**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

**KOREA BRANCH**

President’s Report for 2010

I am pleased to report to the members of the Royal Asiatic Society Korea Branch that 2010 was an excellent year in many ways. Increasing numbers of non-members who attending a lecture are joining our Society at the end of the lecture, thus adding to our membership and its diversity. Most encouraging is the growth in Korean members, now exceeding 30% of total membership, more than at any time in RASKB’s history. We are making an effort to invite Koreans to participate more in our activities, attending our lectures, participating in our cultural field trips. We heartily welcome increased participation in all of these areas by Koreans from all walks of life.

RASKB’s lectures remain the most well attended events among our activities. We are also continually adding new field trips led by people with profound knowledge and interest in the areas that we visit.

This volume of *Transactions* dated 2010, the 85th Volume since our founding in 1900, has been published thanks to the tireless efforts of our Publications Committee and contributors. *Transactions* is now a fully peer-reviewed journal and we are grateful to the Korean Studies academicians in the United States and Europe who have consented to serve on our Editorial Committee.

We are proud to announce that we have a new internet web site. The address remains the same (www.raskb.com), but the site provides significantly broader information and functions to users, members and non-members alike. Following suggestions from many members and other visitors we have set up an on-line payment procedure for all payments to the RASKB from overseas.

I am particularly grateful to the members of our Council who have so generously given their time and considerable abilities to prepare our programs. All the Council members have very demanding lives in professional and other activities; their contributions are invaluable.

The annual RASKB garden party in 2010 was hosted by Ambassador Catherine Stevens at the official residence of the American Ambassador. With nearly 200 members attending, we were treated to an exceptional performance of traditional music; there was a large display and sale of books on Korea and of course food, drink and camaraderie! On behalf of the Council of RASKB I extend our expressions of most sincere gratitude to both the US and British ambassadors for their continuation of this decades old tradition of hosting the RASKB garden party at their official residences on alternate years.

In summary, the RASKB continues its tradition of studying, lecturing on and writing about Korea’s remarkable culture, past and present, in all imaginable disciplines. We continually seek to expand the scope of our activities and keep up with the dynamically evolving Korea of today.

Our most serious challenge remains funding for the continued operation and administration of our Society. During the past 20 years of Korea’s development, the costs of all goods and services essential to our operations have increased exponentially; this is no longer the “low-cost country” that it once was and the rising costs have magnified the urgency of finding funding for continuing RASKB operations.

I would like to extend the most sincere gratitude of the Council for the generosity of the Somerset Palace management who provide our lecture hall free of charge. We ask for the kind consideration of our members worldwide to assist us in our efforts to secure the funding that we need to continue and expand our truly unique study and promulgation of Korea and her culture.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the RASKB for your continued support, for without you there is no Society. We look forward to another year in 2011 of growth and enjoyment together in the RASKB!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter E. Bartholomew, President, Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch 2008-10.

PS. We are most grateful to a member of our Council, Francis X. O’Donoghue, First Secretary at the Embassy of Ireland, Seoul, for a very generous contribution toward the cost of publishing this issue of Transactions

***2010 RAS-KB Lectures***

Jan. 12 Dr. Byeon Gyewon

Traditional Korean Music in Contemporary Society

Jan. 26 Amb. Martin Uden

The latter days of the Chosun Dynasty seen by foreign observers

Feb. 9 Dr. Daniel Adams

Won Buddhism in Korea: A New Religious Movement Comes of Age

Feb. 23 Amb. Hans-Ulrich Seidt

On the Way to Korea: Afghanistan, Bamyan and the Buddhist Tradition

March 9 Mrs. Sonia Strawn

What Can I Do? Women and the Law in Korea

March 23 Prof. David A. Mason

The Sacred Sites of Korea: Criteria, Listings and Tourism

April 13 Prof. Kim, Sung Hong

Contradiction of Seoul's Urban Architecture

April 19 Amb. Jaroslav Olsa Jr

RAS Special Event - Story of Czech-Korean Contact

April 27 Dr. Hilary Finchum-Sung

Accentuating the Visual: Re-imaging Korean Traditional Music

May 11 Prof. Chaeki Synn

Contesting Identities: Modern Art in Korea

May 25 Mr. Robert Neff

Superstitions and Perceptions of Early Korean-Western Relations

June 7 Prof. In-Souk Cho

Appreciating Korean Traditional Architecture

Aug. 24 Mr. Tim Peters

Adrift and Stateless: Korea's Forgotten Children

Sept. 8 Prof. John Seales

Korean Sounds in the World Imagination: Overseas Art Music Engaging with Korean Musical Heritage.

