

AKS Korean Studies Institution Grant - Interim Report
SOAS, August 2008

I Project Implementation for 2007/8 Period

1.1 Project Goals and Original Project Plan

To promote SOAS as a leader in Korean studies in Europe, the major goals of the project include the following: develop research and teaching manpower, to develop Korean studies courses, to hold seminars promoting collaboration with other Universities and Europe, to provide support for graduate students and to publish research materials.

The specific plan for the past annual period was as follows:

The original plan covered the following seven areas:

- 1) The maintenance of one lectureship in Korean studies and two research fellowships (one full-time, and one half-time)
- 2) The development of a series of seminars by European scholars
- 3) The hosting of research workshops in conjunction with AKS and other institutions
- 4) The development of curriculum materials and research publications
- 5) The provision of support for postgraduate students
- 6) The hosting of the European Conference on Korean Linguistics
- 7) The sponsoring of a variety of other projects, namely:
 - (1) The 2007 Korean Literature Essay Contest
 - (2) The 2nd Workshop of the European Association for Korean Language Education
 - (3) The Comparative Histories of East Asia Seminar
- 8) The publication of SOAS-AKS European Series on Korean Studies

1. Development of teaching and research manpower

Employment of one lecturer: The plan to employ Dr Charlotte Horlyck as a full-time lecturer on a five-year contract has been carried out. At the end of the five-year period, SOAS have agreed to maintain the position under university funding.

Employment of two research fellows (one full-time and one half-time): Dr. Owen Miller and Dr. Stefan Knoob have been respectively employed as full-time and half-time research fellows, according to the project plan. During the period of employment, both have attained PhD degrees. From October 2008, Dr. Owen Miller has taken up a postdoctoral fellowship at Cambridge University and Dr. Stefan Knoob is currently applying for lecturer positions at institutions including Copenhagen University. As the successor for Owen Miller, Dr. Lucien Brown (PhD degree awarded October 31st 2008) is being employed from October 2008 (please consult the 2008/9 plan in section 2 below).

2. Centre Seminar Series

During the academic year, lecturers were invited from leading European institutions such as Stockholm University, Bochum, Sciences Po (Paris), Copenhagen University and Oslo and also from Sussex University, Edinburgh University, Australian National University and Korea University.

Full details of papers presented are as follows:

Autumn Term 2007

Friday 2 November

Akira Utsugi, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Edinburgh

“Tone and intonation in Seoul and Gyeongsang Korean”

In recent years, prosody (and in particular, tonal phenomena) has been actively studied in several Korean dialects, as a part of ‘Intonational Phonology.’ Dialects studied include the Seoul dialect (standard in South Korea), and the Gyeongsang dialect. A major difference between these dialects lies in whether they have lexical tones (including so-called ‘lexical pitch accents’). While modern Seoul Korean and most other Korean dialects have no lexical tones, Gyeongsang dialect has them. For example, in Gyeongsang dialect, ‘nwun-i’ (eye-NOM) and ‘nwun-i’ (snow-NOM) are tonally distinguished.

The first part of this talk reviewed work on Seoul Korean prosody by Sun-Ah Jun. Even though the Seoul dialect has no lexical tones, there are some postlexical tonal patterns, which are neither random nor flat. In Jun’s model, each tonal pattern may be analysed as the tonal realization of a prosodic phrase (called the ‘Accentual Phrase’). Prosodic phrasing is affected by several factors, such as focus.

The latter half of the seminar gave an overview of Utsugi’s (2007) recent research into the Masan/Changwon dialect, a sub-variety of the Gyeongsang dialect. In addition to having lexical tones, another interesting feature of Masan/Changwon sub-dialect was noted; the tonal patterns are affected by the location of focus and the lexical tones of the preceding words. This phenomenon was analysed in terms of the prosodic phrase and lexical pitch accent.

Friday 16 November

Janet Poole, Visiting Scholar, Centre of Korean Studies, SOAS

“Unruly Detail: Writing, Photography and Crisis in Late Colonial Korea”

The late 1930s witnessed a series of debates about a perceived crisis in narrative fiction, whereby detailed description was thought to have subsumed purposeful narration and, along with it, a revolutionary politics. This talk juxtaposes the positions staked out in these debates with the fictional writing of Ch’oe Myongik, a writer famous for his craft of unusually fine photographic detailed description. In doing so the aim is to rethink the possible meanings of writing in this period, that is, both writing in an age of photography, and writing in the Korean language in an age of assimilation.

Friday 23 November

Joerg Plassen, Assistant Professor of Korean Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

“Literati Sŏn and Buddhist Neo-Confucianism: Hybrid tendencies in the intellectual life of the Early Chosŏn period, focusing on Kim Sisŭp alias Sŏlcham”

Friday 30 November

Andrew Logie, digital cinematographer and researcher

“Contemporary Tradition: a showing of *p’ansori* and instrumental performances filmed in Korea this year”

Wednesday 5 December

Leonid Petrov, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University

“North Korea: a Regional Troublemaker or a Land of Opportunities?”

