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**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY KOREA BRANCH GENERAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1961**

The year 1961 ended with the membership of the Royal Asiatic Society totalling well over 600, an increase of about a hundred members over the previous year. There were twelve general meetings, at each of which our members and guests were enlightened on some subject of Korean cultural or historical interest. The dates of the meetings, the speakers, and subjects on which they spoke follow:

January 18th Dr Fritz Vos, of the University of Leyden: “Some Aspects of the Yi (Dynasty) Novel.”

February 8th The Reverend Richard Rutt, of the Anglican Mission: “Kim Sakkat, the Itinerant Poet.”

March 8th Mr. Peter Smart, of the British Embassy, read a paper prepared by Miss Jean Gates entitled “Tangun.”

April 12th Dr. Kim Chong-hak, of Korea University: “The Excavation of a Shell Mound near Ungch’on (Kyong-sang Namdo,) illustrated with slides. After the lecture two short movies were shown, “Korean Homes,”and the OPI film of the April 1960 demonstrations.

May 3rd Dr. Samuel Martin, Associate Professor of Far Eastern Linguistics at Yale University: “The Korean Language as I See It.” A reception and dinner preceded the lecture.

June 28th Dr. Kim Hon-gyu, Professor of Zoology at Ehwa Women’s University: “Korean Butterflies,” illustrated with slides. After this lecture the charming water color paintings of Korean costumes by Mrs. Florence Hedelston Crane were displayed.

July 27th Dr. Yu Hyong-jin, Dean of the Liberal Arts and Sciences College of Sungmyong Women’s University: “Women’s Education in the Later Yi Period.”

August 9th Dr. Cho Ka-gyong, Professor of Philosophy of the Liberal Arts and Sciences College, Seoul [page48] National University: “Modern Philosophical Trends in Korea.”

September 13th Mr. Carl Miller, of the Research Department, Bank of Korea: “Korean Given Names.” A reception and dinner preceded this lecture honoring Mr. Pak T’ae-yong, Secretary of the Society, on the publication of his “A Korean Decameron.”

October 4th mrs. Inez Kong Pai delivered a lecture on Si jo. Her talk included her own translations of many of these Korean classical poems.

November 1st The Reverend O Mun-hwan read the diary of the Reverend Calvin Wilson Mateer written on board the American ship “Shenandoah” at the time of an expedition to Korea in 1868， and compared this account with Korean records of the same incident.

December 6th The Reverend Richard Rutt read a paper prepared by Professor Kim Tong-uk, of Chungang University, entitled “Personal Adornments of the Yi Dynasty.” This was also the annual meeting at which the election of officers for the coming year took place and the General Report of the Council for the year 1961 was read.

For the January, February, March and October regular meetings, the National Medical Center very kindly allowed us to use its auditorium. All of the other regular meetings were held in the charming and authentic atmosphere of Korea House. The Society is indebted to the management and the staff of Korea House for the many services courteously afforded the Society. The Diplomat Club has continued its fine service in providing refreshments at the regular meetings.

Besides the twelve regular meetings in 1961, there were the following special meetings:

January 11th Miss Elizabeth Lyons, a specialist on Far Eastern Art, addressed the society on the art of Thailand. [page49]

February 1st The members and guests of the Society heard Mrs. Kurt Mattusch speak on “The City of the Yi.” This talk was preceded by an informal reception and dinner to give everyone an opportunity to say goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Mattusch.

October 12th Dr. Vadim Elisseeff, General Director of City of Paris Museum, lectured on Buddhist art discoveries in the caves at Tunghua in Chinese Turkestan, of which he showed splendid color slides. A reception followed the lecture,

October 13th Immediately following dinner in the Dynasty room of the Bando Hotel (the Twelfth Restaurant Tour), Mrs. Agnes Davis Kim, author of the book “I Married a Korean,” recounted her experiences in Korea in the 1930’s. Before the dinner, Mrs Kim was honored at a reception in the lounge of the Bando Hotel.

November 3rd The members of the Society had the opportunity of hearing Dr. Frank W. Schofield tell some of his experiences and observations in Korea at the time of the Independence Movement in 1919. This talk was preceded by a dinner (the Thirteenth Restaurant Tour) at the Choson Hotel.

November 22nd Dr. Belle Boone Beard, a Fulbright professor and gerontologist, spoke on “Longevity and Problems it Creates in Korea” following dinner at Arirang House (the Fourteenth Restaurant Tour). A reseption before the dinner afforded an opportunity to meet Dr. Beard.

The social events of the year were the garden party in the grounds of the Kunsonwon-jon (the Hall of Ancient Jewels) of the Changdok Palace on September 16th, and a tea featuring a kimchi-making demonstration at Carl Miller’s house on December 2nd. The garden party was enlivened by a program of farmer’s dances by members of the Chong-up Band, and our thanks are due Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Heyman for their efforts in obtaining this entertainment for us. If interest is any [page50] indication, kimchi is to become a staple in the diet of foreign residents of Korea also, as more than 200 availed themselves of the opportunity to learn the process of making it.

The Society also arranged for the following theatrical entertainment:

January 25th A showing of the Korean movie “Wedding Day,” at the OPI Theater, Studio B. The proceeds of this showing were used to make a new print of this film for the Society.

March 20th Simchong-jon, a Korean folk opera, at the City Municipal Theater.

April 26th A showing of “Romance Papa,” the Korean movie which won Kim Sung-ho the award of best male actor in the 1960 Asian Film Festival. This also was at the OPI Theater, Studio B.

May 9th Again at the OPI Theater, Studio B, five 16mm films, each lasting abount twenty minutes, were shown. These films “Tapisseries du XX e Siecle” (in English), “Les Gisants” (in English), “Matisse” (in French), “Bernard Buffet” (in French), and “Assaut de la Tour Eiffel” (in English), were lent by His Excellency Roger C. Chambard.

