**ANNUAL REPORT** of theROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY — KOREA BRANCH 2003

President’s Annual Report

It is my pleasure to report on the annual activities of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 2003.

At the end of the year 2003, we have a total of 919 members, including 75 life members, 601 members residing in Korea, and 243 overseas members. This represents a twenty percent decrease from the 2002 figure of 1,109 members. This decline has affected our financial situation, and our committees are therefore working to reverse this adverse tendency in membership.

Programs during the year included lectures, slide presentations, and musical performances. In commemoration of the 350th year of the Dutchman Hammers arrival in Korea, we additionally held a special panel discussion, a tour to Kangjin, and an exhibition of Dutch art that included works by Rembrandt, sponsored by the Dutch Embassy. It was an occasion for us to ponder the contrast in how contact with the West affected Korea and its neighbor, Japan, which recently celebrated the 400th anniversary of contact with the Dutch.

The year 2003 also saw the publication of Volume 77 (2002) of the Society’s annual journal Transactions, and the beginning of the publication process for Dr. Elizabeth Underwood’s book Challenged Identities, due out in 2004.

The annual garden party was hosted in June by Ambassador and Mrs. Charles Humfrey and the Councilors and Officers of the Society at the British Ambassador’s official residence. A gathering of some 220 members enjoyed food and friendship, plus a book sale and a cultural program featuring traditional Korean music.

During the year we suffered a slight shortage of funds due to a decline in membership, tour participation, and book sales. We are confident, however, that the financial situation will improve since we are working hard through various channels to encourage greater participation in the Society’s cultural activities. This will hopefully serve to raise additional funds. We also hope some of us can make[page 92]donations to the Society to initiate and promote more effectively our cultural and scholarly activities.

As I reflect on this year and look forward to the next, I would like to make special mention of the devotion of the staff, the officers, and my fellow council members. Here I must pay special tribute to Dr. Horace G. Underwood, who passed away on January 15，2004, after serving the Society for many decades, including two terms as President. We would like to remember also Mrs. Gertrude Ferrar and Mr. C. Ferris Miller, both wonderful friends of the society and council members who recently passed away. I should additionally like to thank council members who are retiring from Council, those who are continuing in office, and those who have been elected to serve during the following year.

Finally, on behalf of the Council I would like to pledge ourselves to work together with our members to ensure that we, the successors of our Society’s founders, remain true to their commitment to promote knowledge and understanding of Korean culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Yong-duk

President, Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch[page 93]

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 10 December 2003**

The annual general meeting convened at the Daewoo Foundation Building, Seoul, Korea and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. Kim Young-duk, President, Dr. Kim reviewed his annual report to the society, which will be published in Transactions, Vol. 78.

A slate of nominees for officers for the calendar year 2004 was presented, and the floor was opened for additional nominations from the membership at large. There were no additional nominations. Dr. Kim moved that the nominees for officers and council members be elected. There was a second. The following officers and council members were elected by acclamation:

President: Dr. Kim Young-duk

Vice President: Mr. Jang Song Hyon

Treasurer: Mr. Peter Born Secretary: Ms. Renate Kostka-Wagner

Librarian: Ms. Lee Joo-Ho

Councillors: Mr. Peter Bartholomew, Dr. Choi Uhn-Kyung, Amb. Denis Comeau, Amb. Carlos Frota, Amb. Michael Geier, Mr. Samuel Hawley, Mrs. Mary-Louise Heseltine, Mrs. Joan Hubbard, Mr. Charles Jenkins, Mr. Kim Young-Hoon, Mr. David A. Mason, Mr. John Nowell, Dr. Uwe Schmelter, Mr. Fred Jeremy Seligson, Rev. Steve L. Shields, Dr. Horace G. Underwood, Rev. Graeme J. Webb

Article 17 of the Constitution of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society will be amended as following:

Duties of the Secretary Article 17. The Secretary shall:

a) Be in charge of the office of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

b) Attend every General Meeting and every Meeting of the Council, or, in the case of absence, depute a Member of the Council to perform the duties.

c) Keep minutes of General Meetings and Meetings of the Council

d) Provide the Office Manager with a written copy of all minutes for reproduction and distribution to the Council. [page 94]

e) Ensure that the Reports of Committee Chairs are circulated to Council Members before the next Council Meeting.

f) Carry on correspondence as needed with members of the community.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7.45 p.m. and was followed by the scheduled lecture for the evening.

Respectfully submitted, Renate Kostka-Wagner

[page 95]

2003 RAS-KB Lectures

January 8 “Korean Monk & Shaman Dance’’

Dr. Lee Seung Hee

January 22 “HameFs Journal: A Panel Discussion”

Dr. Jeroen P. Lamers, Dr. Lew Young-ik,

Dr. Kim Young-duk

February 12 “Saga of Rafting from Shanghai to Incheon and from Koje to

Kyushu”

Prof. Yoon Myeong Chul

February 26 “Seen Through Its Architecture: Views of Chosun Dynasty Korea” (Part I)

Mr. Peter Bartholomew

March 12 “Buddhism in Korea” (Part 2)

Dr. Kernaleguen Herve

March 26 “Westerners & Crimes in the Late Chosun Dynasty”

Mr. Robert Neff

April 9 ‘‘Contemporary Korean Theatre: Where is it Headed?”

