



AT A KOREAN NAVAL ACADEMY

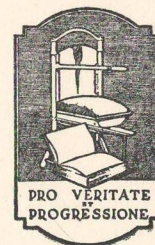
Photo by courtesy of *Korea Illustrated*

# KOREANS ARE WHITE

By

WLADIMIR W. MITKEWICH

*Illustrated by the Author  
with five photographs from "Korea Illustrated"  
and one photograph from "Korean Survey."*



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EXPLANATION

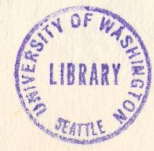
I have endeavored in this book to show that there exists definite scientific proof, pointing to the European origin of Koreans.

In pre-historic times, Korea used to be a Greek colony.

Whether I shall be able to prove that Koreans belong to the "White" race, or whether I shall fail, these pages will show.

THE AUTHOR

*Nov. 56 Meador 30729 For East*



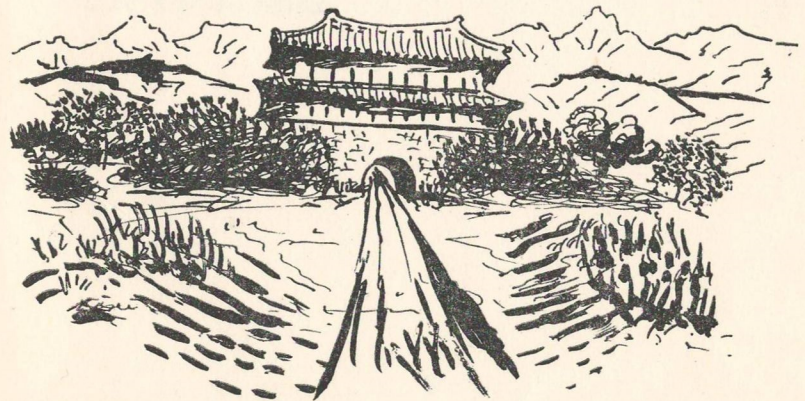


## THE AUTHOR

Wladimir W. Mitkewich has served as civilian Electrical Distribution Engineer, with the United States Military Government in Korea, in 1947-48. His duties took him into the territory surrounding the city of Seoul and the port of Inchun.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to *Charles E. Tuttle Co.*, Rutland, Vermont; Tokyo, Japan, for permission to reproduce five photographs portraying Korean types, from their book *Korea Illustrated*, by *Corporal "Ted" Dickinson* and *Sergeant Dave McNichol* of the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing, Korea '50, '51, '52.

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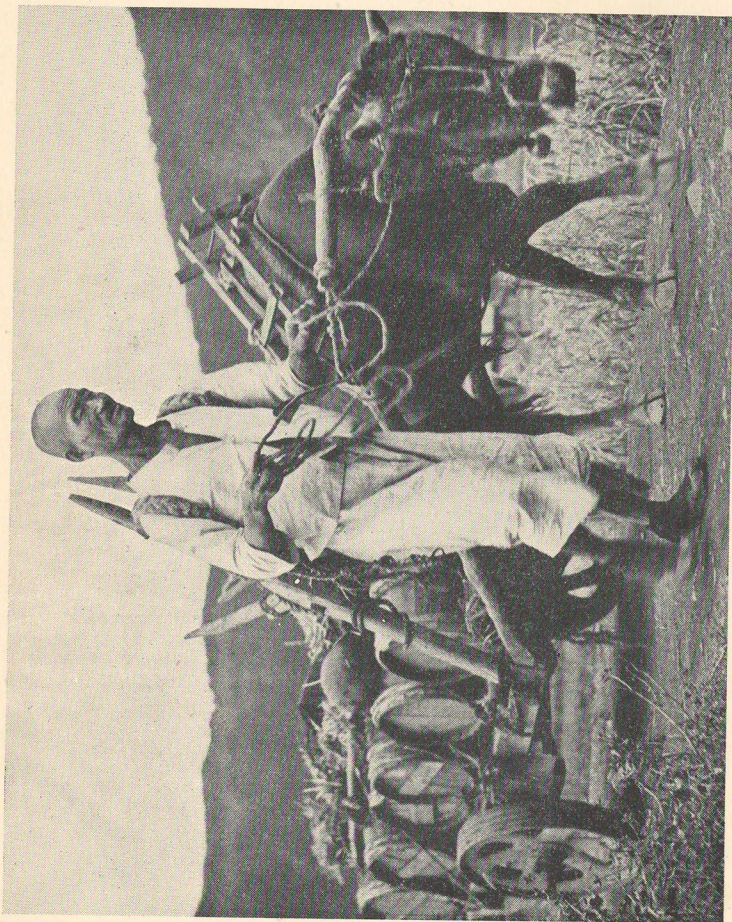
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BULLOCK-DRAWN CART

Photo by courtesy of *Korea Illustrated*

## Koreans are White

### CHAPTER I

#### WHAT IS WHITE?

The reader might ask himself a question. How can we call Koreans "White", if they don't look European? Now, let us first determine what we mean by "White". When speaking of a race, or of nationality, "White" means to belong to the Caucasian, Indo-European (Aryan) race, to the Semitic race (Biblical Jews, Arabs), or to another race, which very closely resembles them in appearance.

