[page 145]

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KOREA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, 1973**

It is now seventy-three years since the founding of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society by a small group of foreigners living in Korea. They were concerned with the scholarly pursuit of things Korean. At that time the society had three overseas members and thirty-four local members. The list of those first members reads like a Who’s Who of pioneers in the field of Korean scholarship.

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society has grown tremendously. Its programs have expanded from a few yearly to 29 for 1973. The aims of the society have not changed, but we are reaching a larger number of people concerned with Korea and things Korean.

Membership. As of December 31,1973 the total membership was 1,054,an all-time high. Of this number 40 were life members ; of the others, 314 were overseas and 700 were in Korea. During the year we have kept in touch with our overseas members by means of our quarterly newsletter and with our local members by our monthly activities bulletin.

Finances. After all the tours, lectures and the purchasing of office supplies, etc.,our operating funds increased from $1,490 to $1,520.

Douglas Fund. Four tuition scholarships were awarded during 1973 by the Douglas Fund, which is administered by RAS for that purpose. They went to Park Yong Ch’ol of Yonsei University,Kim Yong-il of Sogang, Sung Ho- kyung of Seoul National,and Oh In-rok of Sunggyunkwan. All were given in the field of Korean studies, as stipulated in the terms of the gift from Dr. William Douglas in memory of his son.

Meetings. During 1973 we held 29 meetings which were attended by 4,597 persons. This includes seven meetings held in Taegu. The programs were wide and varied, and included “Takamatsu Tomb Wall Paintings”,, “But Is It Korean?”, “Farmers’ Band” and “Religions of Old Korea.” Tours. During 1973 we took 1,339 people on 24 tours including one overseas tour. Average participation in domestic tours was 58 persons. Our largest tour was the Paltang Dam and Yongmunsa ; we took 110 persons there. Our schedule included tours to Cheju Island, Hyunchung-sa, Sorak San, Haein- sa and Yongwol. We conducted nine weekend tours ; the remainder were one or half day tours.

Publications. The year 1973 saw an important step forward in regard to Royal Asiatic Society books. We signed an agreement with the University of Washington Press giving them sole distribution rights to our books overseas. Our membership, both overseas and in Korea, is exempt from this restric- [page146] tion. This year also saw the publication of Volume 48 of the Transactions which is yet another. milestone in the Society’s contribution te knowledge of Korea. There are at present ten RAS books in print as well as the Transactions.

Dr. Harold F. Cook. Last July the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society said farewell to Dr. Cook who had served for two years as corresponding secretary. We thank him for all he has done to further the growth of the RAS, and wish him well in his new position in the United. States.

[page 147]

**1973 MEETINGS**

Date Event Attendance

January 17 Korea’s Secret Cultural Mountain: 100

Kyongju Soutn Mountain

(Dr. Rhi Ki Yong)

January 31 Takamatsu Tomb Wall Paintings 125

(Dr. Kim Chae Won)

February 14 The Ch’ao-hsien Fu; Song of Korea 270

(Rt. Rev. Richard Rutt)

February 22 Korean Temple Bells

(Taegu RAS) (Dr. Samuel H. Moffett)

February 28 Walter D. Townsend: Pioneer American 180

Businessman in Korea

(Dr Harold F. Cook)

March 14 Buddhist Purification Ceremony 350

(Mr. Lee Byung-won―narrator)

March 22 Turn of the Tide: The 1950 Inchon Landing

(Taegu RAS) (Mr. Alan M. MacDougall)

March 28 Modern Korean Poetry 95

(Mr. Kim U-chang)

April 11 Life and Mores of Late Yi Dynasty Yangban 160

(Mr. Peter Bartholomew)

April 12 Korea’s Secret Cultural Mountain:

(Taegu RAS) Kyongju South Mountain

(Dr. Rhi Ki Yong)

April 25 Pongsan Mask Dance Performance 500

(Pongsan Mask Dance Group)

May 6 Carpentier Slide Collection

(Taegu RAS) (Dr. Horace H. Underwood)

May 16 Internationalization of Korea 77

Literature

(Panel: Prof. Song Yo-in,

Dr. H. H. Underwood and

[page148]

 Rt. Rev. Richard Rutt)

May 30 Film “Happiness from Heaven” 95

June 13 Religions of Old Korea 175

(Dr. Samuel H. Moffett)

June 27 Research on Korea: 165

Continuity and Change in a Korean

Village (Mr. Charles Goldberg)

A New Look at Traditional Korean

Law (Mr. William Shaw)

August 8 New Religions of Korea (Dr. H. Byron Earhart) 135

August 22 Film “This is Korea” 360

September 5 The Folkism Movement in Korea (Mr. Zozayong) 170

September 19 Research on Korea: 135

Aestheticism of Silla Ceramics

(Mrs. Barbara Russ Cho)

Manchu-Korean Relations in Early

17th century

(Mr. Jules Horvath)

October 3 But Is It Korean? 85

(Dr. Pae Yang Soe)

October 17 Han-Mi Nongak Dance Performance 250

(Korean Farmers’ Band)

October 30 Pirate Incursions on the Korean Coasts 40

(Taegu RAS) during the Medieval Period

(Mr. Robert Chudy)

November 14 Tumulus 155—The New Silla Discoveries

(Dr. Kim Won-yong) 150

November 15 The Tokkebi: Korean Gargoyle 56

(Taegu RAS) (Mr. Zozayong)

November 28 Pongsan Mask Dance Performance 250

(Pongsan Mask Dance Group)

December 12 New Look at Korea’s Foreign Policy 160

(H.E. Hahm Pyong-choon)

[page149]

**1973 TOURS**

Date Place Participants

April 1 Narrow Gauge Railway, 93

 Inchon to Suwon

April 6 Haein-sa 27

April 15 Changdok Palace and Secret Garden 65

April 21 Yoju 81

April 28-30 Cheju-do 31

May 6 Namhansansong 69

May 12 Vegetarian dinner—Pogwang-sa 102

May 25-28 Sorak-san 32

June 3 Kwangnung & Pongson-sa 76

June 10 Boating on the Han River 100

June 24 Little-visited Spots in Seoul 42

September 1-3 Cheju-do 29

September 8 Kangwha-do 75

September 16 Through Seoul’s West Gate 79

September 22-23 Yongwol 26

September 29 Yongmun-sa 96

October 6-8 Namhae-do 26

October 29 Churches of Seoul 41

November 3-4 Songni-san 42