

## CONTENTS

<i>EDITORIAL BOARD</i> . . . . .	3
<i>TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH</i> . . . . .	4
<b>I. Ianbay.</b> New Data on the Literature and Culture of the Krimchaks . . . . .	4
<b>Sh. Iakerson.</b> Hebrew Incunabula collection in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York . . . . .	14
<b>M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya, E. Tyomkin.</b> A Fragment of the <i>Prātimokṣa-sūtra</i> from the P. I. Lavrov Collection at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies . . . . .	24
<b>N. Serikoff.</b> Identifying “Acephalous” Manuscripts . . . . .	30
<i>TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION</i> . . . . .	34
<b>D. Kimmage.</b> <i>Sūra</i> 106 in <i>Tafsīrs</i> : Qur’ānic Commentary as a Historical Source . . . . .	34
<i>ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES</i> . . . . .	44
<b>A. Bazarov, S. Syrtyanova, Ol. Rinchinov, H. Garmeva.</b> The <i>Thor Bu</i> Group of Tibetan Books in the Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies: Creation of a Database . . . . .	44
<i>PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT</i> . . . . .	49
<b>T. Pang, G. Stary.</b> On the Discovery of a Printed Manchu Text Based on Euclid’s “Elements” . . . . .	49
<i>OUR ARCHIVE</i> . . . . .	57
<b>V. Germanov.</b> Georgy Nikolaevich Chabrov (1904—1986) and His Works . . . . .	58
<b>G. Chabrov.</b> On the Study of Central Asian Book-binding . . . . .	60
<i>BOOK REVIEWS</i> . . . . .	67
<i>Manuscripta Orientalia</i> in 2000, vol. 6, Nos. 1—4 (list of contributions) . . . . .	70

### Front cover:

“The Holy Family with Attendants”, *Muraqqa’* (E 14) in the collection  
of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Lucknow school, mid-18th century,  
fragment of folio 91 a, 10.0×13.3 cm. Watercolour, gouache.

### Back cover:

“The Madonna Praying before the Crucifix” (top left), “The Madonna of St. Luke” (top right)  
and “Ibrāhīm ibn Adham and Angels”(bottom), *Muraqqa’* (E 14) in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of  
the Institute of Oriental Studies, attributed to Manohar Dās, Mughāl school, ca. 1590—1595, folio 53 a.  
Sizes: 6.0×7.2 cm, 2.8×5.8 cm, 14.8×19.5 cm. Watercolour, ink and gold on paper.

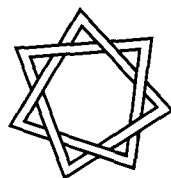
THESA PUBLISHERS  
IN CO-OPERATION WITH  
ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH  
OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES  
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



# Manuscripta Orientalia

*International Journal for Oriental Manuscript Research*

Vol. 6 No. 4 December 2000



**THESA**  
**St. Petersburg**

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Журнал зарегистрирован Северо-западным региональным управлением Госкомитета РФ по печати 24. 03. 2000 г.

Регистрационный номер: П 4312.

Учредитель и издатель — ООО «Теза»

197198, Санкт-Петербург, ул. Добролюбова, д. 14, офис 358.

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## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

*Dear readers,*

*Scholars in the area of Oriental studies understand, perhaps better than others, that all calendars are rather arbitrary. Our work brings us into contact with texts that belong to the most varied cultures, dated in the most varied fashions. We constantly convert dates from one system of chronology to another ... We are well familiar with the arbitrariness of the dates chosen by humankind as starting points to order events of the greatest historical and cultural importance. This in no way reduces the significance of these events in human history, or the role of the calendar as a vital instrument that allows human civilization to link its past and present.*

*One of the world's great civilizations — Christian civilization — is entering its third millennium. The millennial nature of events in our time has led many to reflect on the past and make projections about the future. Despite the diversity of their forecasts, futurologists stand united on one point: the “clock of civilization” is ticking faster, and future decades will usher in vast changes for all humankind and each one of us. These radical changes may cause growing contradictions and lead to conflict. One hopes that the lessons of history — the lessons of the not too much merciful 20th century — will not go unheeded and that the message of peace, justice, and love contained in all the great religions of the world will be heard in all hearts.*

