Lecture Abstract

Although archaeological discoveries in northeastern China have made available a great deal of data related to the development of the Koguryo state, scholarship in both Korea and China has tended to retain a view of Koguryo origins based on literary survivals, which emphasized migration rather than local development. Byington will offer a new view of Koguryo state origins that emphasizes the relationship between the pre-state Koguryo society and the Han Chinese outposts on Koguryo's periphery to argue that the development of the Koguryo state was largely motivated by internal social reorganization stimulated by this relationship. Byington will also briefly discuss the state of scholarly research on this topic in East Asia.

Dr. Mark E. Byington

Dr. Mark E. Byington received a master's degree in Regional Studies-East Asia and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, both from Harvard University. His research interests include the early history and archaeology of Korea and northeastern China, particularly the Koguryo and Puyo state. He conducted his principal field research at Jilin University in northeastern China, focusing on the early history and archaeology of that region. Byington is presently the founder and director of the Early Korea Project at the Korea Institute at Harvard University, an organization designed to stimulate the development of scholarship on early Korean history and archaeology in the English language.

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