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**Maggie Barrett** (1895—1968)

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society numbers one of the widest circles of the friends of Mrs. Margaret Barrett, biographic officer in the American Embassy, Seoul, 1958―62 and long a Council member of the Society. All who knew her will be saddened to hear of her death in Mexico City on February 28, 1968.

She had moved to her house in Miami after her return from Korea and behind her gorgeous Bougainvillea vine as quietly as she was capable of doing, visiting and receiving visits from her daughter, son-in-law and four grandchildren. In the summer of 1967 she suddenly became ill, and entered months of constant pain.

Her daughter and son-in-law prevailed on her to live with them in Mexico; she sold her Miami house and drove with them to Mexico City around New Year’s 1968 where, in a few days, my wife and I had the pleasure of a reunion with her. Maggie was beautifully dressed and coiffed, and impressed us with the vigor and courage with which she had come through her months of ordeal; she was, indeed, always a person with deep sources of personal morale. She seemed better, in less pain, and we were hopeful for long years with her joyous Mexican clan which she deserved.

It was not to be.

Maggie died peacefully at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Francisco Escalante, Ibarran 37, Mexico 19 D. F., Mexico.

Maggie was everyone’s unforgettable person. Raised in [page 132**]** the then rural home of an old Georgia family near Atlanta, she drew constant strength from her native soil, its deep sense of identification, its own sharp perspective, its sense of reminiscence and comment. The words and phrases of country Georgia were never far from her lips, and she brought them to bear on all she saw with a magician’s touch. Her encouragement to me in my own long tussel with a manuscript had a B’rer Rabbit ring: “ ‘Kep’ at it,’ said the cat as she et the grindstone. “

Only Maggie in Korea ever had hog’s jowl breakfasts, occasions whose natural unfamiliarity to non-Georgians was enhanced by the mysterious resonance these syllables assumed in Maggie’s deep voice as they roiled out over the telephone. She knew darn well most guests wouldn’t know what they were getting before they came—including this Yankee!

Widowed after only five years of marriage, when her husband fell in action at the end of World War I, and never again married, Maggie had to find within herself the springs of joy. None who met her ever doubted that she had. Self-reliance, a stout heart, an impish humor were in every toss of her head and shone from those bright, intense dark eyes. At a time when most women might trunk their journeys mostly done, she set out on hers for Korea; there the Royal Asiatic Society became, with its rising schedule of trips, her special gateway on a new world.

Hundreds have en-joyed these trips; none with more relish than Maggie. Cane swinging, cigarette at the lips, an unathletic frame forgotten in the recesses of pants and sweaters, she strode the hills, valleys and temple precincts of Korea, absorbing every sight and smell and drawing out from rock and hall alike uncanny imprints of the past, imagined settings, personal meaning, all divulged in jestful dicta. [page 133**]** Her vocations of these excursions, published in series in the Korea Times, enshrine this side of the Society’s activities as nothing else has or could. The last time we talked, she longed to continue this writing.

Perhaps some of the deep joy she had from her Korean ramblings lived on in her final wishes. She asked to be cremated and that, on the first day when all the Mexican volcanoes reappear, her daughter go to scatter her ashes over the Tepoztlan valley. But we who knew her in those years are sure that something of her spirit, more than ashes, will remain also with the valleys of Sorak and Songni-san.

―Gregory Henderson

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**RAS Meetings During** 1968

The dates of the meetings, the speakers, and their subjects were as follows:

February 21 — Mr. John Bannigan

“Neutralism in Cambodia and Laos”

March 6— Mr. Melvin P. McGovern

“Specimen Pages of Korean Movable Types”

March 20— Dr. Joseph S. Chung “North Korea”

April 3— Dr. Song Ki-song “The Computer in Korea Today”

April 17— Prof. Paek Nak-chung “Creative Writing and Criticism”

May 1 — Movie Showing “Six Daughters” (Paltogangsan)

(National Film Production Center)

May 8— Movie Showing “Six Daughters”

May 14— Mr. Humphrey Leynse

“Movie on the Life of a Korean Family”

June 5— Special Movie Showing “Six Daughters”

June 19— Dr. Edward Wagner

“The Ladder of Success in Traditional Korea”

July 3- Dr. Spencer J. Palmer “Korean-American Relations”

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July 24— Dr. Moon Seung-kyu

“Decision Making in American and Korean Rural Families”

August 14— Dr. Gari Ledyard “Korea Meets the Dutch”

September 18— Dr. Koh Hae-sung

“Problems in Korean Research in the United States”

October 2— Dr. Lee Hahn-bin

“A Study of Korean Public Administration, 1945―1968”

October 30— Prof. Hahm Pyong-choon

“The Korean Political Tradition and Law”

November 13― Dr. Martina Deuchler

“The Opening of the Ports of Inchon”

November 27— Mrs. Bonnie Crown “The Korean Tradition” (Seoul Club)

December 11― Prof. Pi Chon-duck

“The Romantic Tradition in Korean Poetry”

(All meetings were held at the National Medical Center unless otherwise indicated.)

