

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH</i> | 3 |
| E. Kychanov. Unique Tangut Manuscripts on Moral and Ethical Regulations in the Tangut Society | 3 |
| E. Tyomkin. Fragments of the “Saddharmapuṇḍarīka-sūtra” in the I. P. Lavrov manuscript collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. | 9 |
| V. Polosin. To the Method of Describing Illuminated Arabic Manuscripts | 16 |
| <i>TO THE HISTORY OF ORIENTAL TEXTOLOGY.</i> | 22 |
| O. Akimushkin. Textological Studies and the “Critical Text” Problem | 22 |
| <i>PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS.</i> | 29 |
| M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya. The S. E. Malov Collection of Manuscripts in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. | 29 |
| <i>ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES</i> | 40 |
| K. Lagally. Using T _E X as a Tool in the Editing of Multi-Lingual Sources | 40 |
| <i>PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT</i> | 47 |
| I. Petrosyan. An Illustrated Turkish Manuscript of “Iskender-nāme” by Aḥmedī | 47 |
| <i>BOOK AND SOFTWARE REVIEW</i> | 62 |

Colour plates: “Iskender-nāme” by Aḥmedī (1334/35—1412/13), MS C133 from the collection of St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (see p. 47—61).

Front cover:

Fol. 58a. Iskender and Gülshah, 10.7 × 10.9 cm.

Back cover:

Plate 1. Fol. 93b. Iskender Slaying a Dragon, 10.7 × 13.2 cm.

Plate 2. Fol. 140b. The Poet Aḥmedī (?), 10.7 × 14.3 cm.

Plate 3. Fol. 249b. The Religious Dispute in the Presence of Sultan Orkhan, 10.7 × 14.7 cm.

Plate 4. Fol. 254a. The Murder of Sultan Murad I, 10.7 × 14.3 cm.

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E. P. Lebedeva, L. M. Gorelova. *Sidi Kur: sibinskaia versia "Volshebnogo mertvetsa" Teksty v zapisi V. V. Radlova (Sidi Kur: The Sibe-Manchu Version of the "Bewitched Corpse" Cycle Recorded by V. V. Radlov)*. With transliteration and English introduction by Giovanni Stary. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag in Kommission, 1994 (Series: Actas Manjurica. 4).

European scholars pursuing Manchu studies have joint their efforts in the German-Italian series "Actas Manjurica" dedicated entirely to the problems of the Manchu language, culture and history. In 1987 the first volume of the series appeared. Starting from the second volume this series became a German-Italian-Russian joint work coordinated by an international board. This made it possible to include articles written in Russian. This is the reason why the Russian monograph considered in this review appeared in the series of the well-known Harrassowitz publishing house.

The book is addressed first of all to Western scholars. In the preface G. Stary explains the aim of this publication: "'Actas Manjurica" agreed, then to print the research work in its entirety, among other reasons for that of the intellectual properness of so doing. We would neither add, subtract or otherwise alter a jot; we would not try to up-date it using subsequent research, be it European- or Chinese-based.... We decided that any Western specialist has the means to hand of understanding a Russian text" (p. 1).

Since the whole work is written in Russian, the editorial board considered it necessary to include the Latin transliteration of the Sibe-Manchu text (pp. 283—323) to help non-Russian reader to decipher the Russian old Academic transliteration of the original text. The transliteration is done by G. Stary according to the system used in the works of S. Kalužiński (See: *Die Sprache des mandschurischen Stammes Sibe aus der Gegend von Kuldscha*. Warszawa, 1977).

"Sidi Kur: The Sibe-Manchu Version of the "Bewitched Corpse" Cycle" prepared by E. P. Lebedeva and L. M. Gorelova includes several main chapters. It opens with a sketch on the history of the Sibe people based mainly on the research of Russian scholars and archive materials (pp. 7—18). It is followed by a linguistic study on the Sibe dialect of the Manchu language written on the material of the "Sidi Kur" text (pp. 19—103), a vocabulary (pp. 106—224), a Russian translation of "Sidi Kur" and the "Kirgiz story" (pp. 225—82) and a facsimile reproduction of the text copied by V. Kotvich from the original manuscript by V. V. Radlov [90 pp.].

