



King Sejong the Great: The Light of Fifteenth Century Korea

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This book is about Korea's golden age and its cultural hero, King Sejong (r. 1418-1450), inventor of the Korean alphabet. The ultimate example of an enlightened ruler in the East-Asian tradition, Sejong combined deep compassion for his people with high intelligence and an aesthetic sense.

He was personally engaged in an amazing range of projects, from agriculture, calendrical mathematics, geography, medicine, law and printing to history, linguistics, literature, music, religion, and the Confucian classics, publishing a number of important works in a wide variety of fields.

This concise and accessible reader written by internationally known scholars that introduces King Sejong and the roots of Korean tradition to the English-speaking public has been translated into Korean – a rare case of Korean studies research published in a language other than Korean made available in Korean – and into German:

Korean translation: <세종대왕: 15 세기 한국의 빛>, translated by Eunjoo Han, 1998. Seoul: Sin'gumunhwasa (251 pages);
German translation: *König Sejong der Große: Der Glanz Koreas im 15. Jahrhundert*, translated by Barbara Unterbeck, 2002. Thunum/Ostfriesland: Edition Peperkorn ().

The proceeds go to two fellowship programs, one for ICKL junior scholars presenting papers at regular ICKL conferences and the other for Korean language scholarship for students taking Korean at George Washington University.

이 책 (<세종대왕: 15 세기 한국의 빛>)은 조지 워싱턴 대학에서 제 8 회 국제한국언어학회 (ICKL)과 동시에 열렸던 한국어 쓰기 체계에 관한 특별 심포지엄과 관련되어 발간된 특별 ICKL 출판물이다. 1992 년 워싱턴 DC 에서 김영기가 편집한 인기있는 책으로서, 3 책까지 출판되었는데, 첫번 재판은 약간의 수정을 가하여 1997 년에 2 책을 하였고 3 책은 서울의 친구문화사에서 1998 년에 영어 원문을 한국어로 번역하여 출판함에 외국에서 출판된 한국학 저서가 한국어로 번역되는 희귀한 예가 되었다. 그 외에도 독일어로 번역되어 Peperkorn 출판사에서 발행되었다. 그 과정에서, 책의 편집인이자 정 국제한국언어학회(ICKL)의 회장인 김영기는 두가지 성과를 이루었다. 한 가지는 ICKL 내에서 한국언어학 연구를 증진시키는 것이고, 또 하나는 조지 워싱턴 대학에서 한국어를 외국어로써 배우고자 하는 학생들에게 한국어 수업료장학금을 수여하는 것이다.

Review:

"This book [the 1992 edition] is an 'introduction to the achievements of King Sejong for the general English speaking public. It is a beautifully produced book for such a purpose. The language is lucid and non-technical, footnotes are held to a minimum, and sixty-seven plates and charts add much pleasure to reading. The book consists of an elegant introduction by the editor and fourteen articles. The topics covered range from arts to agriculture, from law to literature, from Sillok [Royal Annals] to science."
– Chin W. Kim, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *the Journal of Asian Studies*.