Dr. Richard Nichols

April 23 “Seen Through Its Architecture: Views of Chosun Dynasty Korea” (Part 2)

Mr. Peter Bartholomew

May 14 “Rediscovery of the Hamel Trail”

Br. Jean-Paul Buys

May 28 “Preserving Kaesong for the Future”

Dr. Tony Michell

June 11 “Birds in the Korean Environment”

Dr. Yoon Moo-Boo [page 96]

June 25 “Women in Korean History and Their Art”

Mr. Huh Dong-hwa

August 27 “Kangwon Province Korean Traditional Music Orchestra Performance’’

Kim Yerin / Park Su-jin / Jang Yun-jeong

September 3 “Filial Piety as a Universal Phenomenon of Korean Culture and Society”

Dr. Sergey O. Kurbanov

September 24 “Chingbirok May Be the Story of Our Times”

Dr. Choi Byonghyon

October 8 “The Imjin War”

Mr. Samuel Hawley

October 22 “Religion and the Korean Mind”

Dr. Kim Ai Ra

November 12 “The Origin of Sericulture and History of Silk Textiles in Korea”

Dr. Sim Yeon Ok

November 26 “The Activities of Ernst Oppert to Open Korea”

Dr. Sylvia Braesel

December 10 ‘‘Old Days of Korea through Pictures’’

Dr. Horace G. Underwood[page 97]

2003 RAS -KB Tours

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Destination** | **Attendance** | **Leader** |
| Jan. 5 | Changdok Palace (Piwon) Tour | 8 | S.J Bae |
| Jan. 12 | Sojung-sa Tongu-nung, & Kumgok-nung | 9 | S.J. Bae |
| Jan. 18 | Tour | 12 | S.J. Bae |
| Jan. 25-26 | Traditional Art Tour | 9 | B. Berry |
| Jan. 30-Feb.3 | East Coast Sunrise Tour | 19 | S.J. Bae |
| Feb. 8 | Vietnam Tour | 16 | S.J. Bae |
| Feb. 15 | Snow Scenery Train Tour | 17 | R. Kostka Wagner |
| Mar. 2 | Bukchon Tour | 9 | S.J. Bae |
| Man 9 | Popchu-sa & Songnisan | 26 | P. Bartholomew |
| Man 16 | Walking Tour of Chosun Seoul | 10 | S.J. Bae |
| Mar. 22 | Tanyang Area Tour | 24 | P. Bartholomew |
| Mar. 29-30 | Suwon Tour | 12 | S.J. Bae |
| Apr. 5-6 | Cheju-do Tour | 9 | H. Noh / Bae |
| Apr. 12-13 | Camelia Tour / Namhae & Chinhae | 14 | Drs. Adams |
| Apr. 12 | Chikjisa & Haeinsa Tour | 12 | S.J. Bae |
| Apr. 13 | Kingdom of Paekche | 20 | J.P. Buys |
| Apr. 18-21 | Kyonggi-Do Cherry Blossom Tour | 20 | Y.D. Kim |
| Apr. 26-27 | Honshu, Japan Tour (Kyoto & Nara) | 19 | S.J. Bae |
| May 3-4 | Magnolia: Chollipo Tour | 28 | D. Adams |
| 08-May | Kyong-ju Tour | 42 | S. Shields |
| May 10-11 | Buddha’s Birthday Tour | 11 | D. Adams |
| May 17-18 | Andong Tour | 40 | Br. J Buys & D. |
| 24-May | Land of Exile Tour | 9 | Clark |
| 25-May | Soyosan Tour | 12 | S.J. Bae |
| May 31-June 1 | Chongmyo Ceremony Tour | 9 | A. Heyman |
| 14-Jun | Chungmu and Keje-do Tour | 220 | Drs. Adams |
| June 28-29 | RAS Garden Party | 6 |  |
| 27-Jul | Inner Sorak Tour | 13 | S.J. Bae |
| Aug. 10 | Chawol-Do Tour 1 | 6 | S.J. Bae |
| Aug. 9 | Chawol-Do Tour 2 | 16 | S.J. Bae |
| Aug. 16-17 | Pugak Skyway & In-Wang San Hike | 5 | S.J. Bae |
| Aug. 24 | East Coast Sunrise Tour | 12 | S.J. Bae |
| Sep. 7 | Tong Gang River Rafting Tour | 16 | S.J. Bae |
| Sept. 10-13 | Chong-pyong Boat Tour | 14 | S.J. Bae |
| Sept. 20 | Tokyo Japan (Chusok) Tour | 14 | S.J. Bae |
| Sept. 21 | Ceramic Tour | 20 | Y.D. Kim |

[page 98]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Destination | Attendance | Leader |
| Sept. 27 | Nanjangsa Tour | 24 | S.J. Bae |
| Sept. 28 | Bukchon Tour | 22 | R. Kostka-wagner |
| Oct. 5 | Kangwha Island Tour | 24 | Kim Y.D. |
| Oct. 11-12 | Walking Tour of Choson Seoul | 17 | S.J. Bae |
| Oct. 12 | Andong Tour | 9 | D. Adams |
| Oct. 19-20 | Odae-san Tour | 30 | S.J. Bae |
| Oct. 19 | Sorak-San National Park Tour | 20 | S.J. Bae |
| Oct. 25 | Tanyang Tour | 17 | S.J. Kim |
| Oct. 25-26 | Sognisan Tour | 27 | J.Y.Yoon |
| Oct. 25-26 | Chiri-San National Park Tour | 17 | D. Adams |
| Nov. 1-2 | Cheju-do Tour | 14 | S.J. Bae |
| Nov. 8-9 | Kyoungju Tour | 7 | S.J. Bae |
| Nov. 22 | Tongdosa & Haein-sa Tour | 10 | S.J. Bae |
| Nov. 29-30 | Chorwon Tour | 9 | S.J. Bae |
| Dec. 6 | Inner Sorak Tour | 11 | S.J. Bae |
| Dec. 13 | Shopping Spree Tour | 16 | S.J.Bae |
| Dec. 14 | Magok-sa Tour | 10 | S.J. Bae |
| Dec. 14 | Kut: Shaman Ritual Tour | 11 | A. Heyman |