The greater majority of "White" races, particularly those who belong to the Indo-European stock, speak a language which is derived from Sanskrit.

Such being the case, does a person necessarily have to have a white skin, in order to belong to the "White" race? We can shed a little more light upon this subject, if we examine the people who are generally called "Mediterranean", those of the races of this region that definitely belong to the "White" race, such as Greeks, Italians, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Only a few of the Mediterranean people have white skin, while the greater majority have a skin of various shades of brown. And their brown skin does not, in any manner, disqualify them from being classified as "Whites", in the ethnological sense,—we always call them "White".

In pre-historic times, England used to be a Greek



colony, and consequently we find some Englishmen and English ladies, at present, who sport a brown skin, and have the clean-cut features of an ancient Greek. In spite of their brown skin,—would you call these English people “White”?

There are people in Manila, who are descendents of the old Spanish settlers, that came to the Philippine Islands many centuries ago. Their features are perfectly European, except that their skin is of a very dark shade of brown, in fact it is practically black. How would you classify these people? Would you call them “White”?

The author had a very interesting experience, encountering dark-skinned people of European origin, on the island of Guam of the Marianas. This island is about 30 miles long by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide, and is situated in the Pacific Ocean, 3,340 miles West of Honolulu, Hawaii (5,100 miles West of San Francisco, Calif.), at  $13^{\circ} 26'$  North latitude, which corresponds roughly to the latitude of Guatemala in Central America, Manila of the Philippines, or the Southernmost part of India. Guam is located directly South of Japan, approximately midway between Japan to the North and New Guinea to the South, and this island was not known to history in ancient times, and therefore was used by the Spanish pirates as a secret base and their headquarters.

The Spanish pirates brought to Guam numerous European ladies, whom they captured, while robbing ships, and consequently a small percentage of the Guamanians are definitely of European stock by blood, and look it.

The author recalls having seen a young Guamanian, who was working as chauffeur for an American officer.

This boy had very regular features, closely resembling a classical Greek statue. His skin was black.

An even more startling and unusual person, was a Guamanian girl, in her late teens or early twenties, who was working as counter-girl in an Army Airfield cafeteria. I am saying this, about her appearance, and without any reservations,—this girl looked more European than most of the present-day Europeans. She represented a type, which existed in Europe at one time, but has been long extinct. With a long, very narrow face, that had no signs of any cheekbones, a tall forehead. And as for her nose? Well !!! . . . If you hold the palm of your hand vertically, in front of your face, and at right angle to the forehead, and directly under it,—that was approximately the size and likewise the shape of her nose. Like a sail on a sail-boat. She had a very heavy and prominent chin, protruding forward. Had no lips, at all,—just a thin line, where the mouth should be. In build she was well over six feet tall, with the chest and shoulders of an athlete. She had very long arms, which it seems could reach from where she stood to the wall of the Army cafeteria. A very charming young lady, in her demeanor. And, in spite of that, as soon as I took one good look at her (I was holding a tray of food, and she was standing behind the counter),—the blood froze in my veins, and I felt as though little bugs started to walk up and down my spine, between the shoulders, in the middle of my back, while a thought involuntarily flashed thru my mind: “Baby, I hope I don’t meet you in a dark alley!”

She, probably, was a fairly good copy, a portrait of her Spanish pirate ancestor, a giant and a superman of physical strength, who could easily fight, single-handed, against several able-bodied soldiers, and win.



Now, if it were actually true that her ancestors were Europeans, and only Europeans, then would you call her "White"? Would you do this, in spite of the fact that her skin was brown, almost black, because her European ancestors have lived for many centuries in an Equatorial climate?

The author has personally known another lady, who was Panama, born of English parents, on both sides, in the tropical climate of that country, very close to the Equator (7° 15' to 9° 39' North latitude). She had a definitely brown skin. Would you call her "White", in spite of her brown skin?

And how about a New Yorker, who belongs to the "White" race, and spends the whole summer vacationing on a beach, in only a bathing suit, and at the end of the season is dark brown all over, from sun-tan. Would you still call this person "White", as regards his race, in spite of his dark brown skin? The answer, most definitely, is "Yes". All these people, with brown skin, belong to the "White" race, if their ancestors were wholly of Indo-European, Caucasian stock and spoke a language which has been derived from Sanskrit, or otherwise were of the Semitic stock.

Here, in this book, we shall find definite scientific proof pointing to the fact that, a very long time ago, in pre-historic times, Korea used to be a Greek colony. This point will be proven definitely, by showing that the Korean language is of Greek origin. If this much is proven, then would you call the Koreans "White", in spite of some definite later admixture of Asiatic blood?

