

*Proceedings
of the SCRIPTA 2008*

Hunminjeongeum and Alphabetic
Writing Systems



Date: October 8~12, 2008

Venue: Sinyang Humanities Hall,
Seoul National University, KOREA

THE HUNMINJEONGEUM SOCIETY

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President's Greetings

Distinguished Participants, scholars, and guests,
Good afternoon,

First of all, I'd like to welcome all of you to Korea and to this conference.

Hunminjeongeum, the original name of the Korean alphabet 'Hangeul', was invented in 1443 and promulgated in 1446. Hangeul is the only alphabetic writing system whose inventor is known. It was through this writing system that the Korean people got out of illiteracy. Hangeul constitutes the core culture of Korea. Today is Hangeul Proclamation Day. It is a day when the whole nation commemorates the invention of Hangeul. It is the only national holiday in the world, dedicated to honor a writing system.

The Hunminjeongeum Society was founded in 2007, for the purpose of conducting comprehensive studies of the writing systems of the world including Hangeul. We believe that the excellence of Hangeul can be truly understood only when we deeply understand the characteristics of all the existing writing systems. This belief has lead us to establish this society. We are planning to publish a world-acclaimed international journal specializing on writing systems. As you know, we have already organized the editorial board of the journal. We are proud to have renowned experts on writing systems as editors.

We are going to extend our activities to invent new writing systems using Hangeul for those don't have their own writing systems, so that they could record their invaluable oral literature and history. This activity corresponds to the spirit of the invention of Hunminjeongeum, the spirit that King Sejong the Great wanted to help poor illiterate Korean people express their thoughts with Hunminjeongeum.

I'm happy to hold our 1st international conference under the theme of <Hunminjeongeum and Alphabetic Writing Systems>, together with world-renowned scholars. At this conference, the history and characteristics of various writing systems of the world will be discussed in depth. It will offer us an opportunity to understand Hangeul from different perspectives. I'd like to express my deep gratitude to those scholars who have submitted their papers and agreed to

present them in this conference.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for your participation irrespective of your busy schedule. I hope that this conference will turn out to be a success and give new impetus to the study of the writing system in Korea. Thank you.

October 9, 2008

Juwon Kim

Congratulatory Messages

Eminent scholars, presenters and guests in attendance from various countries: Welcome and good afternoon. I am Chang-ku Byun, dean of the College of Humanities.

I am truly delighted, on behalf of the College of Humanities, to have been asked to host an international conference here in Seoul National University. In fact, it means more than just holding a conference; it is a wonderful occasion and also a celebration, because we all gathered here from around the world to talk about writing systems on this special day, the 562nd Hangeul Proclamation Day. I heard that there are going to be paper presentations of influential scholars in the study of writing systems. I should admit that I am pleased myself to take this opportunity to learn.

I am not so knowledgeable as you are about writing systems, since I have never had a chance to study the field. I know from what I have learned, however, that the creativity of Hangeul has garnered universal reputations. I am anxious to find out if foreign scholars do consider Hangeul, as Koreans believe, to be most scientific and efficient. I sincerely hope that, via this meeting, properties of writing systems, including those of Hangeul, will be deeply studied.

I wish the participants a very fruitful and productive time. Furthermore, I hope that this international conference will light the way forward to increased interactions between scholars, and that our College of Humanities as well as Seoul National University will be brought one step closer to academic globalization. I would also like add apologies for any discomfort you may experience with the conference rooms and facilities.

In closing, please take your time to experience and enjoy Korea. May every one of you stay well during your visit and return home safely with lasting memories. Thank you.

October 9, 2008
Chang-ku Byun
Dean of the College of Humanities

PROGRAM

October 8, Wednesday

18:00 Welcome Reception (Hoam Faculty House)

October 9, Thursday

13:00 Registration

13:30 Opening Ceremony: Ho-Young Lee (Seoul Nat'l Univ.)

 Welcome Address: Juwon Kim (President, the Hunminjeongeum Society)

 Congratulatory Address: Chang-ku Byun (Dean, College of Humanities,
 Seoul Nat'l Univ.)

14:00 Plenary Session Moderator: Young Bae Park (Kookmin Univ.)

 Asko Parpola (Univ. of Helsinki): Towards Further Understanding of the
 Indus Script

14:50 Coffee Break

15:10 Part I Chair: Seungho Nam (Seoul Nat'l Univ.)

 Hyeon-hie Lee (Seoul Nat'l Univ.): The History of the Research into
 Hunminjeongeum

 Young-Key Kim-Renaud (George Washington Univ.): The Vowel System
 and Vowel Harmony in 15th Century Korean Revisited

 James M. Unger (Ohio State Univ.): Some Remarks on Hankul Tran-
 scriptions of Middle Japanese

17:00 Reception (Dongwon Hall)

October 10, Friday

10:30 Part II Chair: Youngchul Jun (Seoul Nat'l Univ.)

 Barry Powell (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison): History and Principles in the
 Study of Writing: Questions, Problems, Agendas

 Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Univ. of Texas at Austin): Tokens and Writing:
 The Cognitive Development

 Young Bae Park (Kookmin Univ.): Germanic Runes and the Interpretation
 of Old English Inscriptions

12:30 Lunch (Duraemidam)

14:30 Part III Chair: Tai Hyun Chun (Hankuk Univ. of Foreign Studies)

Juha Janhunen (Univ. of Helsinki): On the Alternatives for an Wutun
Orthography

Zev Handel (Univ. of Washington): Towards a Comparative Study of
Sinographic Writing Strategies in Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese

Chul-Hyun Bae (Seoul Nat'l Univ.): Evidence of the Persian Empire's
Multilingualism and Interpretation of DB # 70

16:30 Coffee Break

16:50 Part IV Chair: Jongho Jun (Seoul Nat'l Univ.)

Integrating Discussion

17:40 Closing Ceremony & Photographing

18:00 Music Performance & Banquet (Seoul Nat'l Univ. Faculty Club)

20:00 Closing

October 11, Saturday ~ October 12, Sunday

Academic Tour

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