

# Old Korean Settlements in Russian Primorye Examined from an Archaeological Perspective

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*The Journal of Northeast Asian History*

**Volume 10 Number 2 (Winter 2013), 165-187**

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## **Old Korean Settlements in Russian Primorye as Examined from an Archaeological Perspective**

The article focuses on archaeological investigations of old Korean settlements in the Primorye region within the chronological frames of their existence between the 1860s and the 1930s. The remains of dwellings, economic, manufacturing, and sacral structures, and complexes of tools and utensils are considered material sources of information on various aspects of the life of the Korean population in the Russian Primorye region. The remains of settlements located in the Crabbe Peninsula and the Krounovka River valley seem to be the most interesting and promising for future investigations.

**Keywords:** Primorye district, Crabbe Peninsula, old Korean settlements, material culture, building traditions, implements, utensils

# Old Korean Settlements in Russian Primorye Examined from an Archaeological Perspective

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## Introduction

In recent decades, archeological research around the world has been actively expanding the scope of excavation sites to those pertaining to modern and contemporary periods in history from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. Such sites include remains of industrial enterprises, ruins of homesteads, sacral objects, traces of military camps and fortifications, roads, and traditional rural settlements. Excavating such sites allows a greater diversity of evidence to be brought forth which, along with other sources, can increase our knowledge about the economic, political, cultural, and ethnic histories of certain regions of the world.<sup>1</sup>

The Russian Primorye region can be considered a prospective area for conducting archaeological studies on relatively recent history. The objects of study could be the remains of industrial complexes, military

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<sup>1</sup> C. Melvin Aikens, Thomas J. Connolly, and Dennis L. Jenkins, *Oregon Archaeology* (Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 2011).

installations, and homesteads of the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. From the same period, yet in a separate category, are numerous settlements left by Koreans in Primorye. These have not been studied systematically up to now, however, the subject of Korean communities in the Russian Far East during the late 1930s is not new to historical research. Studies have already been done on various issues throughout the economic, social, political, and cultural histories of Koreans in the Russian Far East during the pre-revolutionary period before 1917 and after, or since the Soviet Union was established.<sup>2</sup> Still, little attention has been paid to the material culture and everyday life of Koreans. Therefore, significant contributions to the study of these important aspects can be made by excavating preserved remnants of Korean settlements in the Russian Far East.

Korean settlements first appeared in southern Russian Primorye in the 1860s as a result of forced and illegal migration of members of the rural population from neighboring Korea. The reasons were, on the one hand, economic hardships in Korea and, on the other hand, the availability of vast unoccupied lands in the southern Russian Far East only at the beginning stage of development for residential and economic purposes. The area within the southern Russian Far East where Koreans

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<sup>2</sup> Anatoly T. Kuzin, *Dal'nevostochnye Koreitsy: Zhizn I Istoriya Sudby* [The Koreans of the Far East: Life and History of Destiny] (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia: Literaturno-izdatelskoe obiedinenie, 1993); Alexander. I. Petrov, *Koreiskaia Diaspora Na Dalnem Vostoke Rossii: 60-90- E Gody XIX Veka* [The Korean Diaspora in the Russian Far East, 1860s-1890s] (Vladivostok: DVO RAN, 2000); Alexander. I. Petrov, *Koreiskaya Diapora v Rossii. 1897-1917 Gg.* [The Korean Diaspora in Russia, 1897-1917] (Vladivostok: DVO RAN, 2001); Elena N. Chernolutskaia, *Prinuditel'nye Migratsii Na Dal'nem Vostoke Rossii v 1920-1950 Gody* [Forced Migrations in the Russian Far East in 1920-1950] (Vladivostok: Izdatel'stvo Dal'nauka [Dal'nauka-Press], 2011); O. B. Lynsha, "Likvidatsiya Negramotnosti Sredi Koreiskogo Naseleniya Primor'ya v 1920-30 Gody [The Eradication of Illiteracy among the Korean Population of the Primorye Region in the 1920-1930s]," in *Problemy istorii obrazovania na Dal'nem Vostoke Rossii* [The Problems of the History of Education in the Russian Far East], vol. 2 (Ussuriisk, Russia: Izdatel'stvo Dal'nevostochnogo Federal'nogo Universiteta [Publishing House of Far Eastern Federal University], 2012), 20-27.

