[page 71]

**ANNUAL REPORT of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY - KOREA BRANCH 1995**

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was established in 1900 by a group of foreign residents in Korea, who sought to encourage investigation of all aspects of Korean life, culture, customs, geography and literature in order to deepen their understanding of the country and its people and to make them better known to the rest of the world. The original nucleus was soon joined by many others, including a number of Korean scholars. Some of the members had great scholarly gifts and their names will forever be associated with Korean studies, while many others contributed the first, and often the only papers on many aspects of Korea, leaving a legacy in the Transactions that are still a primary source of information on Korea in many fields. It is only appropriate that at this Annual Meeting we remember the great contribution of our forbears, and remember that the primary objective of the Branch is still the encouragement of studies on Korea.

The Korea Branch is organized with a Council of twenty-six members, including the officers. To carry out its functions the Council is organized into five committees: Membership, Publications, Program, Tours, and Finance.

Membership: At present the RAS-Korea Branch has a total of 1,479 members. This includes sixty-seven life members, 559 overseas members and 848 regular members residing in Korea.

Programs: Programs involving lectures, slide presentations and performances were held regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (except during the summer) at the Daewoo Foundation Building near Seoul Station. We are most grateful to the Foundation for allowing us the use of this centrally located space. The annual Garden Party, graciously hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Thomas G. Harris at the British Embassy Residence, was most successful, with an enjoyable program of Korean samulnori, special [page 72] book sales, and an opportunity for members to become better acquainted with each other.

Tours: A full schedule of tours through the year took members throughout the country. A total of some 1,990 members and non-members participated in these tours, and these tours remain one of the most popular activities of the Society. The worsening traffic in and out of Seoul is a continuing concern, but alternatives to bussing do not seem to be practical at this time.

Publications: The Publications Committee had another successful year super-vising book sales, reviewing manuscripts, and editing Volume 70 of the Transactions for publication. A revised Book List was prepared and distributed to all members and to various libraries and institutions interested in Korean studies.

Finances: I am pleased to report that the finances of the RAS-Korea Branch remained on an even keel during 1995. Although operating expenses are modest, the society depends totally upon the support you provide as members in paying annual dues, participating in tours and purchasing publications. Remember, your support continues to be critical to the financial well-being of the society.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the selfless efforts of the Council members and officers and of Mrs. Bae, who has been the mainstay of the R.A.S. office for the past twenty-eight years. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge once again the generosity of the Daewoo Foundation in making the auditorium available for our lecture meetings free of charge.

Respectfully submitted,

Suh, Ji-moon President [page 73]

**1995 R.A.S. Lectures**

Seoul Branch

January 11 Tibet: A Journey to the Roof of the World

Mr. Michael F. O’Brien

January 26 The World of Chong, Chi-young’s Poetry

Mr. Daniel A. Kister

February 8 Birds of Korea

Prof. Yoon, Moo-boo

February 22 Culture’s Impact on Business Performance

Prof. Yoon Suk-chul

March 8 Korean Embroidery

Mr. Huh, Dong-hwa

March 22 City Planning For Seoul: Historical, Cultural,

and Behavioral Issues

Dr. Tschangho John Kim

April 12 Korean Farmers’ Music and Dance

Mr. Gary Rector

April 26 Buddhist Landscape Architecture of Southeast Asia:

A Comparison with the Traditions of Korea Dr. Hong,

Kwang-pyo

May 10 Yi, Mun-yol’s Novel The Poet. Two True life Stories

Br. Anthony Teague

May 24 . Traditional Punjae (Bonsai) Art of Korea

Mr. Choi, Byung-chul

June 14 Abodes of Shaman Spirits Throughout Korea

Ms. Maggie Dodds

June 28 Dosan Ahn, Chang-ho: His Life and Impact on

the Korean Independence Movement

Mr. Philip Ahn Cuddy

August 23 An Introduction of Korea’s Newly Modified Traditional Instruments

Ms. Suzanna M. Samstag [page 74]

September 13 A Critical Appraisal of the ‘Sudden/Gradual’ Debate in Korea: Songchol’s ‘Subitism’ vs. Chinul’s ‘Gradualism’

