

Abstract

A Comparative Study of the Self-Motivated Beginning in Copyright Systems

Suh, Kye-Won

The world's first copyright law, the Statute of Anne, was enacted in England in 1709. The Statute of Anne prohibits the monopoly of typographer, introduces the competition of typography and protects the right of authors. In comparison, the Japanese authorities applied the Japanese copyright law to Korean publications in 1908. The first Chinese Copyright Law – the Authors' Rights in the Great Qing Empire - was promulgated in 1910.

It has been known that the concept of copyright began and developed in Europe. In the ancient times, most books had to be written out by hand. In the Middle Ages, books were precious because printing them was a long, arduous process. Books were copied by hand or printed from blocks, a tedious technique where parts of a wood block were cut away to leave an image or characters. The books were only available to clergy and famous scholars.

The purpose of this study is to investigate and analyze the beginning of copyright systems in China and Korea compared with Europe. And also this study is focusing on publication culture as an early stage of copyright. Banggak (Commercial) Publications is the historical material that shows the development of popular publications in the latter part of the Chosun and provides a clue about commercial publications and the development of copyright awareness in those days. It is truly meaningful to investigate the publication culture in Chosun and the Banggak (Commercial) Publications as an Early Stage of Copyright. Hopefully, this study would make a contribution to explaining the beginning of copyright system in Korea.

Keywords : Copyright, Patronage, System of printing privileges, the Statute of Anne, Commercial publishing industry, Exclusive right, Non-monopoly, Free competition, Transmission of knowledge, Banggak (Commercial) publications