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The Archaeology of Korea surveys Korean prehistory from the earliest paleolithic settlers, perhaps half a million years ago, through the formation of the Three Kingdoms and on to the creation of United Silla in AD 668, when the peninsula was largely united for the first time. The author treats the development of state-level societies and their relationship to polities in Japan and China, and the development of a Korean ethnic identity. Emphasizing the particular features of the region, the author dispels the notion that the culture and traditions of Korea are but pale imitations of those of its neighbors, China and Japan.

Sarah Nelson has specialized in Korean archaeology for twenty years. She draws on her own research and that of Korean colleagues; and while much of the material comes from the Republic of Korea, the north is considered as far as sources permit.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF KOREA

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has been written in the hope of placing Korea on the map of world archaeology, from which it has been conspicuously absent. In that spirit it is offered to several publics: to professional archaeologists working in other regions, to armchair archaeologists interested in discoveries worldwide, to students needing a resource on Korea, to Asianists who are primarily historians or art historians. It is not a book for insiders, not a book directed at the small cadre of Koreanists with the background to gnaw over a few delicious bones, partly because too little has been published in Korean archaeology for this to be productive, but, more important, because it deserves a wider audience.

In 1970, when I first went to Korea, I discovered that very little was written about the archaeology in English or other western languages. Learning about the archaeology of Korea was not a task to be taken lightly. It required a reading knowledge of the language and its complex grammar, in both *han'gul*, the Korean alphabet, and *hanja*, Chinese characters. Beyond those barriers, the Korean language is more adapted to nuance than to straightforward declarative sentences. When reading Korean with various native Korean tutors, I would ask exactly where in the sentence it said such-and-such. "You have to catch between the lines," they told me. And sometimes even my tutors could not be sure they had caught it right.

Learning about the archaeology of Korea required help from many Korean archaeologists, who have been generous throughout the years with their knowledge and their publications. To all of them I owe a great debt.

My first trip, when I had exactly one year to create and carry out a dissertation project, I was very fortunate to meet and be assisted by the top echelon of Korean archaeologists: Dr. Kim Won-yong, the director of the National Museum in Seoul, and Dr. Sohn Pow-key of Yonsei University. I am very grateful that both took time out of their busy schedules to give me guidance. Pak Dong-won, Professor of Geography at Seoul National University, tutored me in Chinese characters, and equally importantly he introduced me to his classmate, Im Hyo-jai, an archaeologist at Seoul National University, with whom I devised a project. During that year I also met Choi Mong-lyong, Lim Byung-tae, Han Byong-sam and others who were all extremely helpful.

Circumstances did not permit my return to Korea until 1978, when I was invited by the Institute for Shipboard Education to be an interport lecturer on Korea for Semester-at-Sea. Disembarking in Pusan, I took a couple of weeks in

Korea to reestablish contacts and discuss the latest developments in Korean archaeology. My thanks to all those who helped, including Kim Jong-hak in Pusan, and to my colleagues previously mentioned who smoothed my path. In 1983, with a grant awarded by the Academy of Korean Studies, I spent another month researching in Korea, both in Seoul and around the peninsula visiting sites, museums and universities. Particularly helpful were Kim Dong-ho at Dong-A University, Yi Yung-jo at Chungbuk University, Han Byong-sam at Kyongju National Museum, and Chung Yong-hwa at Yongnan University in Taegu. The colleagues I always turned to were helpful as ever, especially Im Hyo-jai, Kim Won-yong and Sohn Pow-key. I met Hwang Yong-hoon at Kunghee University, and Professor Chung Yong-ho of Danguk University, in the company of Martha Sloan. I was introduced to Lee Yong-nam, a microbiologist with an avocational interest in archaeology, who facilitated my work as well. The Academy of Korean Studies awarded me a grant to have illustrations drawn for this book, so they have my double gratitude.

A grant from the International Cultural Society of Korea allowed me to spend another month in Korea in the fall of 1986. I was taken to important newly discovered sites by many of my old colleagues and aided in various ways by Kay Black, Kim Ju-hyung, Rose Lee and Levke Schlütter. Han Byong-sam, Han Churl-mo and Chi Kongil were very helpful at the National Museum, as were all the group at Seoul National University – both the museum and the department.

The Pacific Science Congress in Seoul in 1987 offered another opportunity to visit Korea, and I profited again from the aid of many helpful people: Kim Byong-mo, Yi Seon-bok, Bae Ki-dong, Lim Young-jin and Pak Soon-bal among others. I visited sites in Seoul with Gina Barnes, and in Kwangju with Fumiko Ikawa-Smith, where we toured the Juam Dam sites with Kim Hee-su. Laurel Kendall rescued me when my hotel was the target of a labor strike.