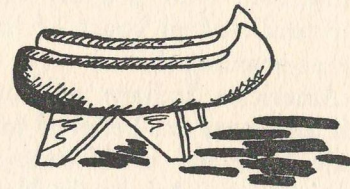
We classify Finns as "White", although the Finnish language belongs to the Finno-Ugrian group of languages, alongside with the Lapp, Zyrian, Ostiak (reindeer nomads), Samoyed (resemble Eskimos, Arctic re-





WASH-DAY IN KOREA

Photo by courtesy of *Korea Illustrated*



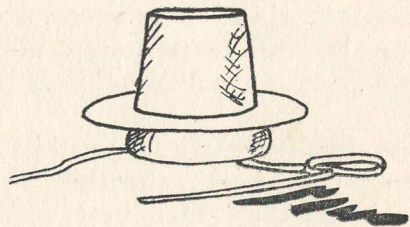
gion of Europe) and Hungarian, a group which is related to the more general Uralo-Altai family of languages, which includes Turko-Tataric, Mongolian, Manchu-Tungus, and according to some scholars the Japanese language. Quoting the *Encyclopedia Americana*, under "FINLAND, The People,"—"The Finns have some distinct mongoloid features, although European, Nordic influences are also noticeable. . . . The Finnish language, however, which belongs to the Finno-Ugrian group, points definitely to an Asiatic origin." While we call Finns white, by the same token, we should definitely classify Koreans as white too, if it can be shown that the Koreans are a mixture of two elements, one European and the other Asiatic, same as the Finns.

We always classify Americans as white people, definitely so, every time we speak or think about the Nation which abides in the United States of North America. In so doing, we wilfully disregard and try to forget the fact that there are great numbers of colored, non-white people living in the United States, who are likewise Americans. Furthermore, we wilfully disregard and forget the fact that many white people in the United States have an admixture of Indian blood. Such people are invariably classified as "White". Many Americans, who are descendants of the original set-



tlers, whose ancestors came here in the early days of American history, and who proudly call themselves "the real Americans", often boast of having had an Indian great-great-grandmother.

The North-American Indians are of Mongolian origin, and their ancestors are believed to have crossed the Bering Strait (a matter of 45 miles, with islands at the midway point) from Asia to the North-American continent in pre-historic times. If an American who is part Indian is a white man in our eyes, in spite of the fact that he is part Mongolian,—how about applying the same logic with respect to a Korean? If it can be proven that Koreans are of Greek origin, then will any further admixture of Mongolian blood bar them from being called white? Are we going to have a double standard? Shall we have one set of rules for us, and another, different set of rules for the Koreans? Or, are we going to be perfectly fair and honest about it?







NEAR PUSAN, A YOUNG GIRL IN  
NATIVE COSTUME

*Photo by courtesy of Korea Illustrated*

## CHAPTER II

### NE

It was in 1942, when I have been employed by a chemical manufacturing plant in Hopewell, Virginia. While living there, I attended a Greek Orthodox Church, regularly. After the Sunday services were over, the Greek parishioners generally would assemble in groups, on the lawn, in front of the church, and all you could hear was: "Ne . . . , Ne . . . , Ne . . ." Here "e" is pronounced as in "fret".

A few years later, in 1947, I found myself in Seoul, Korea, employed by the U. S. Army as a civilian engineer. And here, in Korea, I heard the Koreans do exactly the same thing. All you would hear was: "Ne . . . , Ne . . . , Ne . . ."

This puzzled me. I started to investigate, and found out that, in both the Greek and the Korean languages, "Ne" means "Yes". On getting back to the United States, I was able to make an exhaustive study of the subject, when I equipped myself with dictionaries of the modern Korean language, the modern and the classical Greek and Latin. By using the English language as a common medium, or a connecting link, I was able to translate from any given language into another, although I did not have such a specialized dictionary on hand. In this manner, I have compared 8,000 modern Korean words, with their classical Greek equivalents, and likewise with modern Greek and Latin.

Here is the result. The first column, in the following table, contains an English word. The second col-



umn shows the corresponding word in modern Korean. In the third column is shown a word having the same meaning in pre-historic, ancient Greek, as used by Homer in about the 9th century B.C., in the fourth column is shown the corresponding modern Greek word, and in the fifth, Latin. The language of Socrates (469-399 B.C.) and Plato (427-347 B.C.) was not used.

In case a word is omitted, this indicates that this particular word does not, in any way, resemble a word of the same meaning in modern Korean, or is not available.

Greek words, in their ancient pronunciation, and modern Korean words are written in all tables which follow, in accordance with a phonetic scheme given below:

a—as in fAther  
 e—as in frEt, or in French pEre  
 g—as in Get  
 h—as in Scotch loCH  
 i—as in pIt  
 o—as in nOt, or in hOme  
 ph—as in Fish  
 s—as in mouSe  
 th—as in THin  
 u—as in French rUe

Table No. 1  
 Comparison of Corresponding Modern Korean, Pre-historic Greek, Modern Greek and Latin Words  
 Arranged in the Alphabetical Order of English.

