**2011 Annual Report**

**OF THE**

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

**KOREA BRANCH**

*President’s Report for 2011*

I want to thank the officers and the members of our Council for their enthusiastic help during the past year. The Council currently has twenty members. It is responsible for all the activities of our Society. It meets once a month, with committees looking after each aspect of our different activities.

To begin with financial matters, we ended the year 2011 with an overall deficit and were obliged to draw on our limited reserves. The RAS has certain inevitable monthly expenses: it rents an office and a book storage space. In addition it has until now been employing a full-time General Manager and a part-time assistant. We were very glad to welcome Ms. Eunji Mah as that assistant in the last half of the year. At the end of 2011, Ms. Bae Sue Ja retired and in the time to come she will not be replaced, we will only employ Ms. Mah as part-time secretary. I want to express once again our gratitude to Sue for her 45 years of loyal service. She has organized and led over 2,000 tours for us. She will continue to help out as our Honorary Manager but I know she is looking forward to having some free time. We are immensely grateful to the management of Somerset Palace for allowing us to use this Lounge for our lectures free of charge.

Our income comes from membership dues, from a small profit margin on excursions, and from the sale of the books we have published over the years. In recent years this has not been sufficient and we have only survived thanks to some limited corporate sponsorship and generous private donations from a few Council members. We are trying to find solutions that will ensure financial stability and the year 2012 will be decisive in this. Above all, we need to increase the number of paid-up members. In the 1980s we had nearly 2,000 members but now we have only a small fraction of that.

2011 has seen the full computerisation of our membership records, allowing us to see at a glance whose membership is about to expire and send out renewal notices. The annual subscription was increased at the start of 2011 from KW 50,000 to 70,000 for a year’s individual domestic membership (30,000 for students, 100,000 for couples, $25 for overseas members). In return, members attend lectures free of charge, are entitled to a discount on excursions and book purchases, receive a free copy of our annual journal *Transactions*, and are invited to the annual garden party. Feeling that this might not be enough, we have been looking for additional benefits to offer our members and have recently begun to organize some special study groups, open only to paid-up members. We are open to new suggestions and proposals.

We have started to send out regular email Newsletters announcing upcoming lectures and tours, instead of mailing out printed notices. This costs us nothing and we are happy to include insterested non-members in the mailing list. Our home page is being well maintained and we are hoping very soon to have a Paypal account, which will make it much easier for people to send us money.

Our Library is housed in rooms belonging to Inje University in central Seoul and Professor Michael Welles has been working to update the catalogue. We have received several generous donations of books about Korea and always welcome more.

In May 2011, the Academy of Korean Studies published a book containing a selection of the most interesting papers from early volumes of *Transactions* with the title *Discovering Korea at the Start of the Twentieth Century*.

During 2011 the library staff at Inje University digitalized the entire series of our annual *Transactions* as well as of 2 monthly periodicals (the *Korean Repository* and the *Korea Review*) published in the decades before and after 1900 by our founders. The files are already viewable through our home page. In this way we have made a very valuable set of historic materials available to the world. This project was financed by the Academy of Korean Studies and I want to express our appreciation to them.

Our lectures in 2011 were always well attended, and often really very well attended. One of the greatest challenges in 2011 was a sudden, brutal drop in the number of people interested in going on the cultural excursions we have been organizing for so many years. It is true that sometime information was not available early enough, and people seem to be busier than ever, but we hope to continue to run these excursions and I would urge members to indicate the kind of destinations that would interest them and help us by their suggestions for improvement.

I would like to close by inviting all our members and friends to offer their advice and perhaps volunteer to help in some way. For example, we need help to record our lectures and make them available online, and we are always looking for ways of making our activities more widely known. We would especially like to have more new members, both foreign and Korean, and reinvent the RASKB with them as it advances into its second century.

Respectfully submitted

Brother Anthony of Taizé

President, RASKB

*2011 RAS-KB Lectures*

January 18 **Mr. Jacco Zwetsloot**

From Northeast of Seoul to Inchon: when Hollywood came to Korea

January 25 **Dr. Sung-Soo Kim**

Ham Sok-Hon (1901-1989): A Maverick Thinker and Pacifist

February 8 **Badaksori**

Badaksori Performance: Pansori for Modern Life

 February 15 **Dr. Charlotte Horlyck**

Priests, potters and politicians – a discussion on the collecting of Korean arts in the late 19th and early 20th century

