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**2004 ANNUAL REPORT** **of the** **ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY** **Korea Branch**

President’s Annual Report

It is my pleasure to report on the annual activities of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 2004.

At the end of the year we have a total of 812 members, including 75 life members, 539 members residing in Korea, and 198 overseas mem­bers. This represents a twenty percent decrease from the 2003 figure of 919 members. This decline in affecting our financial situation, and our committees are working to reverse this adverse tendency.

Probably the most significant event of the year for the RAS-KB was the government recognition of the legal status as a nonprofit organization. This will allow us to raise funds for various academic and para-academic activities. We are hoping to promote research activities in the area of Korean studies, to provide scholarships to students, and to encourage a variety of intercultural activities.

Publications for the year included volume 78 (2003) of the RAS’s Transactions, and a new book in October by Dr. Elizabeth Underwood of Eastern Kentucky University: Challenged Identities: North American Missionaries in Korea, 1884-1934.

The annual garden party was hosted by American Ambassador and Ms. Thomas C. Hubbard and the Councilors and officers of the Society at the official residence of the American Embassy. Some 200 RAS members attended to enjoy the excellent food, friendly conversation, a book sale, and a cultural program featuring traditional Korean music and a demonstration of the Korean marital art known as taekkyon. [page 92]

We suffered a slight shortage of funds again due to the decline in membership, tour participation, and the sale of books. We are confident, however, that the financial situation will improve since we are working hard to communicate more effectively through various channels with your positive participation in our cultural activities. In this connection, we are working to raise funds. We hope some members may be able to make a donation to the Society to promote cultural and scholarly activities.

As I reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, I would like to make special mention of the devotion of the Society’s staff, its officers, and my fellow members of Council. I should also like to thank retiring council members, those who are continuing in office, and those who have been elected for the next session.

Finally, on behalf of the council and membership, I would like to pledge ourselves to remain true to the commitment of our Society’s founders to the promotion of knowledge and understanding of Korean culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Yong-duk

President, Royal Asiatic Society - Korea Branch

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2004 RAS-KB Lectures

January 14 “Kim Jong-il: Is He a Man We Can Do Business With?”

Mr. Michael Breen

January 28 “You Are What You Eat: Korean Food, Korean People”

Mr. Andrew Salmon

February 11 “Traditional Korean Performing Arts”

Ms. Kolleen Park

February 25 “Port Hamilton (Komundo)”

Mr. Robert Neff

March 10 “Korean Folk Paintings”

Mr. Kim Man-hee

March 24 “Generational and Ideological Conflict in Korea”

Dr. Song Ho Keun

April 14 “For Internationalization of Korean Literature”

Dr. Choi Yearn Hong

April 28 “Perspectives on Church Growth in Korea”

Dr. Daniel J. Adams

May 12 “The Historical Development of P’ansori and Contemporary Style”

Dr. Jang Yeonok [page 94]

June 9 “Through the Ginkgo’s Prism: Perspectives on Colla--borative

Art in Korea”

Prof. A1 Zaraba

June 23 “Korean Sources and References in Jack London’s The

Star Rover”

Dr. Chang Young-Hee

August 25 “Traditional Korean Music Performance” Mr. Lee Dong-Myong, Mr. Min Sung-ho, & Mr. Alan Heyman

September 8 “Feet of Seoulites: Urban Transportation from Streetcar

to Subway”

Dr. Andrei Lankov

September 22 “The Discovery of the First Paekche Capital at Gogal,

Hanam City”

Mr. Han Jong Seop

October 13 “The Autumn Expedition of 1898 to Northern Korea”

Mr. Denis Samsonov

October 27 “Korean-American Business Encounters in the 1880s”

Mr. Jang Song-Hyon

November 10 “Korean Buddhism: Its Legacy and Current Status”

Prof. Cho Eunsu

November 24 “Why Help North Korea? Personal Reflections on a Decade of Humanitarian Aid Work”

Dr. Edward Reed

December 8 “A Korean ‘Painter with Needles’: The Embroidery of

Chung Young Yang”

