

Recent Books on Korea – Nov 2019

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Cinema Studies

Pop Empires : Transnational and Diasporic Flows of India and Korea / (Eds) S. Heijin Lee, Monika Mehta & Robert Ji-Song Ku
Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2019
xii, 348p. ;
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9780824880002
Asia Pop! Series

1. Motion pictures, Indic.
2. Motion pictures, Korean.
3. Motion picture industry – India – Mumbai
4. Motion picture industry – Korea (South)
5. Culture in motion pictures.
6. Motion pictures and transnationalism.

\$ 30.00 / PB
484gm.

At the start of the twenty-first century challenges to the global hegemony of U.S. culture are more apparent than ever. Two of the contenders vying for the hearts, minds, bandwidths, and pocketbooks of the world's consumers of culture (principally, popular culture) are India and South Korea. "Bollywood" and "Hallyu" are increasingly competing with "Hollywood"—either replacing it or filling a void in places where it never held sway.

This critical multidisciplinary anthology places the mediascapes of India (the site of Bollywood), South Korea (fountainhead of Hallyu, aka the Korean Wave), and the United States (the site of Hollywood) in comparative dialogue to explore the transnational flows of technology, capital, and labor. It asks what sorts of political and economic shifts have occurred to make India and South Korea important alternative nodes of techno-cultural production, consumption, and contestation. By adopting comparative perspectives and mobile methodologies and linking popular culture to the industries that produce it as well as the industries it supports, *Pop Empires* connects films, music, television serials, stardom, and fandom to nation-building, diasporic

identity formation, and transnational capital and labor. Additionally, via the juxtaposition of Bollywood and Hallyu, as not only synecdoches of national affiliation but also discursive case studies, the contributors examine how popular culture intersects with race, gender, and empire in relation to the global movement of peoples, goods, and ideas.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667446>

History

A Korean Scholar's Rude Awakening in Qing China : Pak Chega's Discourse on Northern Learning / (Translated & Annotated) Byonghon Choi, Seung B. Kye & Timothy V. Atkinson

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2020
x, 234p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780824877934

Korean Classics Library – Historical Materials

1. China – Description and travel – Early works to 1800.
2. China – Social life and customs – 18th century – Early works to 1800.
3. China Social conditions – 18th century – Early works to 1800.
4. Korea – Social conditions 1392-1910 – Early works to 1800.

\$ 68.00 / HB

516gm.

Two years after Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* was published in 1776, Pak Chega's (1750–1805) *Discourse on Northern Learning* appeared on the opposite corner of the globe. Both books presented notions of wealth and the economy for critical review: the former caused a stir across Europe, the latter influenced only a modest group of Chosŏn (1392–1897) Korea scholars and other intellectuals. Nevertheless, the ideas of both thinkers closely reflected the spirit of their times and helped define certain schools of thought—in the case of Pak, Northern Learning (Pukhak), which disparaged the Chosŏn Neo-Confucian state ideology as inert and ineffective.

Years of humiliation and resentment against the conquering Manchus blinded many Korean elites to the scientific and technological advances made in Qing China (1644–1911). They despised its rulers as barbarians and begrudged Qing China's status as their suzerain state. But Pak saw Korea's northern neighbor as a model of economic and social reform. He and like-minded progressives discussed and corroborated views about the superiority of China's civilization. After traveling to Beijing in 1776, Pak wrote *Discourse on Northern Learning*, in which he favorably introduced many aspects of China's economy and culture. By comparison, he argued, Korea's economy was depressed, the result of inadequate government policies and the selfishness of a privileged upper class. He called for drastic reforms in agriculture and industry and for opening

the country to international trade. In a series of short essays, Pak gives us rare insights into life on the ground in late eighteenth-century Korea, and in the many details he supplies on Chinese farming, trade, and other commercial activities, his work provides a window onto everyday life in Qing China. Students and specialists of Korean history, particularly social reform movements, and Chosŏn-Qing relations will welcome this new translation.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667452>

Linguistics

Jejuo : The Language of Korea's Jeju Island / Changyong Yang, Sejung Yang & William O'Grady

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2020

xii, 300p. ; 2 b&w illustrations

Includes Index

9780824874438

1. Jejueo language.

\$ 68.00 / HB

542gm.

Jeju Island, located about 30 miles southwest of the Korean mainland, is famous for its natural beauty, *dolhaleubang* (“stone grandfather”) statues, *haenyeo* (“sea women”) divers—and its language, which has only recently been recognized as distinct from Korean. This finding—still considered controversial—undermines the centuries-old belief that Korea has a single language within its borders and opens the door to an entirely new perspective on linguistic diversity in East Asia.