In the second half of the 20th century the Korean peninsula suffered a sequence of earth-shaking events caused by the irreconcilable conflict between communism and liberal democracy. The fierce struggle between these two ideologies, based on diametrically opposed socio-economic models, demonstrated their strong and weak points. The circumstances of the Korean War (1950-1953), the speedy recovery of North Korea in the 1960s, its stagnation in the 1970s and 1980s, the mass famine of the 1990s, and the post-2002 modernization are discussed in this lecture.

The major “ups” and “downs” in the history of North Korea’s economy are placed in the context of its relations with South Korea, United States, Russia, Japan and China. The domestic situation in contemporary North Korea is analysed to demonstrate that the present dynamic of changes

in its economy and social policies may well turn out to be the prelude to the rise of a new “Asian Tiger” in the region.

Spring Term 2008

Friday 18 January

Staffan Rosen, Stockholm University

“Merit and Reward - The Imperial Korean System of Decorations 1900-1910 in an International Perspective”

The present paper deals with the development of a system of state decorations during the Korean Empire 1897-1910. The system of Orders of Merit has a long history in Europe, where it reached its peak during the latter part of the 19th century. European-types of orders at this time were created in many countries outside Europe as a result of European prestige and colonial endeavors. When the Chosôn Kingdom was elevated to an Empire in 1897, the creation of an indigenous system of decorations together with European-style uniforms and other imperial paraphernalia served as an indispensable means of expressing national independence and grandeur. This development also well served the Japanese colonial scheming on the Korean peninsula, and the structure of the Korean system of decorations, which was created during the first decade of the 20th century, was closely modeled on the Japanese system of decorations. Indeed, there are good grounds to assume, that the Korean orders actually exclusively were designed by Japanese hands. The Korean system thus came to correspond exactly to its Japanese counterpart – both in terms of types and numbers of orders and in terms of number of classes within each order.

Both the Japanese and the Korean insignia represent a skilful combination of Western and Japanese or Korean heraldic symbolism. The contours of the Western (Christian) cross, still visible in the contours of several of the insignia, is combined with indigenous Japanese or Korean heraldic symbols, like the chrysanthemum, the sun, the *t'aegûk*-symbol or the plum blossom.

The existence of an Imperial Korean system of orders allowed Korea and its Emperors to become a part of the international diplomatic exchange of decorations. As a rule, this strictly formalized exchange followed the principle of reciprocity as far as the dignity and level of the orders involved was concerned. Any deviance from this strict principle could be used to indicate diplomatic inequality between the parties involved. Refraining from exchange of orders is another phenomenon that may be used to cast additional light on the nature of the relationship between two sovereign states. Using the examples of the two Korean Emperors Kwangmu and Yung Hûi it is implicitly argued that phaleristics constitutes an important auxiliary discipline to diplomatic history.

Friday 25 January

Valerie Gelezeau, EHESS, Paris

“Landscapes of power in Seoul - Apartment complexes and the modernization of the South Korean city”

Completely unknown to city-dwellers before the 1960s, large apartment complexes (*ap'at'ũ tanji*) are powerfully shaping the landscapes of contemporary South Korean cities. How did western-style housing blocks migrate to Korea on such a large scale? To what extent do they reflect the power of western models in housing and city planning, but also the local power relations in the urbanization of South Korea? This talk addresses these issues through an analysis centred on a macro-geographic approach, allowing the interpretation of the cityscape.

The talk first presents the origin of the *ap'at'ũ tanji* model, whose roots lie in intertwined western modernist theories filtered through Japanese mediation during the colonial period, which were then processed by local post-colonial power-structures. It then demonstrates how the “Koreanized” apartment complex was a central element in fashioning the modern Korean cityscape and controlling urban growth during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Finally, it explained how the apartments were not only at the centre of the material city, but also acted as a very powerful factory for the production of the urban middle class.

Thursday 31 January

Carl Saxer, Associate Professor, Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School

“The Return of the Regions or the Rise of Seoul? Observations on the Recent Presidential Election in South Korea”

Friday 1 February, 5pm

Paul French, director of Access Asia and author of *North Korea: The Paranoid Peninsula*

“Paradise Lost: From Chollima Speed to Slow Motion Famine – How North Korea Got Where it is Today”

From one of the world's 20 largest economies in 1975 to an estimated two million dead from famine twenty years later and then to the world's most isolated and little understood nuclear power. How did North Korea manage to so spectacularly mismanage its economy, manage its people, seal its borders and get the bomb? Paul French, the author of *North Korea: Paranoid Peninsula – A Modern History* (Zed Books, London, 2nd ed, 2007) details the rise, fall and dynamics of North Korea's economy, society and political leadership and the likelihood of future change.

Since the breakthrough agreement between North Korea and the USA in February 2007 it appears that the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula has some forward motion at last. However, while the nuclear threat is being tackled North Korea itself remains in a state of advanced economic collapse, food shortages and political ossification. The talk will include a round up of the current state of North Korea's economy, the possibilities of economic liberalisation and the current views from Washington, Pyongyang and Beijing on the DPRK.

