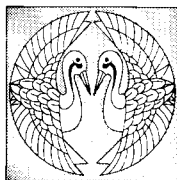


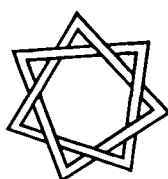
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A MANCHU DOCUMENT FROM 1663 CONCERNING THE IMPERIAL PALACE IN SHENYANG

In any times it was a difficult and expensive enterprise to maintain and preserve great architectonic complexes like the Imperial Palace in Shenyang, China. Nowadays, modern technology gives a precious help in conservation activity, while in ancient times different materials now out of use had to be employed.

An example of what was needed to paint the rooms which were added behind the *Qingninggong* 清寧宮 in Shenyang in 1663 is found in a Manchu document, a report to the Emperor made by Fiyanggū 費揚古, head of the *Neiwufu* 內務府, and by the dignitaries Niyahan 尼亞罕, Šanghing 尚興, Indari 音達哩, Šemi 施密

and Lio Bang-gui 劉邦貴. Its date corresponds to June 5th, 1663 [1].

The list contains 39 entries, among which is the exact number of sieves, brooms and buckets needed. The most interesting entries are the different colours and other construction materials used for this work, altogether more than 10,000 kg.

Sometimes the translation is difficult because of some Manchu technical terms which cannot be found in any dictionary. However, the document is a very unusual and rare evidence for the history of Shenyang's Imperial Palace, and allows us to look deeply inside the old palace-building techniques.

Transcription

Dorgi baita be uheri kadalara yamun i booi amban Fiyanggū sei gingguleme wesimbu-rengge.

Hese be baire jalin: booi weilere jurgan i alibuhangge. meni jurgan. dangse be baicaci. duleke aniya

Genggiyen elhe gung ni amala nonggime araha orin nadan giyan i boo be. nirume ioleki sembi sehe wesimbuhede.

Hese. ishun aniya weile sehe be gingguleme dahafi. te meni jurgan nirume iolere de baibure okto i jergi hacin be bodoci tungnio ilan minggan sunja tanggū juwan gin. tuze ilan tanggū susai emu gin. toseng orin nadan gin. piyal fulgiyan boihon juwe tanggū nadanju gin. se sirge ninggun gin juwan juwe yan. suwayan giowanze juwan ninggun da. muke amdun ilan tanggū nadanju jakūn gin. guwa el fun emu tanggū gūsin gin. diyan hūwa emu tanggū gin. ding fun emu tanggū gin. el lioi emu tanggū gūsin gin. da lioi duin tanggū gin. io hūwang jakūnju gin. cing fun emu tanggū gūsin gin. teng hūwang juwan ilan gin. fiyan emu minggan ilan tanggū turha. cinuhūn juwe tanggū dehi emu gin. hūwangdan ilan tanggū nadanju jakūn gin. [be]he ilan gin. san lioi dehi gin. sahaliyan ku ninggun gin. fekšun orin gin. mei hūwa cing emu tanggū susai gin. amba fulgiyan feigin jakūnju kuwai. amba suwayan feigin nadanju sunja kuwai. feigin latubure nimenggi emu tanggū gin. yoohan emu gin sunja yan. asu boso jakūnju emu. solho hoošan susai nadan afaha. deijire moo duin minggan nadan tanggū juwan gin. moo yaha ninggun tanggū gin. fuka jakūnju. sisku juwan juwe. erku juwan uyun. muke tatakū duin. hūnta juwe tanggū nadanju gin. jima malanggū nimenggi susai duin gin. maise ufa juwe minggan emu tanggū ninju gin. šanggiyan doho ilan minggan sunja tanggū juwan gin baibumbi sembi seme alibuhabi: erebe amban meni gisurehengge. jima malanggū nimenggi. maise ufa. doho. muke amdun. deijire moo. moo yaha. sisku. erku. muke tatakū be. dorgi harangga jurgan ci gaiifi baitalara ci tulgiyen gūwa hacin be boigon i jurgan ci gaiifi baitalakini sembi: amban meni cisui gamara ba waka ofi gingguleme wesimbuhe.