mainly lived in the late nineteenth century was the Pos'yet plot (district) of Primorye region (now the Khasansky district). The mass immigration of Koreans to the far east of Russia and then the Soviet Union, primarily to the Primorye region, continued until the 1930s. Between the 1920s and 1930s, the Korean population was mainly spread across the districts of Posiet, Suyfun, Suchan, and Shkotovsky districts in Primorye. According to research data, by 1937, more than 165,000 Koreans resided in the far eastern territories of the Soviet Union.<sup>3</sup> At present, the remaining Korean settlements are located in the Khasansky, Ootyabrsky, Ussurisky, Partisansky, and Shkotovsky districts of Primorye. In northern Primorye, remains of Korean settlements are concentrated at the estuary of the Bikin River in the Pozharsky district.

When Korean villages in Primorye and other far eastern regions were hastily abandoned after the deportation in 1937, the process of their desolation and destruction began, and continues into the present. The result has been a gradual shift of Korean settlements into the category of what might be defined as archaeological sites today. The grounds for such a definition are, first, the fragmented state of settlements as a whole and their structural and functional components in particular, and second, the presence of cultural layers - soil deposits in which various artifacts (fragments of buildings, tools, utensils, and other objects) are partially or totally buried.

Data gathered for this article are visual observations of the remains of Korean settlements in the districts of Khasansky, Ussuriysky, and Ootyabrsky in the Primorye region, a collection of Korean artifacts found at the settlements, and results of archaeological research performed at certain sites. This article attempts to systematize the materials currently in the collection and assess their prospects for the study of old Korean

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<sup>3</sup> Chernolutskaya, *Prinuditel'nye Migratsii Na Dal'nem Vostoke Rossii v 1920-1950 Gody*, 201-227.

settlements in the Russian Primorye region.

## 1. Settlement Pattern, Living Space Organization, and Building Technologies

According to Alexander I. Petrov, the farmstead settlement pattern of Koreans in Primorye carried unique characteristics largely due to geographic and economic factors. Villages often consisted of several farmsteads distant from each other and contained varying numbers of separate homesteads. The distance between hamlets sometimes reached up to a few miles away.<sup>4</sup>

Petrov further notes that the houses of Primorye Koreans were monotonous in their features. They had a rectangular floor plan, supporting wooden pillars along the perimeter, walls constructed of willow frame and coated with a mixture of clay and chopped straw plastered outside, and a gable roof of straw or reeds. The door and a wide window were usually built on the southern side of the house. A distinctive feature was the presence of *ondol*, or an underground heating system with a furnace hearth, flue duct, and a discharge pipe on the outside. The furnace hearth fulfilled cooking purposes and the supply of hot air to flues. A cast iron cooking cauldron would be placed on top of the furnace hearth. The smoke pipe would be located at some distance from the walls of the house and constructed of either the trunk or from wooden planks covered with clay.<sup>5</sup>

Publications by Korean researchers include detailed information on the principles of traditional structures of rural homesteads and housing technologies.<sup>6</sup> The homestead is a complex of living and subsidiary

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<sup>4</sup> Petrov, *Koreiskaya Diapora v Rossii. 1897-1917 Gg.*, 114-119.

<sup>5</sup> Petrov, *Koreiskaia Diaspora Na Dalnem Vostoke Rossii: 60-90- E Gody XIX Veka*, 239-240.

