

Editors' Note

“The life of scholarly journal is somewhat comparable to that of a stellar constitution, in so far as it has a distinct period for its initial formation, for its mature brilliance, and for its eventual decline.” This excerpt originates from the preface authored by the publisher in the inaugural issue of *Acta Koreana* in August 1998. Across the past quarter-century, *Acta Koreana* has unmistakably entered into that “period of mature brilliance,” characterized by the invaluable contributions of over 500 scholars and the scrutiny of more than 1,000 peers through their critical yet constructive reviews. This substantial success solidifies the journal’s standing as an international hub for Korean studies, deserving of special acknowledgment within the scholarly community.

However, with success comes an array of challenges. The surge in submissions has placed an insurmountable burden on the university-based editorial team, resulting in the concurrent resignation of several members during the last semester. Regrettably, I was unable to dissuade them from their decision, understanding the strain of personal sacrifices entailed by their academic responsibilities.

The paradoxical nature of market logic—where a great quantity of contributions deemed better—clashes with the journal’s feedback system, compounded by an absolute shortage of editorial personnel. Consequently, the editing process for this particular issue was inevitably more demanding than ever before. The eight articles forged through these challenging circumstances are, therefore, even more precious.

Among them, three articles offer insights into literature and translation. Sang-Bin Lee meticulously dissects Kevin O’Rourke’s translations of Sijo, critically comparing his distinctive five-line format for rendering traditional Sijo into English with other formats and translators. Sunghyun Jang delves into the inherently comparative nature of Korean literature during the Japanese colonial era, revealing a unique intertextual relationship between Kim Yŏngnang’s “Tugyŏn” (The Cuckoo) and John Keats’s “Ode to a Nightingale.” Miseon Yoon navigates through poet and translator Kim Suyŏng’s exploration of tradition and Orientalism, drawing on concepts of enunciation, mimicry, and hybridity to argue that Kim’s work operates within Homi K. Bhabha’s “third space” of translation in post-colonial writing.

Two articles scrutinize the reality of the Korean peninsula’s division. Nam Hyuk Kim proposes that Richard Kim delved into the theme of his incomplete novel “Lost Soul,” focusing on examining a nation’s history through the lens of a family. Boyoung Chang initiates exploration with the heightened visibility of the North in contemporary art, unraveling the

intricate conceptualization of North Korea by contemporary South Korean artists as a liminal space, where the boundaries between reality and fiction, past and present, seamlessly converge.

The last three articles navigate the complexities of modern Korean society. Hyosook Kim and co-authors critically examine Imperial Japan's strategies for altering the names of Korean locations, exploring the implications within the context of colonial policies. Eugene Lee conducts a profound analysis of radio dramas, specifically "Obal Ch'unhyangjŏn" and "Sŏul Ch'unhyangjŏn," during the golden age of Korean radio. Philip Shon delves into the cultural underpinnings of maternal filicide in post-independence South Korea, utilizing newspaper sources to explore factors often overlooked by other scholars.

With these results, I would like to share the joy of the harvests with our former Associate Editor, Joshua Van Lieu, and the former Managing Editor, Lee Jimin, who exhibited a sacrificial spirit of service and unwavering dedication over the past few years. Special appreciation goes to Copy Editor Lyons David for consistently upholding a high standard of professionalism. Concurrently, I express sincere thanks to our newly joined colleagues, Book Review Editor Christopher Lovins and Managing Editor Robert Dickey, warmly welcoming them with both palms together.

Above all, I express my profound gratitude to President Synn Ilhi, the publisher of this journal. Without his unwavering support over the past 25 years, today's *Acta Koreana* is unimaginable. We all believe that he acknowledges the necessity for a substantial transformation of the editorial system, enabling *Acta Koreana* to authentically experience and sustain "the period of mature brilliance."

Editor-in-chief
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