

## **80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures—Historical Relic of Korea**

Preserved in the Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang is the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures printed with 80 000 wooden blocks, which showcases the printing technology of the Korean nation.

It is an encyclopaedia of Buddhism, compiled on the basis of various scriptures and other books on Buddhism of the days of Koryo (918-1392), the first unified state of Korea. It is also called the Koryo Collection of Buddhist Scriptures as it was printed in the days of Koryo.

The first copy, printed in the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, was burnt by foreign invaders. Later, from 1236 to 1251, another copy, which consists of 6 793 volumes of 1 539 kinds, was printed. This is the copy that still remains.

At that time, woodcraft workers made the wooden blocks with birch and other kinds of trees, embossed on each block 23 lines of letters, each line consisting of 14 letters, fixed a bronze belt with a nail on each corner of the block, reinforced both edges so that it would not become twisted, and painted lacquer on the block as a moth deterrent.

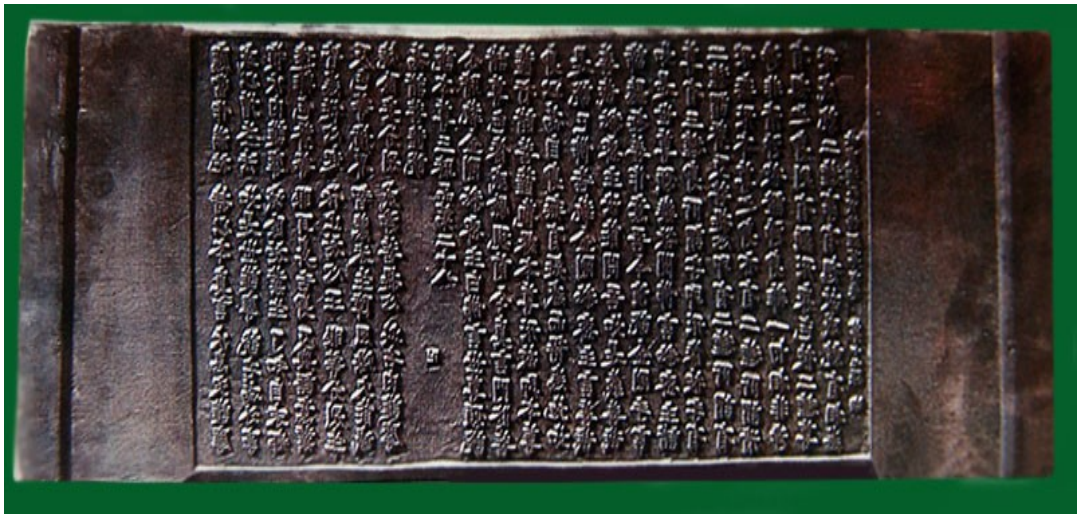
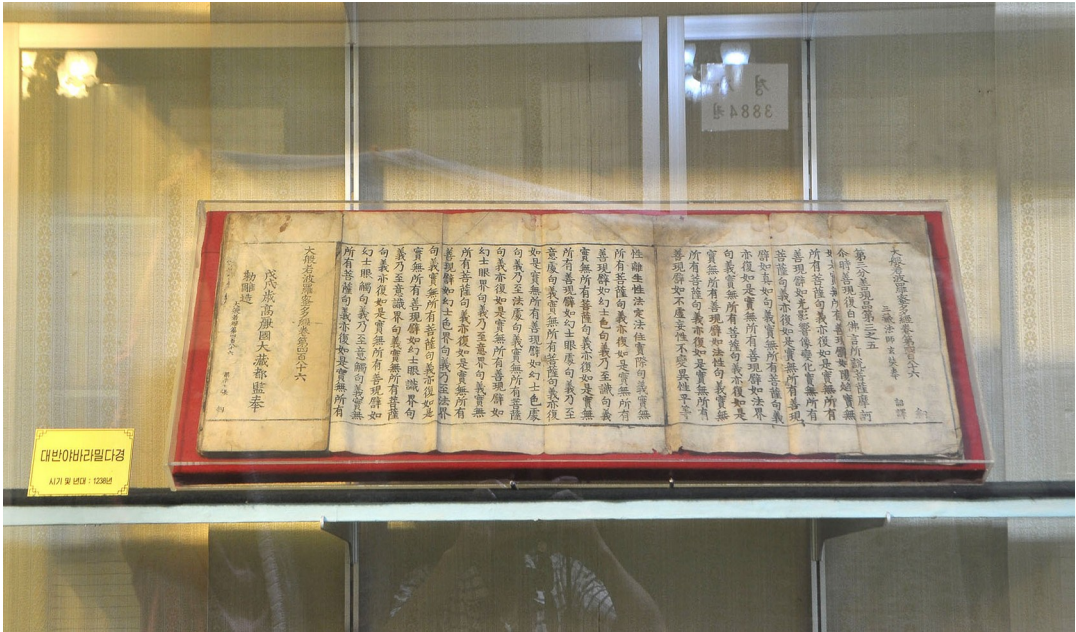
For their delicateness, wooden blocks look like a fine sculpture.

The collection, recognized as the standard one among the many of its kinds, is a national treasure of the Korean nation as well as a cultural asset of the world.



Part of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures preserved in the Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang





Some of the wooden blocks used in printing the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures



Some of the rooms preserving the Complete Collection  
of Buddhist Scriptures



The house in Mt Myohyang, where the 80 000 Blocks  
and the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures  
printed with the blocks are preserved