“Korea 1900: A time Capsule in 20 Objects”

a talk by
Laurel Kendall
Chair, Anthropology Division
Curator, Asian Ethnographic Collections
American Museum of Natural History

Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Pomerene Hall, room 306
(1760 Neil Avenue)
2:30 p.m.

Using objects in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, anthropologist and curator Laurel Kendall offers a time capsule portrait of life in Korea around 1900 and tells the story of how these objects came to New York as part of the history of early American anthropology.

BIO
Laurel Kendall (Ph.D. with distinction from Columbia University, 1979) is Vice-President elect of the Association for Asian Studies. Kendall is Chair of the Anthropology Division and Curator of Asian Ethnographic Collections at the American Museum of Natural History; she also teaches at Columbia University on popular religion and museum anthropology and is an Adjunct Senior Researcher at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia. A specialist on Korea who also does comparative work in Vietnam, Kendall is the author of Shamans, Housewives, and Other Restless Spirits (1985), The Life and Hard Times of a Korean Shaman (1988), Getting Married in Korea (1996), and Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF: South Korean Popular Religion in Motion (2009) which won the Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology’s Yim Suk-Jay prize as the best work of Korean anthropology by a foreign scholar. Her current research concerns the fate of sacred and magical objects in modern markets. With Vietnamese colleagues she has co-authored a series of papers on the manufacture and marketing of temple statues and Catholic images. God Images in Korean Contexts: the Ownership and Meaning of Shaman Paintings, co-authored with Jongsung Yang and Yol Soo Yoon, is in press with University of Hawaii Press. She is currently Vice President and President-Elect of the Association for Asian Studies.

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