*The beginning of the third millennium marks a convergence of three holidays — Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar, which brings the Christian fast to an end, the Muslim holiday of ‘īd al-ḥiṭr, which closes the fast month of Ramaḍān, and Jewish Hanukah. The editorial board of the journal **Manuscripta Orientalia** sends greetings to all its readers, who today live in more than thirty countries, and wishes them peace, inner peace, peace in their families, and peace in the common abode inhabited by the people of our Earth. May the lovely Persian miniatures on the cover of our journal, which bring together the spiritual legacies of the Abrahamic religions that stem from a common spiritual legacy, remind us all of the arbitrariness of difference and the indubitable unity of all shared values. We wish you a happy new year, new century, new millennium.*

*E. Rezvan, Editor-in-Chief*

# Manuscripta Orientalia in 2000

Vol. 6, Nos. 1—4

## EDITORIAL BOARD

To Our Readers . . . . .	No. 1, pp. 3—4
In Memoriam of Muḥammad Taqī Dāneshpazhūh. 1911—1996 . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 65—68
Season's Greetings to Readers . . . . .	No. 4, p. 3—3

## TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH <sup>1</sup>

<b>A. Sazykin.</b> Mongolian Hand-Written Books . . . . .	No. 1, pp. 5—14
* <b>M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya.</b> A Sanskrit Manuscript on Birch-Bark from Bairam-Ali: I. The <i>Vinaya</i> of the Sarvāstivādins (part 4) . . . . .	No. 1, pp. 15—18
<b>T. Sultanov.</b> A Manuscript of the <i>Tārīkh-i Narshakhī</i> and an Anonymous Remark on the Harmfulness of Tobacco . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 3—7
<b>A. Khalidov.</b> A Kazan Manuscript of <i>Sībawayhi</i> . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 8—9
* <b>M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya.</b> A Sanskrit Manuscript on Birch-Bark from Bairam-Ali: I. The <i>Vinaya</i> of the Sarvāstivādins (part 5) . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 10—16
<b>D. Morozov.</b> An Ancient Russian Manuscript on Central Asian Paper. . . . .	No. 2, pp. 17—19
<b>Val. Polosin.</b> The Arabic Bible: Turning Again to an Old Controversy . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 3—18
* <b>E. Rezvan.</b> On the Dating of an “Uthmānic Qur’ān” from St. Petersburg . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 19—22
* <b>M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya.</b> A Sanskrit Manuscript on Birch-Bark from Bairam-Ali: II. <i>Avadānas</i> and <i>Jātakas</i> (Part 1) . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 23—32
<b>I. Alimov.</b> Song <i>Biji</i> Authoral Collections: “Lofty Judgements by the Palace Gates” by Liu Fu . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 33—38
<b>I. Ianbay.</b> New Data on the Literature and Culture of the Krimchaks . . . . .	No. 4, pp. 4—13
<b>Sh. Iakerson.</b> Hebrew Incunabula Collection in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York . . . . .	No. 4, pp. 14—23
* <b>M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya, E. Tyomkin.</b> A Fragment of the <i>Prātimokṣa-sūtra</i> from the P. I. Lavrov Collection at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies . . . . .	No. 4, pp. 24—29
<b>N. Serikoff.</b> Identifying “Acephalous” Manuscripts . . . . .	No. 4, pp. 30—33

## TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

<b>Z. Vorozheykina.</b> The <i>Ḍiyā’ al-gulūb</i> on Pre-Islamic Beliefs of the Qirghiz . . . . .	No. 1, pp. 19—24
<b>V. Kushev.</b> A Pashtun Ruler and Literary Figure of the Seventeenth Century on Political Ethics . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 20—38
<b>K. Solonin.</b> The Tang Heritage of Tangut Buddhism. Teachings Classification in the Tangut Text “The Mirror” . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 39—48
* <b>E. Tyomkin.</b> Patañjali's Commentary on a <i>Sūtra</i> by Pāṇini V, 3.99 . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 49—50
<b>D. Kimmage.</b> <i>Sūra</i> 106 in <i>Tafsīrs</i> : Qur’ānic Commentary as a Historical Source . . . . .	No. 4, pp. 34—43

## PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS

<b>S. Levitt.</b> Indic and Greater Indic Manuscripts at the Burke Library. . . . .	No. 1, pp. 25—36
<b>Park Songgyu, Ch’oe Töksu, Chōng Ubong, Hō Sunch’öl.</b> Collections of Korean Manuscripts, Block-Prints, and Old-Print Books in Russia . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 39—45
<b>K. Yuzbachian.</b> Armenian Manuscripts in St. Petersburg . . . . .	No. 3, pp. 51—60

## CONSERVATION PROBLEMS

<b>K. Kalinina, E. Shishkova.</b> Some Aspects of Investigation and Conservation of Glue Painting on Paper from Khara Khoto . . . . .	No. 1, pp. 37—44
<b>E. Mikolaychuk.</b> Some Results of an Analysis of Paper from Khara Khoto (Twelfth — Fourteenth Centuries) . . . . .	No. 2, pp. 46—49

<sup>1</sup> In this list of contributions, the articles marked by asterisk were prepared with the financial support of the Russian Humanitarian Scientific Fund.

