Teaching Resources for Korean Studies

Finding and Exploring Korea's Digital Resources without Knowing Korean

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Korean Studies Librarian, Princeton University Library

NCTA Princeton, October 10, 2026
11:20 a.m.–12:20 p.m. ET

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Selected Korean resources for teaching

- Historical maps of Seoul - How did mapmakers represent the capital?
- Archival photographs of Seoul - How did Seoul change, and how did people live during war?
- Virtual museum exhibitions - How did officials govern Joseon’s capital?
- Digitized books - What can a printed book reveal beyond its words?
- Find and explore these sources without knowing Korean

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Access without Korean

English pages

Some institutions provide English records
or English exhibition lists

Browser translation

Chrome or Edge can help with menus
and descriptions on Korean pages

Translation of photographed text is a separate step.

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Browser translation in Chrome

Open the Korean webpage

Right-click and choose Translate

Select English as the target language

Browse the translated menus

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Why I Chose Seoul





One old map, many stories



Suseonjeondo

Seoul Museum of History

Open the map

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designation	Suseonjeondo
Archive number	H-TRNS-67465-780
Artifact number	Seo2080
period	1864
location	
Source	Collection Materials Vol. 13 - Selection of Masterpieces from Hanyang, Seoul Museum of History, 2022
detail	This is a map reprinted in Jeonju in 1864 of the *Suseonjeondo*, which is presumed to have been produced by Kim Jeong-ho in the 1840s. The term "Suseon" in the map's title is derived from the phrase "Establishing the supreme good begins in the capital" found in the *Biographies of Confucian Scholars* of the *Records of the Grand Historian* (*Shiji*), and it refers to Seoul. Therefore, "Suseonjeondo" means "Map of Seoul." Although the content of the map is identical to the 1840s edition, the final results of the preliminary triennial ci service examinations (*Siknyeon Munhwa Chosi*) and the preliminary preliminary examinations for the provi civil service examinations (*Saengjin Chosi*) are recorded in the upper margin. This holds significant meaning regarding the nature of the map. Geographical information about Hanyang was important to local gentry as well, and was essential, especially for scholars preparing for the civil service examinations. Therefore, this map is an

TOP



Complete Map of Foremost Goodness


首善全圖
生進初試定數
漢城府二百六十人終同
忠清道九十人終同 慶尚道一百人
全羅道九十人 江原道四十五人
黃海道三十五人 平安道四十五人
咸鏡道三十五人
京陞補三十人 合製四十八人
科舉
附式年文科初試定數
漢城府一百十人 忠清道二十二人
慶尚道三十人 全羅道二十五人
江原道十五人 黃海道十人
平安道十三人 咸鏡道十人
通讀三十人
道峯
龍岩寺
鎮國寺
上元寺
承成庵
上倉
花溪寺
內院庵
大城門
補土所
香林
鶴岩
城北洞
新泉寺
淨土寺
仁王山
景福宮
沙川
安岩洞
崇信坊


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承成庵
上倉
花溪寺
內院庵
貞陵
補土所
城北洞
新興寺
淨土寺
仁王山
景福宮
大君房
僧房
安岩洞
永美亭洞
崇信坊



Han River

Seoul Photo Archives

Public access: no login required

[Open the Seoul Photo Archives]

