

Cookbooks and the Making of Women's Authorship in the 1933 Copyright Case*

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In 1933, Bang Sinyeong (1890–1977), author of *Recipes for Joseon Cuisine* (*Joseon yorijebeop*), one of the earliest and most influential modern cookbooks of the twentieth century, filed an injunction against Yi Yonggi's (1875–1933) cookbook *Unrivalled New Recipes in Joseon* (*Joseon mussang sinsigyoriyebeop*). Although this case has been commemorated as a pivotal moment in the establishment of Korea's modern copyright regime, the litigation process was deeply entangled with the restructuring of the modern book industry and the discursive ascendancy of modern domesticity. By closely examining the lawsuit, this paper argues that Bang Sinyeong's entitlement to copyright derived not from the originality of her recipes but from her gendered positionality—authorized by the contemporary demand that women's cooking served as a form of modern knowledge essential to social engineering.

Keywords: Bang Sinyeong, cookbook, *Joseon yorijebeop*, *Joseon mussang sinsigyoriyebeop*, copyright

*The initial archival research for this paper could not have been carried out without the support of the Kyujanggak Fellowship of the International Center for Korean Studies at Seoul National University for 2021–2022. I am also indebted to Joo Seungbin and Sabrina Raichoudhury for conducting additional archival research on my behalf. An early draft of the paper was presented at “Transforming Asia with Food: Women and Everyday Life” at Cornell University in 2024 and “The Beauty and the Book: New Directions in the Study of Women, Gender, and Book Culture in China and Beyond” at Harvard University in 2025. I express my deepfelt gratitude for the feedback from the conference participants and the anonymous reviewers.

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Seoul Journal of Korean Studies 38, no. 2 (December 2025): 227–256.

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