<sup>6</sup> Suzanne Crowder Han, *Notes on Things Korean* (Seoul: Hollym Press, 2002); Yim Seock Jae, *The Traditional Space: A Study of Korean Architecture* (Seoul: Ehwa Woman's University Press,

structures covering the area of a rectangular plan. In different landscapes and climatic areas of the Korean Peninsula, certain historical variations of individual elements in the aforementioned homestead pattern can be observed at present or could be observed until recently. In the past, the specific allocation of the homestead and house were also determined by social factors. The homestead territory's perimeter would usually be enclosed by a wall built of mud or stone. Using stones to construct walls was widely practiced in Korea from early medieval times.<sup>7</sup>

The basic element of a homestead structure is the living house. There are several configuration options for a housing plan: straight-lined, in which all rooms are situated along the same line; Γ-shaped, in which two linear block spaces are joined at right angles; Π-shaped; and rectangular-shaped with an inner courtyard. Basic structural elements of a living house are a base platform made of stone and rammed earth, pole frames around the perimeter of walls, and a roof. In the Korean house-building tradition, the roof was an important element that carried, beyond its functional value, a representation of social status, as well. *Choga* roofs made of plant organic material (straw, reed, or cane) were characteristic of houses of ordinary villagers and common townspeople. Houses of the Korean *yangban* elite denoted by the term *hanok* had tiled *giwa* roofs, which was a marker of high social status.<sup>8</sup>

According to data collected for this article, the localization of old Korean settlements in many parts of the Primorye region corresponds to a dispersed farmstead pattern. As an example, the remains of Korean settlements in the Crabbe Peninsula in marginal southern Primorye

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<sup>7</sup> 2005); Oh Hong-seok, *Traditional Korean Villages* (Seoul: Ehwa Woman's University Press, 2009); Song Ki-ho, *Hanguk godaeui ondol: Buk Okjeo, Koguryo, Balhae* [Ancient Korean Heating System: Northern Okjeo, Koguryo and Balhae] (Seoul: Seoul daehakgyo chulpanbu [Seoul National University Press], 2006).

<sup>7</sup> Oh, *Traditional Korean Villages*, 11-39, 149.

<sup>8</sup> Han, *Notes on Things Korean*, 58; Oh, *Traditional Korean Villages*, 97-101, 148-150; Yim, *The Traditional Space: A Study of Korean Architecture*, 13.

(Figure 1) can be considered. In 1872, a small Korean settlement was initially established there under the name Hydzhida. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the Crabbe village of Pos'yet plot (district) had become one of largest and most economically prosperous Korean villages in the south of the Russian Primorye. There were two schools in the village, an Orthodox parish, and quite a large "fleet" of small boats to conduct marine fishing.<sup>9</sup>

The Crabbe peninsula at the Pos'yet gulf in the Khasansky district of Primorye is actually a fairly large closed area (Figure 1). It was first discovered and mapped in 1854 by the expedition of Count E.V. Putiatin, a Russian vice-admiral. The peninsula stretches in a southeastern direction for over eighteen kilometers, northwest from Cape Gakkel to Cape Astaf'eva. The southwestern coast of the peninsula is a steep, rocky, and rugged land jutting out into deep coves. The northeastern part of the peninsula is washed by the shallow waters of the Novgorodskaya Bay and has a flatter and less rugged terrain. More than forty archaeological sites belonging to different historical periods from the Neolithic to the early Middle Age have been recognized on the peninsula so far. The most interesting subject is an ancient earthen wall on the isthmus connecting the peninsula to the mainland. Primarily, this wall has been assigned to the medieval period. According to results of an archaeological survey from 1991 and further investigations conducted between 2008 and 2013, more than twenty sites with remains of old Korean settlements have been additionally uncovered (Figure 2).

Remains of farmsteads on the Crabbe Peninsula are concentrated mainly at the mouths of small streams close by the sea for almost the entire circumference of the peninsula. The farmsteads differ in the amount of separate homesteads. Thus, on the northeast shore of the

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<sup>9</sup> Petrov, *Koreiskaia Diaspora Na Dalnem Vostoke Rossii: 60-90- E Gody XIX Veka*; Petrov, *Koreiskaya Diapora v Rossii. 1897-1917 Gg.*