English	Modern Korean	800 B.C. Homeric Greek	Modern Greek	Latin
father	a-poji	pater	pater	pater
fire	a-boji pul	pur	pur	
flesh	pur sal	sarx	sarx	
foot ) )	sar pal	pous	pous	pes
paw ) )	par			pedis
mother	o-moni	meter	meter	mater
no ) )	anio	(Resembles the Greek "aneu" for "without", as in "anaesthetic", "anachronism", "anarchy")		
not ) )	ani			
obsolete ) )	opsi		obsoleit	obsoletus
without ) )				
penalty	pol	poine	poine	poena



<i>English</i>	<i>Modern Korean</i>	<i>800 B.C. Homeric Greek</i>	<i>Modern Greek</i>	<i>Latin</i>
reed	kaldae	kalame	halamos	calamus
road	kil	keleutha		
roll	kullida	kulindo	kulindo	
sea	pada	pontos		
sell	palda		polo	
share	mok	moira	moira	
somewhat	olmagan	oligon		
stump	kuru	kormos	kormos	
tightly	tandanihi		tentono	tendere
turn	torda	torno	torneuo	
very	paro	polu	polu	
want	piryo	penie	panu	penuria
way	kil	keleuthos	penia	
weigh	talda	talanta		
yawn	hapum	haimo	hasmomai	
yelp	ulda	hasko	hasko	
yes )		ulao	ulake	
)				
truly )	ne	nai	nai	nae



The above table illustrates the fact that many words, in the modern Korean language, contain roots which are very similar to those found in the ancient Greek language. It is very surprising that such a condition would exist at present, in spite of the fact that the Greeks who have settled in Korea in pre-historic times, have been separated from other Greeks for thousands of years, and at present, practically all of the Korean words seem to be derived from the dialects spoken in China. Many Korean words, in the modern Korean language, contain such sounds which cannot be found in either Greek or Latin, but are common to the Chinese language, such as "ch . . . , j . . . , yo . . . , yu . . . , yong . . . , eng . . ." It is plain that most of the original Greek words, in the Korean language, have been supplanted by their Chinese equivalents, during the very long period of time when Korea has been a loosely-linked vassal state of China. Still, the modern Korean language does contain some Greek words, or words having original Greek roots.

Naturally, the above table is not complete. I have finished the tremendous task of comparing 8,000 modern Korean words with their equivalents in classical languages, but it would have been, by far, more profitable to use ancient Korean language instead. Could such a language be located at present? Where could we find it? The Chinese alphabet of 25,000 picture-sketches of the subject, the Chinese Hieroglyphics, as used in Korea in olden times, contain no record whatsoever of any sounds of the spoken language. This is not a phonetic alphabet. Therefore, ancient Korean writings are quite useless in a study of this kind. On the other hand, some older linguistic forms, undoubtedly could be unearthed in Korea, if we collected words of the local farmer slang, as used in some remote



REFUGEES IN WONJU

Photo by courtesy of *Korea Illustrated*



places, far from any towns, in the interior of Korea, in the mountains. Such a study, a continuation of my work, probably would disclose more words which are similar to pre-historic Greek, and prove my point still further.



In reading the above table, which compares modern Korean words with their equivalents in classical languages, certain peculiarities of modern Korean sounds should be borne in mind. The Koreans also have a phonetic alphabet of their own, which, however, came into general use in Korea only recently. According to the McCune-Reischauer transcription, some Korean letters can represent two different sounds of the Latin alphabet. In writing Korean words by the use of Latin letters, the following sounds can be freely substituted, one for another (reading either from left to right, or from right to left):

*p* in place of *b*  
*t* in place of *d*  
*ch* in place of *j*  
*k* in place of *g*  
*r* in place of *l*

The true modern Korean sound lays in between the two sounds, which are represented by the pair of Latin

letters, phonetically. This makes it very difficult to spell Korean words by the use of Latin letters. In Table No. 1, and forthcoming tables, the spelling of Korean words is taken from the J. V. Underwood, *English-Korean Dictionary*.

A set of Korean maps, invariably will contain names spelt both ways, and in comparing two maps, this must be borne in mind.

When a Korean interpreter, or a draftsman working on a map, sees a Korean name, such as "Chong", written in Latin letters, he immediately says, "This is wrong," and makes an effort to correct the spelling, to read the other way around, and "Chong" gets changed into "Jong", or vice versa. This never fails.

I had a draftsman, working for me in Seoul, Korea, whose name was pronounced Mr. Rim, with a strong Scotch "R", and this made both of us very happy. Once, when he completed a drawing, I asked him to sign it, while I also signed as a checker. He put down: "DRAWN BY Lim."

