

The book cover features a dark green banner at the top with the title in yellow. Below the banner is a pattern of red flowers with yellow centers and green leaves on a dark red background. A vertical wooden panel with a metal handle is on the left side.

NOTES ON THINGS KOREAN

Suzanne Crowder Han

 **Hollym**

Notes on Things Korean

Copyright © 1995 by Suzanne Crowder Han

Illustrated by Kahyon Kim

All rights reserved.

First published in 1995

Tenth printing, 2010

by Hollym International Corp.

18 Donald Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208, USA

Phone 908 353 1655

Fax 908 353 0255

<http://www.hollym.com>



Published simultaneously in Korea

by Hollym Corp., Publishers

13-13 Gwancheol-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-111 Korea

Phone +82 2 734 5087

Fax +82 2 730 8192

<http://www.hollym.co.kr>

e-Mail info@hollym.co.kr

ISBN: 978-1-56591-019-5

Library of Congress Control Number: 97-76496

Printed in Korea

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	5
<i>Introduction</i>	12
<i>Chronology</i>	15
BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS	
Ancestral Rites, <i>Chesa</i>	19
Birth	21
Birthdays, <i>Saeng-il</i>	21
Hundredth Day, <i>Paegil</i> 21	First Birthday, <i>Tol</i> 22
Sixtieth Birthday, <i>Hwan-gap</i> 22	
Buddhism, <i>Pulgyo</i>	23
Buddhist Deities	25
Buddhas, <i>Puch'ŏ</i> 25	Bodhisattvas, <i>Posal</i> 26
Other Deities 27	Guardians 28
<i>Changsŭng</i> , Spirit Posts	28
Ch'ŏndogyo, Religion of the Heavenly Way	30
Confucianism, <i>Yugyo</i>	31
Fortunetelling, <i>Chŏm</i>	32
Funerals, <i>Changrye</i>	33
Geomancy, <i>P'ungsu</i>	34
Marriage, <i>Kyŏllhon</i>	35
Rites for Confucius, <i>Sŏkchŏn</i>	38
Rites for Household Gods, <i>Kosa</i>	39
Rites for Royalty, <i>Chehyang</i>	41
<i>Sebae</i> , New Year's Obeisance	42
Shamanism, <i>Musok</i>	43
Taejonggyo	45
Talismans, <i>Pujŏk</i>	45
Taoism, <i>Togyo</i>	46
Zodiac, <i>Shibiji</i>	47
LIFESTYLE	
Dress	51
Family System	53
Food	54
Housing	55

Lunar Calendar	58
Names	59
Seals, <i>Tojang</i>	61
Traditional Medicine, <i>Hanbang</i>	62

SPECIAL DAYS

Ch'op'ail, Buddha's Birthday	67
Ch'usŏk, Harvest Moon Festival	68
Hanshik, Cold Food Day	69
Pok-nal, Dog Days	70
Sŏl-nal, Lunar New Year's Day	70
Taeborŭm, First Full Moon Day	71
Tano, Fifth Day of Fifth Moon	72

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Calligraphy, <i>Sŏye</i>	77
Celadon, <i>Ch'ŏngja</i>	78
Folding Screens, <i>Pyŏngp'ung</i>	79
<i>Ho</i> , Sobriquet	79
<i>Hwagak</i> , Ox Horn	80
<i>Kimch'i</i> Pots	81
<i>Maedŭp</i> , Ornamental Knots	81
Mother-of-pearl Lacquerware, <i>Chagae</i>	82
Mulberry Paper, <i>Hanji</i>	83
Paper Craft	84
<i>Pojagi</i> , Wrapping Cloths	84
<i>Punch'ŏng</i>	85
<i>Sagunja</i> , Four Noble Gentlemen Painting	86
<i>Shipchangsae</i> , Ten Longevity Symbols	86
<i>Tanch'ŏng</i>	87
White Porcelain, <i>Paekcha</i>	88

MUSIC AND DANCE

Buddhist Ritual Dance, <i>Chakpŏp</i>	93
Buddhist Ritual Music	94
<i>Ch'angguk</i> , Folk Opera	94
Chinese Court Music, <i>Tang-ak</i>	94
Classical Music, <i>Kug-ak</i>	95
Confucian Dance, <i>Ilmu</i>	95

Confucian Shrine Music, <i>Munmyo-ak</i>	96
Court Dance, <i>Chǒngjae</i>	98
Court Music, <i>A-ak</i>	99
Dance, <i>Ch'um</i>	100
Fan Dance, <i>Puch'e Ch'um</i>	101
Farmer's Music and Dance, <i>Nong-ak</i>	102
Folk Music, <i>Minsog-ak</i>	103
<i>Hwach'ǒng</i>	104
<i>Kagok</i>	104
<i>Kanggangsullae</i>	105
<i>Kasa</i>	105
Korean Court Music, <i>Hyang-ak</i>	106
Masked Dance Drama, <i>T'alch'um</i>	106
Musical Instruments, <i>Akki</i>	107
<i>P'ansori</i>	108
Percussion Instruments	110
<i>Chabara</i> 110	<i>Changgo</i> 110
<i>Ching</i> 111	<i>Chin-go</i> 112
<i>Chǒlgo</i> 113	<i>Ch'uk</i> 113
<i>Chwago</i> 114	<i>Kkwaenggwari</i> 114
<i>Mokt'ak</i> 115	<i>Nodo</i> 116
<i>Nogo</i> 116	<i>Ŏ</i> 117
<i>Pak</i> 117	<i>Pǒpko</i> 118
<i>Pu</i> 118	<i>Puk</i> 118
<i>P'yǒn-gyǒng</i> 118	<i>P'yǒnjong</i> 119
<i>Sogo</i> 120	<i>Yonggo</i> 120
<i>Pǒmp'ae</i> , Ritual Chant	121
Processional Music, <i>Koch'wi</i>	121
Royal Ancestral Shrine Music, <i>Chongmyo-ak</i>	122
<i>Salp'uri</i>	122
<i>Samulnori</i> , Four-man Drumming and Dancing	123
<i>Sanjo</i>	123
Shamanic Music, <i>Shinawi</i>	124
<i>Shijo</i>	124
<i>Sǔngmu</i>	125
String Instruments	126
<i>Ajaeng</i> 126	<i>Haegŭm</i> 127
<i>Kayagŭm</i> 127	<i>Kǒmun-go</i> 128
<i>Pip'a</i> 129	<i>Wolgŭm</i> 130