City Photo Collection 89











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내 손안에 서울

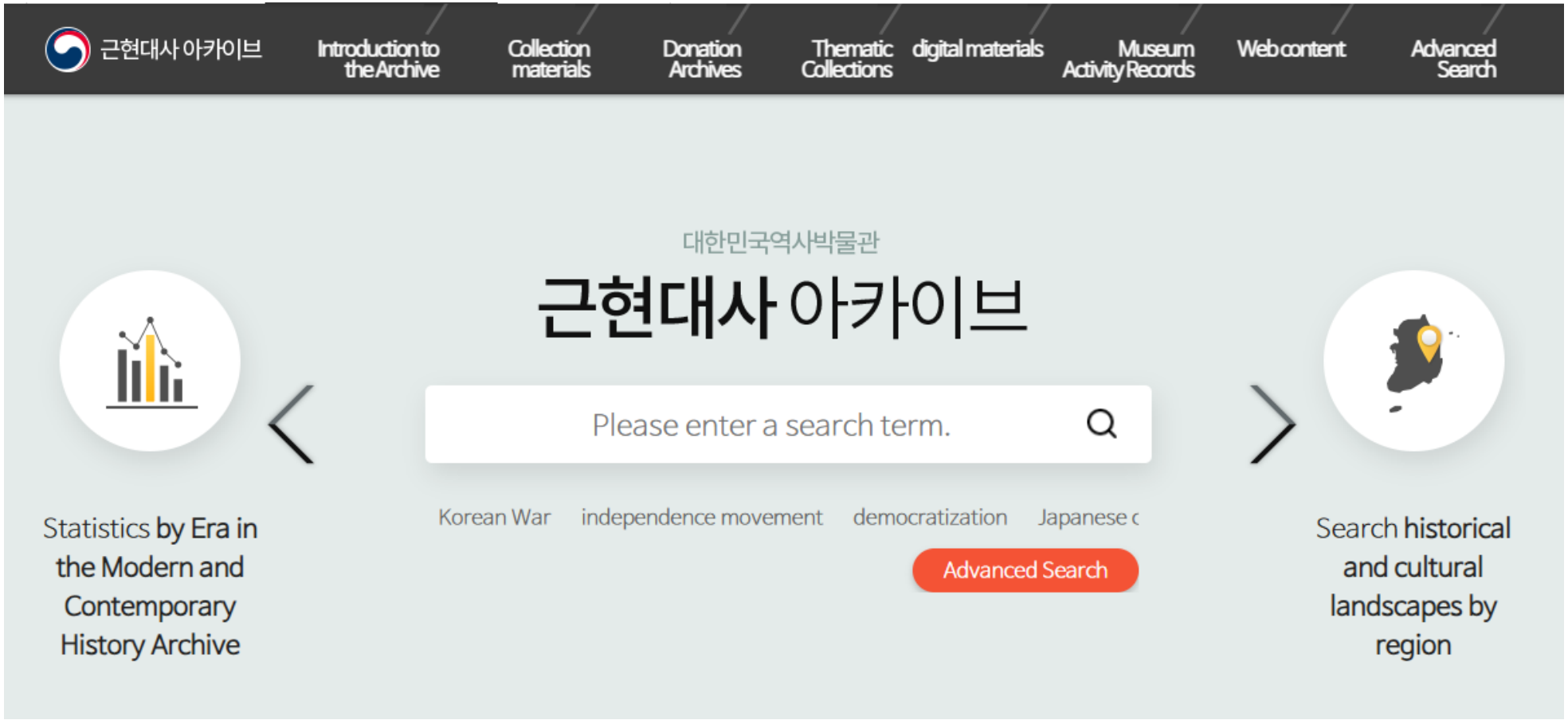

내 손안에 서울

Gangnam General Bus Terminal Groundbreaking Ceremony, April 8, 1976



Full screen enlargement reduction reset Download

National Museum of Korean Contemporary History



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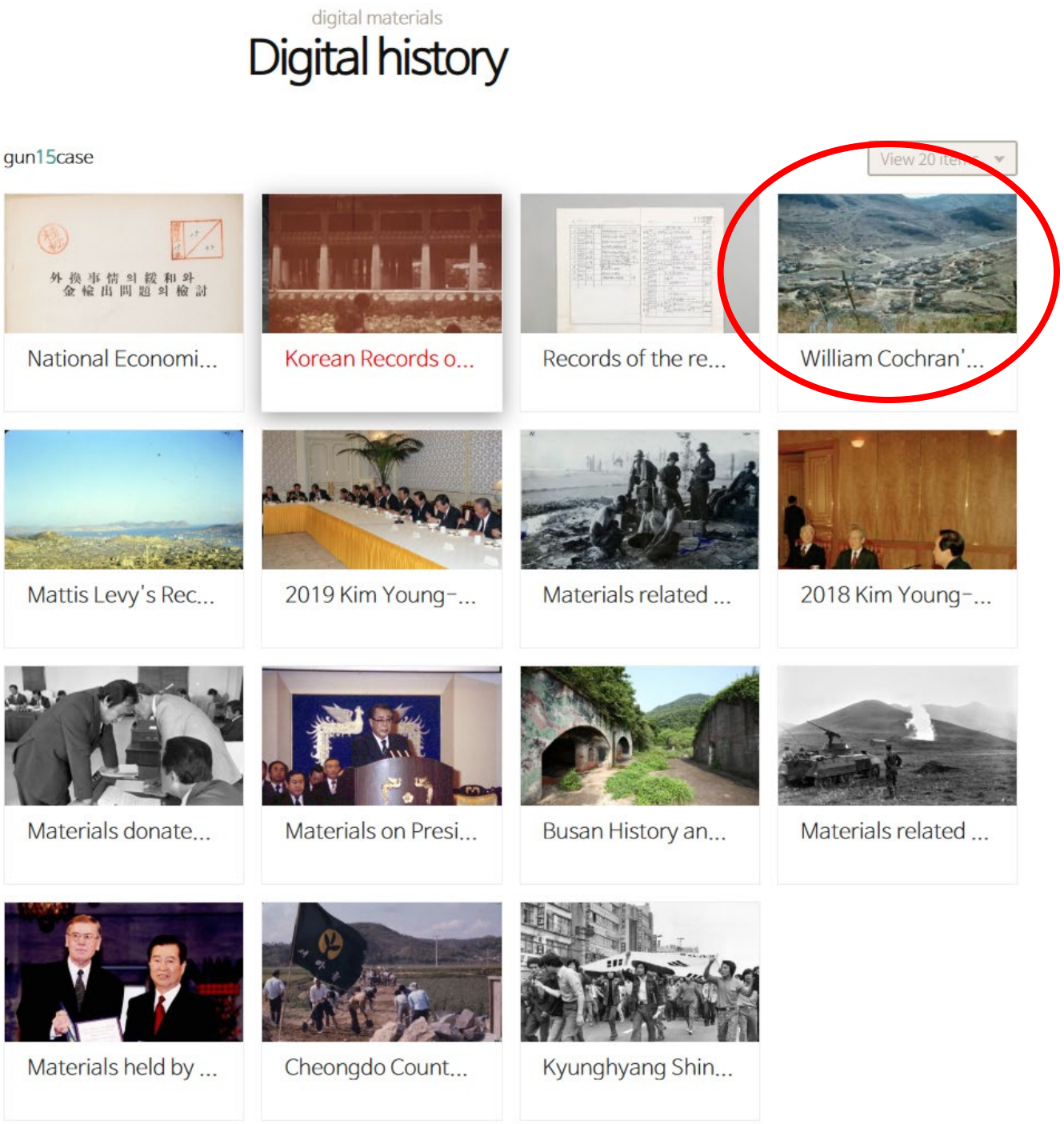
[Open Digital History Collection]





Panoramic view o...
This is a panoramic view o...



Sosari Village and...
This is the village of Sosari...



private houses in ...
This is a traditional house ...



The boy from Sos...
He is a boy by the roadsid...



Women doing lau...
These are Korean women ...



Children of Chodo
These are the children of ...



village communal ...
This is a millstone used col...



Chodo Sosari Sch...
This is a school building th...



Korean workers a...
These are young Korean ...



Villagers pulling a...
A villager from Chodo is p...



man next to a pile...
A man is sitting next to a p...



Boys returning ho...
Boys from Chodo are gath...



Interpreter Baek ...
This is Baek Hye-min, wh...



Women carrying s...
Villagers are walking acro...



Sosari Village and...
This is a village girl whose ...



Children of Sosari ...
These are the children of ...



Fishing boats anc...
These are fishing boats an...



people who build ...
The residents of Chodo ar...



US military flight f...
These are spent fuel tanks...



Women passing t...
The village women are pa...











William Cochran's Records of Korea, a U.S. Military Veteran of the Korean War

- Year of collection: 2022
- Data Solidarity : 1950s
- Collection source: William Cochran
- Copyright Office : William Cochran
- Material Topic : Archival photos of U.S. troops who participated in the Korean War in Seoul and the Chodo area of North Korea
- Project Overview: These are 207 photographs related to the Korean War donated by William Persing Cochran in June 2022.
- Introduction

William Cochran, a U.S. soldier who participated in the Korean War, served as a First Lieutenant (1LT) in the U.S. Air Force on Chodo Island from June 1952 to June 1953. Chodo is currently an island belonging to Punghae-myeon, Songhwa-gun, Hwanghae-do, North Korea, and was under the jurisdiction of the South Korean and U.S. armed forces during the armistice talks. Its area is 32.56 square kilometers, which is about half the size of Ulleungdo (72.9 square kilometers).

