
BOOK REVIEWS

Archivnye materialy o mongol'skikh i tiurkskikh narodakh v akademicheskikh sobraniiah Rossii. Doklady nauchnoi konferentsii. Sostavitel' I. V. Kul'ganek, pod red. S. G. Klyashtornogo. Izdanie podgotovili I. A. Alimov, I. V. Kul'ganek, E. V. Pavlova. Sankt-Peterburg: Tsentr "Peterburgskoe vostokovedenie", 2000, 152 str.

Archival Materials on Mongolian and Turkic Peoples in Russian Academic Collections. Conference Papers. Compiled by I. V. Kulganek, ed. S. G. Klyashtorny. Prepared by I. A. Alimov, I. V. Kulganek, E. V. Pavlova. St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg Center for Oriental Studies, 2000, 152 pp.

The collection under review unites thirteen papers delivered at the conference "Archival Materials on Mongolian and Turkic peoples in Russian academic collections" held in April, 2000, which revealed great interest to the theme. The authors have done great service to broad scholarly circles by introducing original materials, often neglected for years, into academic circulation. These are materials on literature, history and ethnography of the Mongols and Turks, kept in the archive of the Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, the St. Petersburg Branch of the Archive of Academicians of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian State Military-Historical Archive, etc. It is also for the first time that the scientific description of the P. K. Kozlov's archive at his museum in St. Petersburg is given in the edition under review.

It is important that some papers are dedicated to individual manuscripts kept in Russian academic archives, let alone most interesting documents on the history of Mongolian and Turkic peoples. Many accounts of expeditions, travels or reports of diplomats, merchants, scholars, etc. are observed in the collection. The materials cover a long historical period, beginning with the Hun invasions up to the rise of the first Mongolian state and the political events of the first half of the twentieth century.

A survey of the Mongolian collection in the holdings of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies is given in the article "The collections of Mongolian manuscripts and xylographs at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies" by the well-known expert in Mongolian manuscripts, A. G. Sazykin. Among world collections of Mongolian manuscripts and xylographs outside Mongolia, which are more than forty, the collection of Eastern manuscripts

and rare documents at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies is the most representative and include more than 8,000 volumes. The old part of the collection (more than 3,000 items) comprises almost all historical writings of the Mongols, materials on their administrative and economic activities, collections of the steppe laws, dictionaries, works of literature, epics, folklore records, etc. The new part of the collection is even larger, including more than 5,000 items: these are canonical and didactic works, works on ritual, divination and medical manuals, shamanistic prayers, philosophical writings. All these riches are discussed in the article by A. G. Sazykin. His description of the collection strikes by a profound knowledge of the subject and betrays the author's love to what he so successfully studies for years.

One can easily notice that obsession with Mongolian folklore is a characteristic feature of all investigations on Mongolian folklore of the other contributor, I. V. Kulganek who this time gives a description of materials on Mongolian, Buryat and Kalmyk folklore which encompass heroic epics, folk tales and poems, etc. An indefatigable explorer of new folklore materials in Mongolia, I. V. Kulganek made her many personal discoveries in this field, and the unique experience of the author permits her to present the archival materials kept at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies with rare penetration to the subject. Many of the materials she offers to the attention of the scholars are often unique and have not been investigated hitherto.

Of interest are also materials on the Kalmyks from the archives in Kalmykia and outside it. Two articles are dedicated to them. E. U. Omakaeva in her "Materials on the Kalmyks in the archival collections of Kalmykia and elsewhere" acquaints the specialists in this field with Kalmyk vocabularies, books on grammar, literary works, works on the Oirat language, documents and letters devoted to different sides of Kalmyk life, folklore and ethnography.

V. L. Uspensky's article "Archival materials on the history of the Volga Kalmyks from the collections of the library of St. Petersburg University" describes most precious documents collected by G. S. Lytkin in the Kalmyk steppes during his two-years journey to Kalmykia between 1858 and 1860. The documents contain valuable information on the period shortly before the migration of the Kalmyks from Russia to Jungaria in 1771, and on Russian-Kalmyk relations in this period. Especially interesting are the letters of the Kalmyk khans and rulers to Russian officials. Part of the materials discussed by V. L. Uspensky is devoted to the everyday life of the Kalmyks, their rituals, and social and