While preparing the above table, I ran into several freaks,—words in modern Korean language which resemble corresponding English words, which have the same meaning, but do not resemble Greek or Latin. I cannot explain why this phenomenon exists. I simply say,—here it is:

Table No. 2

Basic Modern Korean Words  
 Resembling Their English Equivalents

<i>English</i>	<i>Modern Korean</i>
any	onu
many	manun



<i>English</i>	<i>Modern Korean</i>
one	han
pigeon	pidulgi
season	sijol
seed	ssi
shawl	syol
signal	sinho
singer	song-akga
sound	sorinada
two	tul
why	wae

The two tables given so far, contain only basic Korean words, which existed in the Korean language from pre-historic times. They were not borrowed from any foreign source. This must be borne in mind, in evaluating the above tables, Table No. 1 and Table No. 2.

The modern Korean language, likewise, contains many words, which have been recently borrowed from European or American sources, directly or via the Japanese language. The table given below has no significance whatsoever, and no bearing upon the rest of this work, and is given merely because it is interesting.

Table No. 3

Modern Korean Words  
Which Have Been Borrowed from European Sources  
in Modern Times

<i>English</i>	<i>Modern Korean</i>
arch	aachwi
chocolate	chokolletu

<i>English</i>	<i>Modern Korean</i>
cigar	ssigaatambae
cigarette	ssigarettambae
gown	gaun
panorama	panorama
pancake	paenkek
particle	patikul
military pass	pasu
pear	paе
piano	piano
pie	pai
pin	pin
pineapple	painaepul
piston	pisutun
pitch	pichwi
pitcher	pitchwo
plastic	pullaesutik
pneumonia	pyeyom
pool	pul
poplar	populla
poster	possuto
propeller	puropella
pudding	puding
pump	pompu
racket	raket
radio	radio
rheumatism	ryumotiju
robin	robin-sae
roller	rola
salad	ssaelladu
sandwich	ssaenduwichwi
sauce	ssosso
sausage	ssosseji
semicolon	ssemikoullun



sewage	ssuregi
siren	ssairen
skate	suket
ski	ssuki
slipper	ssullipo
socket	ssoketu
steak	suteik
sweater	suweto
switch	ssuwichi
tank	taengku
tar	taaru
taxi	tackssi
team	tim
tennis	tenissu
tip	tip
tire	taiya
toast	toosutu
ton	ton
truck	turok
trunk	turangku
tulip	tyuullipu
tunnel	tonnel
turpentine	terepinyu
typewriter	taipuraita
typhus	tipusu
U.N.	Yu-En
vaseline	wasellin
violin	payollin
waiter	weto
watt	wattu
wedge	sswaegi
yacht	yotu

## CHAPTER III

## GREEK ORIGIN OF KOREANS

After the painstaking work of comparing several dictionaries, I have established the startling fact, namely that the modern Korean language does contain many Greek roots. This is illustrated by TABLE No. 1 of CHAPTER II. In this table we find Korean words, which are all basic words, terms which existed in the Korean language from the beginning of history. These words were never borrowed from any other foreign language. And they definitely bear resemblance to Greek words of the Homeric (800 B.C.) Greek language, or contain roots similar to the Greek roots of the same period.

This table, furthermore, proves that the Korean language has very little resemblance with Latin. This shows that the Greek settlers, who inhabited Korea in pre-historic times, came to Korea at a time when the Greeks were already in existence, as a separate, distinct nation. This took place long after the Greeks have separated from the mother stock of all Indo-European, Aryan people, the race that spoke the original Sanskrit language.

It is highly improbable that the reverse is true, and that European Greeks came from Korea. Still, such a very remote possibility exists. But this does not change anything in our argument. If the European Greeks came originally from Asia and from Korea, and settled in Europe in pre-history, that still makes Ko-



reans and Greeks the same ethnically. Koreans spoke Greek language in the beginning of Korean history, or rather in pre-historic times,—beyond any doubt, whatsoever. Therefore, originally Koreans are Greeks. Climatic conditions and admixture of Asiatic blood, both have served to greatly modify the original Greek type in the present day Koreans, but in spite of this, here and there, we do find Koreans who look basically European. The photographs which are presented in this book will bear witness to the truth of my statement. Some Koreans look European just a little, others more, some look Mediterranean.

The photographs speak for themselves. Let us now examine some of the minor characteristics of the modern Korean type. For instance, it is a well known fact that all Asiatics of Mongolian origin have scant beard and body hair. Their hair is, furthermore, black and straight. This is true of the Chinese, Japanese, Eskimos and of the American Indians, alike. In Korea, on the other hand, it is a common sight to see men with brown, wavy hair. Some Koreans sport a thick, bushy beard, a mass of curly, wavy hair, brown in color,—the real beard of a white man, a European.

Among the County Chiefs, in Korea; the Goon Soo, who belong to the old aristocratic families, it is not uncommon to find men who bear definite resemblance to the classical Greek type. You will see a person with a long, narrow face, with no signs of cheekbones, a straight prominent nose with a very high bridge, small teeth, prominent chin, brown wavy hair. A Greek of the old classical type, except that his skin will be a dark brown, and the lips thick and slightly turned out.