William Cochran's mission on Chodo was to supervise Koreans employed by the U.S. military, along with maintaining and monitoring U.S. radar. He interacted with the residents of Sosari village and Christian believers on the island, capturing their daily lives on camera. As a devout Christian, William Cochran personally built a church and an orphanage for refugees fleeing the North Korean military.

Among the 207 photographs donated by William Cochran, about 100 depict the scenery of Chodo and Sosari Village, while the remaining 100 or so capture scenes just before the armistice while traveling between U.S. military bases in Seoul, Daegu, and other areas. All 207 photographs are recorded in color.

KEYWORD

Korean War veterans, Chodo, U.S. military, January 4th Retreat, Incheon Landing Operation, LST, U.S. military base, 5th Air Force







Who would you contact?

In your town today…

An injured deer is lying on the road.
You need a copy of your property deed.
Someone cuts down trees in a public park.

In Joseon's capital…
A tiger appears on Jongno Street.

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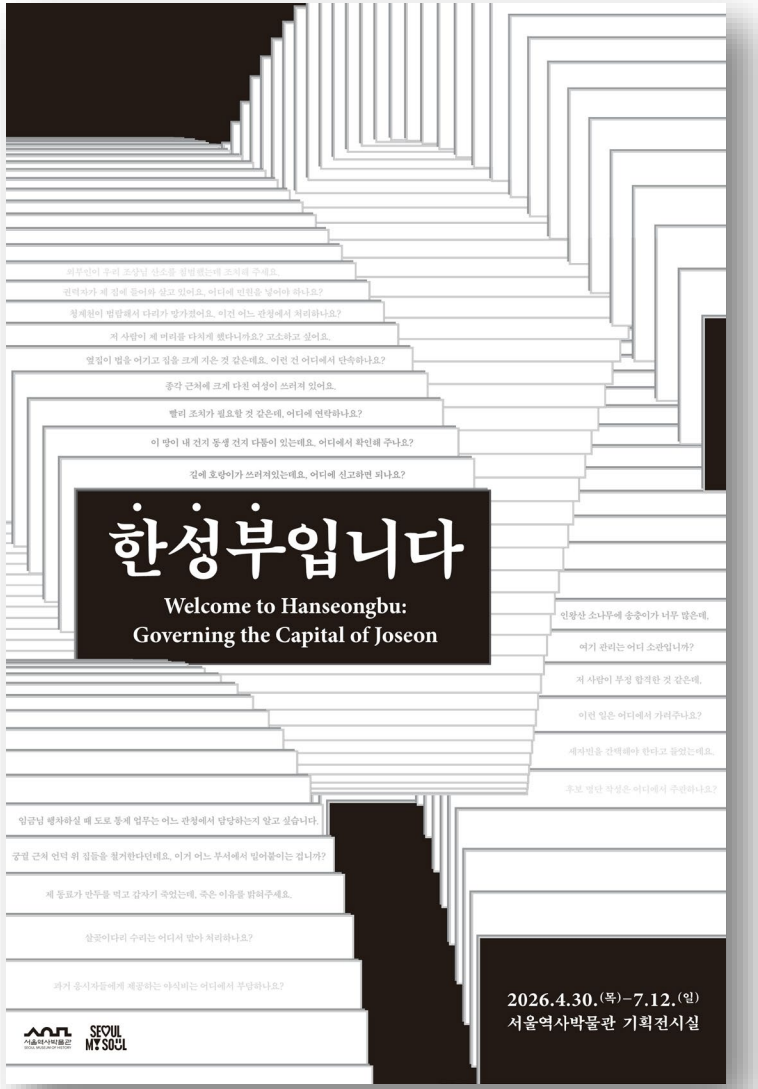
Online VR Exhibition



Public access: no login required

Welcome to Hanseongbu: Governing the Capital of Joseon

[Open the Hanseongbu VR Exhibition]

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서울역사박물관
SEOUL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

leaflet poster so that



map



2D 보기

This is Hanseongbu.

prolog

Part 1. Where Does Hanseongbu End?
- 1-1. Welcome to Hanseongbu
- 1-2. This is our jurisdiction.
- 1-3. That place is also under our jurisdiction.