Friday 8 February

Gina Barnes, Professorial Research Associate, SOAS

“Cross-straits relations between Korea and Japan in the mid-4th to 5th centuries”

Trade in iron characterized relations between the Japanese archipelago and the southern Korean peninsula in early agricultural society. In the mid-4th century, these links developed into emergent armour industries and cooperative military activities between Paekche and Yamato against the northern Koguryo polity. These new relations coincided with a change of ‘dynasty’ and political ideology in Yamato; this lecture challenges the traditional interpretation of the Ojin Dynasty and Horserider culture in Yamato development.

Friday 22 February

Vladimir Tikhonov (Pak Noja), Oslo University

“To beat or not to beat: discussions on pedagogical ideals, corporal punishment and military training in colonial Korea”

This presentation deals with the concept of disciplining (Kor. *hunyuk*) as applied to youth in colonial Korea (1910-1945), both in the process of formal schooling and at home. In traditional Korea, not unlike many other pre-modern societies, disciplining ideally meant internalizing certain ethical values, normally by members of the ruling class who needed to accumulate a certain amount of “moral capital” to legitimize their dominant positions. “Moral failures” by youngsters, however, were often supposed to be punished physically, by the application of the rod (to the extent that it did not excessively harm the body inherited from one’s parents). This was intended to stimulate critical self-reflection and further the process of internalising values.

In the “modern sector” of colonial Korea these old certainties were being challenged, and several new approaches to discipline competed with each other. The official educational theory of modern Japan was rather critical toward the “mediaeval” use of violence in schools, and the colonial government accordingly banned corporal punishment in primary (“normal”) schools from 1922. But the rod was still liberally (ab)used by Japanese and Korean teachers alike, sometimes with grave consequences for children’s physical and psychological health. Together with the elaborate “modern” system of classroom behaviour controls, grades for “conduct” and non-physical awards and punishments, the rod was considered indispensable for moulding the Japanese Empire’s “virtuous subjects”.

Liberal nationalists, often Christians with an educational background in the US (a typical example being Chu Yosöp), engaged in impassioned rhetorical attacks upon the colonial education

system, calling it “slavish”, “uniform”, “rote memorization-based”, and “excessively disciplinarian”. But the nationalists’ own ideal of a good “national” was a self-disciplined youth placing the nation above everything else and exhausting him/herself in the service of the “nation-strengthening” project. For women, it meant prioritizing childbirth and childcare over everything else, while men were supposed to strengthen their own bodies first by engaging in modern competitive sports. Liberal nationalism was far from liberal in its views of the correct methods of youth socialization, as it regarded the bodies of young people as the treasured property of the nation, to be used in whatever way was judged optimal for the accomplishment of “national aims”.

Friday 7 March

Kevin Gray, RCUK Research Fellow, University of Sussex

“Democracy, Neoliberalism and the Crisis of the Korean Labour Movement”

In recent years, it has been widely noted that the Korean labour movement is in a state of crisis. With union density falling to an historical low of just ten per cent, and the main independent labour confederation undergoing a serious crisis of internal democracy, the predicament of the Korean labour movement shows a marked contrast to the dynamic and militant movement of two decades ago. Whilst most analyses of Korean civil society and democracy have adopted a national-comparative political analytical framework, this paper seeks to analyse this Korean crisis of labour within a wider framework of the dual global processes of late-democratisation and economic restructuring. It argues that whilst Korea has adopted many of the appearances of Western liberal political organisation, global conjunctural factors mean that Korea’s late-democratisation should be interpreted more as a form of “passive revolution” designed to constrain and weaken the labour movement and other social forces. However, the Korean labour movement appears to have adopted an approach derived from a superficial and selective understanding of Western social democracy, which is declining in its Northern European homeland at the same time it is offered by both Korean labour and government as a viable alternative. As a result, the labour movement has failed to develop any effective or even coherent strategy vis-à-vis Korea’s deepening neoliberal restructuring.

Summer Term 2008

Tuesday 15 April

Chang Hyo-Hyun, Korea University

<구운몽의 英譯에 대하여> or “On the English Translation of the classical Korean novel *Kuunmong* (Nine Cloud Dream)”

3. Hosting of research workshops in conjunction with AKS and other institutions

According to previous agreement, workshops in conjunction with AKS are held every two years. Thus, there was no plan to hold a workshop over the previous year. However, in place of such a workshop, the Centre held a publishing workshop with the specific intention of promoting the active publication of works in the field of Korean studies. This workshop was carried out with the approval of AKS. Participants in the workshop included Sajid Rizvi from Saffron Books, Paul Norbury from Global Oriental and Albert Hoffstaedt from the Dutch publisher Brill as well as Vladimir Tikhonov (Pak Noja) from Oslo University and several academics from SOAS. Presenters discussed the various problems connected with Korean studies in their field and presented methods for promoting more publication.

Full details of the publishing workshop are as follows:

The Centre of Korean Studies held its first workshop on Korean Studies Publishing in Europe on June 16, with financial support from the Academy of Korean Studies institutional grant programme. The event aimed to bring together UK and European publishers and academics with experience of

publishing to discuss what sort of Korea-related materials are most needed and to examine the problems and difficulties that arise in the process of publishing and translating such materials.

The afternoon was divided into three sessions, the first on 'Scholarship and translation across borders', the second a publishers' roundtable discussion and the third a panel on 'Providing Korea-related materials for university students'.

