

## Commentaries on HMS's work

"One can find the spirits of balance and harmony through the literary works of HMS, which deal with conflicts caused by differences in wealth or class, standards and values, customs and traditions, gender and family issues, etc. This may serve as yet another meaningful accomplishment of HMS to the history of Korean Literature overcoming the cultural phenomenon of the discontinuity of tradition."

- Hong Kksam, "The Principle of Harmony and Balance"

"Society or history bears the character of the ordeal and self-discipline of individuals, and it opts for the pursuit of salvation not through individual salvation but for general social change through the inner truths of human beings. Therefore, for HMS, social or historical issues imply direct or indirect conflicts and collisions between the individual and collective destinies. HMS reveals the right way to overcome these problems in the pursuit of salvation of one's own inner self."

- Lim Hun-young, "The social consciousness in the novels of HMS"

"There may exist realms of theory and practice, but what gives us true salvation is the realm of enlightenment<sup>覺性 (Jeonghyeong)</sup>, which is so rare and not easy to describe in a most simple manner. A life that is cognizant of human nature and nature as they are and holds them in their entirety may be the one closest to salvation. The literature of HMS incessantly searches for salvation, encountering human lives and their significances as they are."

- Koo Joong-Seo, "The Literary world of HMS"



## HMS reflects on her own "way"

"The greatness and the wretchedness of man are so evident that true religion must necessarily teach us both that there is in man some great source of greatness, and a great source of wretchedness. It must then give us a reason for these astonishing contradictions. Man's greatness lies in his capacity to recognize his wretchedness! These great words of Pascal still inspire me even as I am growing old, with the fresh and pure emotion I felt when I first read them in my youth. The source of my emotion and the general direction of my interest do not seem to change with age."

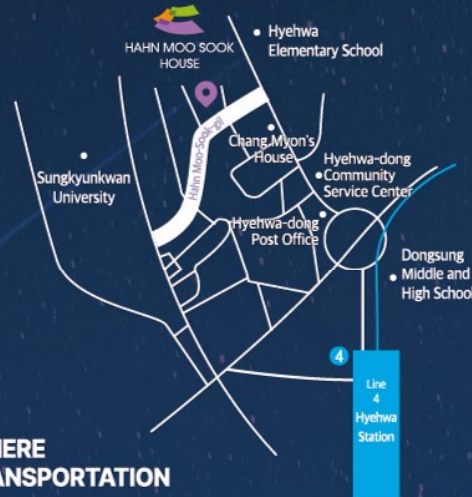
- HMS, "My way," Dong-A Ilbo, December 26, 1992

## VISITING HAHN MOO SOOK HOUSE

**Opening Hours** Monday – Saturday 10:00~17:00 (closed for lunch from 12:00~13:00)

**Closed on** Sundays and legal holidays

**How to visit** Visitors are recommended to reserve at least one day in advance through the HMS homepage ([www.hahnmoosook.com](http://www.hahnmoosook.com)), by telephone (02-762-3093), or e-mail ([hanms01@hahnmoosook.com](mailto:hanms01@hahnmoosook.com))



## HOW TO GET HERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

### Subway

Hyeohwa Station Exit NO.4.

- Go straight, in the direction of Chang Myon's House and walk 100m along Hahn Moo-Sook-gil (About a 12 minutes walk)

### Ma-eul bus

Hyeohwa Station Exit NO.1. Jongno 08

- Get off at Hyeohwa Elementary School. Across the street, Hahn Moo-Sook-gil 100m. (About a 8 minutes walk)

### By bus

1. Stopover at Dongsung Middle & High School

: 102, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109, 140, 143, 149, 150, 160, 162, 272, 710, 2112

- 559m in the direction of Chang Myon's House (About a 11 minutes walk)

2. Stopover at Sungkyunkwan Univ. Entrance

: 151, 171, 172, 272, 601

- 654m in the direction of Hyeohwa Rotary-Chang Myon's House (About a 11 minutes walk)