On the occasion of the Korean New Year, it is the local custom for the entire population to come out into the streets, and promenade in fairly high spirits, after



both men and women have imbibed some rice wine. In Seoul, I have seen ladies, belonging to old aristocratic families, promenading in great numbers. They, very definitely, looked Mediterranean, or Greek to me,—with small, well formed heads, regular features, absolutely no sign of the large Asiatic piano-key teeth, or a flat nose, or high cheek bones.

Greek influences affect the type of people, in more than one country. In pre-historic times, Greek colonies existed in England, Ireland, Southern France, Southern Italy, Southern Russia. In the latter country, North of the Black Sea, Greeks and Scythians mixed together, and were later called Slavs. The modern English language still retains the sound “th”,—this is the “theta” sound of the Greeks, for Greek was spoken in England, in pre-historic times, as well, when England has been a Greek colony.

In Crimea, Southern Russia, an ancient form of Greek language is still used by the Greeks who are liv-



ing there from pre-historic times, and who still call themselves Greeks.

People of Greek descent, remain Greek, in spite of the fact that they might call themselves, at present, by a different name.

Into this family, we now welcome a new brother,—the Koreans.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### SPIRIT OF SOCRATES AND PLATO

Centuries of Christianity have transformed the original fierce Germanic tribes of Europe into the mild-mannered and friendly folk, whom we encounter today. The Greeks, on the other hand, had men of noble mind and spirit even during the old pre-Christian era. Socrates and Plato were by no means equal to a true Christian, who loves and forgives his worst enemy, but still these philosophers are a credit to the Greek nation. And being, in a manner, related to Socrates and Plato, by virtue of a Greek birthright, our modern Koreans could possibly possess at least some of their inner qualities and characteristics. Could the noble spirit of the ancient Greeks live in Korea, right now? If the spirit of Socrates and Plato can be found, even in the smallest degree, naturally this would be a credit to the Koreans, and very interesting to establish. And what do we find in Korea? Plenty,—amazingly so. The Korean, who bluntly, rudely says what he really thinks, just like a little child, is a Truth-loving person, and as such, he is very similar to Socrates and Plato. In regard to this quality, the Koreans, it can be truthfully said, do not resemble, to any degree whatsoever, the secretive, scheming Asiatic, with his silent smile and soft words that beat about the bush, and merely serve to hide his thoughts from other people.

I have heard it said, in Korea, that both the Japanese and the Chinese hate the Koreans, and call them simpletons. They do not understand the Koreans. Koreans



are very intelligent, some are geniuses. But Koreans, definitely, do not belong with the Asiatics, who have a habit of practicing deception and fraud, because Koreans are "White", inwardly. So, let the Europeans and Americans accept Koreans, as brothers and sisters, on equal terms.



## CHAPTER V

### A NATION OF ATHLETES

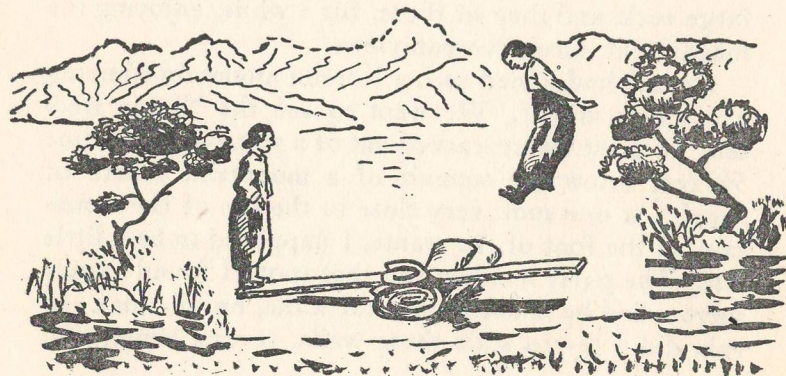
Koreans are a nation of athletes. This becomes especially apparent to anyone who lives in Korea for any length of time, and has the opportunity to watch Korean children and young men. Early in the morning, you will see young men going through a work-out of light physical exercise, in the back yards, sometimes with implements, such as dumb-bells. Sports, in general, are very popular in Korea, especially mountain-climbing. On a Sunday afternoon, the mountains surrounding the city of Seoul are literally covered with young men, indulging in this national sport. Like true sportsmen, they carry in their sacs two-gallon size bottles of rice wine. These bottles are tremendously large, and do not fit in the sacs, so that about half of the bottle sticks out and is well advertised. The parties of these mountain-climbers will usually work their way up some very difficult slope, to the top of a mountain, or a large rock, and they sit there, for a while, enjoying the magnificent, scenic Korean views.

