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**SEVENTY YEARS OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY IN KOREA**

**By Dr. Lak-Geoon George Paik**

Long before the terminology of Korean studies was made current, several Occidental scholars toward the end of the nineteenth century pioneered in the field, To mention only a few, Dallet,Courant and Griffis,all of whom published their investigations between 1874 and 1897. These authors made Korea and her civilization their subjects of study,wrote in European languages and published outside of Korea. Among the permanent resident missionaries, Henry G. Appenzeller, George H. Jones and F. Ohlinger started the Korean Repository, the first foreign language journal in Korea. This storehouse of valuable information also had its beginning and unfortunate end before the close of the century.

The international situation centering on the country, rapid progress of the Christian mission work and the arrival of some business interests, at the turn of the century,increased the number of Occidental residents in the land. Among them, there were people who soon recognized the intrinsic as well as utilitarian values of the once highly developed culture of Korea. These men of vision and wide interests began to devote their extra time to Korean studies and gradually associated themselves in an organized efforts,which finally culminated into the inauguration of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

It will be recalled that the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was established by King George IV in 1824 for “the purpose of investigation of subjects connected with or for the encouragement of science,literature and arts in relation to Asia.” The procedure of affiliation of a branch with the parent society has not been uniform. The Asiatic Society of Bengal in India was an older organization than the parent society,but was soon affiliated with the Royal Society in the [page26] original name. The similar procedure was also followed by the Japan Society. The Korea Branch from its inception started as a branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in London. It appears that the former Korean Repository associates,Henry G. Appenzeller, George H. Jones and others were active spirits for the organization of the Korea Branch. Jones made contacts with Asiatic Societies in China and Japan for information on the formation of a Branch Society. He was advised to take up direct contact with the parent society in London for rules for the formation of a branch. In reply to Jones’ inquiry,the acting secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society in London,stated that the inquiry “had been laid before the Council and that they welcomed the proposal to form an Asiatic Society in Korea and would gladly admit it when formed as a branch society, provided that the rules were such as they could approve of.” After having completed preparations for the formal organization,a notice was sent out in the name of Committee on Arrangement to foreign residents in Seoul on June 11, 1900 calling for a mass meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m.,Saturday, June 16, 1900. Seventeen men responsed the call, representing three nationalities, namely, Briton, American and German. The mass meeting was held in the reading room of the Seoul Union,which then stood on the present American Ambassador’s residence parking lot and the milk processing plant.

The mass meeting elected J. H. Gubbins,the incumbent British charge d’affaires,for chairman and J. S. Gale for the secretary of the inaugural meeting. G. H. Jones read the correspondence from the acting secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society in London. In accordance with the suggestion of the headquarters,Jones presented a resolution for the formal organization of the Korea Branch, and it was unanimously adopted. Thus the Korea Branch was born on June 16, 1900. Homer B. Hulbert presented the draft of the constitution and by-laws of 18 articles each, which followed closely sister organizations in China and Japan,for adoption. The draft constitution and by-laws were also unanimously adopted. The object of the Society, as it is stated in the fundamental document, reads “to investigate the arts,history, literature and customs of Korea and neighboring countries.”The slate of officers of the first year was as follows: J. H. Gubbins, the president; George Jones, vice president; J. S. Gale, corresponding secretary; H. B. Hulbert, recording secretary; H, B, Turner, treasurer; and Alex Kenmure, the [page 27] librarian. The office holders included four Britons and two Americans.

Upon the completion of the formal constitution of the Society, application was presented to the parent society in London for affiliation as a branch. The application was approved by the parent society and the Korea Branch was admitted formally on November 16,1900. An extract from a letter from the honorary secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, which appears as the frontispiece of the first volume of the transaction, reads as follows: “......I am desired to inform you that a resolution was passed and entered in our minutes accepting your society as a branch of the Royal Asiatic Society duly affiliated under our rules.”

Enthusiasm for the work of the Society ran high. The second meeting of the branch met on October 24, 1900 and Dr Gale, who was introduced as an “acknowledged authority on Korean matters” read the first paper on “The Influence of China upon Korea,” which now adorns the initial pages of the first volume of the Transactions. The tnird general meeting was held on November 29, 1900,and Mr. Hulbert read his paper on “Korean Survivals.”