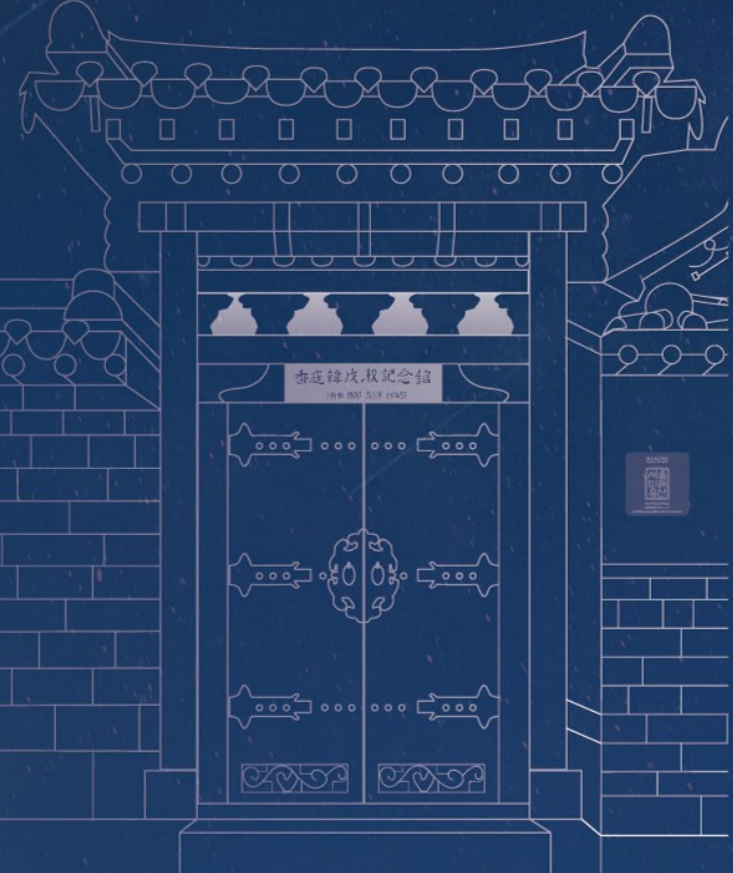
3. Stopover at Hyeohwa-dong Rotary

: 102, 104, 106, 107, 108, 140, 149, 150, 151, 160, 162, 171, 172, 272, 710, 6011

- 436m in the direction of Chang Myon's House (About a 7 minutes walk)

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[www.hahnmoosook.com](http://www.hahnmoosook.com)

# HAHN MOO-SOOK HOUSE





## Introduction to the HMS House

The HMS House is a traditional Korean house with a renovated Western-style wing and a small traditional garden in the courtyard, where HMS lived for 40 years. Her husband, Kim Jin-Heung, transformed the house into a literary museum after her death in 1993. The house and garden preserve much of the character that HMS worked hard to create. HMS was a writer well-known for her precise language, vivid description of customs, skillful representations of inner consciousness, search for identities of Koreans and Korean history, contribution to the globalization of Korean literature, and celebration of life and human beings.

## Permanent Exhibition



FIRST FLOOR, EXHIBITION ROOM 1

Exhibits in the main hall include the writer's hand-written manuscripts, published books, letters, notes, and awards.



FIRST FLOOR, EXHIBITION ROOM 2

This was the reception room of the family where HMS frequently greeted Korean and foreign celebrities; Some of their works, which were presented to HMS as gifts, are displayed in the room.



SECOND FLOOR, BEDROOM / STUDY

From the 1970s, HMS used this room as her bedroom and study. Three walls have built-in bookcases filled with HMS's book collection. The low table, where HMS wrote and painted, still has her writing and painting implements as well as some household items.



THIRD FLOOR, EXHIBITION ROOM 3

Exhibits in this room include HMS's family pictures and related articles, mementos, a handwritten manuscript of her first novel, and other manuscripts.

