**2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY KOREA BRANCH**

President’s Report for 2009

I am pleased to report to the members of the Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch that 2009 was an excellent year in many ways. Our membership, currently a total of 774 (444 in Korea, 259 overseas & 71 life members), is a slight increase over the 747 members in 2008.

We anticipate a larger growth in membership in 2010, primarily due to growing lecture attendance, the increase in Korean membership as well as a generally raised profile of our society. We sponsored 21 lectures at the Residents’ Lounge of the Somerset Palace with an average of more than 55 attendees per lecture; this attendance is steadily increasing. The RASKB also conducted 58 cultural tours in 2009 with more than 900 attendees joining us.

It is interesting to note that among our lecture attendees approximately 40% are non-members, indicating an increasing interest in our lecture series and growth in the profile in Seoul of our semi-academic activities. We note that increasing numbers of non-members attending the lectures are joining our Society at the end of the lectures, thus adding to our membership and its diversity. Most encouraging is the growth in Korean members, now exceeding 30% of total membership, more than at any time in RASKB’s history. The Council is making a concerted effort to reach out to the Korean community to participate in our activities, attending & delivering more of our lectures, participating in & leading our cultural tours, and submitting articles for our Transactions. We heartily welcome increased participation in all of these areas by Koreans from all walks of life. [page 116]

RASKB’s cultural tours remain the most well attended events among our activities. We are continually adding new tours creatively planned by the Tour Committee and led by both Koreans and expatriates with profound knowledge and interest in the subject areas that we visit. In addition to the unique tours in Korea, we organise tours to other Asian countries such as China, Mongolia, North Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Cambodia.

In both our lectures and our tours the RASKB is unique among cultural organisations dealing with Korean subjects. For the past 110 years of our existence we have had the capability to bring the exceptional capabilities of both expatriates and Koreans who have a strong passion for and deep knowledge of their particular subjects. While some of them are academicians, many others are not but have developed, after decades of study and research, a remarkably acute insight into fascinating aspects of Korean culture. We are very grateful to these exceptional individuals who provide our lectures, lead our tours and write articles for our Transactions. This is the foundation of the RASKB’s strength and exceptionality.

I also am pleased to report that our library has been thoroughly catalogued and moved from the Korea Social Science Data Archive (formerly Social Science Library) to the Seoul Campus of Inje University, who has generously provided a very fine, well protected and maintained room in their building in downtown Seoul for our collection of books on Korea. The location is easy to find and within a few minutes’ walk from a subway station and thus provides easier access to all visitors, a considerable improvement to the previous location.

This year’s “Transactions,” the 84th Volume since our founding in 1900, have been have been collected, reviewed and published thanks to the tireless efforts of our Publications Committee and contributors (members and non-members). The Council of RASKB has decided to modify our future Transactions to provide for a “Peer Reviewed Section” and a “General Section.” Our objective in adding the “Peer Review Section” is to strengthen the academic side of our activities, but not at the expense of the many fascinating articles that we have received and published from[page 117] non-academic writers for the past 110 years! We are grateful to the several well known Korean Studies academicians in the United States and Europe who have consented to serve on our Peer Review Committee.

We also are proud to announce that we have a new internet web site. The address remains the same (www.raskb.com), but the site provides significantly broader information and functions to users, members and non-members alike. Following suggestions from many members and other visitors we have set up an on-line payment procedure for all payments to the RASKB (membership, cultural tours, books and donations).

I am particularly grateful to the members of our Council who have so generously given their time and considerable abilities to keep our lecture, cultural tour, publications and administrative programs active and vibrant. All of us on the Council have very demanding lives in our professions and other activities; their contributions are invaluable and truly keep the Society not only active, but growing and expanding in all disciplines as never before!

The annual RASKB garden party in 2009 was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Martin Uden at the official residence of the British Ambassador. With nearly 300 members attending, we were treated to an exceptional performance of traditional music followed by a large display and sale of RASKB’s books on Korea and of course food, drink and camaraderie! On behalf of the Council of RASKB I extend our expressions of most sincere gratitude to both the US and British ambassadors for their continuation of this decades old tradition of hosting the RASKB garden party at their official residences on alternate years.

