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**Rewrite for my mother –
a travelogue in Beijing written in Korean**

Abstract

In the pre-modern era of East Asia, intellectuals from various countries participated in diplomatic missions to Beijing of the Qing Dynasty. These diplomatic activities by Joseon envoys to Beijing are termed 'Yeonhaeng(燕行).' Within these formal diplomatic duties, they also fulfilled their private desires for travel. Notably, the 18th and 19th centuries saw an abundance of related records, with nearly 600 varieties documented. Numerous individuals participated in these diplomatic missions, but all were 'men'; not a single woman could officially take part. As is true today, interest in foreign lands transcends age and gender. In the Joseon Dynasty, women eagerly anticipated the return of their husbands or sons from Beijing, who would share exotic insights and everyday knowledge of the Qing Dynasty. Some Joseon intellectuals documented their overseas experiences not only in Classical Chinese but also in Hangul. The primary reason for creating these Hangul records of Yeonhaeng (Beijing diplomatic experience records) was to make them more accessible for female family members, especially mothers. These Hangul Yeonhaeng records often featured detailed descriptions and novelistic structures related to the interests of Joseon women. This writing style was mindful of the 'female readers of Joseon.' In this lecture, we aim to introduce a characteristic of major reading materials for women in the late Joseon period, through Kang Ho-bo(강호보)'s <<Sangbongnok(상봉록)>>, Lee Eui-bong(이의봉)'s <<Seowonnok(상봉록)>>, and Hong Dae-yong(홍대용)'s <<Eulbyungyeonhaengnok(을병연행록)>>."