and publicized the names of 132 islands, shoals, reefs and sand bars in the South China Sea in 1935, and the Map of China's Islands in the South China Sea was issued later. Both listed Huangyan Island as part of the Zhongsha Islands and Ren'ai Reef as part of the Nansha Islands. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chinese government produced the Location Map of the South China Sea Islands in 1947, in which the names of the Dongsha, Xisha, Zhongsha and

Nansha Islands were clearly marked, together with 172 islands, shoals, reefs and sand bars, including Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef. In 1948, this Location Map was officially publicized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Chinese government as an appendix to the Map of Administrative Regions of the Republic of China.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China continued to exercise sovereignty over Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef. As Chinese Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai stated in his 1951 statement on the U.S. and UK's draft peace treaty with Japan and the San Francisco Conference, "the Xisha Islands and Nanwei Island, just like Nansha, Zhongsha and Dongsha islands, have always been China's territory. Although they had been occupied by Japan for some time during the war of aggression waged by Japanese imperialists, they were all taken back by the Chinese government following Japan's surrender." China issued the Statement of the People's Republic of China on the Territorial Sea in 1958, in which China reaffirmed again its sovereignty over the Dongsha, Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha Islands. In 1959, the Chinese Government established the Office for Xisha, Nansha and Zhongsha Islands' Affairs under the government of Guangdong Province on Yongxing Island, Xisha Islands.

In the early 1980s, the Chinese government conducted a survey of the names of the islands in the South China Sea. In 1983, the Committee on Geographical Names of China was authorized to publicize the geographical names of selected islands in the South China Sea, in which Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef were included as the standard names. In 1988, Xisha, Nansha, and Zhongsha Islands were

put under the administration of the newly-established Hainan Province. The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone publicized in 1992 provided in Article 2 that "the land territory of the People's Republic of China includes the mainland of the People's Republic of China and its coastal islands; Taiwan and all islands appertaining thereto including the Diaoyu Islands; Penghu Islands, Xisha Islands, Zhongsha Islands, and Nansha Islands; as well as all the other islands belonging to the People's Republic of China." Once again, China reaffirmed its sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea, including Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef. It needs to be emphasized that no country has ever opposed or disputed China's sovereignty over Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef. In June 2012, the Chinese government announced the establishment of Sansha City and has since further strengthened administrative jurisdiction over Xisha, Nansha and Zhongsha Islands.



In 1977, China's Ocean Expedition Team Conducted a Survey at Huangyan Island.

The Chinese government has also sent out scientific expeditions to Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Reef on many occasions. For instance, scientists from the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences landed on Huangyan Island for research activities in October 1977 and June 1978 respectively. The South China Sea Branch of the State Oceanic Administration organized a comprehensive survey of Huangyan Island in April 1985. The Chinese South China Sea Scientific Expedition Team stepped onto Huangyan Island for scientific research and erected a one-meter-high cement monument in 1994. The relevant departments of the Chinese government approved the application by radio amateurs to embark on Huangyan Island for radio exploration activities in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2007



In 1994, radio amateurs from China and other countries used BS7H call sign to send messages to the world from Huangyan Island for the first time. BS7H is a call sign internationally recognized for amateur radio communication from Huangyan Island. In this call sign, B refers to China's radio station, S refers to the islands in the South China Sea, 7 refers to the 7th zone of China's radio amateur, to which Hainan Province belongs, and H refers to Huangyan Island.

respectively. The Chinese Nansha Scientific Expedition Team landed on Ren'ai Reef in 1987 and left stone monuments and other markers on the reef.