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**ANNUAL REPORT of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY - KOREA BRANCH 1997**

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was established in 1900 by a group of foreign residents in Korea, who sought to encourage investigation of all aspects of Korean life, culture, customs, geography, and literature in order to deepen their understanding of the country and its people and to make them better known to the rest of the world The original nucleus was soon joined by many others, including a number of Korean scholars. Some of the members had great scholarly gifts, and their names will forever be associated with Korean studies, while many others contributed the first, and often the only, papers on many aspects of Korea, which left a legacy in the Transactions that is still a primary source of information on Korea in many fields. It is only appropriate that at this Annual Meeting we remember the great contribution of our forbears, and remember that the primary objective of the Branch is still the encouragement of studies on Korea.

The Korea Branch is organized with a Council of twenty-six members, including the officers. To carry out its functions the Council is organized into five committees: Membership, Program, Publications, Tours, and Finance.

*Membership:* At present the RAS-Korea Branch has a total of 1,378 members. This includes sixty-seven life members, 355 overseas members and 953 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. We are most grateful to the Foundation for allowing us the use of this centrally located space.

The annual Garden Party, graciously hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Stephen [page 62] Brown at the British Embassy Residence, was most successful, with an enjoyable program of Korean pansori, special book sales, and an opportunity for members to become better acquainted with each other.

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

*Tours:* A full schedule of tours through the year took members throughout the country. A total of about 2,080 members and non-members participated in these tours which remain one of the most popular activities of the Society.

*Finance:* I am pleased to report that the finances of the RAS-Korea Branch remained on an even keel during 1997. Although operating expenses are modest, the Society depends totally upon the support you provide as members in paying annual dues, participating in tours, and purchasing publications. Remember, your support continues to be critical to the financial well-being of the Society.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the selfless efforts of the Council members and officers and Mrs. Bae, who has been the mainstay of the R.A.S. office for the past twenty-eight years. I would especially like to thank members of the publications committee without which our Transactions and other publications would not be published.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge once again the generosity of the Daewoo Foundation in making the auditorium available free of charge for our regular lecture meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nowell, President

[page 63] 1997 R.A.S. Lectures

Seoul Branch

January 8 Korean Shaman Possession Dance and the Shaman Cosmology

Dr. Theresa Ki-Ja Kim

January 29 Nationalism and State-Building During the First Republic of Korea

Mr. William G. Bradshaw

February 12 Concert of Traditional Music

Michuhol Korean Music Orchestra

February 26 Searching for The Imperial Dragon Temple

Dr. Kim Young-duk

March 11 Korea Myths and Legends

Ms. Robin Rhee

March 25 The Korean Telecommunications Revolution

Dr. James F. Larson

April 9 Korea Old and New

Mr. Michael F. O’Brien

April 23 Concepts of Evil: East and West

Prof. C.F. Alford

May 13 Dramatic Social Change in Cholla-nam-do, Korea

Dr. Terry Stocker

May 28 Confucian Education During the Choson Dynasty

Prof. Chung Soon Woo

June 11 Traditional Korean Birth Dreams

Dr. Fred Jeremy Seligson J.D.

June 25 Conservation of Biodiversity in Korea:

Past, Present, and Future

Dr. Sooil Kim, Ph.D.

August 27 An Introduction to Tea

Brother Anthony of Taize (An Sonjae)

September 9 Impressions from North Korea

Mr. Jan Bosma

[page 64] September 23 Portrayal of North Korea in Hwang Sun-Won’s

The Descendants of Cain

Dr. Suh, Ji-Moon

October 8 Zen Dance (Son Mu Ga)

Ms. Sun Ock Lee

October 22 Poisoned Prosperity: Development and

Environment in South Korea

Ms. Phillippa Walsh and Lee Taehwa

November 12 The Korean Writing System: A Unique Invention

Prof. Young-Key Kim-Renaud

November 26 Korea Through the Years: Personal Stories

Dr. Robert F. Roth M.D.

