



Date: June 12, 2023

Media Contact: Sunhee You, +82-44-203-2040, sunheeyou@korea.kr

“Stories of Our Presidents” Contained in Typewriter, Running shoes, and Reading Table

- Special exhibition commemorating the first anniversary of the opening of Cheong Wa Dae at its main building and the Chunchugwan from June 1 to August 28**
- Unveil symbolic props showing the people’s anguish and political resolve of the former presidents**
- Disclose the restored Blue House’s main building ... Exhibit furniture and tableware at Chunchugwan**

In celebration of the first anniversary of its opening, a unique presidential history exhibition, “Stories of Our Presidents: The Presidents Were Here,” is now held at Cheong Wa Dae (Blue House), which has been returned to the citizens. Through an exhibition that sheds light on former presidents, Cheong Wa Dae is brimming with life as it showcases its original dignity and values that resonate with the people, remaining true to its character.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (Minister PARK Bo Gyoon, MCST) holds a special exhibition commemorating the first anniversary of the opening of Cheong Wa Dae at its main building and the Chunchugwan from June 1 (Thu) to August 28 (Mon). Various props and materials containing records of the presidents’ lives are revealed through the exhibition, and some areas of Cheong Wa Dae have been restored to their original appearance to welcome visitors.

“Cheong Wa Dae has been the stage of the highest level of leadership on which former presidents have written Korea’s turbulent history for 74 years,” Minister PARK Bo Gyoon said. He added, “Through the presidents’ symbolic possessions, the exhibition was prepared to show the moments when they agonized and made decisions at the peak of their power. This exhibition will allow us to know our presidents in a way that has never been experienced before through storytelling, breaking

away from the existing exhibition method of dealing with the president's merits and demerits."

■ A new type of presidential history exhibition, "Stories of Our Presidents: The Presidents Were Here"

The exhibition "Stories of Our Presidents: The Presidents Were Here" is now open in Blue House's main hall, the King Sejong and Inwang Rooms. The exhibition begins with props that symbolize the lives of former presidents at Cheong Wa Dae. The story contained in the props will be accessible to the audience in a simple yet fascinating way, along with various photographic materials.

■ Welcoming the public like state guests, "Main Building Interior Restoration Project"

The main building of Cheong Wa Dae is being restored to its former appearance when the president received state guests and held office through the "Main Building Interior Restoration Project." During this exhibition period, visitors can see the red carpet that was uncovered by removing the cover carpet placed to protect it. In addition, the works installed during the construction of the main building are returned to their original places, and some of them are restored to greet visitors, as seen in the media in the past.

At the central staircase, the "Geumsugangsando(Beautiful Land of Korea)" painting¹ had its gold-colored sections, which were originally mixed with silver during its creation, oxidized and turned black. Artist KIM Shik restored it to its original golden appearance. Additionally, the 10-panel folding screen calligraphy piece by LEE Soo Duk, titled "A-ae-il-il-sin-ji-daehanmingook," which welcomed BTS in the Choongmusil, and the platinum mural "Hunminjeongeum" by BAIK Kum-Nam, installed in the Sejongsil used for cabinet meetings, will also be revealed to the public through this exhibition.

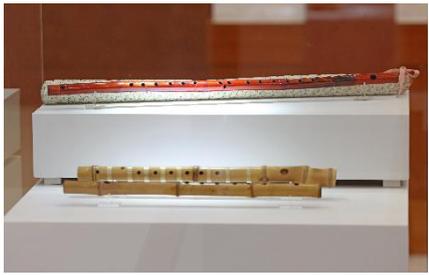
■ The presidential space, a courteous invitation to Cheong Wa Dae, "Invitation, Venue"

In the briefing room on the second floor of the Chunchugwan, which used to be a press conference hall, household items such as furniture and tableware that have been used for a long time in Cheong

¹ Beautiful land of Korea

Wa Dae are displayed to present a new perspective of the president's past. During the exhibition period, there will be a visitor participation program.

From this exhibition onward, the number of visitors to the main building will be adjusted to 200 to ensure their safety and that of Cheong Wa Dae facilities as well. Visitors can enjoy viewing the main building in more courteously with a pleasant atmosphere. (For general inquiries about visiting Cheong Wa Dae, please contact: 1522-7760)