In 1989 Earthwatch and the Center for Field Research awarded me a grant for a month of fieldwork in Korea. With the help of a dozen volunteers and two students, Patty Conte and Leslie Johnson, I carried out a project on sites in three different regions. Lee In-suk was very helpful at Seoul National University, and Chung Yang-mo at the National Museum. Thanks also to Han Yong-hee at the Chinju Museum and An Jun-bae at Pusan Women's University. The unsung hero of the occasion was Choe Chong-pil, who assisted with everything from logistics and reservations for the group at *yogwans* to discussions of the methodology and interpretations of Korean archaeology, and brought his bright and eager students along to mingle with the volunteers. Inge and Gunter Rösch were marvelously hospitable and helpful. Thanks also to Choong-Soon Kim, who was also researching in Korea at the time.

Most recently I went to Korea in the summer of 1990. Once again, my thanks to Im Hyo-jai, Lee In-suk, Lee Yong-nam, Choe Chong-pil, Bae Ki-dong, Dominique Kassab and the Rösches, for making my stay pleasant and pro-

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ductive. Also, a special thanks to the library of the National Museum of Korea for facilitating my work there.

In the meantime I became interested in the connections between Korea and northern China. In 1981, 1982 and 1985 I led students and friends on tours of various archaeological sites of China, after beginning to study the Chinese language in 1981. In 1987, accompanied by Ardith Hunter, I toured the Dongbei region. Our interpreter, Mingming Shan, was invaluable. The Chinese archaeologists in Shenyang, Chaoyang, Changchun, Jilin and Harbin were extremely helpful and hospitable. I received a grant from the Committee on Scholarly Communication with The People's Republic of China (CSCPRC) to return to China for six weeks the following year. Most recently, I attended the International Circum-Bohai Archaeology Conference in Dalian with the assistance again of the CSCPRC. I profited not only from papers presented at the meeting, but also from the opportunity for long conversations with Song Nai Rhee and David Goodrich, as well as my "pen-pal" from Novosibirsk, Sergei Komissarov, and many Japanese and Chinese colleagues.

I must also extend thanks for many conversations about the book, and about archaeology in general, with Susan Kent, Linda Donley-Reid, Fumiko Ikawa-Smith, Nancy Price, Lothar von Falkenhausen, Anne Underhill, Peter Bleed, Bong Won Kang and too many others to mention every one. My husband, Harold S. Nelson, deserves thanks as well, for his company in some of my travels, for his photography, for his patience, and not least for my first acquaintance with Korea.

Thanks to Nancy Levesque, Janice Straley, Kathy Williams, Paul Moskoe and Christina Todd, who helped enter the various transformations of the manuscript into the computer; to Julie Hoff, Kristi Butterwick, Troy Sagrillo, Wa-jia Tang and Heather Shepard, who drew the figures and maps; to H.J. Kwon, who located sites on the maps; and to Michelle Bahe who helped check the bibliography and performed many other tedious chores. Finally, many thanks to Jessica Kuper, editor for archaeology at Cambridge University Press, for her patience and goodwill, and to Marigold Acland and Frances Brown for their care with the manuscript.

Naturally, no one is to be blamed for my stubbornness in preferring my own interpretations, and I personally lay claim to whatever errors lurk in the manuscript. As to my interpretations, I have tried to be consistent, and to have articulated my thoughts clearly enough to allow for fruitful discussion with any dissenters.

A few words may be needed about the transliteration of Korean words and names. For words and place names, I have used a modified form of the McCune-Reischauer system, omitting diacritical marks but using the English letters that best convey spoken Korean. I made this decision hoping it would make the book more accessible to non-Koreanists, since the results appear less intimidating, and

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words can be pronounced by English speakers in a reasonable approximation to the Korean. The official Korean transliteration is true to the Korean alphabet, but looks difficult in English – “Jeonra” for “Cholla,” for example. An exception is made for spellings common in English, such as Seoul, and for personal names. In the bibliography, I have used whatever English transliteration each scholar seemed to prefer for his own name, judging from publications or tables of contents in English. This decision caused some problems – for example the same name can be written in English as Lee, Li, Rhee, Rhi or Yi and sometimes the same author has used several alternative spellings of his name. In those cases I selected the most common usage as the basic heading. The bibliography would have become impossibly unwieldy if the variant spelling had been noted in every instance, but wherever a name appears in a western language publication I have adhered to that spelling. The titles of papers written in Korean are given in translation only, with the notation that they are in Korean. To give non-Korean readers more access to the literature, names of journals are in the original language. I hope the bibliography will be a resource through which the interested reader can expand his/her knowledge beyond this book.