The first annual meeting was assembled on December 19,1900, and re-elected the officers of the Society elected in the previous June, except the treasurer, Rev. H. B. Turner, who on account of his long absence from the country was replaced by Edwin V. Morgan.

It would be time consuming and unprofitable labor to reproduce records of work of the Society from meeting to meeting or even from year to year. I will,therefore, present a resume of the history under several topics, such as (1) a Survey of Developments,(2) the Transactions, (3) the Library, (4) Membership and Finance, (5) and Conclusions.

**I. A SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS**

The first three years were a time of beginnings. Important traditions from the period have been handed down to the present. The open door policy for membership is one of these traditions. The Society is officially the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland,but the membership of the Korea Branch was and is open to all who are interested in the [page 28] program, regardless of their nationality, residence, religion or profession. The emphasis on the quality of the journal popularly called the “Trans-actions” is another important policy. The first president at one of the early meetings of the Society commented on the journal as follows: “Like all societies, we have two audiences to deal with, the audience we address through our meetings and the more distant and possibly more learned audience we appeal to through the medium of our transactions. While,therefore,it is necessary for us to win the sympathy of resident members, on whose support we are primarily dependent,it is also incumbent upon us not to forget that so far as non-resident members, the outside public, are concerned, we shall be judged by our transactions.”

In the light of the high ideals set for the Society, the first president could not help but have a deep concern over the prospect of the Society. He said,”I trust members of the society will not be discouraged if sometimes there should occur a long interval during which, owing to lack of papers,no meeting takes place.” When the membership was small and a few were in a position to supply papers,meetings were often omitted. No paper, no meeting was the practice.

When the Society did meet, it was a seminar of a small congenial group. The reader presented his paper on a given subject and the meeting was thrown open to the house for discussion on the subject of the paper. When the paper was ready for publication, it was turned over to the council for publication in the Transactions. The social feature of the meetings was a tea, which was refreshing in late afternoon gatherings.

After having set general principles of operations, the Society underwent a long period of silence from January 1903 to December 1910. It will be recalled that these years were most troublesome times in the country,including the international contest over Korea,the Russo- Japanese war that broke out off the shores of Inchon, and its aftermath culminating in the Japanese annexation of Korea. In the annals of missionary enterprise, we find that the hands of missionaries were tied up in coping with the mass conversion of the Korean people to Christianity. The work of the Society, which was an extracurricular undertaking for all members, had to come a halt under such political upheavals and crowded missionary engagements. We note, however, a justification of the silence in these words: “Attention was called to the fact that the [page 29] society had existed with occasional business meetings since 1902, but no paper on a Korean theme read before it.”

The second period in the development of the Society from 1911 to 1930 may be called the Trollope era. The late Bishop took active part in the program of the Society from its beginning. During this period of 20 years four persons held the post of president, but Trollope was in the office long years, until his untimely death 1930. Under his able and devoted leadership, the Society published 19 volumes of Transactions containing 30 treatises. We will call attention to some of these papers later. These years were productive ones for the Society, despite the fact that Korea was entirely blacked out to the outside world. Dr. H. H. Underwood, immediate successor to Bishop Trollope in the presidency, wrote an appreciation of the man and work of Bishop Trollope, Which was printed in the Transaction for 1931.

From 1930 to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Dr. H. H. Underwood, Father Charles Hunt and others, with courage and forbearance, kept the Society alive under the most adverse situation of the Japanese occupation of the country. Dr. Underwood stated in his presidential report for 1939: “The members of the society have all been working under conditions which did not lend themselves to the conduct of research work. In addition to this, ,some conditions have made it seem unwise to hold any more meetings than were necessary.” In fact, Dr. E. W. Koons, a loyal member and one time president of the Society was arrested by the Japanese, while he was reading proofs of a Transaction.