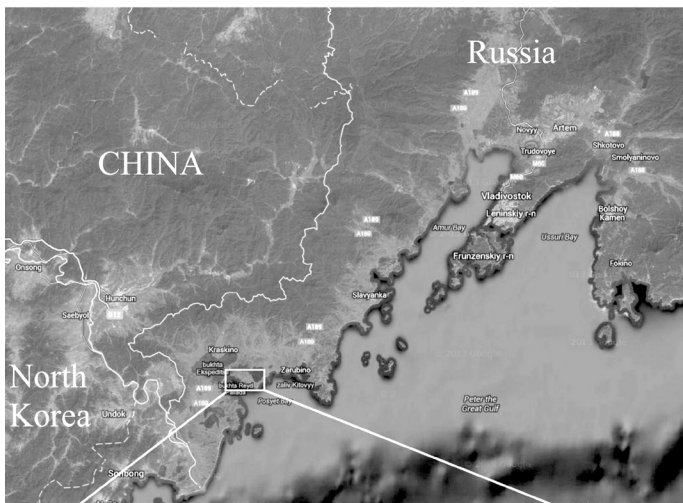


Figure 1

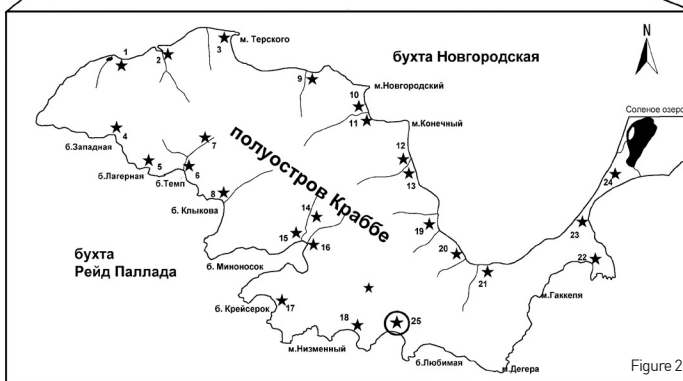


Figure 2

Figure 1. Map of the Crabbe Peninsula localization in the Map of the Southern Part of the Primorye Region

Figure 2. Map of the localization of the remains of Korean farmsteads on the Crabbe Peninsula, Khasansky district, Primorye Region

Minonosok Bay (the peninsula's southwest side) in the valley of a creek, remains of at least eleven homesteads were marked to have been located in the immediate vicinity of the sea and on slopes of surrounding hills. Remains of a large settlement including about fifteen homesteads were

identified on the northeast side of the peninsula in the bay between Cape Novgorodski and Cape Konechny. Remains of hamlets consisting of three to six homesteads were identified on the shores of Temp, Kreiserok, and Klykova bays. In one of the small nameless bays on the southwestern coast of the peninsula, to the east of Cape Nizmenny, remains of a single homestead were located.

Data from visual observations on the Crabbe Peninsula provides an insight into the principles of how spaces were organized at homesteads. Homesteads could be distinguished by fenced and unfenced territories. In most cases, fences were constructed with stones walled up to a height between 0.5 and one meter. A rare variant of such fences would be formed with a low bar made of soil and stones. Remains of stone walls along the perimeter of homesteads could also be found in other districts of Primorye, for instance, in the Krounovka River valley.

Enclosed territories of old Korean homesteads on the Crabbe Peninsula usually have a distinct rectangular plan. Sometimes a fence marks a territory with only two sides like a corner. In cases where square-walled homesteads were measured, such as those in the Minonosok Bay, each was between 200 to 400 square meters. The orientation of homesteads situated on the Crabbe Peninsula's southwest coast depended on their entrances looking out toward the sea to the south or southwest. The location of an entrance could be identified by a gap of about two meters wide in a stone wall.

Remains of houses in areas where Koreans settled are primarily determined by the presence of base platforms made of earth and stones. A platform covered with a turf layer and dense vegetation is usually the only preserved structural element of a house. The height of platforms averages 0.7 to one meter, and their length ranges from six to 10 meters or longer. Typically, platforms have clearly elongated rectangular plans that correspond to the straight-lined configuration of a house. Sometimes, a platform's plan corresponds to the  $\Gamma$ -shaped configuration of a house, and such cases were traced in Tizinhe, the first Primorye Korean village

in the Khasansky district's Vinogradnaya River valley.

