[page 97]

**ANNUAL REPORT of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY - KOREA BRANCH 1996**

The Korea branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was established in 1900 by a group of foreign residents in Korea, who sought to broaden their understanding of all aspects of Korean life, culture, customs, geography, and literature through investigative research and sharing of knowledge. The society expanded rapidly, to include foreign residents of all nationalities and a number of Korean scholars as well. Some of the members were gifted scholars and observers of the Korean heritage and culture, and have left milestone works in Korean studies. Some of the articles they contributed to the Transactions of the Society still rank as primary sources of information on various aspects of Korea. It is appropriate that as we wrap up each year we remember the great contribution of our forbears, and remember that the primary objective of the Branch remains the encouragement of studies on Korea.

The Korea Branch is run by a Council of twenty-six members, which is organized into five committees: Membership, Publications, Program, Tours, and Finance. Some Council members serve as officers of the Branch as well.

Membership: At present the RAS-Korea Branch has a total of 1492 members. This includes 70 life members, 549 overseas members and 873 regular members residing in Korea.

Programs: Programs involving lectures, slide presentations and performances were held regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (except during the summer) at the Daewoo Foundation Building near Seoul Station. In 1996 January to March the lecture hall at the Daewoo Foundation Building was under repair, and the British Embassy kindly rose to the occasion and made the Embassy’s Aston Hall available as the lecture venue. We are grateful to the Daewoo Foundation and the British Embassy for allowing us the use of the most conveniently located lecture spaces. The annual Garden Party, graciously hosted by Amb. and Mrs. James Laney at the U. S. Embassy Residence, was a gala event, with approximately 300 guests attending and fea [page 98] turing a special fashion show of ancient Korean costumes, with commentaries by Dr. Cho Won-kyong. Special sales of books and handicraft items added to the excitement and pleasure of the party.

Tours: A full schedule of tours through the year took members and other participants to all parts of Korea. A total of 1,980 members and non-members took advantage of these tours, which remain one of the most popular activities of the Society. The worsening traffic in and out of Seoul is a continuing problem, but participants showed a remarkable understanding and forbearance in putting up with traffic jams, and acknowledged the advantage buses offer over more punctual transportations such as subways and trains.

Publications: The Publications Committee had another successful year supervising book sales, reviewing manuscripts, and editing Volume 71 of the Transactions for publication. A revised Book List was prepared and distributed to all members and to various libraries and institutions interested in Korean Studies.

Finances: The finances of the RAS-Korea Branch continued to fare smoothly. Although operating expenses are modest, the costs are rising, and the society is totally dependent for its income on membership fees, tour fees and book sales. So, the council agonized over the issue of membership fee raise and finally reached a decision to raise the annual membership dues to 35,000 won for ordinary members, 50,000 won for couples, 25,000 won for academic members, effective the 1st of January, 1997. We appeal to all our members for their understanding for and acceptance of the increased membership fee.

I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the active cooperation of the Council members, Honorary Presidents Amb. Harris and Amb. Laney of the United Kingdom and the U. S. A., and of Mrs. Bae, who has been the mainstay of the RAS office for the past three decades. I would like to thank the Daewoo Foundation once again for making this auditorium available for lecture meetings free of charge, and wish all the members a very happy 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

Suh, Ji-moon

President

[page 99]

1995 R.A.S. Lectures

Seoul Branch

January 11 The Buddhist Transformation of Shilla

Dr. N.M. Pankaj

January 24 Views of Chosun Dynasty Seoul Seen Through Buildings and Gardens of the Period

Mr. Peter Bartholomew

February 14 Ko Un’s Hwaom-Kyong: A Modern Korean Pilgrim’s Progress

Br. Anthony of Taize (An, Son-jae)

February 29 Syngman Rhee and the March First Movement Dr. Lew, Young-Ik

March 13 The Myth of Tan’gun: Is It Really Unique

Dr. James Grayson

March 28 Korean Envoys to Tokugawa Japan: Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange in Traditional East Asia Dr. Yoon, Byung-nam

April 10 Native Plants of Korea

Dr. Bang, Kwang-ja

April 24 Introduction to Oriental Medicine in Korea

Dr. Kang, Sung-keel

May 8 Queen Min of Korea: Coming to Power

Ms. Tatyana M. Simbirtseva

May 22 Choson Ceramics of the 15th-16th Centuries

Dr. Kim, Young-won

June 12 Taoism in Korea

Mr. Steven D. Jenks

June 26 Post-Occupation and Post-War Writing by Korean Women Ms. Jean Jin-sun Kim

August 28 Takion: Korean Traditional Martial Art

Mr. Do, Ki-hyun

September 11 The Seven Secrets of King Muryong

Dr. Kim, Young-duk [page 100]

