

Korean National Treasure Identified at AGS Library
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By Angela Cope

In 1895 the American Geographical Society (AGS) of New York purchased several maps, an atlas, and forty-three photographs of Korea from the father of American diplomat George C. Foulk. For more than one hundred years, the significance of these materials went largely unrecognized.

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

Inspired by the researchers' enthusiasm over this map, AGS Library staff set out to learn more about the significance of the Foulk materials.

The *Daedong yeojido* was produced in 1861 by the great Korean geographer Kim Chong-ho. The map, at a scale of about 1:162,000, is a wood block print that includes two inset maps of Seoul, texts and diagrams. It is a single map on twenty-two folded sheets and when displayed open, measures nearly thirteen feet wide and twenty feet in length.

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

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. Today, very few complete copies of the *Daedong yeojido* survive. In the United States, only the AGS Library and the University of California-Berkeley own a copy of the 1861 version. The AGS Library map includes a hand drawn index sheet.

George C. Foulk was born in 1856 and graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1876. His early career took him on travels to Asia and Siberia, and in 1883 he was appointed to a position as a librarian in Washington, D.C., where he pursued Japanese and Chinese studies.

That same year a Korean mission traveled to the United States. This was the first recorded Korean diplomatic visit to the West and Foulk was the only person in government service qualified to serve as an interpreter. Though Foulk wasn't fluent in Korean, he communicated in Japanese and quickly picked up the Korean language.

Foulk accompanied the mission back to Korea as a U.S. Naval attaché and undertook a 900 mile journey of Korea 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*.

Photographs of his from the AGS Library collection include images of Korean officials, the residence of the U.S. Legation, scenes from Korean daily life, Puk-Han Mountain Fortress and its Pleasure Palace, Buddhist rock carvings, Korean drum dancers, views of Seoul and King Kim Kjong's palace and grounds.

Foulk left Korea in 1887 and spent his last days in Japan as a professor of mathematics at the missionary-run Doshisha College, now Doshisha University. He died in 1893, at the age of 37, while hiking with his Japanese wife and friends.

In addition to the Foulk materials, the AGS Library holds other materials that offer researchers a rich understanding of 19th century Korea, including *Life in Corea* (1888) by William Carles, the British Vice Consul in Shanghai; E. Oppert's *A Forbidden Land: Voyages to the Corea* (1880); and Percival Lowell's *Chosön, the Land of the Morning Calm: A Sketch of Korea* (1886).

All 43 photographs and Foulk's maps are available for viewing at the UWM Libraries Digital Collections: <http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/agsphoto> (search by keyword 'Foulk')

The *Daedong yeojido* can be seen here: <http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/u/?agdm,828>