Sept. 14 Dr. Sylvia Braesel

Johann Bolljahn: A multicultural career of a Pomeranian teacher between Europe and East Asia

Sept. 28 Mr. Andrew Salmon

The Armageddon North of Seoul: The Battle of the Imjin River

Oct.12 Brother Anthony

Scholars in Exile or Dead, Monks and Tea : Stories from Old Korea

Oct. 26 Mr. Robert Neff

Ghosts, demons and the haunting of Korea

Nov. 9 Dr. Karl Moskowitz

Indicators of Social Change in Korea - Under Japanese Rule 1910-1945

Nov. 23 Dr. James Lewis

Adam Smith in Korea

Dec. 7 Dr. Andrei Lankov

The forgotten exiles: a strange story of the Sakhalin island Koreans

A total of 21 lectures

*The RAS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Somerset Palace, Seoul, which beginning in February 2006 granted free use of its residents’ lounge as the Society’s lecture venue.*

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***2010 RAS-KB Tours***

Jan. 24 Pyeongchang Tour 16 M. Spavor

Jan. 31 Snow Country Tour 31 A. Ladouceour/A. Choi

Feb. 20 Furniture Museum Tour 15 S. Jang / M. Spavor

Feb. 27 Jeonju City Tour 20 D. Adams/ A. Choi

Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Seorak-san Tour 12 M. Spavor

March 1 Independence day Tour 7 A. Ladouceur

March 6 Kite Making / Bukchon Museum 8 M. Spavor

March 7 KTX Train tour to Busan 17 A. Ladouceur/ A. Choi

March 13 Sanjung Lake Tour 10 A. Ladouceur

March 20 Kiln Tour 11 S. Bae

March 21 Bugak-san Tour 12 S. Bae / V. Choi

March 28 Walking tour of Choseon Seoul 12 P. Bartholomew

April 3-4 Namhae & Jinhae Tour 20 A. Choi

April 9-12 Japan Tour 18 Suzanne Han

April 11 Suwon Tour 23 P.Bartholomew/M.Spavor

April 17 Gyeonggi Cherry Blossom Tour 17 S. Bae

April 18 Chollipo Magnolia Tour 14 S. Bae

April 20 Gyeonggi Cherry Blossom(SIWA) 23 S. Bae

April 24-25 Andong Tour 15 J. Flynn / A. Choi

May 9 Bukchon Tour 9 D. Mason

May 15 Doseonsa Tour 16 D. Mason/ A. Choi

May 16 Ganghwa-do Tour 13 Y.D. Kim / S.H. Jang

May 21 Buddha’s Birthday Tour 35 S. Bae / A. Choi

May 22-23 Gyongju Tour 17 J. Flinn

May 29-30 Tea Making Tour to Jiri-san 13 Br. Anthony

June 5 RAS Garden Party 210

June 6 Danyang Tour 14 A. Choi

June 13 Naejang-san Tour 14 A. Choi

July 8-13 Mongolia Tour 16 A. Ladouceur

July 25 Anmyun-do Tour 9 A. Choi

Aug. 13-14 Train tour to Kangjin 8 A. Ladouceur

Aug. 21 Cheongpyong Boat Tour 15 A. Choi

Aug. 22 Buga-ksan Tour 9 W. Cha

Sept. 4 Bukchon Tour 6 A. Choi

Sept. 16-26 Nepal & Tibet Tour 11 A. Ladouceur

Sept. 18-19 Gyeongju Tour 24 D. Adams / S. Bae

Sept. 23 Bugak-san Tour 15 W. Cha

Oct. 1-4 Japan Tour 39 S. Han

Oct. 2-3 Andong Hahoe Village Tour 9 J. Flinn

Oct. 2 Kiln Tour 8 S. Bae

Oct. 9 Jeonju Tour 9 D. Adams

Oct. 10 Walking Tour of Chosun 10 P. Bartholomew

Oct. 16-17 Seorak-san Tour 12 S. Bae

Oct. 23 Ganghwa-do Tour 20 Y.D.Kim/ S. Bae

Oct. 24 Danyang Tour 13 A. Choi

Oct. 30-31 Jiri-san Tour 14 D. Adams / S. Bae

Oct. 30 Bugak Fortress Tour 9 W. Cha

Nov. 1-2 Seorak-san Tour (SIWA) 15 S. Bae

Nov. 20 Bugak Fortress Tour 4 W. Cha

Dec. 4 Shopping Spree Tour 8 S. Bae

Dec. 11 Churches in Seoul Tour 16 D. Adams