The survey of the linguistic study and the Russian translation of "Sidi Kur" was done by E. P. Lebedeva more than 30 years ago. But in the 60ties, on one hand, there was not much academic interest towards this subject, on the other, the former Soviet Academy of Sciences could not find means to publish it. Now the development of international cooperation and the growing interest towards Manchu studies finally made it possible to publish the book. The linguistic sketch was revised and supplemented by L. M. Gorelova with some new materials from J. Norman (Sketch of Sibe Morphology. — *Central Asiatic Journal*, no. 3, 1974) and K. Yamamoto (A Classified Dictionary of Spoken Manchu. Tokyo, 1969) studies of the Sibe. She has also compiled a fine Sibe-Russian vocabulary of the text,

and made a Russian translation of the "Kirgiz story". The authors did not use the latest Japanese publication of the "Kirgiz story" (see: Jiro Ikegami. W. Radloff's Texts of the Ili Dialect of Manchu: A Kirgiz Story, 1—2, in: *Sapporo University, Women's Junior College Journal*, XII, no. 32, Sept. 1988, pp. 1—16, and no. 14, Sept. 1989, pp. 17—30) as well as numerous Chinese works dealing with this subject (for publications on the Sibe dialect at least till 1988 see: G. Stary. *Manchu Studies. An International Bibliography*. Vol. 2. Wiesbaden, 1990, pp. 749—54). This could be justified, if we accept the linguistic part only as a study of the language of one definite text. I would like to point out that the authors rightly call Sibe a dialect of Manchu, while in scholarly literature, especially in China, we may often see that this dialect is called the "Sibe language". The European tradition often uses the term "Sibe-Manchu language", stressing that it is a variant of Manchu.

In the main part concerning the morphology of the Sibe dialect the authors speak about nominative and verbal parts of speech, as well as adverbs and auxiliary words that include postpositions, conjunctive words, particles, adverbial and auxiliary parts of speech. Some space is given to reduplication and alliterating words. This classification was suggested in the works of A. V. Avrorin on the grammar of the Nanai language [see: A. V. Avrorin. *Grammatika nanaiskogo iazyka* (Grammar of the Nanai Language). Vol. 1—2. Moskva—Leningrad, 1959—1961] (on other classification-systems of Manchu parts of speech see: J. Norman. Sketch of Sibe morphology. — *CAJ*, no. 3, 1974; E. Haensch. *Manchu-Grammatik mit Lesestücken und 23 Texttafeln*. Leipzig, 1961 and others). The nominative group includes: 1. names of persons, 2. names of subjects, 3. names of quality, 4. numerals (p. 33). The names of persons differ from the names of subjects only by their attribution to a human being (p. 35). The traditional grammar unifies these groups in one substantive part of speech that includes nouns referring to persons (and having their own suffix system) and to subjects (see the grammar of Chinese and of other languages based on the same patterns). The names of quality (p. 39—42) actually include traditional adjectives.

The morphological research is followed by some remarks on the Sibe phonetics, its vowels, consonants and a correlation between Sibe and written Manchu (pp. 21—30).

After the chapter on linguistics comes a Sibe-Russian vocabulary of "Sidi Kur" and the "Kirgiz Story" in which the authors refer to the works of K. Yamamoto, O. A. Ivanovsky and the Comparative Tungus-Manchu Dictionary edited by V. I. Cincius (Vol. 1—2. Leningrad, 1975—1977). This is actually the first printed Sibe-Russian vocabulary especially useful when reading spoken-language materials, most of them recorded by Russian scholars at the beginning of this century. This vocabulary follows the tradition of modern lexicographic works (see: G. Stary. *Taschenwörterbuch Sibemandschurisch-Deutsch*. Wiesbaden, 1990; Jin Ning. *Sibe-English Conversations*. With foreword, edited by G. Stary. Wiesbaden, 1993).

As I have mentioned above, the Latin transliteration and the facsimile of the text are of special value for European readers. As the authors state in their preface, they present Radlov's text copied by V. Kotvich. They also mention, that the original text recorded by Radlov is kept partly in the Archives of Orientalists among the papers of

2.



Записи
манускриптных источников
(акц. шрифтом)

A. O. Ivanovsky (Fond 20, opis' 1, no. 17). This file contains the Sibe texts of several stories, among them of "Sidi Kur", "The Kirgiz Story", "The Voyage from Kashgar to Kuldzha". All these were recorded by Radlov according to the Russian academic transliteration system on folded sheets of yellowish paper (18 × 22.5 cm), in black ink. It is not a complete text of "Sidi Kur", it starts from the middle of the second story (pp. 15—6 of the reproduced copy). As the authors note, for a long period of time Radlov's text was considered to be lost, and the only known copy was the one made by V. Kotvich (pp. 1—2). This very copy is reproduced in the book under review. Though the review genre usually does not include facsimile reproductions, still I use the advantage of my position in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental studies to take Radlov's text from our Archives and present one of its pages here (see plate 1 and 2). As one can see, the handwriting of V. V. Radlov is rather difficult, so the facsimile by Kotvich and the Latin transliteration given in the book could be of much use.

