



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Symposium Highlights the Recent Discovery of a Korean National Treasure in UW-Milwaukee's Library Collection

*Rare 19-century map is the centerpiece of a conference timed with
"Korea Day" cultural activities at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

MILWAUKEE, WIS. (November 2009) – A rare 1861 map designated as a National Treasure in Korea will be the focus of an international academic conference on November 20th at UW-Milwaukee's American Geographical Society Library. Distinguished scholars from Korea and the US will give presentations about the *Daedong yeojido* ("Territorial Map of the Great East"), which was recently identified in the AGS Library collection after more than a century in obscurity.

The all-day conference begins at 9:30 A.M. with lectures by Dr. Kihuk Kim (Pusan National University and president of the Association of Old Korean Map Studies in Korea); Dr. Kibong Lee (Rare Book Section, National Library of Korea); and Drs. Suk-Soo Kim and Halla Kim (University of Nebraska at Omaha).

The afternoon session features a special lecture at 1:30 P.M. by Dr. Gari Ledyard (King Sejong Professor Emeritus of Korean Studies at Columbia University).

During the conference, the *Daedong yeojido* will be on display along with other archival Korean maps and photographs.

Background and significance of the Daedong yeojido

In December 2008, researchers from the Korean Consulate in Chicago visited the UWM Libraries' AGS Library, accompanied by UWM School of Information Studies faculty member Wooseob Jeong. The researchers quickly recognized that one of the maps in the collection was the *Daedong yeojido*, a map designated a National Treasure in Korea.

Very few complete copies of the *Daedong yeojido* survive. In the United States, only UWM's AGS Library and the University of California-Berkeley own the 1861 version.

The *Daedong yeojido* was produced by the great Korean geographer Kim Jeongho. The map is a single map on twenty-two folded sheets and when displayed open, measures nearly thirteen feet wide and twenty feet in length.

At a scale of about 1:162,000, the map is a wood-block print that includes two inset maps of Seoul, texts, diagrams, and a hand-drawn index sheet.

It is believed Kim walked the length and breadth of Korea several times gathering data for the *Daedong yeojido*. In the 1860s, Korea was in a state of alarm over a potential Western invasion, and the high level of detail and the extensive publication costs of Kim's map suggest it was made in preparation for war.

Kim was jailed in 1864, some scholars speculate, because a new government thought he had compromised national security through the release of this detailed and accurate map.

The map is part of a collection of Korea-related materials – including several maps, an atlas, and forty-three photographs of Korea -- which had been originally purchased by the American Geographical Society of New York in 1895 from the father of American diplomat George C. Foulk.

In 1883, Foulk served as a translator for Korean delegates who visited the United States as part of the first recorded Korean diplomatic visit to the West. Foulk accompanied the mission back to Korea as a U.S. Naval attaché and undertook a 900-mile journey of the country by sedan chair in September and October 1884, during which time he kept a detailed journal, took photographs, and may have used the *Daedong yeojido*.

Korea Day at UWM

The conference is being held in conjunction with “Korea Day,” a cultural celebration at UWM. In addition to the conference, a lunch program featuring traditional Korean cultural activities will be held in Greene Hall on the UWM campus at 12:00-1:30pm on November 20.

The Korea Day conference and activities are sponsored by the UWM School of Information Studies (SOIS), UWM Libraries, American Geographical Society Library, Korean American University Professors Association (KAUPA), Map Society of Wisconsin, UWM Center for International Education (CIE), the Korean-American Association of Milwaukee, the Korean Language and Culture School of Milwaukee, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago.

Location and Parking

The conference will be held at the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library, which is located on the 3rd floor of the Golda Meir Library on the UWM campus. Parking is available at the Klotsche Center Pavilion garage, which is located at 3409 North Downer Avenue, near East Newport Avenue.

All events are free and open to the public.

###

For more information: http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/AGSL/korean_maps.cfm

Contact:

Angie Cope, Senior Academic Librarian, AGS Library, UW-Milwaukee
acope@uwm.edu
(414) 229-6282

Wooseob Jeong, Associate Professor, School of Information Studies, UW-Milwaukee
wjj8612@uwm.edu
(414) 229-6167