

A Study on the Illustrations of the *Sinjajeon*: An Important Stepping Stone for the Modern Korean Dictionary

Deokyoung Park

This paper seeks to study illustrations in the *Sinjajeon* 新字典 (1915), the “New Dictionary of Chinese Characters” created by the Joseon Gwangmunhoe 朝鮮光文會, which compiled and distributed Korean classics as part of an effort to promote knowledge of them. The illustrations were based on various sources, including ceremonial books, and reflect the academic culture in Korea of ritual thought (*yehak* 禮學), Jongmyo Royal Ancestral Rites (*Jongmyo jerye* 宗廟祭禮), Ritual Music for the Royal Ancestral Shrine (*Jongmyo jeryeak* 宗廟祭禮樂), and Ritual Music for the Confucian Shrine (*Munmyo jeryeak* 文廟祭禮樂). The illustrations in the *Sinjajeon* were intended to be innovative and modern, with some included in the actual text, a new method not found in Korean dictionaries at the time. The *Sinjajeon* thus made possible the development of modern dictionaries and their illustrations. The *Sinjajeon* illustrations are also useful as visual materials for understanding Sino-Korean characters. For this purpose, I focus on illustrations in the *Sinjajeon* to investigate which headwords were illustrated, and what this tells us about the historical context in which the dictionary was made.

Keywords: Illustration, *Sinjajeon*, new dictionary, modern, Gwangmunhoe, Korean, Chinese

Introduction

This paper aims to study the illustrations in the *Sinjajeon* 新字典 (New dictionary of Chinese characters). The Joseon Gwangmunhoe 朝鮮光文會,¹ which compiled

1. The Foundation Stone of the Monument of the Early Founders of the Gwangmunhoe is located

Deokyoung Park (piaodeying@qq.com) is a PhD candidate in the School of Humanities at Shanghai Jiaotong University

Seoul Journal of Korean Studies 33, no. 2 (December 2020): 343–371.

© 2020 Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies