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## **Novel Characteristics of *Ŭigwe* Illustrations during the King Yŏngjo and Chŏngjo Era in the 18th Century**

Abstract:

The ways in which *Ŭigwe* books were compiled did not vary much over time, as the making of official records was strictly regulated by the rules of the court. Looking at a spectrum of different *Ŭigwe* books produced from the early to late periods of Chosŏn dynasty, however, those produced under the commands of King Yŏngjo (r. 1724-1776) and King Chŏngjo (r. 1776-1800) are clearly distinguishable in their content and the process of compilation. Instead of simply following the centuries-old tradition, the two kings efficiently used the power of images in *Ŭigwe* not only to heighten their authority but also to facilitate smoother preparation of subsequent court rites. More specifically, King Yŏngjo attempted to reinforce his administrative achievements to the future generations by inserting the changes or creations of the rites in the *Ŭigwe* books. King Chŏngjo recognized the potential impact of *Ŭigwe* illustrations, and thus made the books easier to understand to the readers. At the same time, he strived to continue the fundamental goals of *Ŭigwe*: accurate documentation and permanent conservation of the ritual protocols. In this presentation, I would like to focus on the novel characteristics of *Ŭigwe* books and illustrations produced under two of the most extraordinary kings of Chosŏn dynasty in the 18th century.