Queen Seondeok (r. 632 - 647) of Silla: Korea’s First Queen
Kumja Paik Kim, March 10, 2017

Study Guide

Queen Seondeok 선덕여왕 善德女王 (r. 632-647)
Queen Seondeok’s given name Deokman 德曼; born in Gyeongju 경주 慶州
King Jimpyeong 진평왕 眞平王 (r. 579-632) and Lady Maya 마야보인 摩耶夫人

Monuments built with Queen Seondeok’s Support:
1. Cheomseongdae 첨성대 瞻星臺 (star observing platform or star gazing tower)
2. Bunhwangsa 문황사 芬黃寺, Gyeongju – Venerable Jajang 자장 眞藏 (590–658)
4. Tongdo-sa 통도사 通度寺, 646, Yangsan near Busan – Venerable Jajang

Samguk Sagi 삼국사기 三國史記 (History of the Three Kingdoms) by Kim Bu-sik 김부식 (1075-1151), 1145
Samguk Yusa 삼국유사 三國遺史 (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms) by monk Iryeon 일연 (1206-1289), 1285

Queen Seondeok’s three predictions = Jigi Samsa 지기삼사 知幾三事
Two other Silla Queens = Jindeok 진덕 여왕 (r. 647-654) and Jinseong 진성 여왕 (r. 887-897)
Silla’s Ruling Clans: Pak 박 Hyeokgeose 박혁거세 (r. 69 BCE – 4 CE)
Seok Talhae 석탈해 喜脫解 (r. 57 – 80) 燕 – 鳳 (Seok)
Kim Alji 김알지 金阿森 (67–?)
Michu 味postIda (r. 262-284), the first Silla ruler from the Kim clan
Queen Seondeok’s Sisters: Princess Soenhwa and Princess Cheonmyeong (King Muyeol’s mother)

Silla’s Bone-rank (golpum 骨品) system:
1) sacred-bone (seonggol 성골 圣骨)
2) true-bone (jingol 眞骨 真骨)
3) head-rank (dupum 두품 頭品)

The Great Tomb of Hwangnam, Northern Mound: Hwangnamdaechong Bukbun 황남대총본분 皇南大塚本分
Tomb of the Auspicious Phoenix: Seobong-chong 서봉총 瑞鳳塚
Seoseo 서서 瑞西 (瑞); Bonghwang 봉황 凤凰 (鳳); chong 총 塚
Maripgan 麻立幹 麻立干: Naemul (356-402); Silseong (402-417): Nulji (417-458); Jabi (458-479); Soji (479-500)

Wang 王: From King Jijeung (r. 500-514) onwards all Silla rulers were called Wang. Venerable Wongwang 원광 眞光 (7-630)
Kim Chunchu 김춘추 金春秋, the 29th ruler, King Muyeol 무열왕 武烈王 (r. 654-661) or King Taejong Muyeol 태종무열왕 太宗武烈王
Kim Yu-sin 김유신 金庾信 (595-673), the most decorated Silla general and descendant of King Suro of Gaya

Venerable Jajang, brought Buddha’s relics and introduced the Rules Doctrine, Gyeyul 계율 戒律. Worked closely with Queen Seondeok
King Munmu 문무왕 武宮王 (r. 661-681), Four Heavenly Kings monastery, Sacheonwang-sa 사천왕사 四天王寺, 679

Television Drama: www.youtube.com/korean queen seondeok
Bibliography

Primary Sources:
Iryeon 一然 (1206-1289), Samguk Yusa 三國遺史 (Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms), 1285.
Kim Bu-sik 金富軾 (1075-1151), Samguk Sagi 三國史記 (History of the Three Kingdoms), 1145.

Sources in English:
Gold Crowns of Silla: Treasures from a Brilliant Age, ed. By Lee Hansang and tr. by Junghee Lee (Seoul: Korea Foundation, 2010).


Sources In Korean:


이기영 Yi Gi-yeong, at al., Silla ui Pesa 신라의 폐사 (Ruined Monasteries of Silla) (Seoul: Iljisa, 1974).