 March 22 **Mr. Peter A. Underwood**

Korean Business Culture & Managing Intercultural Operations

 April 5 **Prof. Peter Korniki**

The fruits of vandalism: Early Korean printing in its East Asian context

April 26 **Mr. Charles Goldberg**

A Korean Village on the Edge of Modernity:A Retrospective Look

May 18 **Dr. Earl Jackson, Jr.**

Before the Wave: Treasures of Korean Classic Cinema

May 24 **Brother Anthony**

1911, the RASKB Reborn: a Second Centenary

June 13 **Dr. Michael J. Devine**

Harry F. Truman and the Korean War

June 28 **Dr. Robert J. Fouser**

Sŏchon: Wandering Seoul's Last "Untouched" Neighborhood

July 5 **Prof. Gari Pak**

Diaspora, Plantation and Independence: A Pictorial and Literary Journey of Early Koreans in Hawai'i

July 12 **Prof. Robert Buswell**

Korean Buddhist Journeys to Lands Worldly and Otherworldly

September 6 **Mr. Jacco Zwetsloot**

Spy Hunting, Re-writing the Korean War and Sowing Fear of the World: North Korea has “manhwa” too!

September 27 **Fr. Mun-su Park, S.J.**

20 Years in Muak-dong -- Displacement, Gentrification, Community-building

October 10 **Dr. Heather Willoughby**

Constructing Gender in Korean P'ansori

October 25 **Prof. Stephen Epstein**

Girls' Generation? Gender, (Dis)Empowerment and K-pop

November 8 **Mr. Andrew Salmon**

Scorched Earth, Black Snow: British and Australian Soldiers in the Invasion of North Korea

November 22 **Mr. Robert D. Neff**

Scandals and gossip from Joseon Korea’s past

December 13 **Dr. Jocelyn Clark**

A Gayageum Evening with Jocelyn Clark

A Total of **20** lectures

*The RAS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Somerset Palace, Seoul, which beginning in February 2006 granted free use of its residents’ lounge as the Society’s lecture venue.*

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*2011 RAS-KB Tours*

Jan. 16 Snow scenery train 8 A. Choi

Jan. 22 Winter Break Tour 7 S. Bae

Feb. 4 Bugak-san Fortress Wall Hiking 7 W. Cha

Feb. 5-6 Seorak-san Tour 7 S. Bae

Feb. 19 Pottery Kiln 13 S. Bae

Feb. 26 Furniture Museum 17 A. Choi & SH Jang

Mar. 6 Bugak Fortress hike 4 W. Cha

Mar. 13 Noryangjin Fish Market 5 M. Spavor

Mar. 13 Changdeok-gung & Biwon 18 I. Cho & S. Bae

Mar. 19 Embroidery 5 S. Bae

Mar. 26 Churches in Seoul 12 D. Adams

Mar. 27 Walking in Joseon Seoul 23 P. Bartholomew

Apr. 6 Chongno & Insadong st. food 3 J. Flinn

Apr. 9 Fortress Wall of Bugaksan 6 W.Cha

Apr. 10 Suwon 19 P. Bartholomew

Apr. 9-10 Namhaedo & Jinhae 13 S.Bae

Apr. 17 Buyo & Gongju 10 S. Bae

Apr. 21 Gyeonggido Cherry blossom 21 S. Bae

Apr. 24 Anmyeondo Island 18 A. Choi

Apr. 23-24 Gyeongju: Silla Kingdom 18 D. Adams

Apr. 29-May 2 Taipei, Taiwan 32 S. Han/ S. Bae

May 10 Buddha’s Birthday 11 S. Bae/J. Seligson

May 28-29 Tea making 12 Br. Anthony

June 11 Garden party 180

July 2 Seochon Village 21 R. Fouser

Aug. 15 Hyeonchung & Onyang museum 7 S. Bae

Aug. 20 Beopjusa & Songnisan 7 S. Bae

Sept. 3 Ceramic Kiln 9 S. Bae

Sept. 4 Cheong-pyeong Lake(boat) 14 S. Bae

Sept. 17-18 Gangneung, Gangwondo 18 P. Bartholomew

Oct 1 Bukchon village, Seoul 17 D. Mason

Oct 1-2 Andong 14 J. Flinn

Oct 15 Ganghwa-do 12 Y. Kim/S. Bae

Oct 16 Seochon village, Seoul 17 R. Fouser

Oct. 22-23 Seoraksan 10 Sue Bae

Nov. 2-3 Seoraksan(SIWA) 10 Sue Bae

Nov. 12-13 Land of Tea and Exile 14 Br. Anthony

Nov. 27 Walking inJoseon, Seoul 12 P. Bartholomew

Dec. 3 Shopping Spree 8 S