

Arts, Diplomacy and History: Cultural Exchanges between Korea and Sweden

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Diplomacy through arts has a long history. Hongade Kim (see below) categorized the function of art in diplomacy into 'Art as a gift' and 'Art as an art.' According to him, art is a symbol of the peaceful relationship between the two countries. This presentation aims to examine the connections between Korea and Sweden through the arts. ROK and the Kingdom of Sweden established the formal diplomatic relations in 1959. However, the beginning of the exchanges between Korea and Sweden goes back to the early 20th century. Swedish Journalist Grebst A:son traveled to Korea and wrote *I Korea* in 1905. A few years later, in 1908, Swedish geographer Sven Hedin (1865-1952) visited Korea and was awarded the first-class metal badge by King Sunjong. In 1926, a Korean woman went to Sweden and studied in Sweden for five years. The crown prince Gustaf VI Adolf visited Korea in 1926 and discovered the golden crown Seobongchong. There are more cases that show the connections between Korea and Sweden before 1959. After the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the arts are one of the most important and symbolic things which show their relationship. This implies that the Korea-Sweden connection through arts has been conducted in the colonial period and has been continuing till now.

Kim Hongade (2017), "Diplomacy and Art: Joseon-Ming Diplomacy from the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty", *Art History Forum* No. 45, Center for Art Studies: Korea, pp. 79-99.