



Korean orchestra

The Korean collection of the IOM RAS consists mainly of the books purchased by several foreign diplomats who resided in Korea during the late 19th century. These diplomats were interested in manuscripts and blockprints dealing with the geographical location of Korea, her administration, laws and the spiritual culture of the nation. The collection includes some very interesting historical and fiction books, as well as unique examples of the first Korean textbooks and Chinese classics annotated in Korean language. The aim of those popular editions was to spread Confucian ideas among common people.



Dancing shaman



Kankai ibun (Mysterious records of the surrounding seas)

The manuscripts from the collection of the captain of a merchant ship Daykokuya Kodayu laid the foundation of the Japanese collection in the late 18th century. He found his way into Russia following a shipwreck. The most valuable materials are the textbooks and dictionaries, which were compiled by Japanese Gonza in 1736–1739. The separate category in this collection is the literary monuments dedicated to the Russian-Japanese contacts. The exhibition presents the descriptions of Japanese cities and provinces, maps of Japan, the detailed urban plans, the sources about the inhabitants of the Hokkaido and Sakhalin Islands.



**The Great Interior:
pictures of everyday life of the women connected to shogun**



Exhibition

«The manuscript treasures of the East
on the banks of the Neva River»
for participants of the XV St. Petersburg
International Economic Forum
(16 – 18 June 2011)

One of the most valuable collections of Oriental Manuscripts in the world, and the largest in Russia, is kept in St. Petersburg, at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences (IOM RAS). The total number of the Collection is c. 100,000 items, composed in sixty-five Oriental languages, both current and ancient.



Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences
191186 Russia, St. Petersburg, Dvortsovaya emb., 18
Phone +7 (812) 315-87-28, fax +7 (812) 312-14-65
<http://www.orientalstudies.ru>



Abū Muhammad al-Qāsim al-Harīrī. Al-Maqāmāt

The collection of Arabic manuscripts at the IOM RAS includes 10,700 pieces of which 5,200 are in Arabic. Almost all fields of knowledge, all kinds and genres of literature and all stages in the development of Arabic writing are represented in this collection, such as the Qur'an and Qur'anic sciences, Hadith, dogmatic theology, Islamic law, philosophy, philology, lexicography, literature (prose and poetry), history, geography, cosmography, mathematics, astronomy, encyclopedias, science, the occult sciences, medicine, military science, music, etc.



Qur'an. Kufi writing, parchment

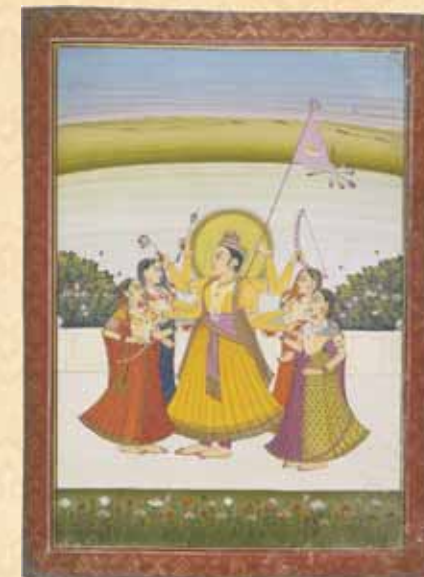


The god of Jupiter planet. Khara-Khoto

The Chinese collection of the IOM, in addition to rare manuscripts and block-prints of the 18th–19th centuries, contains unique literary monuments from the 5th–13th centuries from Dunhuang and Khara-Khoto. The famous library of Dunhuang was accidentally discovered in a walled-up room of a Buddhist monastery in 1900, and today about 15–18% of its manuscripts and documents are kept in St. Petersburg. Written Monuments in the language of the Tangut people, who inhabited the territory of Inner Mongolia till the 13th century, have no corresponding texts anywhere in the world. The collection also provides beautifully decorated manuscripts and albums of military conquests of Emperor Qianlong (18th c.), rare historical and literary works, maps and dictionaries.



Prajñāparamitā-hṛdaya-sūtra. Miniatures on the bodhi leafs



Album of Old Indian Mythology. Vishnu and Krishna cult

The Indian collection includes more than 600 manuscripts in thirty languages of India and South-East Asia. It presents the manuscripts in Vedic and Sanskrit of different ages, in Pali and Prakrits, in Hindi, Panjabi, Nepali, Bengali, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu, different writing systems of India and other neighboring countries in the Indian area, the manuscripts on palm leaves and birch bark. An extremely valuable Siamese manuscript «Vasuddhimagga» («The Way to Purity»), and a unique Sanskrit manuscript on paper of the 16th century «Bhāvanākrama» by Kamalashila, will be displayed at the exhibition. The collection of the IOM RAS is rich in Mughal miniatures, which represent a synthesis of the Iranian, European and Indian traditions of painting.



Bhagavadgīta. Sanskrit