

Historical Records of Asian Dust Events in Korea

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Records of Asian Dust events were extracted from the historical chronicles of Korea: Samguk sagi (BC 57-AD 938), Goryeo sa(918-1392), and Joseon wangjo sillok(1392-1853) and Munhuenbigoo(~1776). Over 200 records were retrieved, encompassing the period of the last 2000 years. The first record was made in AD 174 in Silla during the period of the Three Kingdoms.

Dust events were first called Woo-Tou standing for dustfall. In ancient times, dust phenomena were considered as a warning to the king from the heaven. The records show that Asian dust events took place most frequently during springtime and there was no occurrence during summertime. This pattern is similar to that of the past century.

Table 1. The records of dust events and yellow fog during the Three Kingdom period (BC 57-AD 938) in Korea

Year	Month	Kingdom ¹	Original record ²	Meaning
174	1	Silla	雨土	Dust fell like rain.
299	10	Goguryeo	黃霧四塞	Yellow fog in all directions
379	4	Baekje	雨土竟日	Dust fell all day.
389	2	Silla	雨土	Dust fell like rain.
500	4	Silla	京都 黃霧四塞	There was yellow fog in all directions in Kyungju, Sillas capital
606	3	Baekje	王都雨土, 晦	The sky of Baekjes capital was darkened like night by dustfall.
627	3	Silla	大風雨土過五日	Dust storm lingered over five days
644	10	Goguryeo	平壤 雪 色赤	Snow tinged with red in Pyungyang
770	3	Silla	雨土	Dust fell like rain.
780	1	silla	黃霧四塞	Yellow fog in all directions
780	2	Silla	雨土	Dust fell like rain.
850	1	Silla	京都雨土	Dust fell in Kyungju, Sillas capital.

1. Chinese characters of the three Kingdoms are 新羅, 高句麗, and 百濟 for Silla, Goguryeo and Baekje, respectively.
2. Original records were written in Chinese characters.

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