Hese be baimbi:

Elhe taifin i jai aniya duin biyai gūsin

*booi amban bime uju jergi hiya emu jergi nonggiha amban Fiyanggū:
amban Niyahan:*

*booi weilere jurgan i icihiyara hafan bime emu jergi nonggiha amban Šanghing:
amban Indari.*

*aisilakū hafan amban Šemi:
amban Lio Bang-gui:*

Translation

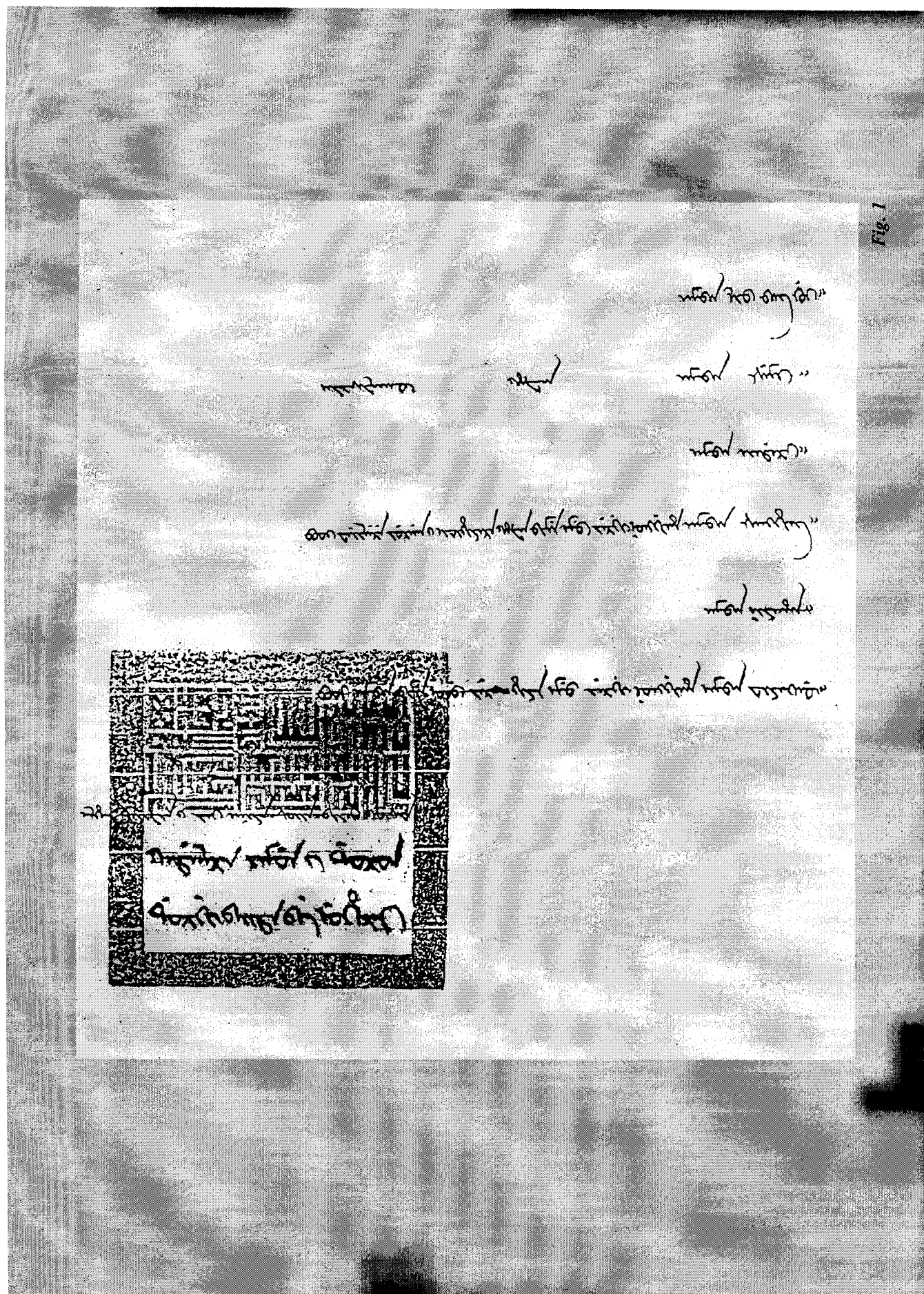
Respectful report of Fiyanggū, Director of the Imperial Household Department, and others, in order to ask for an Imperial Order:

