

On the Measuring Systems at the end of Ri Dynasty in Korea

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The objectives of this article is to examine the traditional measuring laws and the character of the measuring system reform at the end of Ri Dynasty. The results are as follows.

1. From the viewpoint of the modern society, the system of weight and measures in Ri Dynasty appears to have been disorganized. However, in the context of the traditional measuring laws, the system is not necessarily said to be disorganized. At that time, the classical Chu scale (about 20cm) was well maintained. Yong-jo scale (about 31cm) and the weight system were commonly used in China, Korea and Japan.

2. The traditional Korean society was so flexible that it could allow the dual measuring systems (the Original Korean system and the Chinese one), or sometimes the plural measuring systems. The Chinese system had spread widely by the early period of Ri Dynasty, and the Japanese one was also introduced at the end of Ri Dynasty.