In summary, the RASKB continues its tradition of studying, lecturing on and writing about Korea’s remarkable culture, past and present, in all imaginable disciplines. We continually seek to expand the scope of our activities and keep up with the dynamically evolving Korea of today.

Our most serious challenge remains funding for the continued operation and administration The Society. The irreplaceable Sue Bae, who tirelessly[page 118] has been performing the work of 3 people for the past 40 years, will soon retire. We are seeking funding not only for her successor but for additional staff who can take over and provide the essential support that we need for operation of the Society’s activities. During the past 20 years of Korea’s development, the costs of all goods and services essential to our operations have increased exponentially; this is no longer the “low-cost country” that it once was and the rising costs have magnified the urgency of funding for continuing RASKB operations.

Finally, on behalf of the Council of The Society, I extend the most sincere gratitude of the Council for the generosity of the Somerset Palace who provides our lecture hall free of charge, combined with the Korea Exchange Bank and the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank who have made donations to RASKB. We are now actively seeking additional funding for the significant operating fund increase required when Sue Bae retires. We ask for the kind consideration of our members worldwide to assist us in our efforts to secure the funding that we need to continue and expand our truly unique study and promulgation of Korea and her culture.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the RASKB for your continued support, for without you there is no Society. The growth in numbers of members and attendance at lectures and cultural tours is a most encouraging sign to all of us that there is a growing acknowledgement of the value and uniqueness of our activities. We look forward to another year in 2010 of growth, enlightenment and enjoyment together in the RASKB!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter E. Bartholomew, President, Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch

PS. We are most grateful to a member of our Council, Francis X. O’Donoghue, First Secretary at the Embassy of Ireland, Seoul, for a very generous contribution toward the cost of publishing this issue of Transactions

**2009 RAS-KB Lectures**

January 20 Mr. Simon Cockerell

Experiences in North Korea

February 10 Dr. John Linton

History of the Southern Presbyterian Church Missionaries in the Southwestern Part of Korea

February 24 Dr. Kim, Yongdeok

History and Justice - Approaches to the Dokdo Island Issue

March 10 Mr. Franklin Rausch

The Legitimacy of Force: An Chunggun’s killing of Ito Hirobumi

March 24 Prof. Werner Sasse

Sosaewon : a Scholar’s Garden

April 14 Dr. Tony Michell

Stress! Economic and Social Challenges to a Confucian Societyin a Global Economic Crisis

April 28 Dr. Martina Deuchler

Korea Forty Years Ago: A Nostalgic Slideshow

May 12 Dr. William Pore

The Inquiring Literatus: Yi Sugwang’s Brushtalks with Phung Khac Khoan in Beijing in 1597[page 120]

May 26 Ms. Lee-Ellen Strawn

Protestant Christianity and Korean Women

June 10 Fr. Bernard Senecal S.J.

The history of and present state of Korean Buddhism

June 15 Mr. Mike Kim

Escaping North Korea: Defiance and hope in the world’s most repressive country

June 29 Prof Edward Baker

President Obama and the 6-Party Talks: The Negotiations over Security on the Korean Peninsula

July 7 Prof. Brian Myers

The Popularity of Kim Jong Il

August 25 Dr. Dong-choon KIM

The Work of Korea’s Truth and Reconciliation

Commission; Uncovering the Hidden Stories of Korea’s

Past

Sept. 10 Dr. Roald Maliangkay

Untangling the Intangible: Soft Power and Korea’s

Cultural Heritage

Sept. 22 Dr. Rodney Grapes

Beneath our feet: the geology and landforms of the

Seoul Metropolitan area

October 13 Andrei Lankov

How North Korea will look by 2025

October 27 Brother Anthony

The Korean Way of Tea[page 121]

November 10 Aiden Foster-Carter

Not Just Nukes: North Korea’s multiple menaces

November 23 Donald Kirk

Korea Betrayed - Kim Dae Jung and Sunshine

Dec. 8, 2009 Peter Bartholomew

Windows to a Lost Culture

The RAS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Somerset Palace, Seoul which beginning in February 200b granted free use of its residents’

lounge as the Society’s lecture venue.