In the first session Anders Karlsson discussed his experience of translating and publishing Korean literary works in Sweden. He noted how it was initially difficult to get interest from publishers, but also how Korean literature has found recognition in Sweden with some 20 literary works now in print and newly published books regularly receiving reviews in the major papers. Dr Karlsson acknowledged that this was largely due to support from Korean funding bodies, but also noted that there was often a divergence between what Korean organisations wished to promote and what Swedish audiences were most likely to read. Seminars to promote Korean literature often focused on the question of 'Koreanness' and the need to promote Korean literature, but in fact the Swedish reading public generally have no interest in Korean literature as such, but rather in particular authors and in good translated literature in general. In the same session Keith Howard, SOAS Professor of Music, spoke on the subject of 'Korean and Western Scholarship: Divergence or Convergence', outlining his concerns about the divergence in methodology between Korean and non-Korean scholars. Unfortunately this has led to a situation where the work of Korean scholars struggles to find acceptance outside of Korea and likewise Korean scholars feel little need to pay attention to the scholarship of non-Korea-based academics. Professor Howard noted that while it would be good to have the work of many more Korean scholars published and available to English-speaking students, it has to be presented in a way that is intelligible and to some extent 'vernacularised'.

In the second session, Sajid Rizvi from Saffron Books, Paul Norbury from Global Oriental and Albert Hofstaedt from Brill introduced their current Korean Studies lists and talked about their past experiences of publishing books on Korea as well as their future plans. After these brief introductions the floor was opened to questions and there was a lively discussion of the current status of Korean Studies publishing in the UK and Europe. The problems associated with the poor quality of some translations of academic works offered to publishers were particularly noted as well as the problem of finding specialist translators with knowledge of the specific field they are working on. It was generally agreed by the participating publishers that translations should always be led by a native speaker translator to ensure quality and to save time and money in the long run on the editing process.

In the third and final session of the afternoon Professor Vladimir Tikhonov of Oslo University and Dr Charlotte Horlyck of SOAS presented papers on Korean Studies materials and textbooks for university level teaching. Professor Tikhonov looked at 'our own history textbook problem' by analysing in detail the advantages and drawbacks of two of the currently available English-language histories of Korea – *A New History of Korea* by Yi Kibaek et al. and *Everlasting Flower* by Keith Pratt. He concluded that despite the various merits of these books they do not manage to provide a balanced introduction to Korean history in themselves and a new textbook is needed for teaching in an English-language environment. Such a Korean history would need to pay sufficient attention to the international context of Korea's history, while at the same time offering a careful balance between political, social, economic and cultural history and would most likely have to be jointly authored. In her talk Dr Horlyck examined publishing on Korean art history by looking at museum catalogues for exhibitions featuring Korea since the early 1980s. She pointed out that to begin with these exhibitions tended to focus on showing 'masterpieces' of Korean art, mainly fine art and religious art, while essays in the catalogues attempted to set Korean art apart from other East Asian art, but lacked any new information or scholarship. More recently, exhibitions of Korean art have become more diverse and the writing in their catalogues has improved. However, unlike the fields of Chinese or Japanese art where it is possible for students to find a variety of English-language scholarship expressing diverse opinions and write an entire paper on this basis, such is not yet the case for Korean art history. Dr Horlyck concluded that what is needed above all in publishing on Korean art is a greater variety of opinions and subject matter.

The workshop was well attended and all sessions provoked lively and fruitful discussions with a number of practical suggestions coming from both the speakers and the floor. The afternoon also provided a rare opportunity for academics and publishers to meet and discuss future projects, something that was particularly useful for younger scholars planning their first publications. A report

on the workshop and the recommendations arising from it is in preparation and will be circulated to interested institutions and publishers in Europe and Korea.

After the publishing workshop a book launch event was held to celebrate the publication of *Selected Writings of Han Yongun*, which was co-translated by Vladimir Tikhonov and Owen Miller. After a brief book talk from Professor Tikhonov, the audience was treated to a performance of the traditional Korean dance *salp'uri*, by Lee Chul-jin, currently a visiting scholar at SOAS.

4. Development of curriculum materials and research publications

Report on Korean (Choson) history book project headed by Dr. Anders Karlsson

We have continued to conceptualize and structure all the chapters of the book while discussing further characteristics and special features of the book in terms of coverage, illustrations, boxes etc. It was agreed that the book would be divided chronologically by centuries. It was suggested that each chapter should focus on the main theme or 'big story' of that particular time, rather than give a 'traditional' sequential overview of politics, economics, history, arts and literature of the time. Thus, each chapter will present an organic narrative which interweaves the history of the time with arts, culture, literature, economics etc.

We have started to write in full one pilot chapter on the eighteenth century. Once Anders Karlsson and Owen Miller have finished the parts on political, social, and economic history Grace Koh and Charlotte Horlyck will give input on literature and art.