December 10 The Great Tumulus of Whangnam

Dr. Kim, Young-Duk

[page 65] 1997 R.A.S. Tours

Date Destination Attendance

January 11 In-wang San Hike 16

January 25 Buddhism Tour II 29

January 26 Winter Break Tour 15

February 2 Chonju Tour 16

February 8-10 Lunar New Year Tour: Sorak-san 18

February 15 Traditional Music Tour 18

February 16 Sujong-sa, Tonggu-nung, Kumgok-nung 19

February 23 Yoju Tour 24

March 1 Independence Movement Day Tour 15

March 8 Kiln Tour 16

March 16 Kosu Cave and Chungju Lake 39

March 22 Bird Watching Tour 37

March 22 Wonju and Chiaksan 37

March 23 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 67

March 29 Art Tour 39

March 30 Suwon Tour 28

April 6 Realm of The Lmmortals Tour 20

April 4-6 Camellia Tour: Namhae-do, Dolsan-do 27

April 8 Puyo and Konju 29

April 11-13 Chinhae Cherry Blossom Tour 41

April 12 Kyonggi-do Cherry Blossom Tour 35

April 19-20 Cholla-do: Muju & Maisan Tour 19

April 18-21 Honshu, Japan Tour 36

April 19 Onyang and Hyonchungsa Tour 20

April 20 Cheju-do Tour 20

April 26 Kangwha Island Tour 20

April 27 Shaman Ritual (Baeyunshin Kut) 30

May 3-4 Kyongju Tour 45

May 4 Chongmyo Ceremony Tour 42

May 10-11 Ch’ollipo Arboretum 36

May 11 Flower Tour 20

May 14 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 130

May 17 Sudok-sa Tour 15

May 17-18 Andong Tour 17

May 17-18 Andong Tour 17

May 25 Paekche Kingdom Tour: Puyo and Kongju 25

May 30-June 1 Hong-do and Huksan-do 25

June 6-8 Chiri-san, Chungmu, and Koje-do 34

June 14-15 Odaesan and Kangnung Tour 12

[page 66] June 21 R.A.S. Garden Party 300

June 27-9 Wan-do, Pokil-do,and Chin-do 20

July 5-6 Pyonsanban-do, Tamyang, Pagoda Valley 25

July 7 Traditional Music and Dance 35

July 9 Ancient Egypt Tour 36

July 12 Island Hopping Tour 28

July 13 Songnisan and Popchusa Tour 29

July 20 Odaesan Tour 24

July 26 Exotic Shrine Tour 17

July 27 Soyang-ho and Paro-ho Tour 27

August 9 Inwangsan Hike 6

August 9 Market Tour 16

August 10 Insadong Walking Tour 10

August 15 Liberation Day Tour 19

August 16 Paekche Kingdom Tour: Puyo and Kongju 25

August 17 Tanyang Tour 21

August 23 Ho-am Museum and Hee-won Garden Tour 16

August 24 Yoju Tour 11

August 31 Mallipo and Ch’ollipo Tour 30

September 6 Silk Tour 26

September 7 Ch’ongp’yong Boat Tour 36

September 12-18 Ullung-do Tour 14

September 13-15 Chusok Holiday Sorak-san Tour 27

September 20-21 Kyongju Tour 22

September 27 Royal Marriage of Choson Tour 19

October 2-6 Mainland China Tour 39

October 4-5 Pusok-sa, Andong, and Hahoe Tour 43

October 11-12 South Cholla; Land of Exile Tour 15

October 18-19 Cholla-do Tour: Pyonsanban-do and Tamyang 20

October 25-26 Chiri-san Tour 33

October 25 Sudok-sa and Toksan Tour 20

November 1-2 Tongdo-sa and Haein-sa Tour 18

November 1-2 Cheju-do Tour 18

November 8-9 Maisan and Muju Tour 15

November 9 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 55

November 15 Hanyak Tour 25

November 16 North Han River Valley Tour 16

November 23 Naejangsan and Paekyang-sa Tour 25

November 29 Ch’orwon Tour 15

December 6 Shopping Spree Tour 18

December 13 Churches Around Seoul Tour 18

December 13 Traditional Artists’ Studio Tour 25