The elapse of the seven war years brought a new dawn to the life of the Society. Following the close of the World War II, some of the former members of the Society returned from their forced repatriation. Many did not return, but a great number of American Army officers and civilians showed interest in the work of the Society. These interested people held an informal meeting at the English Church Mission Bishop’s Lodge on November 26,1947 and made plans for reorganization of the Society. Leaders in the movement were H. H. Underwood and Charles Hunt. A mass meeting was held on December 18, 1947 at the Bankers’ Club and formally reconstituted the Society by electing H. H. Underwood, president,and Charles Hunt, ,vice-president. Other office holders were also elected according to the existing constitution. The Society [page 30] continued to function in the established patterns of past operations by presenting learned papers at periodic meetings until the North Korean communist invasion in June,1950. The Society, in spite of the transitional state of affairs in those two and one half years, 1948-1950, achieved significant records of accomplishments, such as introduction of tours, which have now become a hall mark of the RAS, and Society lectures, as well as the salvage of the library,and above all the publication of three valuable papers by the late Miss Helen Chapin, a specialist in Asiatic Arts and Monuments, who had come to Korea for two years as Advisor to the Korean National Museum. “There never has been a time when so great an interest in the Society has been shown”, so declared in 1949 the Rev. Charles Hunt, who was then the president of the Society. In the onrush of the North Korean communist invaders, the Society lost Charles Hunt, who had remained in the city and became a captive of the communists, never to return. Dr. Underwood died in Pusan in February 1951. The Society could not function during the communist occupation of Seoul, but undaunted members carried on correspondence with printers in Hong Kong for the publication of volume XXXII of the Transactions in 1951.

When Seoul was retaken, the Society took up its interrupted activities among a large number of supporters in the expanded international community in the city. As it was in the beginning, in this time of a new start,the honor and responsibility of the leadership were extended to ambassadors of friendly countries. Dr. Richard Hertz, the Ambassador from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Hon. Roger Chambard, the Ambassador of France, gave unstintingly of themselves to the work of the Society while serving as its presidents, and many able scholars and enthusiastic Koreanophiles brought the Society through a most flourishing period during the 1960’s.

As the domestic situation of the country stabilized and the international relations between Korea and world nations normalized, the international community in Seoul grew larger and many intellectually- minded newcomers showed great interest in the Society. In order to cope with the situation created by the size and background of the membership, the program policy of the Society in recent years has been shifting from the Transaction-centered pattern of pre-World War II to direct participation by members in semi-monthly lectures, scheduled tours in line [page 31] with the modern audiovisual methods,and the publication of hardcover, full-length books on various Korean subjects. Thus the former concept of meeting two audiences through the presentation and publication of papers is augmented by the idea of on the spot stimulation and immediate effectiveness. However, we must add at once that the current program has, by no means, lessened the value of the Transactions. A learned society is a living organism, it must adjust to changing situations in order to exist and grow.

Lest we forget,we should make a brief record of men,who have given their inspired and vigorous leadership in the development of the Society. Many devoted their labour to the Society in various capacities. Creditable their services are, but it is impossible to make mention all of them in this brief survey. To be sure, presidents are leading spirits of their respective times. Twenty men served the Society as presidents in 70 years. Bishop Trollope was in the office the longest,a total 13 years ; H. H. Underwood, four years; Charles Hunt, and Roger Chambard three years each; Arthur Lay and Richard Hertz, two years each; and the 14 others served one year each.

**II. THE TRANSACTIONS**

The modern dictum “publish or perish” is not only applicable to academicians,but also to all learned societies. A high quality journal is the life of a scholarly society. The Korea Branch,from its inception, laid strong emphasis on the importance and quality of the Transactions, and they, in a sense, have become the yardstick for the measurement of the work of the Society. We will observe briefly the quantity, subject matter, and quality of this RAS journal.

The quantity of the Transactions are impressive; (this is volume XLVII of this journal). The Society published seven papers in the first three volumes from its inauguration in 1900 to the time of temporary suspension of activities during the period from 1904 to 1910. From the revivitication in 1911 to 1940,when the Society had to cease its work because of the war conditions, it issued 22 additional volumes, making [page 32] the total of 25 volumes consisting of 63 papers. Since the end of World War II,the Society has been productive in issuing 20 more volumes of the Transactions. When we celebrate the seventieth anniversary this year, the Society is the proud possessor and custodian of 45 volumes of the Transactions consisting of 126 treatises contributed by 73 authors including 49 Occidentals, 21 Koreans and three Japanese. It may be of interest to note the most frequent contributors. Dr. James S. Gale stands on the top,having presented six papers and four translations. Bishop Trollope comes the next with six papers and one foreword; H. H. Underwood, five papers and one appreciation; G. St. G. M. Gompertz, five; and Charles Hunt and Richard Rutt, four each. Homer B. Hulbert, G. H. Jones, J. D. Van Burskirk, Miss Helen Chapin and James Wade also have four each; E. W. Koons, E. M. Cable, G. M. McCune, Wilbur Bacon, Gregory Henderson, (beside one “In Memoriam”) and William Henthorn two each, and an additional 56 persons,one each.