Guided tours of restaurants in Seoul proved to be a popular feature of the Society’s program of activities, and the following restaurants were visited, on the dates and with the number of participants indicated:

January 27th & 28th Sudok, specializing in Japanese cuisine. 72

February 10th Misong, a “yori-jip” (Kisaeng house).

Although it was necessary to serve the dinner in the Music conservatory next door, it was supplied by the Misong Restaurant and was typical “yori-jip” food. Through the kind offices of Mr. Alan C. Heyman, a most enjoyable program of traditional music and dancing was presented. 80 [page51]

March 3rd Uraeok, specializing in pulgogi. 124

March 24th, 25th & 26th Samyang- A special menu of authentic Russian food was served on this tour. 135

April 6th & 7th Tong-il-jang, sukiyaki in charming Korean surroundings. 70

April 18th Catered by Korea House and served by kisaengs under the cherry blossoms at Changdok Palaca A program of superb Korean entertainment was presented under the direction of Miss Kim So-hi. 140

May 11th & 12th Saemaul (New Village), a Japanese-style restaurant. 80

September 7th Diplomat Club, serving Western cuisine. 65

September 21st Yongsong, a typical “taepo” (cannon) restaurant. 70

September 26th National Medical Center, Scandinavi-an food. Dinner, which was necessarily limited to twenty, was followed by the regular meeting, at which Mrs. Inez Kong Pai spoke on Sijo. 20

October 13th Dynasty Room, Bando Hotel. The dinner was preceded by a reception for Mrs. Agnes Davis Kim and followed by a talk by Mrs. Kim on her experiences in Korea in the 1930’s. 106

October 26th Club Mandarin, under western management but specializing in Chinese cuisine. 94

November 3rd Main dining room of the Choson Hotel. After the dinner, Mr. Frank W. Schofield spoke about some of his experiences and observations in Korea at the time of the Independence Movement in 1919. 135

November 22nd Arirang House, a Korean-style restaurant in the grounds of the Choson Hotel. An address by Dr. Belle Boone Beard on “Longevity and Problems it Creates in Korea” followed the dinner. 98

Also one of the high spots for gourmets was a [page52] pulgogi dinner on the Han River, on August 4th. Some 120 people distributed themselves in small boats on the Han at Kwangnaru and pulgogi (prepared up to this point by the Uraeok Restaurant) was cooked over braziers on each boat. The romantic atmosphere was enhanced by a delightful program of Korean music rendered by a boatload of musicians poled from boat to boat.

While it was not possible, primarily because of unsettled conditions, to adhere to the schedule arranged by the Tour Committee, fiteen domestic and three overseas tours were made. A recapitulation of the dates, places visited, and number of participants follows:

February 18-March 1 Southeast Asia 57

March 11-16 Cheju-do 11

April 6-10 Chinhae and Chinju 96

April 14-17 Kyongju-Area 83

April 30 Soyosan 60

May 6-7 Suanbo Hot Springs and Mun’gyong

Area 19

June 3-6 Cheju-do 5

June 24-25 Sonun-sa and Popsong-p’o Area 14

July 15-18 Mallip’o Beach 37

August 26-27 Tongdo-sa, Pomo-sa and Haeundae 40

August 30- Mallip’o Beach (three days) 60

September 4 (six days) 8

September 17 Suwon Area and Yongju Temple 90

September 23-25 Remote Islands in the Yellow Sea 20

October 7-9 Sorak-san 28

October 20-21 Haein-sa,Pusok-sa and Tanyang Area 26

November 4-9 Cheju-do 16

November 23- Taiwan 14

December 1

December 21- Malaya and Indonesia 18

January 12，1962

For the first time since World War II two volumes of the Transactions were published in one year, Volumes [page53] XXXVII and XXXVIII.

Financial assistance was rendered by the Society in the following instances:

A contribution of 10,000 won to the Korean Research Center.

The balance of the Tomb Fund, 645,000 hwan, was turned over to Dr. Kim Che-won for archaeological excavations.

The sum of 150,000 won was advanced to Mr. Yun Se-taek for the publication oi the Chong Tasan Chonso, in return for which the Society received fifty sets (in four volumes),

The sum of 100,000 won was advanced to Mr. Choe Sang-su for the publication of “A Study of the Korean Puppet Play.” in return for which the Society received 200 copies of this book. The Society now has for sale the Chong Tasan Chonso, at $ 32. 00 (or 4,160 won) a set, and “A Study of the Korean Puppet Play,” at $ 3. 90 (or 500 won) a copy. Orders for these books are solicited.

The Society now owns a print of the film “Wedding Day.” This film is available for rental.

In accordance with the Society practice to confer honorary membership on the resident British Ambassador, honorary membership was conferred on His Excellency Walter Godfrey, C.B.E., upon his assumption of the office of British Ambassador to Korea in early 1961.

The members of the Council for 1961 were:

PRESIDENT ‘His Excellency M. Roger

C. Chambard, Ambassad¬or of the French Republic

VICE-PRESIDENT Dr. Lee Sun-keun

TREASURER Mr. Carl Miller

CORRESPONDING

SECRETARY Mr. Peter Smart

RECORDING

SECRETARY Miss Grace Haskell

LIBRARIAN Fr. Richard Rutt [page54]

COUNCILLORS Mr- Ch’oe Sang-su

Mr. Gregory Henderson

Mr. Alan Heyman

Dr. Lee Sangun

In the absence of Mr Peter Smart during the latter half of 1961, the position of Corresponding Secretary was most ably filled by Mr. Stephen J. Whitwell, M.C., First Secretary, British Embassy.