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**ANNUAL REPORT of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY - KOREA BRANCH 1998**

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, leaving a legacy in the Transactions that are still a primary source of information on Korea in many fields. It is 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, Publications, Program, Tours, and Finance.

Membership: At present the RAS-Korea Branch has a total of 1,381 members. This includes seventy life members, 389 overseas members and 925 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 either the Daewoo Foundation Building near Seoul Station or at the British Embassy’s Aston Hall. Late in 1998 the program venue was moved to the Goethe Institute the German Cultural Center, located on Nam-san in Seoul. We are most grateful to the Foundation, the British Embassy, and the German Cultural Center for allowing us the use of [page 102] their centrally located space. The annual Garden Party, graciously hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Stephen W. Bosworth at the American Embassy Residence, was most successful, with an enjoyable program of Samul-nori, special book sales, and an opportunity for members to become better acquainted with each other

Tours: A full schedule of tours through the year took members throughout the country. A total of some 1950 members and non-members participated in these tours. The tours remain one of the most popular activities of the Society.

Publications The Publications Committee had another successful year supervising book sales, reviewing manuscripts, and editing Volume 72 of the Transactions for publication. The Publications Committee reprinted editions of “Hamers Journal” and “An Introduction to Korean Music and Dance”. The committee also published a new book “Korean Shamanism”.

Finances: The finances of the RAS-Korea Branch remained on an even keel during 1998. 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 take this opportunity to express my thanks for the selfless efforts of the Council members, officers and Mrs. Bae, who has been the mainstay of the R.A.S office for the past thirty years. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Daewoo Foundation, the British Embassy, and the Goethe Institut in making their auditoriums available for our lecture meetings free of charge.

Respectfully submitted,

Ambassador Joost Wolfswinkel President, R.A.S.

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1998 R.A.S. Lectures

January 15 Therevada Buddhism

 Dr. Frank Tedesco

February 11 A “Radical” Approach to Learning Chinese Characters

James C. Whitlock, Jr.

February 25 Nationalism and Democratic Thought in Modern Korean Historiography

 Professor Henry H. Em

March 11 The Doomed Empire: Japan in Colonial Korea

 Professor Ma-ji Rhee

March 25 On Korean Traditional Liquor

 Mr. Bae Young-ho

April 8 Rationality, Practicality, and Modernity: Buddhism, Korean Shamanism and Christianity in Contemporary Korean Society

Dr. Hyun-key Kim Hogarth

April 22 Kyungahn Swamp and Its Birds

Dr. Young-duk Kim

May 27 Mongolian Security in the 21st Century

 Dr. Alvin Magid

June 10 A Neo-Confucian Model of a Civilized Society: Sejong’s Theory and Practice

 Dr. Young-key Kim-Renaud

June 24 My Recollections of the War with North Korea: Some Thoughts on Korea-U.S. Relations

 Ambassador Ha-Jong Yoon

August 26 The Artistic World of Won Jang Hyun

 Mr. Won Jang Hyun

September 10 Korean Hand Acupuncture

 Dr. Claudia Simms

September 22 Ritual on the Peak

 David A. Mason

October 15 History of the Kaya States

 Dr. Vladimir Tikhonov [page 104]

October 28 In Search of Japan’s Origin

Dr. Kim Young-duk

November 11 South Korea’s Coastal Wetlands: The Asian Amazon

Mr. Niall Moores

November 25 Chang Moo Geuk: Kwang Gae Tho, the Great

Professor Hyeon- joo Oh

December 9 Korean Traditional Architecture

 Mr. Shin Young-hoon

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1998 R.A.S. Tours

Date Destination Attendance

January 10 Insadong 13

January 10 Inwangsam 11

January 24 Market Tour 21

January 25 Winter Break Tour 16

January 27 South Forress 9

January 27-29 Lunar New Year’s Tour 20

January 30-Feb 3 Thailand Tour 12

February 8 Sujong-sa 14

February 15 Yoju Tour 21

February 21 Embroidery Tour 15

February 21 Traditional Music Tour 16

February 22 Buddhism Tour II 39

February 28-Mar. 1 East Coast Sunriser Tour 14

March 7 Kiln, Parka Crystal Tour 22

March 8 Bird watching Tour 20

March 14 Wonju and Chiaksan 22

March 15 Tanyang Area Tour 30

March 22 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 33

March 22 Munkyong Saejae Park 22

March 28 Realm of the Immortals 33

March 29 Suwon Tour 33

April 3-5 Caemllia Tour 30

April 10-12 Chinhae Cherry Blossom Tour 36

April 11 Kyonggi-do Cherry Blossom 40

April 17-20 Honshu Japan Tour 26

April 19 Shaman Ritual Tour 38

April 25-26 Cheju-do Tour 35

April 25 Kangwha Island Tour 19

April 25-26 Inner Sorak 17

May 2-3 Magnolia tour 25

May 3 Chongmyo Tour 41

May 3 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 86

May 9-10 Kyongju Tour 23

May 9 Chorwon Tour 39

May 16 Sudok-sa 20

May 16-17 Andong Tour 25

May 30-31 Kangnung Tano Festival 24

June 19 Ho-am Gallery 12

June 20 Garden Party 250

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June 21 Soyangho, Parcho and 21

June 27 Traditional Music and Dance 28

July 4-5 Cholla-do Tour 24

July 10-14 Mongolia Tour 34

July 11 Sognisan and Popchusa 29

July 18 Island Hopping Tour 22

July 19 Odaesan National Park Tour 18

August 29 Kiln Tour 13

August 30 Tanyang Area 17

September 6 Ch’ongp’yong Boat Tour 22

September 12-13 Chungmu and Koje Island Tour 20

September 18-20 Hongdo and Huksan-do Tour 16

September 19 Kangwha Island Tour 22

September 20 Samak-san Tour 24

September 25 Ho-Am Art Gallery Tour 12

September 26-27 Haboe Village Tour 32

September 28 Chorwon Tour 16

October 3-4 Chusok: Sorak-san Tour 20

October 2-6 Mainland China Tour 28

October 10-11 Kyongju Tour 13

October 17 Suaoo-sa Tour 26

October 24-25 T’aebaek Mountain Tour 43

October 30-1 Chiri-san Tour 14

October 31-1 Cheju-do Tour 13

October 31 Youngmun-sa HiKing Tour 13

November 7 Hanyak Tour 19

November 8 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul 32

November 21 Naejangsan Park Tour 25

November 28-29 Inner Sorak Rhapsody Tour 11

December 5 Churches Around Seoul Tour 14

December 5 Shopping Spree Tour 23

December 12 Traditional Artist’s Studio Tour 19

December 19 Keyryongsan Hiking Tour 15