**The International Conference on the *Records of the Central Military Garrison* (***Gunyeongdeungnok*) from Joeson *Korea*

The Jangseogak Archives at the Academy of Korean Studies organizes an international conference on one of its most important historical sources, the *Gunyeongdeungnok* (*Records of the Central Military Garrison*), the continuous hand-written military records spanning for almost three hundred years (from 1593 to1882).

Made by the central military garrison for capital defense in the mid- to late Joseon period, the *Gunyeongdeungnok* contains a large corpus of edicts, reports, and dispatches. Through a close analysis of these sources, we can illuminate diverse aspects of Joseon military life such as training of soldiers, administrative details, and the development of weaponry. Moreover, it offers a window into the socio-economic realities of the Joseon period. As the continuous military log of over three hundred years, it is probably the only such source in global history. For this reason, beyond the realm of Korean studies, we propose that the *Gunyeongdeungnok* be studied in global historical perspective.

In order to highlight its significance as the historical source for research of pre-modern military organizations as well as to reevaluate Korean documentary culture, we plan to organize an international conference on the *Gunyeongdeungnok*.

**Conference Date: September 29-30, 2016**

**Proposals Due: April 28th, 2016**

**Venue: Jangseogak Archives at the Academy of Korean Studies**

The specific contents of the conference will consist of the following four sections:

**Section 1: The Military Records Spanning Three Hundred Years**

In this section, we will inquire into the processes by which the central garrison produced its own records continuously for over three hundred years. By reconstructing the actual processes by which the central garrison compiled these documents, we will be able to uncover the communications system between the royal court and the military garrisons.

1. The Joseon military institutions and the compilation of the *Gunyeongdeungnok*

2. The organization of the *Gunyeongdeungnok*

3. Into the contents of the *Gunyeongdeungnok*

4. Examining the *Gunyeongdeungnok* as documentary heritage of the world in the UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme

**Section 2: The Daily Life of Soldiers in the *Gunyeongdeungnok***

Section 2 focuses on the records of soldiers in the *Gunyeongdeungnok* in two distinct sessions. The first session will address the military drills, and the soldiers’ occupational specialties such as constructing the city walls, manufacturing weaponry, etc. The second session will discuss the private life of soldiers, with a focus on their economic activities: what they did to compensate for their low salaries, how their activities brought about other consequences, etc.

1. Military Drills and Occupational Specialties

2. Soldiers as architects of the defense wall

3. Soldiers as technicians

4. Soldiers as merchants

**Section 3: Communications and Popular Policies in the *Gunyeongdeungnok***

Section 3 will closely examine how the soldiers expressed and solved their grievances and problems: the legal procedures of filing a complaint had been established as shown in “reporting to the higher authority (*sangeon*)” and “disputations (*gyekjaeng*).” Through close examination of these records, we will illuminate how the royal court communicated with the soldiers and responded to their needs.

1. *Sangeon*, the process by which a solider filed a complaint

2. *Gyejaeng*, a direct channel of petitioning the high authority

3. Mutual communications, letters of recommendation written by high-ranking officials

4. Care for the populace: housing and welfare policies

**Section 4: Comparing the Military Records of the East and the West**

Section 4 will discuss the global historical meanings of the *Gunyeongdeungnok* in comparison with the military records of other countries such as the military records of the Qing (1648-1911) Eight Banners, the Edo Shogunate, and other cases from European history.

1. The Military Records of Eight Banners in Qing Dynasty, China

2. The Military Records of the Edo Shogunate, Japan

3. The Military Records of the Crusades