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Front cover:

“Mullā Du-Piyāza”, watercolour, gouache on paper, Hyderabad, mid-18th century. Miniature in Album (Muraqqa‘) X 3, in the Fabergé collection at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, fol. 6a, 15.0 × 23.0 cm (inside the frame).

Back cover:

- Plate 1.** *Manāqih-i Murtazaawī* by Amīr Muhammad Šālih al-Husaynī al-Tirmidhī, manuscript C 1684 in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, fol. 1b, 17.2 × 27.6 cm.
- Plate 2.** “*Dīwān* of ‘Alī”, miniature in the same manuscript. Watercolour, gouache on paper, first half of the 18th century, fol. 13b, 10.7 × 16.2 cm.
- Plate 3.** “‘Alī and the petitioner”, miniature in the same manuscript. Watercolour, gouache on paper, first half of the 18th century, fol. 40b, 10.7 × 16.0 cm.
- Plate 4.** “‘Alī on the march”, miniature in the same manuscript. Watercolour, gouache on paper, first half of the 18th century, fol. 95a, 10.7 × 17.2 cm.

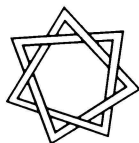
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BOOK REVIEWS

K. S. Jachontov. *Katalog mandjurischer Handschriften und Blockdrucke in den Sammlungen der Bibliothek der Orientalischen Fakultät der Sankt-Petersburger Universität. Aus dem russischen Manuscript übersetzt und herausgegeben von Hartmut Walravens. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2001. — Orientalistik Bibliographien und Documentationen. Band 14.*

St. Petersburg Oriental book and manuscript collections are known to be the richest in Europe. The Manchu materials are mainly divided between three depositories: the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences), the National Library of Russia and the St. Petersburg State University Oriental faculty library. Nowadays, all collections have scientific catalogues, and their publication was started by M. Volkova in 1965 with the *Opisanie man'chzhurskikh rukopisei Instituta narodov Azii AN SSSR* (Description of the Manchu Manuscripts of the Institute of the Peoples of Asia, USSR Academy of Sciences). Later it was followed by two other catalogues of the Institute Manchu collection (M. P. Volkova, *Opisanie man'chzhurskikh ksilografv Instituta vostokovedeniia AN SSSR* (Description of the Manchu Blockprints of the Institute of Oriental Studies, USSR Academy of Sciences), issue 1, Moscow, 1988; and T. Pang, *Descriptive Catalogue of Manchu Manuscripts and Blockprints in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. Russian Academy of Sciences*, issue 2, Wiesbaden, 2001). There is also a catalogue compiled by K. S. Jachontov: *Man'chzhurskie rukopisi i ksilografy Gosudarstvennoi Publichnoi biblioteki imeni M. E. Saltykova-Shchedrina* (Manchu Manuscripts and Blockprints at the Saltykov-Schedrin State Public Library), Leningrad, 1991. Thus, the catalogue under review can be considered as the final publication in a series of descriptions of Manchu holdings at St. Petersburg.

The Manchu collection of the St. Petersburg State University Oriental faculty library was officially started in 1856 when the Kazan University Oriental library manuscripts and blockprints were transferred to St. Petersburg. The collection already contained the books of the members of the Russian Ecclesiastical mission to Peking — Z. Leontyevsky (1799—1874), I. Voicckhovsky (1793—1850), as well as of O. Kovalevsky (1800—1778) and many others. Later it was systematically enlarged to meet the needs of professors and students of the University. For example, the first dean of the faculty, V. Vasilyev (1818—1900), who had spent many years in China, bought, on his

own initiative, the samples of Chinese and Manchu literature in 5—10 copies which now constitute the so-called Vasilyev students fond. His personal interest was Buddhist literature, and thanks to him the library possesses a rich set of Buddhist texts in Manchu translation. The Manchu holdings also include private collections of the former professors of Manchu like I. I. Zakharov (1816—1889) and A. Ivanovsky (1863—1903). The students and professors of the Oriental faculty used to take part in annual expeditions to Manchuria, and China proper, and purchased there materials for the library.

The repertoire of Manchu manuscripts and blockprints in the St. Petersburg University collection is very similar to that of European collections and includes translations from Chinese of various historical, classical, religious texts and literature works, not to mention a rich set of teaching materials like dictionaries and readers. However, the collection stands out because of some rare samples it possesses. After the St. Petersburg collections had been described, it became clear that the St. Petersburg State University collection may be considered the second in size and importance (not the first as the author of the catalogue under review states on p. 9) in Europe after a big collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies.

It is a considerable step forward that this collection has finally got its printed catalogue. But the fate of the catalogue by Jachontov was not easy at all. It was made as a master degree work in 1986, and to this work of him he never returned. The translator and editor of the catalogue, H. Walravens, took the Russian manuscript from the author for probable future publication. Wholly understanding the importance of the material Jachontov's work contained, Walravens prepared its German translation in 1989. But because of some technical reasons the translation has not been published until 2001.

While working on the present publication, the translator faced several specific problems. In the preface, Walravens remarks that “this work could be defined as a ‘youth work’ of the author who today most probably would have changed several things. In spite of the irrelevant time problem, the catalogue is published without revising”. He also notes that not being acquainted with the collection *de visu*, he corrects only evident mistakes in transcription and translation, using other published catalogues; he also adds that mistakes in the descriptions of rare editions can be found only by consulting them. “Nevertheless”, the editor says, “the work attains the main aim of making the big St. Petersburg University Manchu collection accessible”.