September 25 An Anthropologist’s Kwangju Notebook: May 1980 and Sixteen Years Later

Dr. Linda Lewis

October 9 The Public and Private Life of the Kisaeng in the Choson Period

Prof. Vincenza D’Urso

October 23 Dialogue Between Shamanism and Buddhism in Early Korea

Prof. N.M. Pankaj

November 9 Seal Engraving

Mr. Koh, Jae-sik

November 27 Buddhist Architecture of Korea Prof. Valeri D. Tian

December 11 The Secrets of the Twenty-two Tamno of the Paekche Kingdom

Prof. Kim, Young-duk

[page 101]

1995 R.A.S. Tours

Date Destination Attendance

January 13 In-Wang San Hike 20

January 20 Buddhism Tour 24

January 27 Changdok Palace, Piwon (Secret Garden) and Yongsu-san Restaurant 16

January 28 Winter Break Tour 17

February 4 Bird Watching Tour 34

February 17-9 Lunar New Year’s Tour: Sorak San National Park 45

February 20 Pukhansan National Park Hike 13

February 24 Embroidery Tour 36

March 1 Onyang Folk Museum, Hyonchung-sa and Independence Hall 14

March 2 Kiln, Parka Crystal Factory, and Onggi (Kimchi Jar) Factory Tour 28

March 3 Yoju Tour 22

March 9 Catholicism Tour 19

March 16 Art Tour: Galleries, Artist’s Studio, and Modern Art Museum 24

March 17 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 60

March 23 Wonju and Chiaksan National Park Tour 20

March 24 Soyosan, Kosokjong and Sambuyon Falls Tour 26

April 5-7 Camelia Tour: Namhae-do and Dolsan-do Tour 45

April 12-4 Chinhae Cherry Blossom Tour 74

April 19-21 Cheju-do Tour 25

April 27 Kanghwa Island Tour 42

April 27-8 Magnolia Tour: Ch’ollipo 28

April 28 Taedong Kut (Shaman Ritual) 80

May 4-5 Kyongju Tour 35

May 5 Chongmyo Ceremony 50

May 11 Flower Tour 26

May 12 Paekche Kingdom Tour: Puyo and Kongju 30

May 18 Sudok-sa (Toksan Provincial Park) and Haemi Village 24

May 18-9 Andong and Hahoe Village Tour 21

[page 102]

May 20-2 Chiri-san National Park, Chungmu and Koje-do Tour 30

May 22 Kiln Tour 40

May 23 Taejon, Expo Park Tour 24

May 24 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 102

May 26 Kwangnung, Sanjong Lake Tour 22

May 31 Wando and Pokildo Tour 14

June 6 Pyok-Je and Environs Tour 23

June 8-9 Kangnung and East Coast Tour 17

June 14-6 Hongdo and Huksan-do Tour 21

June 15 Traditional Music and Dance Tour 20

June 22 R.A.S. Garden Party-96th Anniversary 250

June 23 Exotic Shrine Tour 17

June 30 Soyangho and Paroho Boat Tour 23

July 6-7 Cholla-do Tour 20

July 14 Songnisan and Popchu-sa Tour 18

July 20 Triple Treat Tour: Olympic Park, 19

Han River Cruise and the DLI 63 Building

July 21 Tanyang Tour: Kosu Cave 21

July 27 Island Hopping Tour 20

August 10 Inwang-san Hike 24

August 10 Art Galleries, Insadong and Sanch’on Vegetarian Restaurant Tour 20

August 15 Hyonch’ung-sa, Onyang Folk Museum and Independence Hall Tour 20

August 18 Paekche Kingdom Tour 19

August 24 Market Tour 23

September 1 Mallipo/ Ch’ollipo Tour 40

September 7 Silk Tour 42

September 8 Ch’ongp’yong Boat Tour 40

September 14 Kiln and Crystal Factory Tour 24

September 15 Yongwol and Chiak-san Tour 24

September 21-2 South Cholla “Land of Exile” Tour 35

September 26-8 Chusok Holiday: Sorak-san National Park Tour 45

October 3 Kangwha Island and Songmo-do Tour 21

October 5-6 Kyongju tour 31

[page 103]

October 11-3 Ch’ungmu and Koje Island Tour 34

October 17-21 Tour to Kyushu, Japan 18

October 19-20 Chiri-san Tour 31

October 26 Sudok-sa (Toksan Provincial Park) 35

November 2-3 Andong/ Hahoe Tour 88

November 10 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 50

November 16 Hanyak Tour 23

November 23 Kimchi Tour 22

November 30 Churches Around Seoul Tour 11

December 1 Inner Sorak Tour 13

December 14 Traditional Artist’s Studio Tour 27