Once, I had joined such a Korean mountain-climbing expedition myself. We went to see the "Stone Buddha", a giant statue, carved out of a suitable rock, some 50 feet below the summit of a mountain, North of Seoul. At one spot, very close to the top of the mountain, at the foot of the statue, I happened to be a little late. The party had just left that spot. I found myself surrounded by smooth, vertical walls, on all sides. In vain did I try to scale these walls, several times, and



almost lost my life doing it. I had no other alternative, except waiting for the party to return from the top of the mountain. When they finally came down, the people explained to me that the only way to scale a particular wall, in this place, is by first getting a good running start, letting the momentum to carry you up. This mountain-climbing expedition was so cruel on my leg muscles that next day I could hardly walk, at all.

Korea is, probably, the only country on Earth where little children are generally first-rate acrobats. Little Korean girls, some of them probably only about four or five years old, indulge in the sport of seesaw riding, standing up on the ends of a plank, balanced in the middle. When about ready to go up, each girl jumps up in the air. On coming down, she lands on the plank, with a bang, sending the other one up. By doing this, they keep adding and gradually accumulating more and more energy, so that, in time, you will see the girls go up, flying up to a height of about five or six feet. Small babies usually have a loose rope stretched through the air, just above their heads, and they steady themselves up, by holding on to this rope. Young ladies indulge in this sport too, and they leave out the rope.



In any other country you would expect only circus acrobats to perform in this fashion, not every little baby-girl in town. Even to watch these first-rate athletes perform gave me a chill, and left me thoroughly amazed.

Every Korean is an athlete. Does Greek heritage explain this? How close is this situation to our mind-picture of the Greeks, during the classical period of Greek history? Greeks were, definitely, a nation of athletes. Socrates and Plato, the two philosophers, were likewise known as heavy-weight wrestlers. "Plato" is a nickname given in the ring, because of his very wide shoulders ("plate").

I am not sure of the veracity of this statement, but I was told, in Korea, that during the 35 years of the Japanese occupation of this country, they never held any joint athletic events of both nations together, because the Japanese were no match for the naturally-born acrobat, athletic Korean.



## CHAPTER VI

## MUSIC, SINGING

The positively brilliant talent, which the Koreans have displayed in mastering European music definitely indicates that, inwardly, internally a Korean is a European.

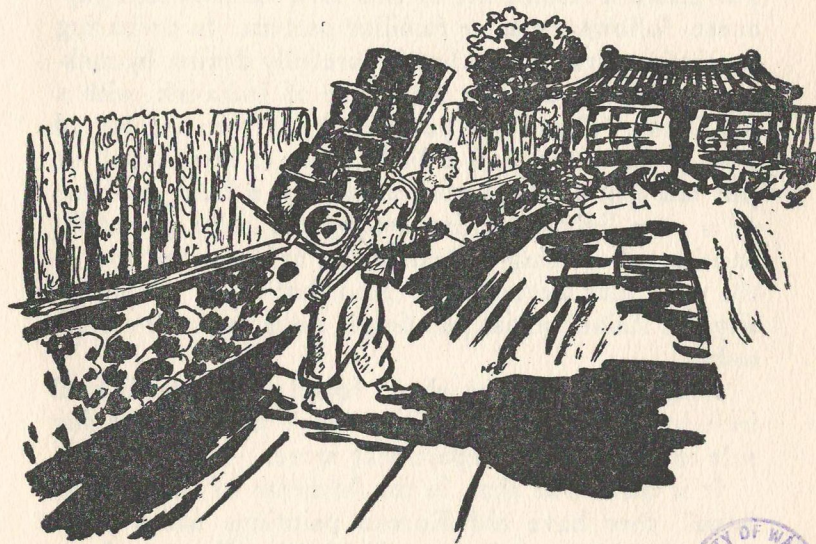
Both, the Japanese and the Chinese have a very poor ear for the American and European music. They simply cannot sing a decent tune, in accordance with the European musical scale, do not care to adopt American or European melodies, as part of their own popular music, or songs, and make very poor musicians, in the American and the European sense. Not so, in Korea. As you walk along the streets of Seoul, you are literally bewildered with surprise, when you hear a crowd of little children sing. They suddenly break out singing, at the top of their lungs, in clear, harmonious tones, Korean words set to such old-time popular American tunes as "There Are Smiles That Make You Happy," or "I Am Forever Blowing Bubbles," and they do it right, brilliantly, as though the American tune is their own.

At a Korean banquet, given by the Seoul Electric Company, to honor Americans, which was attended by a great many Korean squad leaders, they held a singing-bee, during which, every person had to sing a song. Approximately half of the songs, the Koreans sang, were in Korean words set to American or European tunes, which included a Korean translation of the Russian folk ballad, depicting the river pirate "Stenka

Razin". All renditions were alike,—perfect, simply magnificent.

Koreans, taking the masses as a whole, have a fine ear for European and American music. Their ability to sing is outstanding, and is comparable to the excellent talent, along these lines, possessed by the Italians. I have heard, in the opera-house, in Seoul, the opera *Traviata*, rendered by Korean singers, with a Korean symphony orchestra. The performance was fine, equal to the best I have heard in the United States, or in Russia, prior to 1918, where I attended the opera regularly, and am therefore somewhat acquainted with the subject.