<i>Yanggŭm</i>	130
Wind Instruments	130
<i>Chi</i>	130
<i>Nabal</i>	131
<i>P'iri</i>	132
<i>Sogŭm</i>	133
<i>T'aep'yŏngso</i>	134
<i>Yŏmbul</i> , Sutra Recitation	135
LANGUAGE AND LETTERS	
<i>Han-gŭl</i> , Korean Alphabet	139
<i>Hyangga</i>	140
<i>Kasa</i>	141
<i>Samguk sagi</i> , <i>History of the Three Kingdoms</i>	141
<i>Samguk yusa</i> , <i>Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms</i>	142
<i>Shijo</i>	142
Writing System	143
HISTORIC FIGURES	
An Chung-gŭn	147
Chinul	148
Chŏng Mong-ju	149
Iryŏn	150
Kim Ch'un-ch'u	151
Kim Yu-shin	152
Sejong the Great	153
Shin Saimdang	156
Tan-gun	157
Wang Kŏn	159
Wonhyo	161
Yi Hwang, T'oegye	162
Yi I, Yulgok	163
Yi Sŏng-gye	164
Yi Sun-shin	165
Yu Kwan-sun	167
FAMOUS PLACES AND MONUMENTS	
Buddhist Temples	171
Ch'angdŏkkung Palace	172

Ch'anggyönggung Palace	173
Ch'ömsöngdae Observatory	174
Chongmyo Shrine	174
Confucian Shrines	176
Kyöngbokkung Palace	176
Munmyo, Temple of Confucius	177
Namdaemun Gate	178
Palaces	179
Pagoda Park	180
Pulguksa	181
Sajiktan	182
Sökkuram	183
Sönggyun-gwan Academy	183
Töksugung Palace	184
Tombs, <i>Myo</i> and <i>Nüng</i>	185
Tongdaemun Gate	187
Tongnimmun	187
Won-gudan	188

GAMES AND SPORTS

<i>Ch'ajönmori</i> , Juggernaut Battle	191
<i>Changgi</i>	191
<i>Chegi</i>	192
<i>Chuldarigi</i> , Tug of War	193
<i>Hwat'u</i>	193
Kiteflying, <i>Yömalligi</i>	194
<i>Konggi</i>	195
<i>Kossaum</i> , Loop Fight	195
<i>Nölttwigi</i>	196
<i>Nottari palki</i> , Princess Bridge	196
<i>Paduk</i>	197
<i>Ssirüm</i> , Wrestling	198
<i>Yut</i>	199

MISCELLANEOUS

<i>Hwarang</i> , Flower of Youth Troop	203
<i>Kisaeng</i>	203
Korean Flag	204
<i>Kwagö</i>	205

March First Independence Movement	206
<i>Tripitaka Koreana</i>	207
<i>Yangban</i>	208
<i>Rulers of Korea's Ancient Kingdoms</i>	211
<i>Bibliography</i>	217
<i>Glossary</i>	225

Ancestral Rites, *Chesa*

The Confucian rituals or ceremonies through which Koreans pay homage to their ancestors (*chosang*) are collectively known as *chesa*. The rites are an integral part of the Korean ethos which emphasizes a vertical order from the eldest down to the youngest including the dead down to the descendants. The rites are a reaffirmation of blood kinship between the living and the dead through which family ties are strengthened among the living.

There are basically three types of *chesa*: *kije*, or death anniversary commemoration, which is performed at midnight on the eve of the ancestor's death day; *ch'arye*, or holiday commemoration, which is performed in the morning on certain holidays; and, *myoje*, or grave-side commemoration, which is performed when one visits the grave (*myo*).

The *kije* and *ch'arye* involve the offering of food and drink to the ancestors. The ceremonies may vary slightly from family to family and region to region but there are some basic rules for the arrangement of the ritual table (*ch'arye sang*) and the process of ritual performance. Certain foods are placed on the east side of the table and certain foods on the west; for example, red fruit is placed on the east side of the table and white on the west. The row of food closest to the officiants holds fruit, the next row, vegetables, the next, thick soups, and a variety of meat and fish, and, at the far back, bowls of rice and soup and spoons and chopsticks. In front of the table is a table for an incense burner and in front of it, a tray for wine.

The ceremony begins when the eldest male in the family kneels down at the small table to burn incense. He stands up, bows deeply, head to floor, twice and then kneels again and pours three cups of wine into a bowl to symbolize the ancestor's descent to the offering table. Everyone bows three times—two head-to-floor bows, and a light one, that is, bending the upper body in a fifteen degree angle.

The eldest son then offers a cup of wine after rotating it three times in the incense smoke. He is usually assisted by a younger brother who pours the wine while he holds the cup. After the