The strategy for publication has been discussed and a project description outlined as below: A short summary of the proposed book and a rationale for publication (why the book is original, what need it will fulfill, why it is better than other titles currently available on the subject, what is its unique selling point); indicate what illustrated material will be included in the book, such as pictures, graphs, maps etc.; outline of structure and contents of the book; the subject area and the way the material will be presented should be stated clearly (chapter headings with one or two paragraphs describing the contents of each chapter, clarify how the argument of the book develops); take into consideration that the publisher has to assess whether they can promote and sell the book to a recognizable sector of the market, ie. academics, undergrads, professionals in other disciplines; detail the intended market (ie. state the number of universities teaching Chosŏn history); stress the book's potential to a wider international market, especially the US; identify any competing or comparable books on the market? How does the book fit in with them?

Plans for a workshop related to the book project were discussed in detail and preparations have commenced. The first workshop will cover theoretical methodological issues in the study of Chosŏn history to consolidate the overall approach in the book. Since Anders Karlsson will be affiliated with the Kyujanggak at SNU for the academic year 2008/09 the plan is to hold the workshop there which will facilitate the active participation of Korean specialists in the field.

Korean reference grammar book project headed by Dr. Jaehoon Yeon

As for the Korean reference grammar book being compiled under the supervision of Jaehoon Yeon, the book is now in a more advanced state with addition of new content and materials. This project will be continued over the next year, culminating in negotiations with publishers.

Korean listening book project headed by Jaehee Cho

The book *Korean Listening Skills* has now been published by Darakwon.

5. Provision of support for postgraduate students

During its first year, the postgraduate support program operated under the title of "AKS Language Training Fellowship". From this year, the name has changed to "AKS Postgraduate Bursary".

Details regarding the bursary are as follows:

The bursary, valued at £4,090, may only be used to cover the cost of tuition fees. Living costs are not available as part of the award and the bursary is not renewable. Candidates are assessed on academic merit. Programs eligible for the bursary are as follows:

1. MA Korean Studies
2. MA Korean Literature
3. MA Linguistics (Korean pathway only)
4. MA Applied Linguistics (Korean pathway only)
5. Any other postgraduate Korean Language degree programme
6. Full-time programmes only, part-time programmes are not eligible

The recipient of the fellowship for this year is 정의성, who has recently completed an MA course at Oslo University and has now come to SOAS to pursue postgraduate studies. The previous recipient of the fund for 2007/8 was Mark Plaice.

6. Hosting of the European Conference on Korean Linguistics

The Second European Conference on Korean Linguistics was held at SOAS from the 9th to the 10th of August 2008. More than fifty presenters from Europe, America and other countries participated by delivering presentations. The resulting papers are due to be published in late 2009 by Lincom Europa. A full list of presentations can be found on the Centre website and information is also included in the CKS SOAS Annual Review.

7. Sponsoring of a variety of other projects

7.1 The 2007 Korean Literature Essay Contest

The first Korean Literature Essay Contest to be held in the UK was administered by Grace Koh under the auspices of LTI KOREA (Korea Literature Translation Institute). The award ceremony took place at the Korean Cultural Centre UK in London. SOAS students took part en masse and made a clean sweep of the prizes. The winning essay, submitted by Ben Jackson, is reproduced in the CKS SOAS Annual Review.

7.2 The 2nd Workshop of the European Association for Korean Language Education

The second workshop for Korean language teachers in Europe was held by EAKLE (European Association for Korean Language Education) and sponsored by the Korea Foundation. The workshop was well attended by SOAS Korean language educators – for full details, please consult the CKS SOAS Annual Review.

7.3 The Comparative Histories of East Asia Seminar

With funding from the Academy of Korean Studies, the Centre of Korean Studies was also able to provide financial support to the following two Korea-related talks in the Institute of Historical Research's 'Comparative Histories of Asia' seminar at Senate House, University of London:

Thursday 21 February 2008

Vladimir Tikhonov, University of Oslo

“Sin Ch’aeho’s (1880-1936) Metamorphoses: Confucian Scholar, Social-Darwinist, Nationalist and Anarchist”

Sin Ch’aeho (1880-1936), a Korean journalist, historian and revolutionary, who spent around half of his life in exile and prison in Russia and China and never occupied any public posts within the country, continues to be regarded as a nationalist saint in both North and South Korea. In both countries, his Confucian nationalism of the late 1900s is the most often highlighted part of his ideological journey. This nationalism emphasized both the “heroic leader of the nation” (obviously anticipating the North Korean concept of “national leader” – *suryŏngnon*) and the primary significance of self-sacrificial patriotism and militarism in the education of the nation’s citizens.

His anarchist period – roughly after 1921 – is mostly regarded as a period of nationalist struggle in which anarchism was simply an instrument. I would argue, however, that Sin’s anarchism was a logical result of the contradictions inherent in his Confucian nationalist views. Nationalist particularism was not fully harmonious with the intrinsic universalism of Confucian ideals, and Social Darwinist nationalism was a dead end for Korea – a weak nation obviously not destined to join the ranks of the privileged fittest who were allowed to survive. Thus, while remaining a Korean patriot, Sin adopted the Kropotkinian view of evolution as based on mutual aid, and commenced underground anarchist revolutionary work in close collaboration with his Chinese comrades. This attempt to build a region-wide anarchist association was eventually thwarted when Sin was arrested by the Japanese (1928) in whose prison he died eight years later. His complicated ideological legacy would be reduced to “nationalism” and “national struggle” both by his mainstream contemporaries and by the nationalist intellectuals of both Koreas after 1945.