2009 RAS-KB Tours

Date Tour Participants Leader(s)

Jan. 10 Bugaksan Tour 6 S. Bae

Jan. 11 Won-Dobong-san Tour 6 S. Bae

Jan. 25-26 Seorak-san Tour 24 S. Bae

Feb. 8 Juwang-san Tour 9 S. Bae

Feb. 21 Geumsan-sa Tour 11 S. Bae

March 1 Independence Day Tour 14 S. Bae

March 7 Kiln (pottery) Tour to Icheon 28 S. Bae

March 8 KTX Busan Tour 13 A. Choi

March 14 Jeonju City Tour 15 D. Adams

March 21 Silk Embroidery Tour 14 S. Bae

March 22 Yeongwol Tour 7 S. Bae

March 28 Maisan Tour 13 D. Adams

March 29 Walking Tour of Joseon Seoul 24 P. Bartholomew

April 4-5 Namhaedo/Jinhae Tour 37 D. Adams

April 3-6 Honshu, Japan Tour 18 S. Bae

April 12 Suwon Tour 21 P. Bartholomew

April 16 Gyeongido Cherry Blossom Tour 38 S. Bae

April 18 Gyeongido Cherry Blossom Tour 10 S. Bae

April 19 Chollipo Arboretum Tour 18 S. Bae

April 25 Andong Tour 21 S. Bae

May 2 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 29 S. Bae

May 2-3 Jiri-san Tour 12 D.Adams/M.Spavor

May 9 Shaman Ritual Tour 20 A. Heyman/S. Bae

May 16-17 Gyeongju Tour 25 D. Adams/A. Choi

May 23 Buyo & Gongju Tour 8 S. Bae

May 23-24 Gosung Dinosaur Expo Tour 16 A. Ladouceur

May 30-31 Gangneung East Cost Tour 6 S. Bae

May 30 Bukchon Tour 22 D. Mason/ A. Choi[page 123]

June 7 Danyang & Gosu Cave 10 S. Bae

June 13-14 Tongyong & Geojedo Tour 12 D. Adams/

A. Ladouceur

June 27-28 Byeonsan Bando, Danyang 9 S. J. Bae

July 8-13 Mongolia Tour 16 A. Ladouceur

July 19 Jawoldo(Island) Tour 10 A. Choi

August 1 Inwangsan Tour 6 S. J. Bae

August 9 Soyang Dam & Gugok Water Fall 8 M.Spavor/S.J. Bae

August l6 Danyang & Kosu Cave Tour 10 S. J. Bae

August 29 Kiln Tour 12 S. Bae

August 30 Chongpyong Boat Tour 13 S. Bae

Sept. 5 Naejangsan Tour 14 D. Adams/S. Bae

Sept. 6 Donggang Rafting Tour 50 S. Bae/A. Choi

Sept. 12 Anmyundo Tour 11 A. Choi

Sept. 13 Bugaksan Tour 28 W. Cha/A. Choi

Sept. 12-13 Andong Tour 8 D. Adams/S. Bae

Sept. 19 KTX Train to Busan 5 A. Choi

Sept. 20 Sobaek-san Tour 1 S. Bae

Sept. 26-27 Gyeongju Tour 18 D. Adams/A.Choi

Oct. 1-5 China Tour (Shanghai, Xian, Beijing) 18 A. Ladouceur

Oct. 2-3 Seorak-san Tour 15 S. Bae

Oct. 9-12 Japan Tour(Honshu) 22 S. Bae/ S. Han

Oct. 10-11 Tongyong/Geoje-do 18 D. Adams/A.Choi

Oct. 18 Walking Tour of Joseon Seoul 25 P. Bartholomew/

S. Jang

Oct. 24 Ganghwa-do Tour 12 S.H.Jang/Y.D. Kim

Oct. 24-25 Seorak-san Tour 13 S. Bae

Nov. 1 Juwang-san Tour 11 S. Bae

Nov. 14 Jeonju City Tour 16 D. Adams/A.Choi

Nov. 28 Cheorwon Tour 16 S. Bae /A.Choi

Dec. 5 Shopping Spree Tour 12 S. Bae

Dec. 26-31 Cambodia/Vietnam Tour 11 A. Ladouceur

Total: 58 Tours