

2000 BAKS CONFERENCE: Religion and Politics in Contemporary Korea

The Association held its Year 2000 Biennial Conference at Sorby Hall of the University of Sheffield from 3 to 4 September under the theme of 'Religion and Politics in Contemporary Korea'. The conference was supported in part by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the British Government and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Around 50 members were present.

The keynote addresses were given by Prof. Donald N. Clark of Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas under the title of 'Christianity and Civil Society in Modern Korea' and Dr. Henrik Sorensen of Copenhagen under the title of 'Hoguk pulgyo in the Republic of Korea' on the first afternoon which was followed immediately by a sherry reception hosted by the Korean Embassy. In the evening there was a slide lecture given by the retiring President Prof. Keith Pratt entitled 'Hwang Yongyop and Modern Korean Figure Painting' and a discussion on 'The Future of Korean Studies in the United Kingdom'. On the second day, there were four panels with the following papers:

Panel 1 - 'Religion and Society in Modern Korea' (moderator Dr. James Hoare, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Kenneth Wells (read by James H. Grayson) 'Eradicate Superstition, Revitalise Tan'gun: Religious Politics in North Korea Today'; Vladimir Tiknonov, 'Buddha's Blessing for the Pacific War: The Problem of Pro-Japanese Buddhist Collaboration in Modern South Korean Historiography'; Carl Young, 'The Tonghak Movement in the Aftermath of the Tonghak Rebellion: 1895-1901';

Panel 2 - 'Politics and Society in Modern Korea' (moderator, Dr. Dong-sook Gills, University of Sunderland), James A. Foley, 'Divided Families and the Summit: Is a Solution in Sight?'; Heike Hermanns, 'The Influence of Religion on Female Politicians in South Korea'; Janice C. H. Kim, 'Consciousness: Female Factory Workers in Colonial Korea';

Panel 3 - 'Changing Values in Traditional and Modern Korea' (moderator Dr. Agnita Tennant, University of Sheffield), Michael Finch, 'Fire and Ice: The Search for Values in Yi Munyol's Novel Ku Hae Kyoul'; Richard G. Watson, 'Wangtta: Bullying Takes a Grip on Korean Schools'; Yeonok Jang, 'Korean Folk Beliefs and Religious Concepts in P'ansori'; and

Panel 4 - 'Arts and Religion in Traditional Korea' (moderator, Dr. Hyangjin Lee, University of Sheffield), Sem Vermeersch, 'The Status of Monks in Koryo: State Regulations Concerning Monks'; Grace E. Koh, 'Vision and the Reconstruction of History: The Use of Literary Imagination in the Samguk Yusa'; and Heekyung Lee, 'From Posang-hwa to Bamboo: Manufacturing Blue and White Wares in the Early Choson Dynasty'.