Thursday 15 May 2008

Gina Barnes, Professorial Research Associate, SOAS

“Korean State Boundaries throughout History”

Professor Barnes’ paper raises fundamental questions about the history and geographical boundaries of Korean states throughout the history of the peninsula. The idea that Korean states have always occupied the peninsula needs to be questioned, partly because the boundaries of these states have always occupied areas further north than the ‘neck’ of the Korean peninsula. It has also been the case that a variety of different states have existed in different parts of the peninsula and the area to the north and political boundaries have changed frequently, particularly in the early period of the region’s history. Rather than a simple history of Korean state formation as the unification of a Korean polity within the ‘natural’ boundaries of the peninsula, Professor Barnes suggests the development of distinct cultural regions in the north and south of the peninsula with different subsistence bases. This difference is reflected in archaeology and is revealed in different cultural influences on the north and south with the input from the Han commanderies and horseriding groups particularly strong in the north, while a mixture of influences are apparent in Silla, including West Asian.

8. Publication of SOAS-AKS European Series on Korean Studies

For the moment, papers presented at various events organized under the institutional grant are being published online in an electronic working papers series, with future plans for a print version to be developed. The papers published under the SOAS-AKS Working Papers in Korean Studies can be viewed online at the Centre website.

1.2 Project Implementation: Usage and Development of Manpower

In addition to the Project Leader Dr. Jaehoon Yeon, Vice-Leader Dr. Anders Karlsson and the one lecturer (Dr. Charlotte Horlyck) and two research fellows (Dr. Owen Miller and Dr. Stefan Knoob) employed under the institutional grant, other academics including Grace Koh and Prof. Keith Howard have actively contributed towards the implementation of the project. Prof. Peter Sells, who was appointed to the Linguistics Department last year has been providing invaluable support, as have other professors with close ties to SOAS including Dr. James Lewis at Oxford University and Dr. Vladimir Tikhonov (Pak Noja) at Oslo University. Postgraduate students have also made notable contributions to the project, notably Dr. Lucien Brown (who was awarded his PhD in October).

1.3 Development of Courses

Complete information about the course in Korean studies currently offered by the faculty can be found on the SOAS homepage.

Particular information regarding the courses taught and developed by the lecturer employed under the institutional grant, Dr. Charlotte Horlyck, are as follows:

Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia

15 490 0150 0.5 unit, term 2/1 essay of 2,500 words = 20% /Presentation and/or Short Quiz= 10%/ exam = 70%

This half unit course examines the development of Korean visual culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. Selected material of different media, including paintings, sculptures, textiles and ceramics, produced in North and South Korea as well as by the Korean diasporas will be discussed. The course will also introduce developments within Korean film, as well as performance, installation and video art. The rise and significance of key artistic styles such as the Informel, Minjung and Monochrome art movements will be explored through works produced by influential artists working inside and outside Korea. We will question how Korean artists responded to different artistic influences, in particular European and Japanese ones, and we will attempt to situate contemporary Korean art within a global arts scene.

Through assessing contemporary art produced on the Korean peninsula as well as that by members of the Korean diasporas in Asia, Europe and the USA, we will place local productions of the arts within a wider set of questions pertinent not only to Korean circumstances but to Asian contemporary culture as a whole. In particular we will address the development of a national aesthetic and the representation of local identities in material culture. Themes concerning modernity, nationalism, globalisation and gender issues will also be covered. The course will include several visits to collections of Korean art in London.

The course is offered in Term 2 only.

Core Readings:

Clark, John (ed.). *Modernity in Asian art*. Broadway, NSW: Wild Peony, 1993

Kim Youngna. *Tradition, Modernity and Identity: Modern and Contemporary Art in Korea*. Seoul and New Jersey: Hollym, 2005.

Korean National Commission for UNESCO (ed.). *Korean anthropology: contemporary Korean culture in flux*. Elizabeth, NJ : Hollym, 2003.

Lee Hyangjin. *Contemporary Korean cinema: identity, culture and politics*. Manchester : Manchester University Press, 2000.

Portal, Jane. *Art under control in North Korea*. London : Reaktion Books, 2005.

Poshyananda, Apinan et al. *Contemporary art in Asia: traditions, tensions: India, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand*. New York : Asia Society Galleries, 1996

Buddhist Arts of Korea

15 490 0158 0.5 unit, term 1/2 essays of 1,500 and 2,500 words = 10% and 20%/exam=70%

This course questions how and why art objects and architectural monuments were produced for Buddhist worship between the Three Kingdoms period (around 300AD-668) and the Koryŏ kingdom (918-1392). The material will largely be presented chronologically: from the dissemination of

Buddhism in the Three Kingdoms period to the heights of its popularity during the Koryŏ kingdom. The course will therefore commence with a discussion of early Buddhist sculpture and conclude with an analysis of works of art produced during the Koryŏ period, including paintings and sutras. Buddhist architecture in the form of temples and pagodas will also be covered in the course.

The lectures will include discussion of the continuous interaction between the Korea, China and Japan. Through situating the material within the framework of East Asian cultural and art historical frameworks, the local Korean production of the arts is addressed within a wider set of questions, particularly with regards to the adoption and manipulation of foreign techniques and iconographical traditions, the development of a Korean aesthetic and the representation of local identities in material culture.