According to our observations on the Crabbe Peninsula, a house's platform is usually placed very close to the fenced wall opposite a homestead's entrance. The standard length-to-width ratio of rectangular platforms was about two to one, while the size of fixed platforms differed between 72 to 170 square meters. There were no remains left of house walls in most cases. This may reflect the fact that walls or frames of houses were indeed built with materials difficult to be preserved, such as adobe or plants such as wood and would thus be completely destroyed after dwellings were abandoned. However, a platform's perimeter could be determined along the traces of walls in some cases. Thus, in the homestead detected in one of the bays of the Crabbe Peninsula's southwest coast, remains of walls built of stone slabs are preserved at the north, east, and west sides of a house's platform. The height of those walls according to preserved parts reaches 1.3 or 1.5 meters.

Since traces of roofs were typically not fixed, one can assume short-lived organic plant materials were used for this element of housing construction. However, there are cases where remains of tiled roofs have been detected, for instance, at the site of the first Primorye Korean settlement, Tizinhe, which was mentioned above. There, on the platform surface upon a  $\Gamma$ -shaped plan, evidence of a collapsed roof, whole tiles as well as some fragmented ones, was discovered. The semi-cylindrical shaped tiles are a bright red-orange color from being made of ferruginous clay and display stamped decoration on their exterior. One variant of such decoration is similar to a "herringbone" pattern, and another is encircled, portraying a floral-like motif. These variants of tile decoration bear close analogies to medieval and traditional tile manufacturing in Korea (Figure 3).<sup>10</sup> Roof tiles were also found among inhabitants of the

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<sup>10</sup> Jeju National Museum, *History and Culture of Jeju* (Seoul: Tongcheon Munhwasa, 2002), 114, 124.

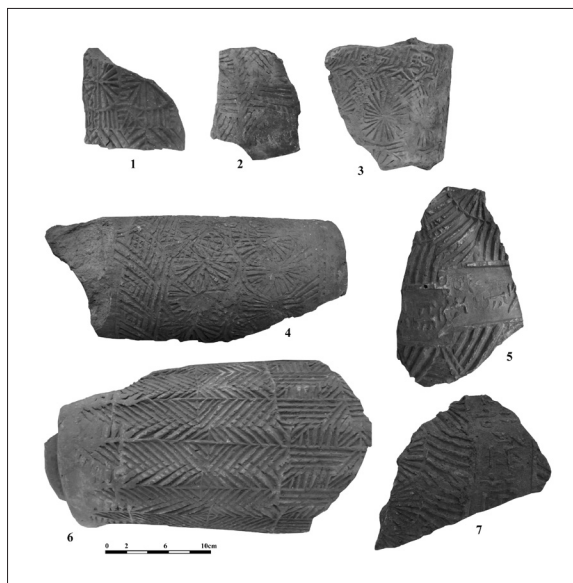


Figure 3. Samples of roof tiles 1 – Roof tiles collected at the site Tizinhe, Vinogradnaya River valley, Khasansky district of Primorye Region; 2 - Traditional Korean roof tiles [Note: Jeju National Museum, History and Culture of Jeju (Seoul: Tongcheon Munhwasa, 2002), 214]

modern village of Tsukanovka in the valley of the Tsukanovka River in the Khasansky district. The village used to be one of the largest old Korean villages in southern Primorye, and was named Lower Yanchihe. Isolated findings of roof tiles are known to have been made on the Crabbe Peninsula. The presence of houses with tiled roofs is probably evidence of their special social status.

A distinctive feature of house platforms at old Korean settlements is the *ondol* heating system. In many cases, flat stone slabs are laid horizontally upon the surfaces of platforms. Those are traces of the upper level of fume channels. The remains of Korean houses with *ondol* were investigated during excavations of the multilayer site Chernyatino 2 on the right bank of the Razdolnaya (Suifun) River in the western Primorye



Figure 4. Remains of a Korean farmstead in Mionosok Bay, on the southwest coast of Crabbe Peninsula: part of a stone wall at the homestead; on the wall – a cast iron cauldron

district of Octyabrsky.<sup>11</sup> On the Crabbe Peninsula, some house platforms not only had stone slabs for *ondol*, but preserved hearth pits lined with stones also were detected. Very often, cast iron cooking cauldrons were discovered in close proximity to house platforms or on homestead territories (Figure 4).

