

The 3rd Marisan Star Festival 2022

Marisan Tumuli,
Haman Museum,
and Marisan Tumuli Exhibition Hall



14:30~21:30, August 6th,
2022, Saturday

Program schedule

Time	Program	Venue	Remark
14:30~16:00	Departure from BEXCO, arrival at Haman (14:30~16:00)	Haman Museum & Marisan Tumuli Exhibition Hall	
16:00~17:00	Haman Museum & Marisan Tumuli Exhibition Hall tour		
17:00~18:00	Tomb No. 13 tumulus and petroglyph tumulus tour		
18:00~18:30	Celebratory performance	Haman Museum outdoor stage	Break (sandwich)
18:30~18:40	Main opening ceremony		
18:40~19:00	Quiz competition	Marisan Tumuli Exhibition Hall	Schedule subject to change
19:00~19:30	Nobel Prize for physics laureate Brian Paul Schmidt's YouTube lecture		
19:30~20:00	Magic show		
20:00~20:40	Gugak performance		
21:00~21:30	Shadow puppet play	Marisan Tumuli	
21:30~23:00	Astronomical observation		
21:30~23:00	Departure from Haman ⇒ Arrival at hotel		

Program Location Map



Haman, the ancient city of Aragaya

Overview

Aragaya is the ancient polity which existed in today's in Haman County, Gyeongsangnam-do Province from the first through the mid-sixth century. Around that time, there co-existed many other polities which were also called 'Gaya' in the southern area across the Korean peninsula. Geumgwan Gaya, which is today's Gimhae City, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, and Daegaya of Goryeong, Gyeongbuk-do Province are a case in point. In addition, many 'Gayas' including Sogaya of today's Gosung, Gyeongsangnam-do Province existed in distinct forms as they kept independence but at the same time exchanged culturally with neighboring polities. According to the historical records from the 3rd century, Aragaya had a population of 20,000 to 25,000, an indication that it was the powerful polity of great influence compared to other Gayas.

Marisan Tumuli, the cultural time capsule of Aragaya

Built between the 1st century and the 6th century, Marisan Tumuli is one of the most representative of Aragaya tombs. The name 'Marisan' is the borrowed transcription of the pronunciation of "meorisan" in Chinese character. The name implies 'the chief hill', or 'the hill on which king's tomb is situated.' Judging from its name, size, the magnificent scenery stretching over 2km to its north and south, and the unearthed objects, Marisan Tumuli is assumed to have been built for the ruling class of Aragaya. To date, over 10,000 objects have been excavated from Marisan Tumuli. Those articles are the evidence of how prosperous Aragaya culture was. They also bear significant academic value as they show how Aragaya co-existed with neighboring polities on the ancient Korean peninsula.



Earthen pots in the form of deer from Tomb No. 45



Earthen pots in the form of ship from Tomb No. 45



gilt-bronze crowns with phoenix decoration from Tomb No. 45



celadon excavated from Tomb No. 7

Tomb No. 13 of Marisan Tumuli, the galaxy of Aragaya

Unearthing work of Tomb No. 13

Situated at the highest point of Marisan Tumuli, Tomb No. 13 has long been assumed to have been the most important of the tombs for its location and the vast size. Japanese scholars partially studied the tombs in 1918 right before the 1st World War ended.

Gaya constellation shines again after 1,600 years

Korean scholars performing the excavations for the first time in 100 years in 2018 found the zodiac engraving on the burial chamber's capstone of Tomb No. 13 which featured 134 stars including the ancient oriental constellation. This was the first time that a zodiac engraving is ever found inside tombs of the ancient Korean peninsula around the age. The zodiac engraving in the Tomb No. 13 offers a valuable glimpse into the knowledge level that ancient people had about astronomy.

King's star engraved in the dream of revival comes to the light

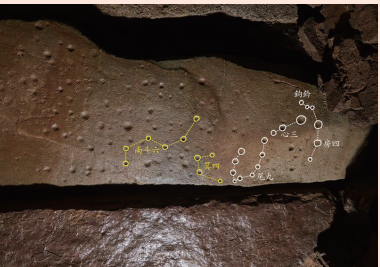
The constellations identified so far among the 134 stars include the western Scorpion and the Archer. They were called the Blue Dragon and the Namduyuksung in Asia, respectively. The Namduyuksung, in particular, was regarded as the sacred constellation which governed people's life and death in Asia. Thus, a further study into other constellations will come up with more clues into what idea people of that age had about life after death.



Excavating work of Tomb No. 13



Inside of Tomb No. 13 (2018)



Tomb No. 13 capstone

Tomb No. 13 capstone testifies to the astronomical exchange of the ancient east Asia

On the surface of the Bonze Age dolmens found in Haman area are many constellations engraved by people at that time. Constellations from the Bronze Age are found in the petroglyph tombs, which are also part of Marisan Tomb No. 35. It is believed that the capstone with the constellation engraving was reused when constructing the Tomb No. 35 at around the 6th century.

Constellations are found not only in Aragaya Tumuli but also in those of Goguryeo. Goguryeo is the ancient state of Korea which lasted from the first to around mid 7th century in the northern area of the Korean peninsula and Manchuria of today's China. During the 5th century when Goguryeo prospered the most, it had enormous political, military, and cultural influence on many Gayas of the southern Korea.

The astronomical chart, the essence of the ancient astronomy of east Asia, is found on the murals that decorate the ceiling of the burial chambers of Goguryeo. Considering the influence that Goguryeo had on other polities at that time, the fact that the constellation was found in the Tomb No. 13 on Marisan which was built at around the 5th century is an important evidence that the two forces shared the identical idea on astronomy.

Meanwhile, 350 painting of stars assumed to be the 74 constellations were also found in the Kitora Tumuli in Japan which was built around the 8th century. Considering the relationship between Korea and Japan at that time, the constellations in the Kitora Tumuli are assumed to have been influenced by Korea.



Paintings of constellation on the ceiling of Tomb No. 2 in Deokheungri



Cheonsangyeolchabunya map