This course is offered in Term 1 only.

Core Readings:

Barnes, Gina. *China Korea Japan: The rise of civilization in East Asia*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1993.

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, Anne Walthall and James B. Palais. *East Asia: a cultural, social, and political history*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Kang Woo-bang. *Korean Buddhist sculpture : art and truth*. Chicago, IL: Art Media Resources ; Gyeonggi-do, Korea: Youlhwadang Publisher, 2005.

Kim, Kumja Paik. *Goryeo dynasty: Korea's age of enlightenment, 918-1392*. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum, 2003.

Pak Youngsook and Roderick Whitfield, *Buddhist Sculpture. Handbook of Korean Art*. Seoul and London: Laurence King, 2002.

Washizuka Horimitsu et al. *Transmitting the forms of divinity: early Buddhist art from Korea and Japan*. New York : London: Harry N. Abrams, 2003.

Topics in Korean Material Culture

Dr Charlotte Horlyck

15PARC035/full unit/ 3 essays of 3-4,000 words = 75%/ written tests =25%

Key themes in pre-modern Korean material culture are introduced in this course which examines Korean religious and secular arts from the Three Kingdoms period (trad. 57 BC-AD 668) to the Chosŏn period (AD 1392-1910). The course is not arranged chronologically, but focuses on four key themes within Korean art and culture:

- Burial customs (centring on the Three Kingdoms to the Choson periods)
- Ritual and worship (centring on the Bronze Age to the Choson periods)
- Secular traditions (centring on the Unified Silla to the Choson periods)
- Space and place (centring on the Unified Silla to the Choson periods)

Though the contents of these themes may change from year to year depending on exhibitions, conferences and other relevant events taking place in the UK, the course will always cover a wide range of material, from mortuary remains to Buddhist and secular paintings, and will place it within a religious, social and historical context. Designed to facilitate an appreciation and in-depth understanding of key themes, traditions and aesthetic concepts within Korean art and archaeological traditions, the course provides a means to assess and understand developments in Korea's cultural history and to question such changes in relation to non-Korean practices and artistic influences. The production and use of Korean artefacts will be examined against a cross-cultural milieu that is formed by religious interaction, political networks and trade relations particularly within East Asia as well as within Asia as a whole. In situating the material within the framework of East Asian cultural and art historical frameworks, the local production of the arts is thus addressed within a wider set of questions, particularly with regards to the adoption and manipulation of foreign techniques and iconographical traditions, the development of a Korean aesthetic and the representation of local identities in material culture. The course will include several visits to collections of Korean art.

Core Readings:

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, Anne Walthall and James B. Palais. *East Asia: a cultural, social, and political history*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Itoh Ikutaro and Mino Yukata. *The Radiance of Jade and the Clarity of Water: Korean Ceramics from the Ataka Collection*. Chicago: The Art Institute of Chicago, 1991.

Kim, Kumja Paik. *Goryeo dynasty: Korea's age of enlightenment, 918-1392*. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum, 2003.

Nelson, Sarah M. *The Archaeology of Korea*. Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Pai Hyung-il. *Constructing "Korean" origins: a critical review of archaeology, historiography, and racial myth in Korean state-formation theories*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center : Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2000.

Smith, Judith (ed.). *Arts of Korea*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1998.

1.4 Collaborations with Other Institutions

During the past year of the project, the Centre of Korean Studies at SOAS has been involved in academic exchange programs or participated in seminars/lectures involving the following institutions: Oxford University (UK), University of Bochum (Germany), University of Hamburg (Germany), Paris 7 (France), INALCO (France), Sciences Po (France), Leiden University (the Netherlands), Stockholm University (Sweden), University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Italy), Copenhagen University (Denmark) and Oslo University (Norway).

1.5 Publications

The research activities of individual members of the Centre can be found in the CKS SOAS Annual Review.

1.6 Contributions to the Development of Korean Studies in Europe

The SOAS Centre of Korean Studies is widely recognized as one of the leading research institutions in the field both in the UK and across Europe. The Centre has been successfully fulfilling this role up until now and plans to expand upon this in the future.

1.7 Outcome and Success of Project

The plans for the 2007/8 period have been thoroughly carried out and it is thought that the success of the project are is meeting the objectives.

1.8 Provision of Institutional Support

The university has been supporting the project to the degree originally promised. The university has been providing office space for the two research fellows, and indirect financing for the two fellows and one lecturer. Both Director Prof. Paul Webley and Dean Prof. Michael Hutt have keen interests in the development of Korean Studies and, since the start of the institutional grant, collaborations with Korean universities have been active.

II Project Plan for 2008/9

2.1 Particulars of Project Plan

The concrete plan for 2008/9 is as follows:

(1) Maintain one lectureship and two research fellowships

Dr. Charlotte Horlyck and Dr. Stefan Knoob will continue to be employed as lecturer and half-time research fellow respectively.

With the departure of Dr. Owen Miller to take up employment at Cambridge as a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Lucien Brown will be employed from October 2008.

With Dr. Stefan Knoob looking for full-time employment at another university, it may be that we will have to employ a successor during the coming interim period.