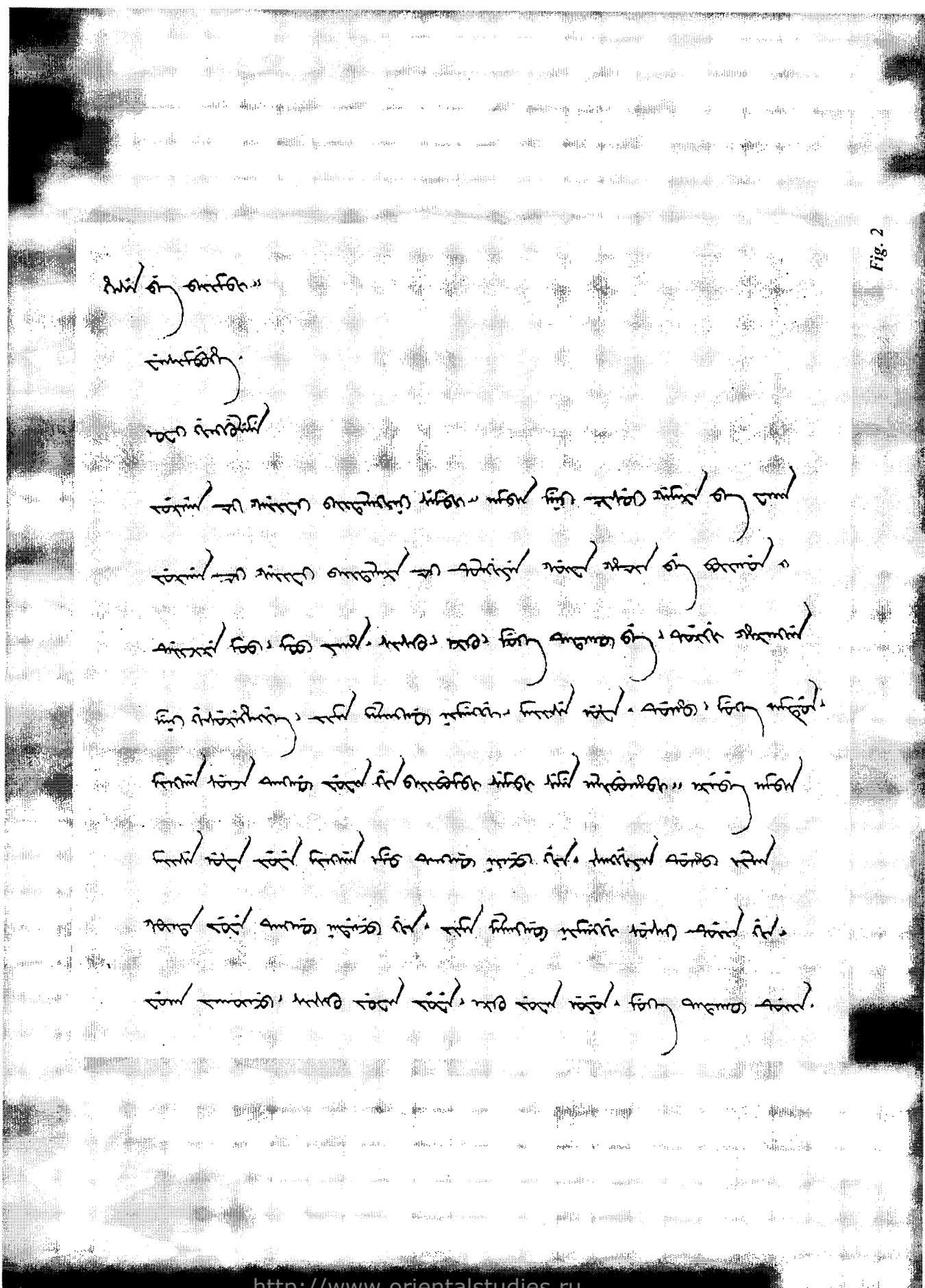
after our Board has examined the documents delivered by the Imperial Board of Works, containing the report on the painting of twenty seven rooms added last year behind the “Genggiyen Elhe Gung”, and in respectful execution of the Imperial order to start the work next year, our Board has now calculated the [following] colours and other things needed for painting:

Oil from seeds of “Aleurites cordata” (<i>tungnio</i>)	3510 <i>gin</i> (2123,5 kg) [2]
Clay used for boiling oil (<i>tuze</i>)	351 <i>gin</i> (212 kg)
Yellow shell-powder (<i>toseng</i>)	27 <i>gin</i> (16,3 kg)
Red slate-powder (<i>piyan fulgiyan boihon</i>)	270 <i>gin</i> (163,3 kg)
Raw silk (<i>se sirge</i>)	6 <i>gin</i> 2 <i>yan</i> (3,7 kg)
Yellow coarsely woven raw silk (<i>suwayan giowanze</i>)	16 <i>da</i> (25,6 m)
Water-glue (<i>muke amdun</i>)	378 <i>gin</i> (228,7 kg)
White powder called “Melon powder” (<i>guwa el fun</i>)	130 <i>gin</i> (78,6 kg)
Indigo (<i>diyan hūwa</i>)	100 <i>gin</i> (60,5 kg)
White lead-powder (<i>ding fun</i>)	100 <i>gin</i> (60,5 kg)
Dark green (<i>el lioi</i>)	130 <i>gin</i> (78,6 kg)
Bright green (<i>da-lioi</i>)	400 <i>gin</i> (242 kg)
“Oily” brimstone (<i>io hūwang</i>)	80 <i>gin</i> (48,4 kg)
Calomel (<i>cing fun</i>)	130 <i>gin</i> (78,6 kg)
Gamboge (<i>teng hūwang</i>)	13 <i>gin</i> (7,8 kg)
Rouge (<i>fiyan</i>)	1300 doses
Cinnabar (<i>cinahūn</i>)	241 <i>gin</i> (145,8 kg)
Yellow lead ore (<i>hūwangdan</i>)	378 <i>gin</i> (228,7 kg)
Ink (<i>behe</i>)	3 <i>gin</i> (1,8 kg)
Powdered green (<i>san lioi</i>)	40 <i>gin</i> (24,2 kg)
Black soot (<i>sahaliyan ku</i>)	6 <i>gin</i> (3,6 kg)
Alum (<i>fekšun</i>)	20 <i>gin</i> (12,5 kg)
Plum blossom colour (<i>mei hūwa cing</i>)	150 <i>gin</i> (90,7 kg)
Big red gold leaves (<i>amba fulgiyan feigin</i>)	80 pieces
Big yellow gold leaves (<i>amba suwayan feigin</i>)	75 pieces
Glue to stick the gold leaves (<i>feigin latubure nimenggi</i>)	100 <i>gin</i> (60,5 kg)
Cotton (<i>yoohan</i>)	1 <i>gin</i> 5 <i>yan</i> (0,8 kg)
Net[-like] cloth (<i>asu boso</i>)	81 sheets
Korean paper (<i>solho hoošan</i>)	57 sheets
Fire-wood (<i>dejire moo</i>)	4710 <i>gin</i> (2849,5 kg)
Charcoal (<i>moo yaha</i>)	600 <i>gin</i> (363 kg)
Jars (<i>fuka</i>)	80
Sieves (<i>sisku</i>)	12
Brooms (<i>erku</i>)	19
Waterbuckets (<i>muke tatakū</i>)	4
Hemp (<i>hūnta</i>)	270 <i>gin</i> (163,3 kg)
White sesame oil (<i>jima malanggū nimenggi</i>)	54 <i>gin</i> (32,6 kg)
Corn flower (<i>maise ufa</i>)	2160 <i>gin</i> (1306,8 kg)
White lime (<i>šanggiyan doho</i>)	3510 <i>gin</i> (2123,5 kg)