At homestead settings, not only can platforms of houses be recognized, but also remains of subsidiary structures associated primarily with agricultural operations. The functions of such structures can be determined by the presence of massive millstones which were basic parts of stationary grinders. According to observations in the Crabbe Peninsula, millstones could be placed in a special barn with stone walls (Figure 5), but more often in the open air on rounded platforms slightly raised and paved with stone (Figure 6).

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<sup>11</sup> Yuri G. Nikitin and Jung Suk Bae, *Arheologicheskie Issledovaniya Na Poselenii Chernyatino 2 v Primorye v 2008 Godu* [Archaeological Research at the Settlement Chernyatino 2 in Primorye in 2008], 3 vols. (Chungnam vuekun: Dal'nevostochny Gosudarstvenny Technichesky Universitet, Rossiyskaya Akademia Nauk, Gosudarstvenny Universitet kulturnogo nasledia Respubliki Korea [Far Eastern State Technical University, Russian Academy of Sciences and the State University of Korean Cultural Heritage], 2009), 208-213.



Figure 5. Remains of a subsidiary building with stone millstones, southwest coast of the Crabbe Peninsula

Figure 6. Remains of an open-air grinding construction, Crabbe Peninsula, northeast coast, Novgorodskaya Bay

## 2. Household Utensils

The categories of tools, equipment, household utensils, and other items retrieved at places of old Korean settlements are manifold. These include ceramic and porcelain wares, millstones of several different types, iron agricultural tools and cauldrons for hearths, bronze ware, jewelry, metal coins, and more. In recent years, these exotic artifacts have increasingly become the subject of poaching by “black” (illegal) archeologists destructing the cultural layer of settlements. Systematic study of collections of tools and utensils could be a valuable source for reconstructing features of everyday culture, economic, and industrial activities and relations in the Korean society of Russian Primorye during the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century.

Due to the limited length of this article, only a brief survey of ceramic or porcelain wares, the main categories of excavated artifacts, were covered. Our collection of pottery and porcelain comes from old Korean settlements of the Khasansky district such as Crabbe, Tizinhe, Lower Yanchihe, and Sidimi, and includes intact items as well as fragments. There are four basic groups of ceramic and porcelain wares that are similar to those of traditional Korean provenance. The first group

is represented mainly by the fragments of large, thick-walled, and glazed vessels which may be compared with categories of Korean ceramic ware such as *onggi*, *hangari*, or *tok*. These containers are used in household activities, especially for the fermentation and storage of various food supplies, such as soy bean products, vegetables, pickles, red pepper, fish, and others.<sup>12</sup> The second group of ceramic ware also serves household needs, namely a variety of pots such as bowls thrown on a potter's wheel with unglazed walls, sometimes decorated with a simple incised pattern. Because of a particular way of burning (reducing or smudging), the pots' walls often possess a gray or dark gray color. The third group is represented by intact whole items and fragments of which the walls are covered inside and out with a shiny glaze of grayish, bluish, greenish tones resembling the hue of celadon glaze (Figure 7). Intact vessels are mostly small cups and bowls. Judging from certain technical features of ceramic ware production, it can be assumed that the majority of such objects were produced at cottages. This group can be related to *buncheong*, one of the most interesting categories of traditional Korean pottery. The technology to produce this group of ceramic ware dates back to the production of true Korean celadon ware, but the technology itself as well as the design of *buncheong* is not as meticulous or complicated compared to that of celadon ware. *Buncheong* ware produced for mass consumption was an affordable imitation of celadon ware, which was greatly admired, but expensive in Korea.<sup>13</sup> The fourth group includes fragments and whole specimens of ordinary porcelain bowls, tea cups, plates, and saucers serving dining needs.

The question will then arise as to where such ceramic and porcelain wares were produced. As for porcelain, factory stamps or labels that identify the origin of products are printed on the bottom of their exterior.

