

Gale's contributions to The Korea Magazine

From Richard Rutt's Bibliography

The Korea Magazine, Seoul. (See pages 53-58 of Rutt's Biography)

Printed at the Seoul YMCA Press and published from January 1917 to April 1919. The editorial board consisted of S A Beck (American Bible Society), W G Cram and W A Noble (methodists), and Gale. The object of the magazine was to give missionaries information about Korean culture and affairs. The majority of the articles were written by Gale.

Articles signed by Gale include regular monthly essays on aspects of the Korean language, and two other pieces.

Articles signed 'E.T.' (Esson Third) appeared during 1917; the most interesting is a symposium of quotations from Korean authors about tobacco.

Articles signed 'Spectator' appeared during 1917. They include a catena of translations about flies: a description of the sŏkchŏn ceremony at the Sŏnggyun-gwan; and an essay entitled 'Grind', discussing the Korean method of learning by sheer memory work, and suggesting that the Church will not succeed in imposing the western concept of learning-by thinking.

Articles signed 'A student of the Orient' form a series of eight entitled 'Korea's noted women'. All the women are Chinese.

'Yung Oon' is the signature on translations from Ch'oe Ch'iwŏn (mostly reprinted in HKP chapter 15), Sŏng Hyŏn (six anecdotes from Yongjae ch'onghwa), Yi Chesin and Kwŏn Ongin (the latter wrongly attributed to Yi Chesin) in the first two issues of the magazine.

Unsigned translations of eighty poems and stories are selected from twenty-nine authors. Eleven of the pieces are reprinted in HKP. Apart from pieces mentioned in the biography of Gale, the following points are of special interest: three passages from Hong Manjong Suno chi (seventeenth century) III 12-13, 55-9, 154-6; a letter of Hong Yangho (1724--1802) to Chi Yŏn, about christianity II 507-8; Im Ŏngnyŏng 'From Naksan monastery' (Sŏkch'ŏn chip VI 15- 16) III 5- 6; five stories from Kimun ch'onghwa, II 14, 22, 24, 27, 70; thirteen pieces from Sŏng Hyŏn Yongjae ch'onghwa; twenty pieces from Yi Kyubo; and three from Yi Talch'ung (d 1395).

Ten extracts from Kim Ch'angŏp Kajae Yŏnhaeng nok appeared monthly from July 1918 to April 1919. Parts were reprinted in HKP chapter 32. See above pp 280-3.

'Choon Yang' is a translation of the modern prose version of Ch'unhyang ka, written by Yi Haejo (1869-1927) and published as Okchunghwa - Ch'unhyang ka in 1911.

The first five issues of KM contain ten unsigned 'Questions and answers' on such matters as Korea's oldest monument, oldest poem, and the date of the introduction of the abacus. The latter mentions the older sugaji (sc. san'gaji counting-sticks).

An article entitled 'Odds and ends' explains why Koreans eat boiled grain with a spoon by saying that Confucius is recorded in Analects x as eating millet with a spoon. (The quotation is wrong: the phrase fan-shu-wu-i-chu, 'do not eat millet with chopsticks', is in Li-chil 29.)

Six articles during 1918 deal with 'Places of interest about Seoul'.

Six more deal with ancient remains from T'ung-kou and P'yŏngyang to Iksan, Puyŏ, and Kaya (Koryŏng).

Thirty-seven more articles deal with history, archaeology, religion, customs, and literature. The most interesting are: 'Hong Pongju', telling of Thomas Hong, a Roman catholic martyr of 1866 (Gale possessed his copy of the poems of Hong Kan (d 1304). It is now in Yonsei Library), I 306-7; a group of extracts about 'Tan'gun', chosen from some twenty sources, I 404-414; 'Village government in old Korea', a description of the old-style village headman, I 455-60; 'Christianity in Korea', an account of articles published in the Seoul daily Maeil sinbo 11- 17 October 1918 by Ch'unwŏn (Yi Kwang u); 'Korean playing-cards' (t'ujŏn), III 108-11; three articles on Korean literature, I 297-300, 354-56, II 293- 302 ; 'The kisaeng'. II 198- 202.