Subject matter of these papers cover a wide range of interests, such as art, astronomy, history, literature, arboretum, ornithology, commerce,climate, customs, folk-lore, medicine, music, transportation, government, myth, Buddnism, Confuciansim, Christianity, numisti matics and others.

The format of the journal is plain. The cover bears imprints of the emblem “Taekuk” and the name of the country “Taehan” in two Chinese characters. The emblem of “Taekuk” stayed, while “Taehan” was replaced by “Chosen” during the time of the Japanese occupation. “Taehan” was restored following the establishment of the Republic. The current cover design with four Chinese characters Kun Yok Chung A, which is interpreted, “Splendor of the land of the Rose of Sharon” was initiated with Volume 41. Early volumes were printed in Japan,in order to secure the best printing possible in the Orient in those days and to meet prevailing standard of a learned journal in every way. Later volumes were printed in Hong Kong, but now all RAS printing is done in Korea.

It will be recalled that the journal was placed for sale with such well-known Oriental book dealers abroad as Kegan Paul in London and others in Paris, Berlin,and New York,

The quality of the Transactions of the Society compares favorably other learnead journals. All the treatises appearing in the transactions are by no means equal in quality and value. Some of them are products of [page 33] a high quality of scholarship and interpretations with deep insight; others are amateurish and preliminary introductions to given subjects. No one would expect of a collection of papers on various subjects by different authors in a period of 70 years, be of equal level of quality, both in the depths of research and discernment. I will not venture into the dangerous ground of evaluation of these papers, for they speak for themselves. Some of the papers are based on original field work,but most of them are results of arduous research from original sources. A few could handle their source material in the original literature, largely in Chinese,while others had to depend on information supplied to them. It was stated that Bishop Trollope used to read literature in original Chinese for pleasure, but not many have such accomplishments. These treatises have been not only instrumental in the preservation and transmission of the ancient culture of the Korean people, but also in the introduction of the Western methods of study and interpretation. However,it would not be an over statement to note that historical, sociological and archeological studies appearing in the first half of the century are now subject to re-study in the light of newly available documents, recent discoveries and research on such new materials. It was stated in the 1950’s that the Transactions were “one of the best continuously published sources of scholarly information on Korea.”

Production of learned treatises is not an easy task for anybody at any time. It has been doubiy difficult for foreign residents in Korea to work on subjects foreign to them. Consequently,publishable papers were not always available for the Transactions. In order to encourage the members to engage in research, leaders of the Society almost in every meeting exhorted members for research work,and at times circulated pertinent subjects among the members for their selections for study. Sometimes the members were challenged to response to enlightenments against falsehood and bigotry. In the minutes of the annual meeting of 1930,we note the following entry. “The question of many lies circulated about Korea was raised and the problem of whether anything could be done to correct such statements as appear in print was referred to the council.” Dr. H. H. Underwood numerated some of them in his paper on Occidental literature on Korea (TKBRAS, vol. 20 for 1931,pp. 11- 12). Bishop Trollope added a section in the Transactions, “Notes and Queries” to arouse interest of the members. Even an imposition was a [page 34] way of securing a paper from a prospective member. We read in the minutes of the council meeting for March 8, 1911,as follows,”Dr. Gale was asked to prepare and read a paper in April. His silence was interpreted to signify consent.”

I will close this part on the Transactions with a quotation from a statement from the first president of the Society with regard to the Society’s journal. “Since we profess to be a branch of a learned society, I trust that the scale will always turn in favor of the solid value of our Transactions and not the mere popularity of our meetings.”

**III. THE LIBRARY**

The library is an inseparable part of the Society. The library has shared its fortunes with the Society. When the Society did not have a library of its own,Dr. E. B. Landis of the English Church Mission made his valuable collection available to members of the Society. Dr. Landis collected about 500 standard books on the Far East and deposited them with the English Church Mission. Alex Kenmure was the first librarian of the Society. He made small contributions to the library. When the Transactions were published, exchanges brought in several journals from many parts of the world. We note that there were as many as 14 exchanges in 1937, while the total accession of books in that year totalled 43 volumes.

