

Joseonwangjosillok: The Great Culture of Records

1) 당신은 조선 왕조의 연대기라고도 알려진 조선왕조실록이 유네스코 세계기록유산 중 하나로 등재된 것을 알고 있나요?

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The Sillok is the official records of the Joseon Dynasty. There are many similar kinds of historical records around the world. However, the Sillok is the only one registered by UNESCO.

What are some of the reasons the world acknowledges its value?

When stacked in a pile, the Sillok reaches the height of a 12-story building.

The Joseonwangjosillok is the world's longest historical record of a single dynasty. It covers 472 years under 25 kings, from the founder, Taejo, to Cheoljong.

This vast record is made up of 888 books. When you pile up all the books, the height reaches 32 meters. That is almost the same as the height of a 12-story building.

2) 만약 하루에 100쪽씩 읽는다면, 모든 조선왕조실록을 다 읽는 데 4년 3개월이 걸릴 것입니다.

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The Sillok does not just cover the general affairs of kings and their families.

3) 이것은 또한 정치, 경제, 문화, 지리, 그리고 이웃 나라와의 외교적인 관계도 다룹니다.

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For example, the Geographical Appendix (Jiriji) to Sejongsillok contains information about "Usando," the former name of Dokdo.

Two islands, Usando and Mureungdo, are in the middle of the sea of Uljin-hyeon. The two islands are not far from each other, and, in fair weather, one is within easy range of sight from the other. - Sejongsillok Jiriji (1454)

Even the kings could not change the Sillok.

4) 조선왕조실록은 다른 어느 나라의 역사적 기록들보다도 더 객관적이고 신뢰할 수 있다고 여겨집니다.

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What made this possible? It was the sagwan system. Sagwans were officials in charge of writing down the kings' actions and words. The records they wrote became the main source of the Sillok's content.

5) 사관들은 왕의 주변을 따라다니며 그들이 보고 들은 모든 것을 객관적으로 기록하도록 명령 받았습니다.

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They even wrote down the kings' attempts to conceal their mistakes from them.

6) 왕이 사냥 중에 말에서 떨어졌지만, 그는 그의 신하들에게 사관들이 이 일에 대해 알게 하지 말라 명령했다.

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- Taejongsillok, Year 4 (1404), February

Sagwans could do that because their freedom of writing was guaranteed by law. However, any sagwan who revealed the records was severely punished. Even the kings were not allowed to read the records. Only after a king died was the Sillok of his reign published.

7) 이러한 엄격한 규칙이 없었다면, 조선왕조실록은 이렇게 대단한 신뢰를 얻지 못했을 것입니다.

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The Sillok survived many crises.

The Sillok is one of the most well-preserved cultural records in the world. How was it able to survive for such a long time?

8) 그 비결은 보존 체계와 실록을 지키기 위한 우리 조상들의 헌신에 있습니다.

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When the original copy of a king's Sillok had been completed, three additional copies were made, and each one was deposited in a different location: Hanyang (the former name of Seoul), Chungju, Jeonju, and Seongju.

9) 각 사고의 실록은 습기를 제거하기 위해 2년에서 5년에 한 번씩 펼쳐져 환기되었는데, 이는 종이가 부패하거나 벌레 먹는 것을 막아주었습니다.

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Despite this elaborate system, the Sillok faced a serious crisis. The Imjin War broke out in 1592, and all the archives were burned except for the one in Jeonju. It, however, was soon to be in danger, too.

Then two scholars from a rural town came to rescue the only remaining copy of the Sillok. They were Ahn Ui and Sohn Hongrok.

10) 그들끼리만 60개의 나무 문서 상자를 옮기는 것은 불가능했습니다.

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They sold their properties to buy horses and carts, and gathered many people. Everybody worked together to move the Sillok to a remote mountain area, where they defended it for 370 days.

11) 그들은 단 하루도 그것을 지키기를 멈추지 않았습니다.

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Without their efforts, the Sillok might have been lost forever.


The Sillok is closer to our lives than we think.

Nowadays, anyone can access the Sillok online any time, any place. We see it used in movies, TV shows, and novels.

12) 그것은 전반적으로 우리의 삶을 풍요롭게 하면서 일상적인 일에 대한 귀중한 통찰력을 제공합니다.

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Truly, the Joseonwangjosillok is an example of the great culture of record-keeping in Korea.

	<p>◇「콘텐츠산업 진흥법 시행령」제33조에 의한 표시</p> <p>1) 제작연월일 : 2020년 09월 02일</p> <p>2) 제작자 : 교육지대㈜</p> <p>3) 이 콘텐츠는 「콘텐츠산업 진흥법」에 따라 최초 제작일부터 5년간 보호됩니다.</p>
<p>◇「콘텐츠산업 진흥법」외에도「저작권법」에 의하여 보호되는 콘텐츠의 경우, 그 콘텐츠의 전부 또는 일부를 무단으로 복제하거나 전송하는 것은 콘텐츠산업 진흥법 외에도 저작권법에 의한 법적 책임을 질 수 있습니다.</p>	

정답

- 1) [정답] Do you know that the Joseonwangjosillok, also known as the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, is registered as one of UNESCO's Memories of the World?
- 2) [정답] If you read 100 pages per day, it will take four years and three months to read all of the Sillok.
- 3) [정답] It also deals with politics, economics, culture, geography, and diplomatic relations with neighboring countries.
- 4) [정답] The Sillok is considered more objective and reliable than the historical records of any other nation.
- 5) [정답] Sagwans were ordered to follow the kings around and objectively record everything they saw and heard.
- 6) [정답] The king fell off his horse while hunting, but he ordered his men not to let the sagwans know about the accident.
- 7) [정답] Without these strict rules, the Sillok could not have gained such great credibility.
- 8) [정답] The secret lies in the preservation system and our ancestors' devotion to maintaining the Sillok.
- 9) [정답] The Sillok in each archive was opened up and aired out once every two to five years to eliminate moisture, which prevented the paper from rotting or being eaten by insects.
- 10) [정답] It was impossible for them to move the 60 wooden containers of documents by themselves.

- 11) [정답] For not a single day did they stop guarding it.
- 12) [정답] It provides us with valuable insight into everyday affairs while enriching our lives as a whole.