

**The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 8

Finding Aid for

**Korean Independence Outbreak, 1919 – [192?]**



Finding Aid prepared by: Aram Bae, Oct 2007

**Summary Information**

Creator: Korean Independence Movement, March 1, 1919  
Title: Korean Independence Outbreak  
Inclusive dates: 1919 – [192?]  
Bulk dates: 1919  
Abstract: Nonviolent protest of men, women, and children against Japanese colonial rule in Korea during early twentieth century; pivotal moment in the history of Korean people who were beaten and killed as a result of peaceful demonstration against foreign occupation; pamphlet with photos and mimeographed reports of the movement  
Size: 1 boxes, 0.25 linear ft  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-851-5612  
Fax: 212-851-5613  
Email: [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** These records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL. The rare pamphlet was received by Charles Fahs, director of MRL, from Mr. J.W.Crofoot in Shanghai possibly in the 1930s.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email [archives@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu), as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials however are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 8: Korean Independence Outbreak, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

### Institutional History

Commonly referred to as the Samil Movement (literally “three one”) for its historical date on March 1, 1919, the Korean Independence Movement was one of the earliest and most significant displays of nonviolent demonstration against repressive Japanese imperial power in Korea.

On that historical date, 33 Korean religious leaders came together to sign a "Proclamation of Independence," which they read that day before a large crowd in Seoul. Men, women, and children led by a group of young students, most of whom were Christian, peacefully protested at Pagoda Park in Seoul, displaying national unity against Japanese forces in their country. Armed with no weapons of any kind, the protestors chanted in unison “mansei” (“long live Korea”), voicing their hope for Korea to be freed from foreign occupation marked by severe hostility and oppression. The movement spread quickly to surrounding cities and towns, resulting in more than 1,500 demonstrations within the following year, with nearly 2 million people in total participating in the independence movement.

In their efforts to end the movement, the Japanese committed brutal atrocities against the peaceful Korean demonstrators, injuring even women and children and murdering innocent victims. Records indicate the Japanese police killed about 7,500 Koreans, wounded nearly 16,000, and arrested 45,000. The Japanese continued their policy of massacre in order to prevent further outbreaks of protest. Any Korean participating in the independence resistance was imprisoned and branded as a criminal. All 33 signers of the Declaration of Korean Independence were placed on trial, including 48 others who helped organize the independence movement.

Since 1949, March 1<sup>st</sup> has been celebrated as a national holiday.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in a single series and box containing historical information on the Korean Independence Movement on March 1, 1919. Included are mimeographed reports of the outbreak, organized into a ten-part series, and a pamphlet containing black and white photos. All materials, unless otherwise noted, are dated 1919.

### Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

### Contents

#### Series 1: Korean Independence Outbreak, 1919

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	<i>The Korean Independence Movement</i> : pamphlet with photos, 192[?]
1	2	<i>Korean Independence Outbreak</i> : Part 1: The beginning of the Korean Independence Uprising, March 1 – 5 (fragile)
1	3	Part 2: The Origin and Cause
1	4	Part 3: Conferences between Officials and Foreigners,
1	5	Part 4: Second Stage of the Movement, March 6 – 31
1	6	Part 5: The Continuous of the Korean Independence Movement on April 1st
1	7	Part 6: Relation of the Foreign Missionaries to the Independence Uprising
1	8	Part 7: Policy of Force: Japan Sending More Troops to Korea to Suppress the Independence Movement
1	9	Part 8: How the Korean Shops were Reopened
1	10	Part 9: The Terrible Outrages and Atrocities of the Barbarious [sic] Troops of his Majesty's Government of Japan occurred in Suwon and its Neighboring Villages
1	11	Part 10: Demonstrations in Seoul & Other Various Places; The Grievances of the Koreans under Japanese Iron Rule; The Torture of the Girls in Prison