The catalogue includes 467 entries and the material is arranged according to 16 topics: classics, didactic texts, teachings of the emperors, philosophy and religion, history, law and administration, military works, geography, astronomy and calendars, medicine, dictionaries, grammars, readers, letters, exercise books, and literature works. Some entries, e.g. Nos. 156, 158, 230, include from 10 to 30 different texts. The main body of the catalogue is followed by 11 indices of Manchu, Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Sanskrit and other titles, index of languages, concordance, index of personal names, publishing houses and previous owners.

Every text is described according to the scheme which consists of 17 items. The entry description starts with a list of call numbers where only the first one indicates the actual number under which the document is kept in the library (marked by Md or Plg). All the other numbers, though given alongside, refer to the previous collections and are useful only for studying the history of acquisitions. A common practice is to indicate these numbers within a description text in order not to create confusion.

Unfortunately, the scheme is not strictly followed with concern to technical characteristics of the edition: the number of folios in fascicles and lines per page (number 16 of the scheme) is mentioned only in a few cases (see for example, description No. 30), although this information is rather important for the identification of copies of the same text, scattered in various libraries, and of its different editions in case the text was printed from different boards.

The dates are established by the author of the catalogue not always correctly, for example, on p. 17 "The Four Books" (No. 1) is given the date 14 December Ch'ien-lung 20 (1755), which is not December of 1755, but January 15, 1756. In the Russian original, Jachontov indicates "14 chisto 12-go mesiatza" ("the 14th of the 12th month"), which I suggest to translate as "a moon", specifying that the date is given according to the lunar year.

Also, the author does not indicate the books which belonged to A. Ivanovsky, a student of I. Zakharov and later the University professor of Manchu. His books are marked with his personal four-character riddle *ex-libris* (description Nos. 36 and 329). The same *ex-libris* is found on the Manchu and Chinese books kept at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies; some of these books also bear the name of Ivanovsky. Since the author of the catalogue failed to identify the owner of these books, his name is absent in the index of owners.

Many texts described are lacking the title page; in this case the title is either reconstructed by the author or the edition is indicated as lacking a title. But in a number of cases the author just did not find it. It is now evident thanks to the multilingual editions listed in the recently published "Catalogue of the Mongolian Manuscripts and Xylographs in the St. Petersburg State University Library", compiled by V. Uspensky, Tokyo, 2001. Uspensky has consulted in his work the Manchu collection. For example, a reference book for the recitation of Sanskrit *dhāraṇīs* (No. 400) has

a Manchu title, *Han-i araha manju monggo tanggūt hergen-i kamciha tarni hūlara arga*, as well as Mongolian and Tibetan titles (cf. Uspensky, *op. cit.*, p. 839). Further, a Buddhist text in four languages (No. 141) is described in Jachontov's Russian manuscript catalogue as having no title. Walravens reconstructs the title from other printed catalogues, while the original Manchu title is indicated by Uspensky as *Jalafungga sure-i cargi dalin de akūnaha niyaman sere ging* (see Uspensky, *op. cit.*, p. 28).

The text of No. 303 in two languages, Manchu and Mongolian, has a Manchu title — *Mujilen be dasara oyonggo hacin-i bithe* — translated in the edition as "Wichtige Abteilung der Heilung des Herzens". It is a collection of moral precepts, not a medical book as the author states, and should be listed in the other topic division (cf. Uspensky, *op. cit.*, p. 927).

A rare acupuncture text (No. 302), *Sabsire suiha sindara*, in the Russian manuscript and its German edition is given with a misprint. The text is in effect a version of an illustrated manuscript kept at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies (see T. Pang, "A Manchu manuscript on acupuncture", *Manuscripta Orientalia*, V/2, June 1999, pp. 65—70).

Every description of the edition is followed by bibliographical data and references to other printed catalogues. But the reader should bear in mind that Jachontov's catalogue was compiled 15 years ago, and it does not include references to many catalogues published since then in the USA, Europe, Russia, and China. The information contained in the catalogue does not reflect the modern state of our knowledge of Manchu books preserved in the world collections. It is worth noting here that the already cited catalogue by V. Uspensky on Mongolian materials and that of T. Pang on Manchu materials in St. Petersburg libraries were published earlier than the catalogue under discussion. They include information on Manchu materials listed in Jachontov's catalogue, with reference to the call numbers. Therefore, the catalogue would have benefited from the inclusion of a concordance of entry and call numbers.

The catalogue under review leaves a feeling that the author has not revised his manuscript version, which has the effect that many omissions are unfortunately present. The bibliographical information, although added by the translator, misleads the reader.

Despite all these omissions, the University librarians and scholars in general should thank both the author of the catalogue and its German editor and translator, H. Walravens, for their work. We are especially grateful to H. Walravens, who saw the importance of the University collection and made it available by publishing its German version. From now on the Manchu collection of the St. Petersburg State University is open not only to the immediate readers of the library, who could use Jachontov's Russian type-written catalogue, but to the international scholarly world as well.

T. Pang