Mr. Lee Talbot

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2004 RAS-KB Tours

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Destination | Attendance | Leader |
| Jan. 4 | Wontobong-san Tour | 7 | S. J. Bae |
| Jan. 17 | Snow Country Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| Feb. 7 | Art Studio Tour | 14 | Brian Berry |
| Feb. 8 | Sanjong Lake Tour | 18 | S. J. Bae |
| Feb. 12 | Bukchon Tour | 22 | R. Kosta-Wagner |
| Feb. 22 | Buddhism Tour | 15 | S. J. Bae |
| Feb. 28-29 | East Coast Sunrise Tour | 18 | S. J. Bae |
| Mar. 7 | Walking Tour of Seoul | 25 | P. Bartholomew |
| Man 13 | Kiln Tour | 18 | *S.* J. Bae |
| Mar. 14 | Tanyang & Kosu Cave Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| Mar. 20 | Suwon Tour | 20 | P. Bartholomew |
| Mar. 27-28 | Cheju-do Tour | 11 | S. J. Bae |
| Apr. 3-4 | Namhae-do & Chinhae Tour | 18 | S. J. Bae |
| Apr. 10 | Cherry Blossom Tour | 38 | S. J. Bae |
| Apr. 11 | Puyo and Kyungju Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| Apr. 16-19 | Honshu, Japan Tour | 20 | Y. D. Kim |
| Apr. 17-18 | Maisan Tour | 13 | Dan Adams |
| Apr. 24 | Chollipo Arboretum Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| May 1-2 | Kyongju Tour | 10 | Dan Adams |
| May26 | Buddha’s Birthday Tour | 35 | S. J. Bae |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Date*** | ***Destination*** | ***Attendance*** | ***Leader*** |
| May30 | Tonyang Rafting Tour | 14 | S. J. Bae |
| June 5-6 | Inner Sorak Tour | 15 | S. J. Bae |
| Jun12 | RAS Annual Garden Party | 200 |  |
| June 26-27 | Odaesan & Kangnung Tour | 8 | S. J. Bae |
| July 8-14 | Mongolia Tour | 28 | S. J. Bae |
| Jul 18 | Tanyang Tour | 7 | S. J. Bae |
| Aug. 29 | Tong-gang Rafting Tour | 30 | S. J. Bae |
| Sept. 4 | Kiln Tour | 7 | S. J. Bae |
| Sept. 12 | Chongpyong Boat Tour | 10 | S. J. Bae |
| Sept. 18 | KTX Busan Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| Sept. 19 | Kangwha-do Tour | 15 | Y. D. Kim |
| Sept.24-29 | China Tour | 11 | S. J. Bae |
| Sept. 26 | Seoul Walking Tour | 27 | P. Bartholomew |
| Oct. 1**一**3 | Hongdo & Huksando Tour | 7 | S. J. Bae |
| Oct. 9 | Bukchon Tour | 25 | R. Kosta-Wagner |
| Oct. 16 | Embroidery Tour | 11 | Lee Talbot |
| Oct 17 | Odaesan Tour | 10 | S. J. Bae |
| Oct. 16-17 | Andong & Hahoe Village Toi | 12 | Dan Adams |
| Oct. 23-24 | Soraksan Tour | 25 | S. J. Bae |
| Oct. 30-31 | Chinsan Tour | 13 | Dan Adams |
| Oct. 30 | Songnisan Tour | 14 | S. J. Bae |
| Nov. 6-7 | Kyongju Tour | 14 | Dan Adams |
| Nov. 12-14 | Kumgangsan (North Korean) Tour | 11 | S. J. Bae |
| Nov. 20-21 | Land of Exile Tour | 11 | S. J. Bae |
| Nov.27-28 | Inner Soraksan Tour | 12 | S. J. Bae |
| Dec. 11 | Shopping Spree Tour | 15 | S. J. Bae |
| Dec. 26-31 | North Vietnam & Cambodia Tour | 14 | S. J. Bae |