We, the dignitaries, have discussed this matter and we [propose to] take white sesame oil, corn flower, lime, glue, fire-wood, charcoal, sieves, brooms, and waterbuckets from [our] Court Ministry; beyond these, all other things should be taken from the Board of Revenue.

But we, the dignitaries, cannot manage it on our own initiative. [Therefore], we have made a respectful report, asking for an Imperial order.





[illegible]

The 20th day of the 4th month of the 2d year of Elhe Taifin.

Dignitary Fiyanggū, Department Director, Imperial Bodyguard of the first rank, [with] one rank added, [and] dignitary Niyahan.

Dignitary Šanghing, Department director of the Imperial Board of Works, [with] one rank added, [and] dignitary Indari.

Dignitary Šemi, Assistant Department director, [and] dignitary Lio Bang-gui.

* * *

The main problem in analyzing this document consists in the identification of the materials requested: the most part of the terms used there is of Chinese origin, and therefore is difficult to be identified without the ideograms. Some other terms are in “technical Manchu” and are not

found, as we have already pointed out, in the eastern or western dictionaries. Therefore, their identification is an enrichment of Manchu lexicography and gives to this document a special linguistic value which could be added to its importance as a historical document of the early Qing dynasty.

tungnio < Chin. 桐油 *tongyou*

tuze < Chin. 土子 *tuzi*

toseng < Chin. 陀僧 *tuoseng*

piyal fulgiyan boihon < Chin. 片 *pian*, “slate”, + Ma. “red clay/earth”

se sirge < Chin. 生絲 *shengsi*

suwayan giowanze: Ma. “yellow” + < Chin. 絹子 *juanzi*

guwa el fun < Chin. 瓜兒粉 *guaer fen*

diyan hūwa < Chin. 靛花 *dianhua*

ding fun < Chin. 定粉 *ding fen*, i. e. modern 白鉛粉 *baiqian fen*

el lioi < Chin. 二綠 *erlü*

da lioi < Chin. 大綠 *dalü*

io hūwang < Chin. 油磺 *youhuang*

cing fun < Chin. 輕粉 *qing fun*

teng hūwang < Chin. 藤黃 *tenghuang*

fiyan: Ma. “red paint” ~ “rouge” (Chin. 胭脂 *yanzhi*); the given units are called *turha* (lit. “blot, dab”); the translation “dose” seems to be more adequate.

hūwangdan < Chin. 黃丹 *huangdan*

san lioi < Chin. 散錄 *sanlü*

mei hūwa cing < Chin. 梅花青 *meihua qing*

fuka: Ma. “jar”; hitherto found with this meaning only in expressions like 瓮城 *wengcheng* “[a jar-like] enceinte in front of a city wall”.

Notes

1. This document is kept in the Library of the *Zentralasiatisches Seminar*, Bonn University. The author wishes to thank its director, Prof. Dr. Michael Weiers, for the permission to study and publish it.
2. The following Manchu units are mentioned:

gin = *jin* 斤 (≈ 605 g),

yan = *liang* 兩 (≈ 37,3 g),

da = *tuo* 丈 (≈ 1,6 m),

turha = *pian* 片 (“dose”),

kuwai = *kuai* 塊 (“piece”),

afaha = *zhang* 張 (“sheet”).

Illustrations

Fig. 1. A Manchu report (*wesimburengge*) to Emperor Kangxi, a document of Bonn University, the Library of the *Zentralasiatisches Seminar*.

Fig. 2. The same document (*continuation*).

Fig. 3. The same document (*continuation*).

Fig. 4. The end of the document.