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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, KOREA BRANCH, 1972**

(Presented at the Annual General Meeting, 6 December 1972)

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society experienced an extremely active year of progress in 1972, the seventy-second year of its existence. From its new and expanded office in the modern Han’guk Ilbo (Korea Times) Building, 1972 proved to be the most profitable and worthwhile year in the Society’s long history of attempting to make Korea and things Korean better known and appreciated by the English speaking world.

Membership: As of 1 December 1972 the total was 1,019, an all-time high. Of this total, 35 were life members, 275 were overseas, and 709 were in Korea. We kept in touch with overseas members by our quarterly newsletter and with our local membership by our monthly activities bulletin.

Meetings: During 1972 we held 28 meetings, which were attended by a total of 3,900 persons. As an innovation this year, we held 4 meetings in Taegu, which are included in the total. Included in our offerings were such items as a masked dance drama, movies, a garden party, a demonstration of yoga, and lectures on a variety of topics, such as ‘The Korean Character’, ‘A Western Artist’s Approach to Calligraphy’, ‘Twenty Years of Negotiations at Panmunjom’, and ‘Traditional Poetry Criticism’.

Tours: During 1972 we took 1,519 persons on 28 tours, including 3 overseas tours, one each to Japan (Winter Olympics), Taiwan and Hong Kong, and Southeast Asia. Average participation in domestic tours was 58. Tours in Korea included Cheju Island (twice), Kyongju, Sorak-san, Chin-san, and Ch’ungmu. We conducted 9 weekend tours of 2 to 4 days duration. The remainder were one-day, half-day or evening [page 195] restaurant tours.

Publications: The year 1972 was another active one for the publication of RAS Transactions and books. Highlight of the year was Richard Rutt’s *James Scarth Gale and his History of the Korean People*, a long-awaited volume, which came out in July. Earlier, in March, we published Harold F. Cook’s *Korea’s 1884 Incident: Its Background and Kim Ok-kyun’s Elusive Dream*. We also brought out a 6th printing (1st printing of 3rd edition) of Paul S. Crane’s tremendously popular *Korean Patterns*. We now have 11 books in print. Finally, we published Volume 47 in our Transactions series, half the copies in paperback and half in hard covers. In early 1973 we hope to bring out *Three Clan Villages* by Pak Kihyuk and the late Sidney D. Gamble. From our enlarged office we continue to offer our membership our own publications as well as a fine selection of other English language books about Korea.

The officers and councilors of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society wish to thank the membership for making 1972 such an eventful year. We look forward to your continued interest and cooperation during the year ahead.

**MEETINGS**

Attendance

January 12 Film selections 270

26 Reminiscences of the Burma Campaign in World War II and China after the Japanese Surrender in 1945 (Lt. Gen. William R. Peers) 190

February 16 Philosophy & Techniques of Yoga (Kim Hyonsu) 65

March 8 Traditional Poetry Criticism (Richard Rutt) 240

22 Goethe & Asia (Michael R. Engelhand) 65

April 5 Excavation of Paekche King Munyong’s Tomb (Prof. Kim Wonyong) 140

26 Urban Problems in Korea (Gregory Pai) 92

May 17 Special Program for Buddha’s Birthday (Mrs 130

[page 196] Dallas Hunter & Dr Harold F. Cook)

May 25 Korean Poetry (Richard Rutt; in Taegu) 70

31 Rural Migrants to Seoul (Dr Vincent S. R. Brandt) 240

June 7 Geography of the Republic of Korea (Dr Patricia Bartz) 105

15 Introduction to Korean Music (Alan Hey man; in Taegu) 76

21 Study of Foreign Influence (Donald S. Macdonald) 85

July 12 Film selection 75

26 James Scarth Gale & His History of the Korean People (Richard Rutt) 225

August 9 Twenty Years of Negotiations at Panmunjom 140

(Prof. Roy U. T. Kim)

23 Haein-sa (Mr & Mrs Charles Lauster) 120

September 6 Experiences & Impressions while doing 115

Research in Korea (George Yuan, Alexander Townsend, & Peter Bartholomew)

13 Turn of the Tide: 1950 Inchon Landing (Alan M. MacDougall) 85

14 Masked Dance Drama (In Taegu) 175

27 Indian & Korean Folk Music: Observations

& Contrasts (Dr Rosetta Renshaw) 95

29 Garden Party & Unveiling of Memorial Stone

for Min Yonghwan at French Embassy 250

October 11 Western Artist’s Approach to Calligraphy 80

(Prof. Margaret Rigg)

25 Korean Character (Dr Edward W. Poitars) 160

November 15 Masked Dance Drama 350

16 America Comes to Korea: The Early Contacts

(Dr Harold F. Cook; in Taegu) 20

29 Korean Shamanism (Dr Yu Tongshik) 105

December 6 Annual General Meeting; presentation of 135

slides of Korea taken around 1900

(Dr Horace G. Underwood)

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**TOURS**

Participants

February 1-11 Overseas tour (Winter Olympics) 25

March 29 Restaurant & movies (Korea House) 70

April 1 Sujong-sa 76

9 Mystery tour 44

23 Churches of Seoul 42

29 Vegetarian meal (Pogwang-sa) 100

May 6-7 Puyo & Kongju 34

6-19 Overseas tour (Southeast Asia) 12

14 Chong-dong 55

20 Buddha’s Birthday lantern procession

& restaurant (Hyangdo) 73

26-29 Sorak-san 32

June 4 Inch’on 71

10-12 Kyongju 34

18 Boating on the Han River 92

25 Changnung 81

September 2-4 Cheju-do 30

8-10 Cheju-do 23

17 Emillle Museum & mudang ceremony 140

24 Haengju Sansong & West Three Tombs 82

September 30 Kanghwa Island 24

-October 1

October 7-9 Ch’ungmu 57

14 Sogang University 37

20-23 Chiri-san 30

29 North Han Valley 77

November 4 Kaya Hills and Sudok-sa 86

11-12 Popchu-sa 31

18-25 Overseas tour (Taiwan & Hong Kong) 21

December 1 Restaurant (Handong-won) 40