Jejueo: The Language of Korea's Jeju Island offers both an introduction to the language and the foundation for a wave of new research on its many unique features. Through its comprehensive approach, the book helps establish the importance of Jejueo to the cultural and linguistic heritage of not only Jeju Island, but also the entire Korean peninsula. After a brief introductory chapter on the history of the island and its culture, the authors work their way through the language step by step, examining its sounds, part-of-speech system, and rich inventory of suffixes for both nouns and verbs, to which several chapters are devoted. Carefully written to minimize technical language and supplemented with hundreds of examples, the work is intended to be accessible to scholars working in all fields of Korean studies.

Jejueo tells the story of a language that has been under wraps for far too long and is now in peril. After centuries of use as the first language of the island, only a few thousand elderly fluent speakers remain, leading UNESCO to classify Jejueo as “critically endangered” in 2010. As the first full-length treatment of Jejueo in English, this book marks a milestone in Korean studies

and is sure to trigger extensive discussion of the language and its place in Korean society.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667454>

Literature

Korea's Premier Collection of Classical Literature : Selections from So Kjong's Tongmunson / (Translated & Annotated and Intro) Xin Wei & James B. Lewis
Korean Classics Library – Historical Materials

Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2019

x, 248p. ; 2 b&w illustrations

Includes Index

9780824877309

1. Korean literature – To 1900 – Translations into English.
2. Hanmunhak (Korean literature) – Translation into English.

\$ 68.00 / HB

540gm

This is the first book in English to offer an extensive introduction to the *Tongmunsŏn* (*Selections of Refined Literature of Korea*)—the largest and most important Korean literary collection created prior to the twentieth century—as well as translations of essays from key chapters.

The *Tongmunsŏn* was compiled in 1478 by Sŏ Kŏjŏng (1420–1488) and other Chosŏn literati at the command of King Sŏngjong (r. 1469–1494). It was modeled after the celebrated Chinese anthology *Wen Xuan* and contains poetry and prose in an extensive array of styles and genres.

The Translators' Introduction begins by describing the general structure of the *Tongmunsŏn* and contextualizes literary output in Korea within the great sweep of East Asian literature from the eighth to the fifteenth centuries. The entire *Tongmunsŏn* as well as all of the essays selected for translation were written in *hanmun* (as opposed to Korean vernacular), which points to a close literary connection between the continent and the peninsula. The Introduction goes on to discuss the genres contained in the *Tongmunsŏn* and examines style as revealed through prosody.

The translation of two of these genres (treatises and discourses) in four books of the *Tongmunsŏn* showcases prose-writing and the intellectual concerns of the age. Through their discussions of morality, nature, and the fantastic, we see Daoist, Buddhist, and Confucian themes at work in essays by some of Korea's most distinguished writers, among them Yi Kyubo, Yi Saek, Yi Chehyŏn, and Chŏng Tojŏn. The translations also include annotations and extensive cross-references to classical allusions in the Chinese canon, making the present volume an essential addition to any East Asian literature collection.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667460>

I Met Loh Kiwan / Cho Haejun (Translator) Ji-Eun Lee
Modern Korean Fiction Series
Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 2019
x, 126p.
9780824880033

1. Political refugees – Korea (North) – Fiction.
2. Koreans – Belgium – Fiction.

\$ 19.99 / PB
190gm.

Book Details:

This poignant short novel follows North Korean refugee Loh Kiwan to a place where he doesn't speak the language or understand the customs. His story of hardship and determination is gradually revealed in flashbacks by the narrator, Kim, a writer for a South Korean TV show, who learned about Loh from a news report. She traces his progress from North Korea to Brussels to London as he struggles to make his way and find a home in an unfamiliar world.

Readers come to see that Kim, too, has embarked on a journey, one driven by her need to understand what drives people to live, even thrive, despite tremendous loss and despair. Her own conflicted feelings of personal and professional guilt are mirrored in the novel's other characters: Jae, Kim's romantic interest and producer of the TV show she once wrote for; Yunju, a young cancer victim whose illness she now regrets exploiting; Pak, a doctor who helped Loh in Brussels, yet suffers deep remorse over the many life and death decisions he has made for his patients. Cho Haejin weaves these characters into a story of hope and trust, one that asks basic questions about what it means to be human and humane.

First published in 2011 in South Korea, this timely book won the 2013 Shin Dong-yup Prize for Literature.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667461>