O. F. Akimushkin. *Opisanie persidskikh i tadzhikskikh rukopisei instituta vostokovedeniia.* Fasc. 10. *Poeticheskie sborniki, al'bomy.* Moskva: Nauka, Izdatel'skaya firma "Vostochnaia literatura", 1993 (*The Description of the Persian and Tajik Manuscripts of the Institute of Oriental Studies. Anthologies of Poetry, Albums.* Vol. 10. Moscow: "Vostochnaya Literatura" Publishing House, 1993. — 300 pp.

Those who are interested in the History of the Middle East, in its Literature and Culture may be happy to hear about the appearance of the fascinating Catalogue by Dr. O. Akimushkin (the book was prepared for publication more than ten years ago), which can be read both for pleasure, as well as to get information, by specialists in the field of codicology and manuscriptology and by amateur orientologists. It maintains the high standard set by the earlier volumes in this series in accordance with the scheme, established by Russian orientologists under the supervision of Dr. Miklukho-Maclay in 1953.

The publication is the 10th volume of the series "The Description of the Persian and Tajik MSS of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences", which contains data on 57 works in 58 MSS from the St. Petersburg branch collection (the anthology by 'Abd al-Karim Fazli is represented in two copies). The MSS were made in Central Asia, Iran, Turkey, Afganistan, Eastern Turkestan and Southern Russia (the Volga region).

Most of the anthologies and albums (the corresponding terms in Persian — bayaz, jung, safina, majmu'a) were written in Persian, in early Persian or in Tajik. Some of the albums of Central Asian origin have poems in Azerbaijan and Uzbek. There are also bilingual works, composed in Iran — in Kurdish, Turkish, Chaghatay and in various local dialects. Chronologically the described MSS vary be-

tween the 15th century and 1914. The earliest one dates back to zu-l-qa'da 935/July-August 1529 (no. C 860/Catalogue no. 3), which is a wonderful illuminated copy, richly decorated, with two miniatures characteristic to the Mawerannahr school of the first half of the 16th century — which is testified by its script and binding. The copy called "jung" and "majmu'a" represents a collection of short poems — ghazals by 11 poets: Khusraw Dihlawi, Hafiz, Jami, Kamal Khujandi and others. It was made by famous Herat calligrapher Mir 'Ali al-Husayni al-Katib Haravi, evidently for the Court Library in Bukhara.

Fig. 1. A title "Recordings of the Manchu stories in Academic script" in V. V. Radlov's handwriting.

Fig. 2. Manchu text in transliteration done by V. V. Radlov. The beginning of the 5th story of "Sidi Kur" (it refers to p. 46 of the Kotvich's copy and pp. 302—3 of the Latin transliteration in the book under review.)

T. Pang

twen the 15th century and 1914. The earliest one dates back to zu-l-qa'da 935/July-August 1529 (no. C 860/Catalogue no. 3), which is a wonderful illuminated copy, richly decorated, with two miniatures characteristic to the Mawerannahr school of the first half of the 16th century — which is testified by its script and binding. The copy called "jung" and "majmu'a" represents a collection of short poems — ghazals by 11 poets: Khusraw Dihlawi, Hafiz, Jami, Kamal Khujandi and others. It was made by famous Herat calligrapher Mir 'Ali al-Husayni al-Katib Haravi, evidently for the Court Library in Bukhara.

Being a well-qualified manuscriptologist, Dr. Akimushkin has thoroughly reviewed more than 140 manuscripts before choosing 58 of them, which satisfy the main aim of the Description — all the works, represented in the MSS albums were to be the works of the genre of little form (ghazals, ruba'i, mathnawi, short examples of the ornamented prose).

The publication contains an introduction, a list of abbreviations, a list of works, a list of MSS and indices:

1. index of authors, commentators, and of those mentioned in the annotations;
2. index of titles;
3. index of geographical names;
4. index of copyists;
5. index of places of copying;
6. index of MSS owners;
7. index of clients/customers;
8. index of binders;
9. correspondence index between the number of the MSS and the number of the description;
10. index of dates;
11. index of collections;
12. index of illuminated MSS.