Dr. Shim, Jae-ryong

September 27 The Sapsaree: Korea’s ‘National Dog’ Dr. Ha, Ji-hong

October 11 North Korea - ‘The Land of Mystery’

Mr. John Alsbury

October 25 An Overview of Korean Art Since 1945

Dr. Roe, Jae-ryung

November 8 Birds of Korea

Ms. Gertrude K. Ferrar

November 22 Paekche of Korea and the Origin of Yamato Japan

Dr. Hong, Wontack

December 13 Following the Silk Road

Mr. Edward B. Adams [page 75]

**1995 R.A.S. Tours**

Date Destination Attendance

January 14 In-wang San Hike 30

January 15 Buddhism Tour 17

January 21 Market Tour 19

January 28-30 Sorak San National Park 42

February 5 Tobongsan Mountain Hike 14

February 11 Exotic Shrine Tour 19

February 19 Yoju Tour 30

February 25-26 Inner Sorak Rhapsody Tour 14

Marcy 1 Independence Movement Day Tour 26

March 4 Kiln and Parka Crystal Factory Tour 17

March 5 Walking Tour of Choson Seoul Tour 40

March 11 Galleries of Insadong Tour 49

March 12 Sobaek-san National Park Tour 20

March 18 Suwon Tour 22

March 19 Kanghwa Island Tour 37

March 25 Paekche Tour - Puyo, Kongju 35

March 26 Songnisan Tour 23

April 1-2 Kyongju Tour 43

April 7-9 Chinhae Cherry Blossom Tour 72

April 16 Kyonggido Cherry Blossom Tour 45

April 22-24 Cheju-do Tour 31

April 30 Realm of the Immortals Tour 42

May 7 Chong Myo Tour 77

May 7 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 127

May 13-14 Andong Tour 32

May 20 Wonju Tour 30

May 21 Tanyang Tour 37

May 23-27 Songni-san, Koje-do and Chiri-san Tour 21

June 3 R.A.S. Garden Party 250

June 4 Pyukje and Environs Tour 15

June 9-11 Hongdo and Huksan-do Tour 19

June 13 FILM SERIES 20

June 16-17 South Cholla “Land of Exile” Tour 26

June 17 Music and Dance Tour with

Mr. Cho, Won-kyung 32 [page 76]

June 24-25 South Sea Island Tour 20

July 1 Island Hopping Tour 30

July 2 Songmo-do and Pomun-sa Tour 43

July 7-9 Chungmu and Koje Island Tour 25

July 16-17 Pyonsan Bando National Park Tour 23

July 23 Mallipo and Ch’ollipo Tour 24

August 12 Market Tour 19

August 13 In-wang San Hike 19

August 13 Tour of Fortune and Exotic Shrines Tour 20

August 26 Kiln and Parka Crystal Factory 12

August 27 Historic Parks in Seoul 13

September 2 Silk Tour 26

September 3 Ch’ongp’yong Boat Tour 30

September 3 Sokchonjae Ceremony 22

September 10 War History Tour 32

September 16 Arts and Crafts Tour 16

September 17 Kosokjong and Sanjong Lake Tour 36

September 22-24 Hongdo and Huksan-do Tour 25

September 30 Kangwha Island Tour 17

Sep. 30-Oct. 1 Kyongju Tour 26

October 3 Paekche Kingdom Tour 25

October 7-8 Chuwang-san National Park Tour 31

October 14-15 Sorak-san National Park Tour 45

October 14 Hanyak Tour 25

October 21-22 Cholla-do Tour 23

October 21 Sudok-sa Tour 40

October 27-29 Cheju-do Tour 19

October 29 Surak-san Hike 28

November 3-5 Chiri-san Tour 43

November 11-12 Maisan and Muju Tour 12

November 18 Kimchi/Kiln Tour 32

November 25-26 Inner Sorak Rhapsody Tour 9

December 2 Artists’s Studio Tour 32

December 9 Shopping Spree Tour 14

December 16 Churches of Seoul Tour 13