Koreans have an ear for American and European music, and a fine talent for singing, which place them definitely among the musically gifted European nations, or nations of European origin.





## CHAPTER VII

## PAINTING, ARCHITECTURE

In 1948, the city of Seoul, Korea had two department stores, which were comparable to Gimbel's or Macy's in New York, except that they were about 1/10 as large. Nevertheless, one of these stores had a restaurant on every floor, and a hot-house with fine live flowers and even trees, under its roof. One store, which was located near the South Gate, had a picture department, with excellent oil-paintings, the work of local Korean artists.

Here, I would like to say a few words regarding the Asiatic art of picture-painting, in general. All known Far-Eastern Asiatic art of this sort, Chinese and Japanese, follows the same familiar pattern. In preparing a painting, first the outline is carefully drawn, by making a well-defined, thin black line of India-ink, with a fine brush. Then some parts of the picture are wetted with plain water, and a little color is introduced, at just one end of the wetted area only, a faint sky-blue, or a very light pink tint, letting the color gradually fade out, becoming a clear white, at the other end of the particular wetted area. And that is all. Of necessity, all Asiatic artist painting is done in water-colors, only.

Imagine my surprise when I found no art of this kind included among the paintings which were offered for sale in the Korean department store.

It is quite true that, in the Museum of the City of Seoul, they have old Korean paintings which show marked Chinese influence. Evidently, Koreans have



studied, and have copied the Chinese art, in the past, using water-colors and strictly following the Chinese method. But, the new generation of Koreans, apparently has completely broken away from the traditional Chinese style of artist-painting, and is using oil-colors exclusively.

In the Korean oil-paintings, of this new period, the traditional Asiatic black outline is completely absent. A different method is used. Daubs of oil-paint, bright red, blue, etc., spots of unmixed color are put up. And from a distance, these seemingly wild and meaningless color spots . . . blend together into a perfect picture, which is comparable to the finest color-photograph, due to the great talent of the artist. But, this is precisely what an American or a European artist does, at least this is true regarding a very large percentage of our own artists. They follow the same method in preparing an oil-color painting, specifically.

By using the most rigid American and European standards, by his inner nature, by his instincts, in connection with his truly excellent talent as an artist-painter, a Korean is a real European.

Korean architecture does not, in any sense, resemble either the European, American or Greek architecture. Koreans have copied much from the Chinese. But, in the very act of copying Chinese forms, when the Korean architect was designing the elaborate Asiatic curved roofs, or walls of buildings, he introduced a new Korean quality—great simplicity. He completely broke away from the characteristically Asiatic complicated details in architecture. And this great simplicity in architecture reminds us of another, the classical simplicity of the Doric Greek style of architecture, the earliest developed and most refined style which, above all, possessed that primary quality of all classical shapes—great simplicity.



PAVILION ON THE GROUNDS OF THE  
KYUNG BOK PALACE, SEOUL

Photo by courtesy of *Korean Survey*



## CHAPTER VIII

## THE KOREAN MIND

I have tried to show that Koreans are direct descendants of Greeks, who apparently were lost in Asia, in pre-historic times, before the recorded Korean history began. If that is a fact, then will Koreans show talent in mathematics? We are still using the un-retouched, original ancient Greek proofs in geometry, and give them to our children in modern schools.

I have seen a demonstration of the Korean talent, it is true, in slightly different form. The United States Army had an extra attraction, in the USAFIK theater, in Seoul, in 1948—a Korean genius, "The Human Adding Machine". This young Korean man has built himself a cabin in the mountains, and lived there in seclusion, away from all distracting elements, concentrating his mind on just figures, and learning how to add in his mind. Finally, he developed his ability in this direction to an amazing degree.

When performing on the theater stage, this Korean genius was matched against several American Army men, who were equipped with the latest electric adding machines, and likewise several Korean professional accountants who were using the native "Abakus", or adding device with strings of beads.

Every person on the stage was given a long list of numbers, each consisting of a very large number of digits, and all of them started to add up the long column of numbers, when a signal was given, in order to get the total. The Korean, who performed all of this

in his mind, was the first one to give the correct total.

The Korean mind has been active, through history, in more than one way. In ancient times, Korean pottery was known to be the finest in the world, and still is. Porcelain has been developed in Korea at that time, which is thin as paper, and modern technique in America and in Europe, in spite of our superior science and engineering, cannot duplicate this old Korean pottery.

The first metal movable printing type was invented in Korea, in 1400 A.D., anticipating Johann Guttenberg of Mainz, Germany, by 50 years.

As early as in 1592 A.D., an ironclad war vessel was invented by the Korean Admiral Yisunsin. With a fleet of these, he attacked a great flotilla of Japanese boats, defeating them, and causing the Japanese to move an army of 300,000 men back to Japan, abandoning war in Korea.





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