	<p>An English typewriter was a necessity for President RHEE Syng Man. It had been in his bag since the days of the independence movement. RHEE Syng Man directly established the foreign strategy of the fledgling nation. He was both a supreme leader and diplomat. In July 1953, around the time of the Korean War armistice, the biggest pending issue between the two countries was the signing of a Mutual Defense Treaty (United States–South Korea). RHEE Syng Man continued discussions with US President Eisenhower, and negotiations were conducted under tight security. The Gyeongmudae office and typewriter are supporting actors who often appear in dramas dealing with diplomatic affairs. At age 78, President RHEE Syng Man typed documents by pounding on the typewriter. Although his typing skills had diminished, resulting in the use of the two-fingered “hunt-and-peck typing,” nobody except his wife, First Lady Francesca, could replace him in typing.</p>
<p>President RHEE Syng-man's English typewriter</p>	
	<p>President PARK Chung Hee was an elementary school teacher before becoming a soldier. After graduating from Daegu Normal School, he worked as a teacher before serving in the military. Calligraphy, painting, and music were compulsory subjects to become teachers. He carried a drawing notebook with sketches, allowing him to grasp the state of affairs three-dimensionally. The plan for the Gyeongbu Expressway, which he sketched, is precise. While on vacation, he put the canvas on his easel. The paintings he created of his birthplace in Gumi, the east coast of Korea, and Seoul are his inner landscape. The cuteness of his dog Bangul (a spitz) is also captured in PARK Chung Hee's pencil sketch. On October 26, 1979, even after the tragic fate of its owner, Bangul would wag its tail and run whenever the door to the main bedroom was open. Bangul became sullen, knowing that it was not President PARK.</p>
<p>President PARK Chung-hee's sketch of his pet dog</p>	
	<p>President ROH Tae Woo had outstanding musical talent. He sang his favorite song, <i>Besame Mucho</i>, and his <i>tungso</i> (a Korean bamboo flute) performance was excellent. The <i>tungso</i> was a relic of his father, who died when he was seven years old. It symbolizes his longing for his father. Whistling was also one of his skills. If he whistled in the forest, mountain birds would fly away. His delicate sensibility made him pursue political flexibility during the Sixth Republic. There was an apple tree in the garden of President ROH's house in Yeonhui-dong. He said, “I prefer a fruit-bearing tree to a fragrant flower.” Rather than the splendor of the moment, he pursued practical results. President ROH</p>
<p>President ROH Tae-woo's <i>tungso</i></p>	

	<p>expanded the diplomatic horizon to the north, an external strategy that pursued practical benefits while breaking stereotypes.</p>
	<p>Jogging is the symbol of President KIM Young Sam. It meant more than just taking care of his health. KIM Young Sam jogged in the early morning at the Nokjiwon Garden of Cheong Wa Dae. He talked to himself while running for about 30 minutes, meeting his inner self. In agony, he decided on major policies and organized complicated state affairs. At 7:45 p.m. on August 12, 1993, President KIM announced the implementation of the real-name financial system in Cheong Wa Dae press room, which shook the country. Like his political style, the decision was like a flash of lightning; even Cheong Wa Dae staff did not notice it. There was a sense of anticipation during the early morning jog. President KIM ran twice as fast as usual, relieving the tension of his sudden announcement. Jogging was a way of immersion and a sense of determination for him.</p>
<p>President KIM Young-sam's running shoes</p>	
	<p>President KIM Dae Jung spoke to flowers. Arrested by the new military government on May 17, 1980, he endured imprisonment by reading books and tending flowers. Inside the prison, he wrote a letter to LEE Hee Ho, his wife. "When I go out to the field for exercise, the yellow chrysanthemums are in full bloom. The flowers I have taken care of have blossomed exquisitely, but they have endured for a month longer than others, making me feel impressed and grateful." The Japanese honeysuckle (Korean name: <i>indongcho</i>, meaning "grass that survives winter") endures winter and blooms in spring. Like <i>indongcho</i>, his life was composed of hardships and tenacity. He redesigned the political space while trimming flowers with shears. After enduring the winter, his life takes a dramatic turn. KIM Dae Jung, who became president, hung out with four former presidents in one sitting at Cheong Wa Dae, a rare scene in constitutional history.</p>
<p>President KIM Dae-jung's gardening shears</p>	
	<p>President ROH Moo Hyun is the Korean president who owns a patent. US President Lincoln, whom he admired, is also a patent-owning president. In 1974, when preparing for the bar exam, he created an "improved reading table," which obtained a utility model patent. It has an angle adjustment function so users can read a book while lying down. During his tenure, he developed an online integrated management system called "e-Support." He said, "If I hadn't been president, I would have been a consultant or an inventor." Patents are linked to his inner instincts of challenge and breakthrough. He didn't avoid obstacles when he encountered them. Instead, he went straight toward problem-solving, dissecting the root causes. Furthermore, he presented innovative and radical solutions and improvement methods, such as in the hearing for the irregularities of the Fifth Republic.</p>
<p>President ROH Moo-hyun's reading table</p>	

###