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**THE PRESIDENT`S REPORT** 1949-1950

It would appear that since the inauguration of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1900 there never has been a time when so great an interest in the Society has been shown. This is evident not only from the many and well attended lectures but also from the large numbers of new members, and the new enterprising experiment undertaken by the society, as evidenced for instance by the “Lectures on the spot” or “Field Days” at the ancient capital of the Silla Dynasty at Kyung-Ju, in April, which meant a four days trip by special train, undertaken by some seventy members and friends of the society. More of these Lecture Tours are being arranged.

The sale of the Society's Transactions has been most encouraging. These Transactions provide almost the only reliable information on Korea.

Many of the important subjects yet to be presented need a great deal of research which must necessitate a long expenditure of time, besides an acquaintance with the Korean language, and many of our members are unlikely to be in Korea for any length of time and it must be left largely to those who are residents of a longer duration in Korea to do this research work.

There are papers already presented, or about to be presented, which will undoubtedly be published in the Society's Transactions in the near future.

The unexpected and sudden death of Dr. Alice Appenzeller who was working on an interesting subject of “Education of Women in old Korea before the Introduction of Modern Education," will perhaps deprive us of a presentation of this interesting subject，unless a successor can be found to continue research in this subject.

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. H. H. Underwood who presided over the Society since its revival after the war until November, 1949. On his return from furlough in the United States in the coming Autumn we look forward to a renewal of his expert interest always so generously placed at disposal of the Society.

Charles Hunt,

President of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. [page84]

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY — KOREA BRANCH

DOLLAR ACCOUNT

INCOME EXPENDITURE

Dues $402.00 Printing Transactions $296.00

Sale of Transactions & Profiis on Miss Book on Pottery 6.00

Keith's Book and Prints 194.75 Expenses Mrs. Crans 10.00

Post 3.00

Changed for Won 100.00

Changed to Won 20.00

$696.75

335.00

Balance 361.00

$696.75 $696.75

**WON ACCOUNT**

INCOME EXPENDITURE

Dues 39,000.00 Transactions 40,000.00

Sales 103,594.00 Post. 1,340.00

Exchange. 40,000.00 Paper 2,700.00

182,594.00 Cash Book 500.00

Exchange , 100,000.00

Won , 144,540.00

Balance 38,054.00

Won 182,594.00 Won 182,594.00

Lt. Commissioner H. A. LORD

(S.A.) C.B.E. Treasurer.

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**REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY**

The annual meeting of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was held on November 16，1949 at the Seoul American School. Dr. H. H. Underwood, President, reviewed the year's activities and read the names of the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee for the coming year. The following officers were elected:

Rev. Charles Hunt, President

Mr. H. G. Underwood, Vice President

Mr. Gregory Henderson, Corresponding Secretary

Mr. M. W. Scherbacher, Recording Secretary

Lt. Commissioner H. A. Lord, C.B.E.，Treasurer

Mr. R. A. Kinney, Librarian

Mr. Vyvyan Holt, C.M.G., M.V.O., M.C., Councillor Bishop A. Cecil Cooper, Councillor

Dr. Harold Noble, Councillor

After the new president expressed appreciation to Dr. Underwood for his able leadership of the Society during the past year, Dr. Paik Nak Choon, President of Chosun Christian College, read a most interesting paper entitled “Tripitaka Koreana,” the story of the introduction and preservation of Buddhist scriptures in Korea. This was followed by a display of prints by Elizabeth Keith which was brought from England by Lt. Commissioner H. A. Lord.

An excellent series of papers has been presented during the year. On January 13, 1950 Dr. Helen Chapin's paper, "The Palaces of Seoul" was read by Mr. Gregory Henderson. The paper was followed by color slides of the palaces. On February 17, 1950 Dr. Chapin's paper "Puyo, Ancient Capital of Paekche” was read. On March 23, 1950, Mr. Robert A. Kinney presented a most worthwhile [page 86] paper entitled, “A Historical Sketch of Land Tenure in Korea” with color slides showing land use and agricultural life. Meetings have been held in the Chosun Hotel. Additional activities are planned including excursions in the Seoul area and to Kyung-Ju, the Silla capital, and several more evening meetings.

A most successful excursion to Kyung-Ju, the ancient capital of the Silla Dynasty was arranged by the Society, April 21-24, 1950.

Fifty-one members and friends of the Society availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the historic places and hearing on the spot something of the history of the temples, ancient tombs and treasures in the museums.

A special motor-train was chartered to take the company to Kyung-Ju via Taegu, returning by the more beautiful line via Won-Ju and Yang Pyeng. The first night and second day were spent at Pulkuk-Sa the first Buddhist Temple built in Korea, and the Rock Temple, Sokkul-Am; the other days were spent visiting the ancient sites around Kyung-Ju. The Curator of the Kyung-Ju Museum planned the two and a half day programme, and acted as guide. The Officials at the Provincial Office provided bus service free of charge, and gave seven large boxes of apples to the party. A substantial contribution has been made by those who went on this journey to the Kyung-Ju Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, an organization which assists the Kyung-Ju Museum. So successful was this “Field Day” that it is hoped that further such lecture tours can be arranged.

Marcus W. Scherbacher

Recording Secretary

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**librarian`s report** May 19，1950.

The Library of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was stored in the basements of the Christian Literature Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society during the years of the Second World War. After the war, the books were stored in cabinets on the second floor of the Christian Literature Society Building for over four years. Therefore, these books were almost inaccessible from December, 1941 to January, 1950.

Early in 1950 the library was removed from the C.L.S. Building and the books with bindings were placed in a new location, Room 412 of the American Embassy Building in Seoul. Since the Library's card index was lost during the war, there is now no available list of the books in the library as at the beginning of the war. Although many books are known to be lost, a substantial number of excellent works on Korea and the Far East are still available. These books, now in the Library in the Embassy Building, include: complete files of the Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society; the Volumes of the Korea Review Magazine and the Korean Mission Field Magazine; as well as an almost complete file of the Annual Reports on Administration of Government-General of Chosen, 1910-1939; a substantial number of issues of the Korean Repository Magazine; most of the fifteen volumes of Catalogue of Ancient Monuments and Historical Remains in Korea; and about 500 other individual volumes. [page88] These additional volumes include copies of transactions of many other branches of the Royal Asiatic Society, as well as books of general interest on Korea and the Far East.

A list of all the books now in the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society is being compiled and will be listed and distributed in mimeographed form to members during the year. A program of replacement of lost volumes and of addition of new volumes to the Library has been undertaken. About 50 new volumes have been obtained already, and others are being purchased for inclusion in the Library. It is the hope of the Librarian and the Council of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society that before the end of 1950 the Library will be re-established on a basis at least equivalent to pre-Pearl Harbor. To accomplish this objective, the active co-operation of all of the members of the Society is earnestly requested.

Robert A. Kinney Librarian

Note:

Almost all of the books in the Library of the R.A.S., Korea Branch, were lost during the Communist occupation of Seoul in 1950. A few books, recovered by the Librarian after his return to Seoul in September 1950, were shipped to the United States for safekeeping until peace is restored in Korea.

R. A. K.