

References for the Laws

MD = Deuchler, Martina. The Confucian Transformation of Korea, Harvard Univ. Press, 1992
 JH = Haboush, JaHyun. "The Confucianization of Korean Society" in Gilbert Rozman, Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation. Princeton University Press, 1991.

THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS: WOMEN LOSE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 1392 - Upper-class girls not allowed to associate with boys after age seven. (MD p.258)
- 1400 - Upper-class women banned from the streets during the day because "they did not have to look after public affairs" (MD p.260)
- 1404 - Women forbidden to go to Buddhist temples (MD p.260)
- 1412 - When a woman did go outside, her face and body must be fully covered. (JH p.106)

THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS: RANKING OF WIVES, SONS, AND CONFINEMENT OF WOMEN

- 1413 - Wives are ranked, with a clear distinction between primary and secondary wives. (MD p.235)
- 1437 - Ancestor rites should be done, not by any son, but by eldest son (MD p.141, 143)
- 1447 - Entire family was punished for "trespasses" of woman
 Women received 100 lashes for temple visit or mountain outing (MD p.260)
- 1450s - Women confined to inner rooms (MD p.261)
- 1462 Women forbidden to ride horseback (JH p.106)

THE NEXT 100 YEARS: REMEMBRANCE OF ANCESTORS TAKES AWAY WOMEN'S INHERITANCE

- 1471 Eldest son officially ranked as preferred heir (MD p.143, 177)
- 1476 Earliest extant genealogy records list sons and daughters in order of their birth (JH p.105)
- 1500s Arrest for failure to do proper ancestor rites (JH p.102)
- 1554 Ancestor ritual now clearly forbid wives any authority; they are responsible only for the food. (MD p.161, 171)
- 1555 - Royal edict finally orders the arrest of those who fail to conform to Confucian rules. This shows that, even after 150 years, many families still allowed all family members to take part. (JH p.102)
- 1600s Women lose control of their own property. Woman's inheritance (land, money, slaves) no longer goes to her directly, because she is not responsible for all those rituals. Inheritance from her own family goes to her husband. (MD p.223)

NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE EXCEPT THEIR NAMES

- 1750 - Genealogies list sons first and then daughters. (JH p.107)
- 1800 - Daughters left out of family registers altogether. Females listed only as "she married a person of the so-and-so clan." (MD p.263)