



175TH ANNIVERSARY 1821-1996

The Korean Language and Culture Program, The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures,
and the Sigur Center for East Asian Studies

present

The Colloquium on the Korean Humanities

"Views of Enlightenment and Monastic Practice in Korean
Son (Ch'an/Zen) Buddhism"

Saturday, April 27, 1996
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Gelman Library, Room 202
2130 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20052

Is the experience of enlightenment sudden, complete and final, or can it be cultivated? The second meeting of the Korean Humanities Colloquium series at The George Washington University will begin by considering this and related questions in light of two contrasting views: one by a 12th-century Buddhist thinker, Chinul, and the other by a contemporary Son Master, Songch'ol. We will then take a journey into remote Korean monasteries, guided with slides, have a glimpse of modern Zen training, and ponder how Zen monks may understand and observe the doctrines and teachings of their religion. The Colloquium hopes to provide possible correctives to current Western images of Zen—that it is anti-intellectual and solely meditational.

Speakers:

Professor Sung-Bae Park, director of the Korean Studies Program and professor of Religious Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, is the author of *Buddhist Faith and Sudden Enlightenment* (SUNY Press, 1983) and the General Editor of the Korean Studies' Book series (SUNY Press) and the *Journal of Korean Thought*.

Professor Robert Buswell, professor and chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and founding director of the Center for Korean Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, is the author of several books on Korean and Chinese Zen traditions. Before returning to academe, Buswell spent seven years in Asia (five in Korea) as a Buddhist monk. This lecture draws on his fieldwork within the living tradition of Korean Zen, as recounted in his most recent book, *The Zen Monastic Experience: Buddhist Practice in Contemporary Korea* (Princeton University Press, 1992).

The purpose of the Korean Humanities Colloquium series is to provide a forum for academic discussion of traditional Korean arts, history, language, literature, thought and religious systems, and their relation to contemporary society and culture. We will begin as usual with coffee and social at 9:30 a.m. and Korean lunch will be served. All are welcome, and there is no charge, but reservations are necessary. [RSVP by April 23 to Dr. Young-Key Kim-Renaud <kimrenau@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu> (T) 202-994-7107; (F) 202-994-1512]

