Korean Studies and Korean Collection Development at Yale: The Unfinished Story

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Yale University Library
Outline

- The History of Korean Books at Yale
- Unfinished Business: The Korean Studies Program
- The Korean Collection since 2002
- Strategies for Collection Development
Timeline: Korean Books at Yale

1865
Addison Van Name appointed Librarian of Yale College.
Van Name begins the acquisition of East Asian books for Yale.

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Timeline: Korean Books at Yale (2)

1903

Van Name exchanges correspondence with Homer B. Hulbert, American missionary and scholar in Seoul. Hulbert may have assisted Van Name in acquiring Korean books.
Timeline: Korean Books at Yale (3)

1915  “Korean Collection” first mentioned in the Yale Librarian’s Annual Report. It documents 44 Korean works in 70 v. worth $175.

1932  The Librarian reports Korean 60 works in 160 v.

1934  Yale Association of Japan Collection donation includes 44 Korean rare manuscripts, scrolls, maps, and books.
Yohwa noinhoe gŭnch'ŏp (1908)
요화노인회근첩 (撫花老人回帖)
Yale Association of Japan Collection. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
Yŏlsŏng ŏje (1850)
열성어제 (列聖御製)
Yale Association of Japan Collection. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
Omssi hyomun ch'ŏnghaenglok (19\textsuperscript{th} c.)
엄씨효문청행록 (嚴氏孝門淸行錄)

Yale Association of Japan Collection. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
Chido ch'ŏp
지도첩 (地圖帖)

Mirŭk hasaeng kyŏng
미륵하생경 (彌勒下生經)

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Hamhung sipkyŏng to, Kwanbuk sipkyŏng to (1882)

함흥십경도 (咸興十景圖), 관북십경도 (關北十景圖)

Yale Association of Japan Collection. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
숯취헌집 (翠軒集)

Yale Association of Japan Collection. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.
Timeline: Korean Books at Yale (4)

Continued slow and steady growth after WWII.

- 1940s & 1950s buying program through Mrs. E. McCune at the Library of Congress

- Collection development policy (1960):
  -- Material for the study of the Korean language
  -- Major monographs and periodicals for the study of Korea, regardless of language
  -- Basic sources for Korean history, for future needs
Timeline: Korean Books at Yale (5)

• Korean collection development policy (1981)
  -- “Minimal, skeleton Korean reference collection”
  -- Materials relevant to the study of language
  -- Some historical source materials

• Selection continued by Mrs. Boksoon Hahn.
  1981  4,223 v.
  1991  6,302 v.
  2001  9,970 v.
Unfinished Business: The Korean Studies Program at Yale

Koreanists at Yale:
Samuel E. Martin (linguist)

- *Korean in a Hurry* (1954)
- *Beginning Korean* (1969)
Unfinished Business: The Korean Studies Program at Yale (2)

Goal: Korean Studies at Yale

- President Richard Levin to Korea (2003)
- Korea Foundation President to Yale (2003)
- Yale receives Korean Foundation grant for visiting professors (2004)
Unfinished Business: The Korean Studies Program at Yale (3)

Korean studies stakeholders 2002 to the present:
- Senior faculty (1)
- Language lectors (2)
- Council on East Asian Studies post-docs (5)
- Korean Foundation visiting lecturers (4)
- Graduate students (3)
- Undergraduates
The Korean Collection since 2002

- Graduate Student Intern (2004)
- Strategic Plan for Korean Collection Development (2005)
- Acquisitions & Cataloging Assistant (2006-2008) with Title VI and Library funding
- Visiting Librarians (2006-Present), also Title VI funding
The Korean Collection since 2002 (2)

Major Events
- Survey of Korean rare books (Korean National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, 2006)
- Survey of Korean rare books (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2007)
- Exhibition: “The Splendor of Hangul in Calligraphy and Print” (2009)
The Korean Collection since 2002 (3)

Current Status

- University collections reporting Korean holdings to CEAL: 53
- Yale ranking: 17
- Korean holdings (print monographs): 12,679 v.
  Compare Chinese holdings: 477,424 v.
  Compare Japanese holdings: 261,562 v.
- Budget (2008-09): $41,600
- Public services: 2 workshops in 2008
Strategies for Collection Development

- Periodicals: go digital
  KISS
  DBPia
  Choson Ilbo Archive
- Print monograph selection:
  Vendor catalogs
  Korea Foundation annual list
  Other gifts and exchange lists
  Korean collection new acquisitions lists
  Korean collection duplicate lists
Strategies for Collection Development (2)

- **Staff**
  - Graduate student (1 semester)
  - Grant-funded assistant (2 years)
  - Visiting librarians (3 years)

- **Training, continuing education & moral support**

  **Colleagues**
  - CEAL Korean Studies Training Workshop
Strategies for Collection Development (3)

The Future

- Stalled momentum in the development of the Korean Studies Program
- Financial austerity
- Formal charge to leverage cooperative lending arrangements between Ivy League institutions (Borrow Direct)
- Implications for collection development
감사합니다
Thank you!

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Jeeyeon Kang (Yale Visiting Librarian, National Assembly Library)
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Korean Studies Librarian Colleagues