

Yang Hi Choe-Wall

Yang Hi Choe-Wall (1932-) is a Korean Australian academic and award-winning author and researcher specialising in Korean Classical Literature. She is now retired and living in Sydney, Australia.

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Early years

Yang Hi Choe-Wall was born in Seoul, Korea, being the fourth child of a family of six children. Her father Choe Jaisou (1907-1964) was a distinguished professor, a leading Korean intellectual and a prolific writer, who published 18 books and over 300 articles in three languages. She grew up in Seoul during the Japanese annexation of Korea and remained in that city during the Korean War (1950-1953). She attended primary and secondary schools in Seoul, where all subjects were compulsorily taught in Japanese, until the Japanese capitulation in August 1945. Despite the many privations and upsets that befell the family during the two wars, it held together and some of Choe-Wall's siblings became senior academics both in America and France.

Career

Choe-Wall's undergraduate studies led to a BA (Hons) in English Language and Literature, following which she took up an appointment with Hongik University (Seoul), as lecturer in English language.

In September 1965, Choe-Wall moved to Australia with her young daughter and son, having accepted appointment with The Australian National University in Canberra as librarian of the Japanese collection in the Menzies Library, the University's principal research library. As a vocational study, Choe-Wall completed a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science at Charles Sturt University in 1980.

Choe-Wall completed her Master of Arts degree in Pre-modern Korean Literature at ANU in 1974. Her thesis *Hanjung-nok : Memoirs of an Yi Dynasty Court Lady* was later published as *Memoirs of a Korean Queen* and the book reached its 11th edition. Awarded a Commonwealth Postgraduate scholarship, Choe-Wall completed her PhD at ANU in 1985, in Pre-modern Korean Literature (Chosŏn period, 1392-1910). Her thesis, *Hŏ Nansŏrhŏn and Her Hanshi - A study of the life and work of Hŏ Nansŏrhŏn - a late sixteenth century Korean poet*. This was published as *Vision of a Phoenix*, with the book now in its 4th edition.

Choe-Wall was appointed lecturer in the China Centre of the The Australian National University in 1984, where she taught the Korean language course. Moving into the research field, she was appointed as Fellow (Associate Professor) in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU in 1993,¹ where she researched and wrote extensively on Korean Classical literature. She retired from the university in 1996, but as a Visiting Fellow continued to work on the *Encyclopaedia of Korea* (unpublished) as Project Director and Chief Compiler until 1999.

In 2005 she received the KLTi Award presented by the Korean Literature Translation Institute, an affiliate of the Korean Government Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Seoul. Dr Yang Hi Choe-Wall's main research interest is Korean literature of Chosŏn (1392-1910). She has published extensively and presented many papers on this subject at international conferences of Korean Studies, including the XXXII International Congress for Asia and North African Studies, Hamburg, 1986; The First Pacific Basin International Conference on Korean Studies, University of Hawaii, 1992; The 1993 International Korean Literature Conference, University of California at Berkeley; Translation of Korean Literary Works and their Diffusion in Europe, l'Universite Paris 7, Paris, 1994., etc.

After 32 years service with the Australian National University in Canberra, Choe-Wall left the University, and joined her son and his family in Sydney. She now lives in Sydney with her husband Raymond Wall.

Selected Works:

In a statistical overview derived from writings by and about Yang Hi Choe-Wall, [OCLC/WorldCat](#) encompasses roughly 10 works in 25 publications in 2 languages and 599 library holdings.²

Books

*Memoirs of a Korean Queen, London, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985. Eleven editions published between 1985 and 2004. ISBN 0-7103 0052-2.

*The Korea Fact Book (co-authored with Ray Wall and Stephen Wall), Sydney, Doubleday, 1988. ISBN 0 86824 368 X.

*오스트레일리아의 역사, (co-translated with 문우상 of *A Short History of Australia* by Manning Clark, Penguin, 1986), Seoul, 을유문화사, 1990.

*Mémoires d'une reine de Corée, (translated by Claude Bouygues of Memoirs of a Korean Queen by Yang Hi Choe-Wall), Paris, Editions Philippe Picquier, 1996. ISBN 2-87730-274-1.

*Vision of a Phoenix: The Poems of Hō Nansōrhōn (Cornell East Asia Series, 117), Ithaca, New York, Cornell University, 2003. ISBN 1-885445-42-3 hc. The book won the 2005 KLTi Award .

*The Jehol Diary (Chapter 1-3 of Yōrha ilgi by Pak Chiwōn, 1737-1805), translated with

introduction and notes, Folkstone (UK), Global Oriental and Leiden, Brill, 2010. ISBN 978-1-906876-17-3.

Articles

* "The Sino-Korean Poetic Tradition of the Late 16th Century". Papers on Far Eastern History, Canberra, The Australian National University, March 1986, pp. 139-157.

* "The Poetic thought of Hŏ Nansŏrhŏn: the renowned Sino-Korean Poetess". Papers on Far Eastern History, Canberra, The Australian National University, 1987, pp. 93-108.

* "The Impact of Taoism on the Literature of Mid-Chosŏn, 1568-1724" Korean Studies: New Pacific Currents, Honolulu, Centre for Korean Studies, University of Hawaii, 1994, pp.113-124. ISBN 0-8248-1598-X.

* “최양희: [한중록]의 영역에 부쳐”, [한국 문학의 외국어 번역:현황과 전망], 서울, 민음사, 1997, pp.27-43. ISBN 89-374-1122-9-93800.

Notes

¹ The Australian National University, Institute of Advanced Studies, *Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies 1995 Annual Report*, Canberra, p. 99.

² WorldCat Identities (<http://www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n85-241718>): Choe-Wall, Yang Hi.