



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 Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium on the Korean Humanities

"Shamanism in a Confucian Society: Past and Present"

Saturday, October 26, 1996

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rome Hall (Academic Center), Room 459

801 22nd Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20052

The male-centered Confucian upper-class culture of Chosŏn Korea (1392-1910) rejected and repressed as uncivilized the popular religion of the shamans, which was favored by most women. However, the ways of the Confucian elites did not necessarily match their rhetoric: in their thinking and behavior they were often closer to the shamans than they would admit. Creative interactions between Confucian and popular culture shaped many aspects of the lives of both men and women of this period. Counter to the expectations of Max Weber, for whom capitalism marched to the drum beat of "rationalization," many of the clients who patronize the shaman shrines of Seoul today are engaged in high-risk capitalist enterprises and regard themselves as "middle class." Shamans and their clients continue to invoke spirits to control the seemingly arbitrary fluctuations of good and bad fortune that could bring sudden wealth or ruin.

Speakers:

Dr. Boudewijn Walraven is Professor of Korean Language and Culture at Leiden University, The Netherlands, and President of the Association for Korean Studies in Europe. He is the author of *Songs of the Shaman: the Ritual Chants of the Korean Mudang* (Kegan Paul International, 1994) and translator (into Dutch) of several Korean popular classics.

Dr. Laurel Kendall is Curator of Asian Ethnographic Collections, American Museum of Natural History, and Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology at Columbia University. She is the author and editor of numerous publications on Korean and East Asian religion and society, including *Shamans, Housewives, and Other Restless Spirits: Women in Korean Ritual Life* (UH Press, 1985), *The Life and Hard Times of a Korean Shaman: of Tales and the Telling of Tales* (UH Press, 1988), and *Getting Married in Korea: of Gender, Morality, and Modernity* (UC Press, 1996).

The Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium on the Korean Humanities series at GW aims to provide a forum for congenial exchanges on 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 October 22, 1996 to Dr. Young-Key Kim-Renaud,
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