**F. Cuisance.** Mounting and Early Restorations: the Case of an Accordion Book, *Pelliot Tibetain* 45 . . . . . No. 3, pp. 61—70

*ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES*

**V. Jakobson.** Assyriological Database (Basic Requirements) . . . . . No. 1, pp. 45—48

**A. Matveev.** Perceptions of Central Asia in Russian Society: a Database Project . . . . . No. 3, pp. 49—58

\* **A. Bazarov, S. Syrtyanova, Ol. Rinchinov, Kh. Garmaeva.** The *Thor Bu* Group of Tibetan Books in the Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies: Creation of a Database. . . . . No. 4, pp. 44—48

*PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT*

\* **E. Rezvan.** Yet Another “Uthmānic Qur’ān” (on the History of Manuscript E 20 from the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies) . . . . . No. 1, pp. 49—68

\* **M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya.** An Illustrated Copy of a Georgian Translation of “Kalila and Dimna” . . . . . No. 2, pp. 58—64

**T. Pang, G. Stary.** On the Discovery of a Printed Manchu Text Based on Euclid’s “Elements” . . . . . No. 4, pp. 49—56

*OUR ARCHIVE*

**E. Rezvan.** To Our Readers . . . . . No. 4, p. 57—57

**V. Germanov.** Georgy Nikolaevich Chabrov (1904—1986) and His Works . . . . . No. 4, pp. 58—59

**G. Chabrov.** On the Study of Central Asian Book-Binding . . . . . No. 4, pp. 60—66

*BOOK REVIEWS*

**T. K. Posova, K. L. Chizhikova.** *Kratkii katalog indijskikh rukopisei Instituta vostokovedeniia RAN.* Moskva: Izdatel'skaia firma “Vostochnaia literatura”, 1999, 168 str.

**T. K. Posova, K. L. Chizhikova.** *A Brief Catalogue of Indian Manuscripts at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies.* Moscow: “Vostochnaya Literatura” Publishing House, 1999, 168 pp.

by **M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya, E. Tyomkin** No. 1, pp. 69—70

**Katalog tangutskikh buddiiskikh pamiatnikov Instituta vostokovedeniia Rossiiskoi Akademii Nauk.** Sostavitel' E. I. Kychanov, Vstupitel'naia stat'ia Tatsuo Nisida, izdanie podgotovleno S. Arakava. Kioto: Universitet Kioto, 1999, XLIX, 742 str., ill.

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by **T. Vinogradova** No. 1, pp. 71—72

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by **T. Vinogradova** No. 2, pp. 69—70

**Martin-Dietrich Glessgen.** *Die Falkenheilkunde des “Moamin” im Spiegel ihrer volgarizzamenti: Studien zur Romania Arabica.* S.-Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 1996, 2 vols., XVII, 1152 pp. — Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für romanische Philologie, 269—270.

by **I. Wojewódzki** No. 2, pp. 71—72

**Munazzah Haji Zakaria.** *Katalog Manuskrip Melayu di Afrika Selatan.* Kuala Lumpur: 1998, 91 pp., ill. — Pusat Manuskrip Melayu, Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Siri bibliografi manuskrip, No. 16.

by **Muhammed Haron** No. 3, pp. 71—72

**A. I. Kolesnikov.** *Denezhnoe khoziaistvo v Irane v VII veke.* Moskva: Izdatel'skaia firma “Vostochnaia literatura”, 1998, 416 str. + 16 str. ill.

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by **E. Rezvan** No. 3, p. 72—72

**Radnabhadra.** *“Lunnyĭ svet”. Istoriiā rabdzhām Zaia-pandity.* Faksimile rukopisi. Perevod s oĭratskogo G. N. Rumiantseva i A. G. Sazykina. Transliteratsiia teksta, predislovie, kommentariĭ, ukazateli i primechaniia A. G. Sazykina. Sankt-Peterburg: izdatel'skiĭ tsentr Peterburgskoe Vostokovedenie, 1999, 176 str.

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by **T. Sultanov** No. 4, pp. 67—68

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by **B. Norik** No. 4, pp. 68—69

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## Submissions

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