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<sup>12</sup> Han, *Notes on Things Korean*, 81; Sunhwa Rha, *Pottery: Korean Traditional Handicrafts* (Seoul: Ehwa Woman's University Press, 2006), 103-139.

<sup>13</sup> Han, *Notes on Things Korean*, 85.

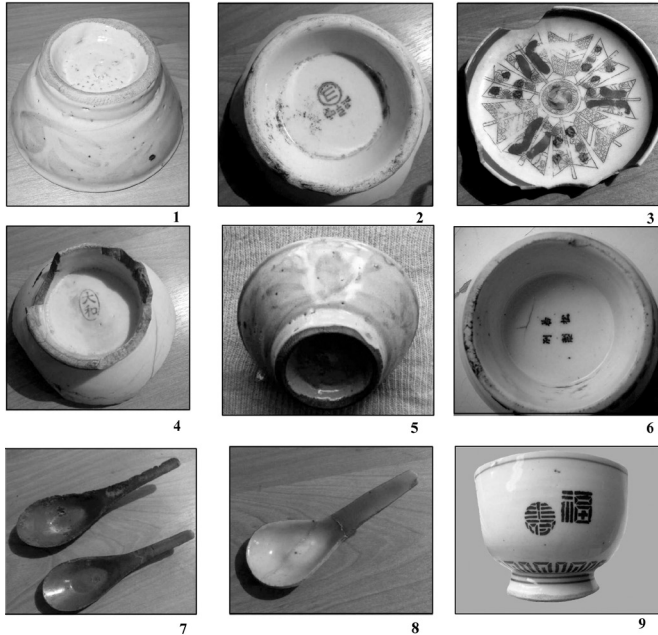


Figure 7. Samples of porcelain tableware collected at the Crabbe Peninsula:  
 1 – A teacup covered with a celadon-like glaze; 2 – Bottom piece with a factory mark; 3 – Saucer with a polychrome decoration, presumably produced in Japan

The collection of porcelain ware is of Korean, Japanese, and supposedly Chinese origin (Figure 7). Also, a few examples of Russian pre-revolutionary and Soviet Union production were identified.

On the other hand, local pottery production could have also been possible. An example is the remains of a pottery firing kiln discovered in 2011 during a survey of an old Korean homestead in the upper Krounovka River valley in western Primorye (Figure 8). The site is named Leopardovy 1, after the name of the nearest stream.<sup>14</sup> The kiln

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<sup>14</sup> Alexei L. Telelyuev, *Otchet Ob Arheologicheskikh Razvedkah v Oktyabrskom I Ussuriiskom Raionah Primorskogo Kraya v 2011 G.* [Report on the Archaeological Field Survey in Ocityabrsky and Ussurisky Districts of Primorye Region in 2011], 2011, Institut Istorii,

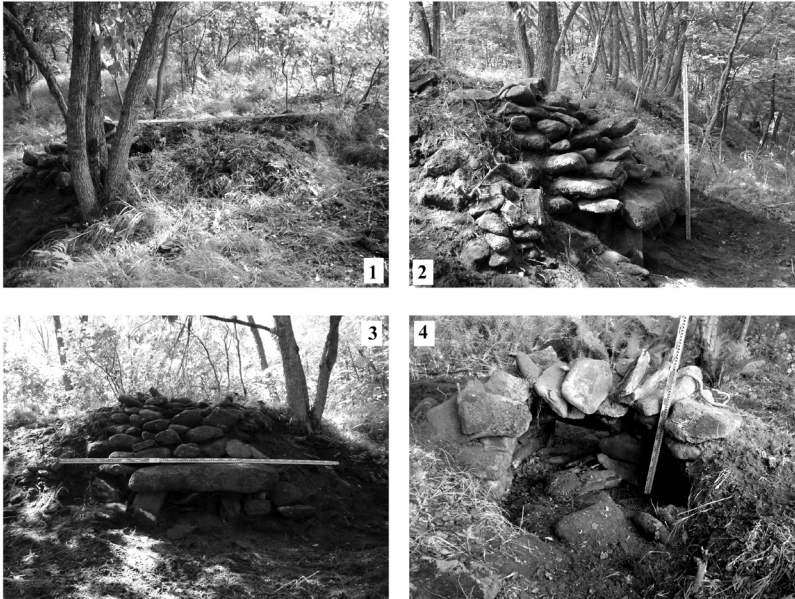


Figure 8. Remains of a pottery firing kiln, Site Leopardovy 1: 1 – General view of the kiln tunnel; 2 – View of the kiln’s mouth