In spite of the great value of the library it had not had a permanent depot. These books were first deposited in the British and Foreign Bible Society building, where Kenmure had his business office. Later, the library was in the English Mission Bishop’s Lodge, when Bishop Trollope was the president. When the Christian Literature Society building was erected in 1931, its Administrative secretary, N.C Whittemore, was elected the librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society library. The library went along with the librarian to his centrally located fire proof building. Book cases of the Library decorated the Board Room until the Japanese confiscated the building and all as enemy property in 1941. Following the termination of the World War II,Robert A. Kinney, [page 35] the librarian at the time collected scattered volumes and moved them to the American Embassy building for safekeeping. He had hopes in 1950 for the restoration of the library to, at least, the pre-Pearl Harbor condition, but the North Korean communist invasion destroyed this hope. In the mid-winter, 1950-1951,through the prompt and vigorous efforts of the librarian, the books recovered after the recapture of Seoul were evacuated to the United States, and soon after the Armistice, these volumes were brought back to Seoul. The Society, having no suitable place to store the books, deposited them in the Korean Research Library building until 1968. When the Society began to have its own office, the library moved together with the office to the Research Library building compound. When the office was moved to the Korea Times building in 1970, the library was separated from the office, and is now in the British Embassy Library for safe-keeping and circulation.

We have no record of the accessions to the library. There is a report that a catalogue was made and mimeographed in 1928 and on the need of three more book-cases in 1937, but none of these is now in existence. However we have the record of 321 items, which were deposited in the Korean Research Library in 1960. There must have been additional acquistitions in the last decade, but an accurate estimate of the size of the library is not currently available. The library has specialized in the collection of old books and other standard works on Korea in European languages and has made special efforts to complete several sets of important learned journals.

When books on Korea in European languages were few in number, there were three centers of the books of Koreana, namely,the Landis Library in the English Church Mission; the Royal Asiatic Society Library; and the Underwood collection. The first has become a part of the Library of Yonsei University,and the last was burned completely in the Korean War and the Society’s library has survived to the present condition. Since Korea is on the world scene, books on the country appear in large numbers. No student can afford to have a personal BIBLIOTHECA KOREANA. The Royal Asiatie Society Library should specialize in books on Korea in European languages and the needs of the library should be a challenge to the Society. [page 36]

**IV. MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE**

We have already noted the membership policy of the Society. The size of the membership has been relative to the size of the international community in Korea. When an Occidental comes to the country, he finds that his participation in the work of the Society is the most rewarding way of learning about the country and people. Many have joined the Society for self-development. The Society started with 17 members in 1900, but before the end of that year of the inauguration, the membership doubled. When the Society underwent the first suspension of activities, in 1903, there were enrolled 74 members. The scope of a constant membership in the pre-liberation period stood about 150-200. Membership grew rapidly, as the international community expanded in the country, specially in Seoul, following the close of the Pacific and Korean Wars. In the 1950’s an average size of the membership was about 350-500, and in the 1960’s 500-600. Currently, in 1972 RAS members of the Korea Branch number about 950,including life members, regular memers in Korea,and members overseas..

It will be difficult to classify the membership according to nationali-ties, but one can not help but note the almost total absence of participation of the French and Russians from the beginning throughout most of the past 70 years. In fact the French, as we are familiar with those monumental works done by the French, were real Western pioneers in Korean studies. Catholic missionaries in Korea, who have predominantly been French nationals, have been absorbed in their own research and publications. The late Archbishop Mutel,however, had had occasional contacts on common concern with early leaders of the Society, and it was most fitting that a biographical sketch of the venerable Archbishop has been written by an eminent member of the Society and included in a Transaction.

The first Korean member of the Society was Min Young Chan, a relative of Queen Min, brother of Min Young Whan, and one time Korean minister to Paris. He was elected in 1901. Dr. Syngman Rhee was elected to the membership in 1910 not long before he went in exile and later was elected an honorary member, Dr. Tchi Ho Yun and other names [page 37] of the returnees from studies abroad are sprinkled in the membership list in the 30s,and a few have been elected to the council and other offices. In the history of the first 50 years of the Society, one paper was read before the Society by a Korean, who was not a member, and two other papers were presented by a Korean member, but they never were completed for publication. This situation has changed. Korean members contributed 19 papers on various subject, without the mention of numerous lectures, to the Transactions between 1961-1970, while 25 papers by 13 Occidentals appeared in the Transactions in the same period There are many qualified Korean scholars, who could make contributions to the work of the Society, but the Society does not enroll as many Korean members as the Society would welcome. This situation exists on account of the preoccupation of many Korean scholars in activities of their own learned Societies and perhaps also because of the background of the Society, with its foreign connections and predominately foreign membership. We would like to look forward to the time, when the Society is understood as an all inclusive community of students of all nationalities of the culture of Korea and the neighboring countries.