Part 2. Busy, Busy Hanseongbu
- 2-1. Hanseongbu in Daily Life
- 2-2. Hanseongbu, Where the King Lives
- 2-3. Hanseongbu for Everyone

Part 3. People of Hanseong
- 3-1. Members of Hanseongbu
- 3-2. Work Life of Hanseongbu Officials

Epilogue



close



Genre painting by Kim Jun-geun - Examining and

Kim Jun-geun's Brushwork Folk Painting - Corpse Examination 후고

Genre Painting by Kim Jun-geun: Autopsy Scene

late Joseon period

National Folk Museum

This is one of the genre paintings by Gisan Kim Jun-geun, depicting a scene of an autopsy where a body is examined to determine the cause of death following a murder. Although the painting style is simple, the realistic and detailed depiction vividly portrays the autopsy process of that time.

VR Exhibition

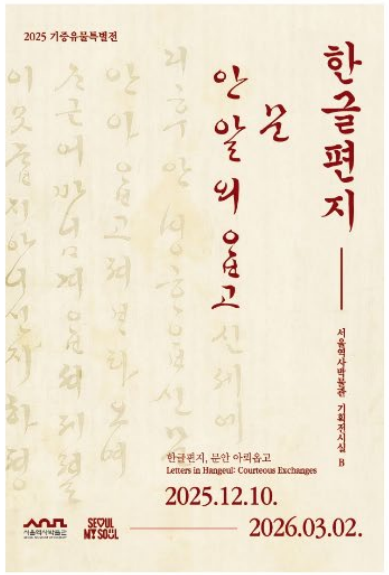
-- Select -- Search

Total 156 Page 1/26



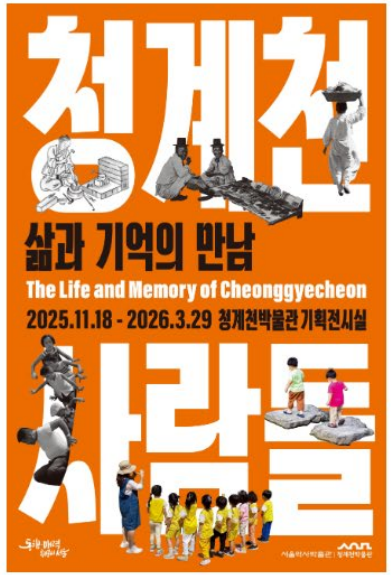
2026-04-30 ~ 2026-07-12

Welcome to Hanseongbu: Governing the Capital of Joseon



2025-12-10 ~ 2026-03-02

Special Exhibition of Donated Artifacts <Letter in Hangeul: Courteous...



2025-11-18 ~ 2026-03-29

People of Cheonggyecheon: Encounters of Life and Memory

[Open VR Exhibition Directory]

