

Sŏun-gwan, The Bureau of Astronomy and Meteorology During King Sejong's Reign Period

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Sŏun-gwan 書雲觀 is the name of the Bureau of Astronomy and Meteorology the time from the late Koryo dynasty (918~1392) to the early Chosŏn dynasty (1393~1910) in Korea. The structure, bureaucrats, and astronomical activities of this bureau had reached their peaks during the King Sejong's reign period (1419~1450), when the bureau was composed of five major divisions: *Astronomy* 天文學, *Geography* 地理學, *Astrology* 命課學, *Time-keeping* 禁漏, and *Calendar-making* 曆算所. The number of astronomers at the bureau increased gradually from the beginning, and reached 100 in the 27th reign year of King Sejong (1445), of which 30 for *Astronomy*, 10 for *Geography*, 10 for *Astrology*, 40 for *Time-keeping*, and 10 for *Calendar-making*. The Prime minister 領議政 of the government was the director of the bureau. Informations on the structure and the officers of the bureau are essential to those who wish to scrutinize the astronomical achievements in the King Sejong's reign period. We have searched the historical records regarding the bureau in various sources, and obtained the results, which are checked with the information given in *Youn-shi* 元史 and *Ming-shi* 明史 of China.