resembles a tunnel-like construction built of local rock debris. The observed length of a kiln’s part is about 4.5 meters with a width of more than 2 meters and height between 0.85 to 0.9 meters. The kiln was formed at the edge of a river bank’s terrace in an inclining position. Its mouth oriented to the river was constructed of two massive stone slabs placed vertically and covered by another massive horizontal slab.

The upper part of the firing chamber had collapsed from the inside and its inner surface was coated with a layer of burned clay. In the immediate vicinity of the kiln remains, many fragments of gray-colored pottery were uncovered. Some fragments have visible traces of

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deformation due to the temperature rising too rapidly during the firing process. It may be noted that sloped tunnel-like firing kilns are typical for the craft of making traditional Korean pottery.<sup>15</sup>

### 3. Stone Piles

Stone piles tend to be present at certain areas where the remains of famous Korean settlements are located. They are situated on the Crabbe Peninsula, in the Krounovka River valley in western Primorye and some other places (Figure 9). Usually, clusters of stone piles are found at some



Figure 9.  
Stone piles and burial mound  
at southeast coast of Crabbe  
Peninsula

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<sup>15</sup> Gerald Carrico, "A Korean Pottery," *Ceramics Monthly* no. 6, 1973: 29-36.

distance from such settlements. The height of piles built of small- and medium-sized stones is between 0.4 and 0.6 meters. Some stone piles look similar to the platforms of rectangular-like,  $\Gamma$ -like or  $\Pi$ -like configuration. However, stone piles are not clearly shaped in many cases. The function of stone piles has not yet been clearly defined. Perhaps they are the result of clearing land to devote to farming.

However, it should be noted that in traditional Korean culture, namely in sacral life, it was a common custom to stack piles of stone named “*seonghwangdan*” upon slopes and under trees of villages until the beginning of the twentieth century (Figure 10). Such piles were used as “altars” in shamanistic cult ceremonies to pray to the mountains gods for, among others, rain, prosperity and health. This custom was



Figure 10.  
Stone piles in the southwest coast of the Crabbe Peninsula

especially popular among the rural population.<sup>16</sup> It is possible that clusters of stone piles detected near some Korean settlements at Primorye were also relevant to sacral rites.

## Conclusion

Based on all the data discussed above, it can be noted that even a brief survey of the remains of Korean settlements in Russian Primorye demonstrates, first, their great diversity and then the possibility to apply means of archaeological science toward studying such sites, particularly excavation methods. There are diverse categories of records containing information on settlement patterns, living space organization, building technologies, agricultural activities, handicrafts, trade patterns, and other aspects of the Korean community in the Russian Primorye region from the final decades of the nineteenth century into the 1930s.

The archaeological study of remains of Korean settlements is of significant interest and value in terms of methodological aspects. This article considers Korean settlement remains as a new type of archaeological site in the area of the Russian Far East. These sites which belong to the recent past require the application of special approaches to analyze and interpret them. Great attention must be paid to the correlation between data from archaeological investigations and documentary records written on the history of the Primorye region, the Russian Far East, and neighboring countries of East Asia between the 1860s and the 1930s. Also, important methodological contributions may stem from observations on the dynamics and peculiarities of cultural layers accumulated at places where settlements had been located and subsequently abandoned at a certain point in history. The results of these

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<sup>16</sup> Yundviga Ionova, *Etnographiya Korei* [The Ethnography of Korea] (Moscow: Rossiyskaya Akademia Nauk [Russian Academy of Sciences], 2011), 121-159.

observations are useful for increasing knowledge about the processes through which archaeological sites and their cultural layers were formed.

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