2025-09-26 ~ 2025-11-16

Seoul Submerged: The Great Flood of 1925

2025-07-18 ~ 2026-02-08

Seoul YMCA: A History of Citizens Created by Youth

2025-04-08 ~ 2025-07-06

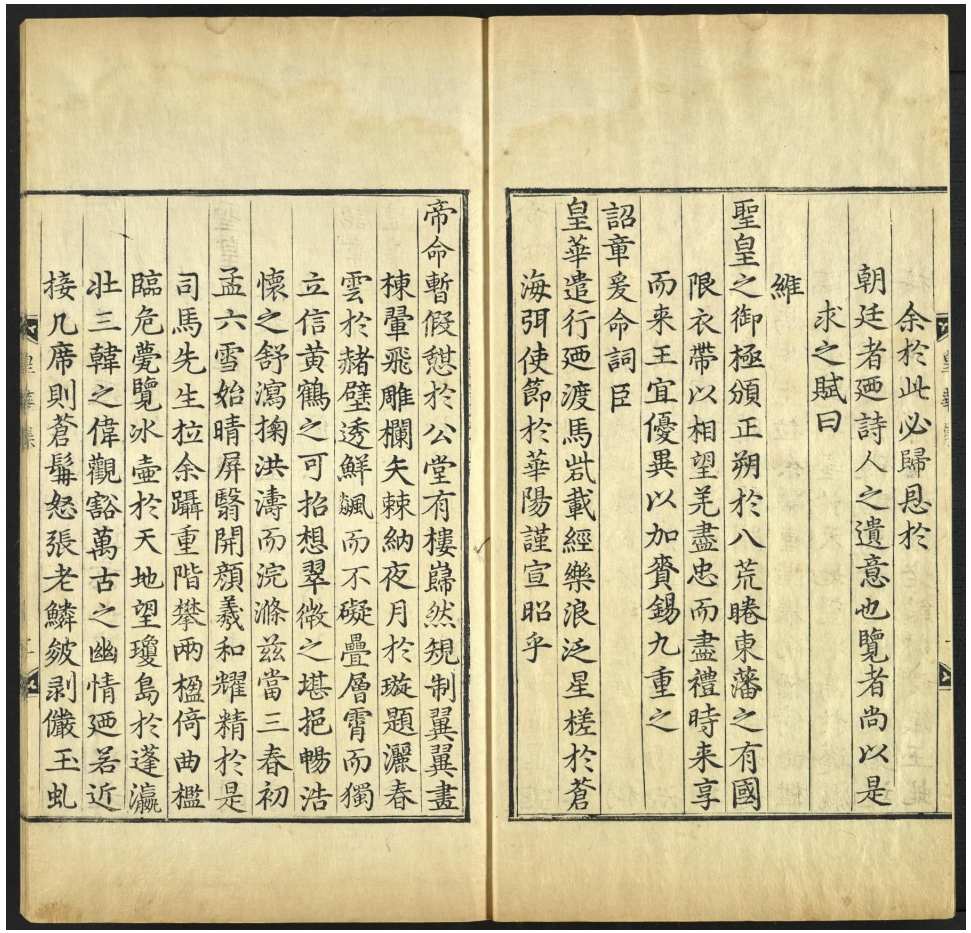
World Heritage and Capital Fortifications of Hanyang

2024-05-03 ~ 2024-09-22

Young People and Popular Music in Seoul

and many more.

Hwanghwajip at Princeton



Digital PUL: no login required

Hwanghwajip
16th century

Poetry exchanged by Ming envoys and Joseon officials

Korean movable metal type

[Open the digitized book]