(2) Series of seminars by European scholars

The series of seminars will continue as during the previous interim years. Speakers already confirmed include Prof. Rudiger Frank (University of Vienna), Prof. Shin Dong Kim (Sciences Po, Paris), Prof. Jeong-hee Lee-Kalish (Freie Universitat, Berlin), Dr. Jo Elving-Hwang (University of Leeds), Prof. Daeyol Kim (INALCO, Paris) and Dr. Howard Reid (West Park Pictures Ltd). The updated program can be accessed on the Centre website.

(3) Hosting of Research Workshops and Collaborations with other Institutions

During the next academic year, the following workshops will be held:

(3.1) Workshop on Territory, Frontiers and Borders in Korean History

Under the leadership of Dr. Anders Karlsson, the Centre plans to hold a workshop on territories and territorial disputes, with particular reference to the Dokdo issue. The workshop is scheduled for May and intended presenters from Europe include Dr. Anders Karlsson (SOAS), Gina Barnes (SOAS), Jay Lewis (Oxford) and Remco Breuker (Leiden). Dr. Karlsson also plans to contact Korean scholars during his forthcoming stay at Seoul National University.

Dr Karlsson's description of the proposed workshop is as follows:

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss not only the extent of territory and the actual borders in Korean history, but also to discuss notions on territory, frontiers and borders at various points of time in Korean history. Contemporary conflicts and controversies such as those over Dokdo or Gando often evoke historical arguments and use old maps, and it is hoped that this workshop through presentation by experts in respective fields and time periods and discussions between Korean and European scholars will not only deepen our understanding of these issues, but also in the end provide good quality English-language studies for international attention.

(3.2) Workshop on Korean Folk Art and Culture

Under the leadership of Charlotte Horlyck, the centre plans to hold a workshop on Korean folk art and culture in February 2009. Details of the workshop are given below:

Aim:

Centring on Korean folk art and culture of the Chosŏn dynasty, this workshop highlights aspects of Korea's past which are often overlooked. In focusing on popular arts and culture, the workshop offers an insight into how commoners of the late Chosŏn period lived and the art they made - areas which are often overshadowed by the concentration on elite arts and culture of this time. The workshop will commence with a talk by Dr Horlyck who will question how perceptions of so-called 'high' art and 'low' art have influenced the study of pre-modern Korean material culture. This will be followed by a talk by Prof Pettid (SUNY Binghamton) who will discuss how commoners of the late Chosŏn period lived, from the songs they sang to the food they ate. Prof Chŏng Pyŏng-mo (Kyŏngju National University) will give a talk on Korean folk paintings, ranging from albums to screens. The workshop will conclude by a visit to the British Museum which holds several Korean folk artefacts in its collection. They will be presented and introduced by Prof Chŏng.

Speakers:

Prof Michael Pettid (SUNY Binghamton)

Prof Chŏng Pyŏng-mo (Kyŏngju National University)

Dr Charlotte Horlyck (SOAS)

Outline of Workshop:

45mins talk by Prof Michael Pettid on Korean Folk Customs

45mins talk by Prof Chŏng Pyŏng-mo on Korean Folk Paintings

45mins talk by Dr Charlotte Horlyck on Korean Folk Art

Visit to British Museum to see Korean folk art (subject to approval by the BM)

Venue:

SOAS and the British Museum

Notes:

Please note that, as yet, the project has not been discussed by the British Museum. I hope they will agree to show objects in storage for the workshop participants. A visit to the BM storage area will mean that the numbers of participants will probably have to be kept to maximum 20. I think the BM visit will present one of the highlights of the workshop and therefore feel it is acceptable to make the workshop available only to a relatively small group of participants.

(3.3) Modern Encounters and Travel Literature: Accounts by Contiguity, Firsthand Accounts, and Mutual Perceptions of Chosŏn Korea and the West

The centre plans to host a workshop on travel literature during June 2009, under the supervision of Grace Koh. Proposed presenters include the following:

Lee Hyung-dae (Assistant Professor in Korean Literature, Korea University)

Jo Yoong-hee (Associate Professor in Korean Literature, AKS)

Shin Ik-cheol (Associate Professor in Korean Literature, AKS)

Grace Koh (Lecturer in Korean Literature, SOAS)

3 ~ 4 Korean studies scholars from Europe/USA (TBC)

3 ~ 4 literature specialists from the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, SOAS (TBC)

(4) Development of curriculum materials and research publications

The Korean (Choson) history book project under the supervision of Anders Karlsson and the Korean Reference Grammar project under the leadership of Jaehoon Yeon will continue over the coming year.

(5) Provision of support for postgraduate students

As in previous years, the Centre will continue to support 1-2 masters or research degree students in the field of Korean studies under the program now referred to as the SOAS-AKS bursary.

(6) Support of Various Additional Projects

As in previous years, the Centre of Korean Studies will use the SOAS-AKS name when supporting or hosting projects in conjunction with other institutions.

(7) SOAS-AKS Publications

Under the provision of the SOAS-AKS project, the Centre will continue to develop the SOAS-AKS Working Papers in Korean Studies primarily in an online format. There are also future plans to develop a print version.