## Collections

### Our Main Artifacts



『A Woman with a Lantern』

Hahn Moo-sook, 1942  
First novel written in Japanese



『And So Flows History』

Hahn Moo-sook, Baegyandang, 1950

## Biography

- 1918 Born in Seoul on October 25, as the third child of HAHN Sok-myong, and CHANG Suk-myong, and grows up in a progressive atmosphere
- 1940 Marries a banker, KIM Jin-Heung, Abandons painting and begins writing
- 1942 First novel written in Japanese and entitled "A Woman with a Lantern" wins the Sinsidae literary prize
- 1943 One-act play, "Heart/Mind", wins literary prize of the Korean Drama Association
- 1944 Four-act play, "Frost Flower", wins a literary prize of the Korean Drama Association
- 1948 Novel, "And So Flows History", wins the literary prize of Kukje Shinmun
- 1949 Kukje Shinmun is shut down, and the novel, "And So Flows History", is serialized by another newspaper Taiyang Shinmun
- 1950 "And So Flows History" is published as a monograph by Baegyandang
- 1956 Collection of short stories, "Halo around the Moon", published by Jungeumsa
- 1957 Collection of short stories, "Abyss", published by Hyondae Munhaksa
- 1958 Wins the Ja-yoo Literature Award with the short story, "Abyss"
- 1960 Novel, "Steps of the Light", published by Hyondae Munhaksa
- 1962 Member of the Board of the International PEN Club, Korea Branch
- 1964 Novel, "Tales of the House of the Pomegranate", serialized in a monthly magazine, Yosang
- 1965 Represents Korea at the PEN Club congress held at Bled, Yugoslavia  
A collection of short stories in English translation, "In the Depths", published by Hwimoon Publishing Co.
- 1966 A collection of short stories in English translation, "The Running Water Hermitage", published by Moonwang Publishing Co.
- 1969 Represents Korea at the PEN Club congress held at Menton, France
- 1974 Represents Korea at the PEN Club congress held at Jerusalem, Israel
- 1978 Vice President, Korean Women Writer's Association. Collection of short stories, Represents Korea at the PEN Club congress held at Stockholm, Sweden. *Everything between Us*, published by Munhak Sasang
- 1979 Vice President, Korean Novelist Association. A Plenary speaker at the AMMPE conference held in Mexico City, Mexico ("Agony of Working Women"). Lectures in English at the University of Hawaii ("Postwar Korean Literature")
- 1980 President, Korean Women Writers Association. Member of the Board, Korean Writers' Association. Lectures at George Mason University ("Korean Influence on Old Japanese Culture")
- 1981 Collection of Literary Essays, "The Blessing of Lonely Encounter", published by Han'guk Munhak
- 1983 A collection of short stories in English translation, "The Hermitage of Flowing Water and Nine others", published by Gateway Press Baltimore, MD.
- 1986 Member of the Korean Academy of Arts and Letters. Republic of Korea Culture Medal. Grand Prix of the Republic of Korea Literature Award. Novel "Encounter", published by Jungeumsa. Lectures in English at George Washington University ("Shamanism and Korean Literature")
- 1987 Lectures in English at Harvard University ("Korean Literature in the Era of National Division"). Collection of Short Stories, "A Festered Finger", published by Munhak Sasang
- 1988 Paper presentation at the 52nd International PEN Congress, held in Seoul, Korea ("Korean Literature in the Era of National Division")
- 1989 30th March First Grand Prix for Arts
- 1990 First President, Japanese Culture Society in Korea. President of the Korean Novelists Association. Collection of Literary Essays, *The Moon soaring in my mind*, published by the Sport Seoul, The Third joint KIM Jin-Heung / Hahn Moo-Sook exhibition of Calligraphy and Painting at the Seoul Press Center.
- 1991 The Korean Academy of Arts and Letters Award
- 1992 The English translation of the novel, "Encounter", published by the University of California Press, Berkeley
- 1993 Dies of heart failure at the age of 74

## List of Published Works

- 1950 Novel, *And So Flows History*, Baegyandang
- 1956 Collection of short stories, *A Halo around the Moon*, Jungeumsa
- 1956 Novel, *And So Flows History*, Jungeumsa
- 1957 Collection of short stories, *In The Depths*, Hyondae Munhaksa
- 1960 Novel, *Steps of the Light*, Hyondae Munhaksa
- 1963 Collection of essays, *The Hermitage of Flowing Water and Nine Others*, Sinteayangsa
- 1963 Collection of short stories, *A place for Fate and Festivity*, Hwimoon
- 1964 Serialization, *Tales of the House of the Pomegranate*, Yosang
- 1965 Collection of short stories, *In The Depths*, Hwimoon (English Translation)
- 1966 Collection of short stories, *The Running Water Hermitage*, Moonwang (English Translation)
- 1978 Collection of short stories, *Everything between Us*, Munhaksasang
- 1981 Collection of essays, *The blessing of this solitary encounter*, Han'guk munhak
- 1983 Collection of essays, *The Hermitage of Flowing Water and Nine Others*, Sinteayangsa
- 1983 Collection of short stories and essays, *The Hermitage of Flowing Water and Nine Others*, Gateway Press, Baltimore, Md. (English Translation)
- 1986 Novel, *Encounter*, Jungeumsa
- 1987 Collection of short stories, *Festered Finger*, Munhak Sasang
- 1990 Collection of essays, *The moon soaring in my mind*, Sport Seoul
- 1992 Novel, *Encounter*, translation by kim ok-young, University of California Press, Berkeley (English Translation)
- 1992 Collected Edition of Hahn Moo Sook, Eulyoo munhwasa
- 1998 Novel, POSZUKUJAC BOGA, translated by Halina Ogrek-Czoi, NOBILITAS (Encounter, Polish Translation)
- 2005 Novel, *And So Flows History*, translated by Young-Key Kim-Renaud, University of Hawaii Press (English Translation)
- 2005 Novel, translated by Pilippe Thiebault, *Autres Temps* (Encounter, French Translation)
- 2005 Novel, *Encounter*, Eulyoo munhwasa
- 2012 Novel, *Ajalugu Voolab*, translated by Kim Jung-Gon ja Tarmo Lilleoja, Bibliotheca ASIATICA (Encounter, Estonian Translation)
- 2013 Novel, *Setkání*, translated by Miriam Löwensteinová, Argo (Encounter, Czech Translation)