Princeton University Library

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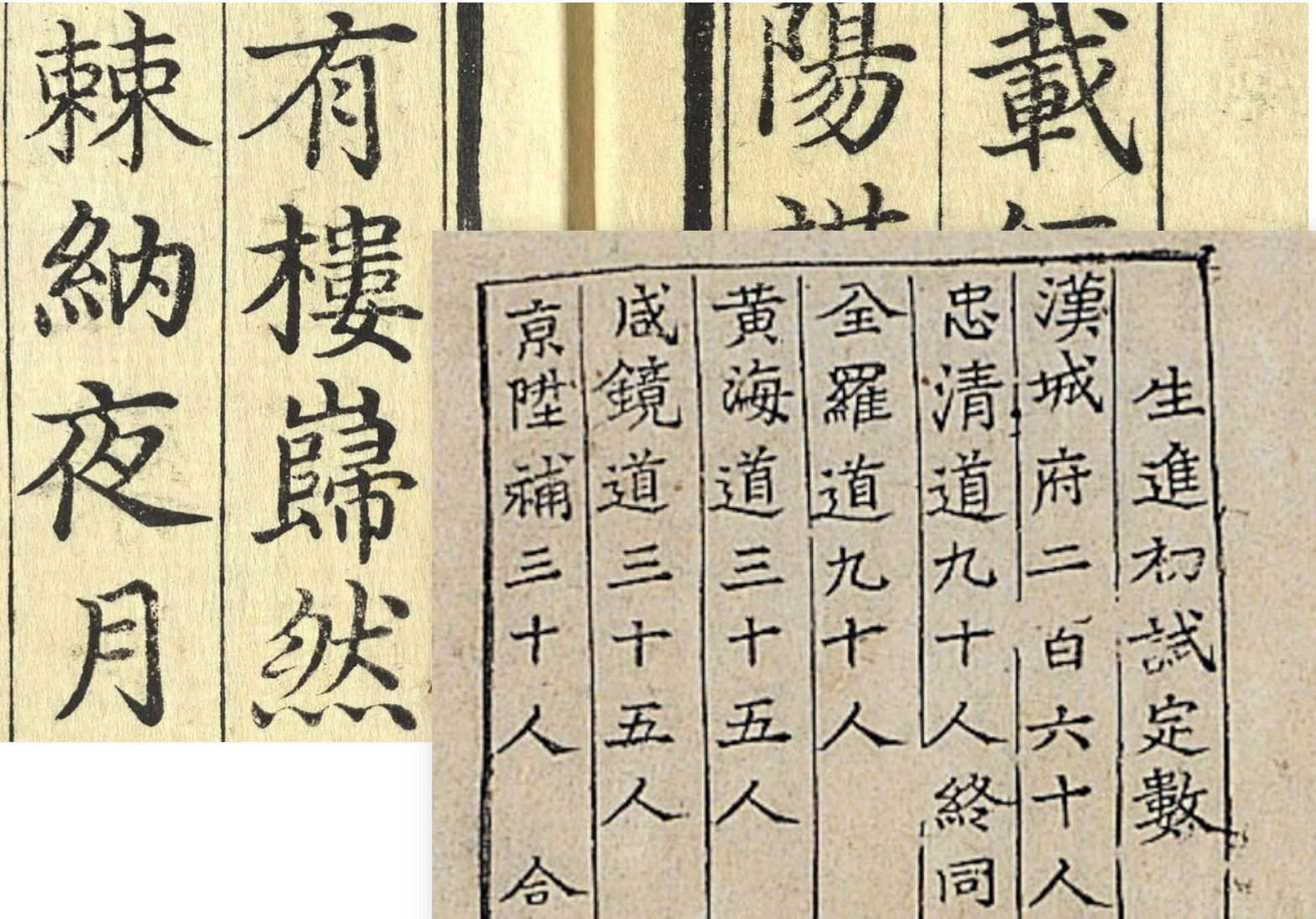
A closer look at the printing



What can you observe?

Clear character outlines

Vertical columns and spacing

Ink and paper

You can examine the book without reading the text

Korean printing culture online

English resources: no login required

Early Printings in Korea

Academy of Korean Studies
An illustrated overview of woodblock and movable type printing, materials, and publishers

Movable Metal Type: Great Invention of Korea

National Museum of Korea on Google Arts & Culture
A visual tour of type making, printing, and bookbinding

Questions

Which resource would you explore next?
What would help you get started?

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Further Korean Resources in English

National Museum of Korea online exhibits

Online Archive Korean Christianity (University of California, Los Angeles)
Photographs and documents on religion and Korea's global connections.

Korean American Digital Archive (University of Southern California)
Photographs, documents, and oral histories of Korean American communities.

National Museum of Korea

Online Exhibition Hall

A total of 96 results were found.



Roar, tiger – bravely, miraculously, cheerfully

Digital Immersive Video Hall



Flower, Bird, and Animal Painting, A Cat's Day

Digital Immersive Video Hall





Search for exhibition titles

division

- entire
- New Treasures Have Arrived: New National Treasures & Treasures Exhibition 2017-2019
- video
- Great Heritage Meets Today
- Just as spring follows the dead of winter, deep peace
- World Culture
- VR
- Homo Sapiens: Evolution ∞ Relationships & Future?
- Artifact-centered
- Faces of the Era, From Shakespeare to Ed Sheeran

Online Archive Korean Christianity

Before 1876

Search ...

Before 1876 : under construction

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

1592-1599 The Korean-Japanese War

1593 Gregorio de Céspedes (1550-1611), a Portuguese Jesuit priest in Japan, accompanied the Japanese forces commanded by Daimyo Konishi Yukinaga, himself a Christian, and did missionary work among the Japanese soldiers in Pusan from December 27, 1593 to April 1594 . There is little evidence that he interacted directly with the Korean population, but it is believed that he did proselytize among Koreans held captive by the Japanese. Among Around 300.000 Korean prisoners of war who were brought as slaves to Nagasaki, some were converted to Christianity.

1603



Korean American Digital Archive

