

# A NEW MUSEUM OF ASTRONOMY IN KOREA

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## 1. Introduction

The construction of a new museum of astronomy is planned by the present author in Yecheon Prefecture ( $\lambda = 128^{\circ}28' \text{ E}$ ,  $\phi = 36^{\circ}39' \text{ N}$ ), Korea, with the opening date set in October, 1999. The aims of the museum directed in three area: (1) to exhibit astronomical works available in Korea, China, Japan and other regions of the Far East; (2) to serve the publics with written material for the study of history of Oriental astronomy; and (3) to operate a 40-cm reflecting telescope for researches of both professionals and amateur astronomers. A long-term project of the reconstruction of King Sejong's instruments, which were made in the 15th century in the Kyongbok Palace, Seoul, is also an important subject of this museum.

The site of the museum, 13,200-square meters, is a part of a 35,640-square meter complex named *Biului Dongsan*, which means *Hill of Stars*. The rest of the complex, *Hill of Stars*, will have lodgings for visitors.

The major items for exhibition are mainly in two categories, star maps and sundials. As supplements, other miscellaneous materials will be shown also. These are listed below with two sample photos given in Figures 1 and 2.

## 2. Star maps of old and new

- a. Photographs of stars painted on walls of ancient graves
- b. Replicas of star maps in the period from ancient to AD 13c
- c. A new copy of the stone slab of the 1395 planisphere and rubbings of stone slabs available in China and Korea
- d. Collection of star maps printed or drawn on papers
- e. Books with star map printed
- f. Stars marked on materials other than papers
- g. Reproductions and the collections of old and new star maps of various regions

## 3. Sundials

- a. Photographs of old sundials
- b. Rubbings of stone sundials
- c. A new bronze gnomon and photos of other gnomons
- c. Replicas of sundials made by metals, woods, stones, etc
- d. Books with sundail printed

## 4. Miscellaneous

- a. Observatory with a 40-cm reflector and the photoelectric photometer
- b. Instruments for the astronomical observations
- c. Instruments for the meteorological observations
- d. Astronomical almanacs and calendars

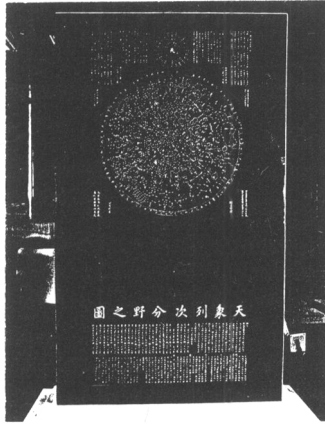


Figure 1. The new copy of the stone slab of the 1395 planisphere Nha (1996)

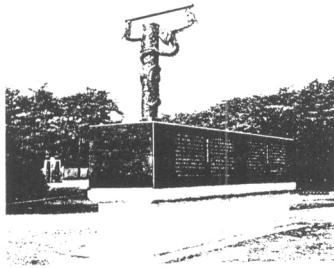


Figure 2. A reduced copy of the 1437 bronze gnomon by Nha and Jeong (1995)

- e. Recent posters of the astronomical events
- f. Biographical documents for scholars worked on the history of Korean astronomy

## References

- Nha, Il-Seong and Jeong, Jang-Hae, 1995, 'Chukso Jejakhhan Sejong Daewangui Giupio (The reduced replica of the King Sejong's Gnomon)', *Technical Report of Sejong Daewang Yujok Gwanri-so*. (in Korean)
- Nha, Il-Seong, 1996, 'Stone Star Map Chonsang Yolcha Bunya-ji-do and its 600th anniversary', *J. Korean Studies*, 93: 41-132. (in Korean)