The financial policy of the Society has been one of strict adherence to self support. Sources of income have been none other than annual dues from members and the sales of Transactions and other RAS books. Income neither had been large enough to purchase all the books that the librarian recommended for acquistion nor to maintain an office with a staff in the pre-liberation years,but it has always been solvent throughout the years and also carried a small balance. The Society, in recent years has been in a postion to grant scholarship aid to worthy students and subsidies to cultural organizations in the country,the kind of service the Society never could attempt before. The publication of RAS’s monographs has sent out much light on Korea and also has yielded some income. The Publications Committee has also set a high standard for foreign language book publication in this country. It may be safe to assume that the Korea Branch is undoubtedly the most active branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in the world today. [page 38]

**V. CONCLUSIONS**

The present writer, as he retrospects his close connection with the Society and his personal association with the past and present leaders over the last 40 years, would congratulate the Society for past achievements and pay high tribute to the men,who have invested their many parts and patient labor for the advancement of the Korean studies through the work of the Society. We accord our honor and respect to these men of learning for their initiatives in Korean studies, and their continuous labor of research for the revivification of the culture of the Korean people and for their enduring success as evidenced by the volumes of the Transactions. They have not only stored away the results of their studies for succeeding generations of scholars, but also imprinted their personalities on these pages of the Transactions. They have lived in the country not only by their physical presence, but by their intellectual and spiritualistic companionship with great minds and noble spirits of the Korean people. Their understanding of the country and people has been profound and their written expressions carried the light of truth and weight of authority. Gale, Trollope, Hulbert, Underwood and Hunt, without listing the living, will be remembered long as advocates of the work of the Society and as heralds of the Korean culture to the outside world.

One who examines annual reports of the past years, can not help but be impressed by the dedication of early leaders to the Society. All of them emphasized the importance of the work of the Society, and encouraged members to engage in research on Korean themes. These men loved the Society for what the Society has done for themselves and for the world. Exhorting statements of several presidents of the bygone years are challenging as well as touching. Let me quote a few of them. The Rev. Hunt wrote:

‘‘We trust that the Bishop’s (Trollope) often expressed hope will be fulfilled,that the Corean people will in the not far future come yet again to appreciate their own literature, of which they have no need to be ashamed but rather of which they may be justly proud.”

Dr. H. H. Underwood left these words:

“My hope that as a society we may continue to build an increasing  [page39] storehouse of research on Korea which shall be worthy of the work to be found in the 28 volumes, which the Society has had the honor of publishing and which form a unique contribution to the study of the Far East.”

The Rev. Charles Hunt wrote as the retiring president of the Society in 1950:

“Many of the important subjects yet to be presented need a great deal of research which must necessitate a long expenditure of time besides an acquaintance with the Korean language,and many of our members are unlikely to be in Korea for any length of time and it must be left largely to those who are residents of a larger duration in Korea to do this research work.” Another former president’s valedictory reads as follows;

“During the years I have been a member of the Society,I think I have held all the offices of the Society and now I am at the end of the route and out I go. I thank you all for the pleasure you have given me.”

I now come to the point of gazing at the prospects for the future of the Society. There is an unprecedented opportunity for greater achievement than ever before. First of all,the Society now has a large membership of men and women who are interested in Korean studies. Then, there is complete freedom of research and presentation thereof, the privilege that our predecessors could not always enjoy. We now have many like-minded scholars among the Korean academic world. Korea in her long history has lost much of its source materials for research, but in recent years, we have many important discoveries in all fields in which the Society aims to make contributions. Publications of ancient documents by the government and private sources are readily available to all who search for facts of the past. I believe that we have greatly advanced methods of research and evaluation. The pursuit of Korean studies is now ready for the appearances of scholarly works on Korea in European languages. This demand should be a challenge to many members of the Society. A foreigner, occasionally produces superior quality books on another country as established by works of Alexis de Tocqueville and James Bryce on America, and Arthur Young on France. There is a great opportunity for the trained mind to explore all that is good, true and beautiful in the heritage of the Korean people as a contribution to the world’s knowledge of the cultural development of the Korean people.