

ABSTRACT

The Korean Alphabet was created in 1443 by King Sejong, who wished to provide a writing system for his people. In order to teach the new script, proper teaching materials were needed. After the creation of the Korean Alphabet, what kind of learning/teaching materials were created, and how was the new script taught? During the lecture we will introduce the so-called ūmjŏlp'yo (Han'gŭl syllable tables) part of the Korean alphabet teaching materials used during the Chosŏn Dynasty. When learning the Roman alphabet one starts from single letters; in the case of the Korean alphabet the syllable (ūmjŏl) combination principle is the starting point. At the end of the 19th century, Han'gŭl syllable tables were not only studied by Koreans needing to learn the script, they also attracted the attention of Western scholars. This special lecture will deal with the historical changes and the structure of the Han'gŭl syllable tables.