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1968 **RAS Tours**

The society, during 1968, sponsored 22 tours and special events, ranging from one-day to four-day trips. The dates, places visited, and number of participants in parentheses follow:

April 7— Secret Garden & Changdok Palace (65)

April 4—7— Cheju Island (30)

April 13— West Five Tombs (42)

April 19—21 — Haein-sa (30)

April 27— Nam Han Fortress (35)

May 4— Suwon (16)

May 11 — 12— Popchu-sa (39)

May 18— Chong-myo and Nakson-jae (20)

May 26— Nine Kings Tombs (34)

June 1— South of the Han River (24)

June 8—11 — Ullung-do (Island) (25)

June 15— Yoju Area & Silluk-sa (31)

June 22— Tacgang-nung (30)

June 29— Changdok Palace (45)

Aug. 30—Sept. 2— Cheju Island (30)

Sept. 21 — Nakson-jae (73)

Sept. 28—29— Kum-gok & Chung Pyung (15)

Oct. 5— Kyongbok Palace (20)

Oct. 13— Suwon (28)

Oct. 18—20— Sorak Mountains (26)

Nov. 3— Tae-nung & Kang-nung (33)

Nov. 17— North of Samgak-san and Tobong-san (46)

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**RAS Meetings During** 1969

The dates of the meetings, the speakers, and their subjects were as follows:

January 15— Mr. Alan Heyman

“An Introduction to Korean Music”

January 29— Dr. Yu Chin-o

“Origin of the Korean Constitution”

February 26— Mr. James Wade “Movies in the ROK”

March 12— Dr. Spencer Palmer

“Suk Jun—Remnant of a Grand Tradition”

March 26— Prof. Kim Jung-hak

“The Prehistory of the Han River Region”

April 9— Mr. Choi Duk-shin

“Status of the Century-old Movement, Chon Do Kyo”

April 23— Dr. Paul Crane

“World-famous Collection of Korean Cel- adon Held

by Gompertz”

May 7— Prof. Hahm Byung-choon

Prof. Chung Hee-kyung

Miss Grace Kim

Prof. Yim Sung-hee

Roundtable discussion on “The Changing

Role of Korean Women”

May 21— Prof. Geoffery Bownas

“Development of Far Eastern Studies in

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Britain since the Second World War”

June 4— Bishop Richard Rutt

“Kim Man-jung’s Cloud Dream of the Nine (Ku Un Mong)”

June 11— Dr. Clarence N. Weems

“The Philosophy behind Homer Hulbert’s Writings”

June 25— Dr. Dick H. Nieusma,

Jr. Verb Wheel and Dial-A-Verb Glossary

“New Approach to Language Study”

September 3— Mr. Gregory Henderson “Korean Ceramics”

October 1— Dr. Klaus Mading

“Hong Kong Society in Chinese Popular Literature”

October 15— Dr. Huh Jong-hyeon

“Accounting in Far Eastern Countries”

October 29— Dr. Harold F. Cook

“Kim Ok-kyun and the Background of the 1884 Incident”

November 12— Mr. Jan O. MacDonald “Rural Korea in Transition”

November 26— Dr. Nam Se-jin

Mr. Kim Hak-mook

Miss Elvinah Spoelstra

Miss Chu Chong-il

Roundtable discussion on “Social Welfare in Korea”

December 10— Dr. Kim Won-yong “The Evolution of Silla Pottery”

(All meetings held at National Medical Center)

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1969 **RAS Tours**

The Society, during 1969, sponsored 24 tours and special events, ranging from one-day to four-day trips. The dates, places visited, and number of participants in parentheses follow:

March 23— Songgyun’gwan University (68)

April 5— Sosam-nung (35)

April 11 —13— Cheju Island (28)

April 17—20— Kanghwa Island (26)

April 26— Nam Han Fortress (34)

May 2—4— Kyongju and Pulguk-sa (24)

May 11 — Nine Kings Tombs and Kumgok (44)

May 17—18— Sudok-sa & Shrine of Admiral Yi Sun-sin (28)

May 29—June 1— Chiri-san & Namwon (25)

May 25— Secret Garden (55)

June 7— Chong-myo & Nakson-jae (44)

June 14— South of Han River (17)

June 19— Restaurant, Woo Rae Ok (24)

June 28— Toksu Museum (28)

Aug. 29—Sept. 1 — Sorak Mountain (27)

September 13—14— Popchu-sa (30)

September 20— Suwon (40)

September 22— Late afternoon trip to a swallow roost

on the outskirts of Seoul (32)

September 27— Kwang-nung (20)

October 3—5— Kanghwa Island (25)

October 11— Silluk-sa in Yoju (34)

October 18— Secret Garden & Changdok Palace (32)

October 24—26— Haein-sa (26)

November 1— Sosam-nung (17)