
TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH

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MEDIAEVAL MONGOL DOCUMENTS FROM KHARA KHOTO AND EAST TURKESTAN IN THE ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES*

As is well known, Qaraqota or Khara Khoto 'the Black City' (Heichengzi in modern Chinese) is the presumably late Mongol name of the "dead city" on the Etsin-gol in the Gobi, the ruins of a mediaeval Tangut/Xi Xia fortified city, first explored by P. K. Kozlov, who discovered there a large amount of Xi Xia and other monuments, including some Mongolian prints and manuscripts [1].

F. W. Cleaves was the first to publish a whole-scale survey of (1) a Khara Khoto manuscript. In his splendid study "An early Mongolian loan contract from Qara Qoto" in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 18, 1955, pp. 1—53, he quotes its preliminary description, borrowed by him from L. S. Puchkovsky's "Sobranie mongol'skikh rukopisei i ksilografov Instituta vostokovedeniia Akademii nauk SSSR", *Uchenye zapiski Instituta vostokovedeniia*, IX (1954), pp. 90—127, and the full text of W. Kotwicz's Russian description of these documents (from P. K. Kozlov's *Mongoliia i Amdo i mertvyi gorod Khara-Khoto* (Moscow—Petrograd, 1923), pp. 561—5) with English translation. Also published are: (2) the Yuu-gon fragment; (3) fragment of an illustrated print of a Buddhist text,

both by N. Ts. Munkuyev in his "Two Mongolian printed fragments from Khara-khoto" in *Mongolian Studies*, ed. L. Ligeti, Budapest, 1970, pp. 341—57; (4) a printed title tag/label of a lost book, Malov Collection, Mong. I 122, edited by myself, and (5) a preliminary reading of an edict from the Krotkov collection of written monuments from East Turkestan (in note 28 in my book on the Mongolian nomads' books, *Knigi mongol'skikh kochevnikov*, Moscow, 1972, pp. 170—1; the title label also in a paper "On a lost Mongol book and its Uighur version" in *Sprache und Kultur der altaischen Völker*, ed. G. Hazai and P. Zieme, Berlin, 1974, pp. 287—9; in the same volume see also Munkuyev's *Mongol'skie dokumenty iz Khara-khoto*, pp. 447—50). Their transcription is also given in L. Ligeti's *Monuments préclassiques I, Monumenta linguae mongolicae collecta I*, Budapest, 1972, pp. 108—9 (1), 105—6 (2), 107 (3), 165 (4) and 222—3 (5). The date of the edict and the name of the ruler are discussed in L. V. Clark, "On a Mongol decree of Yishn Temhr (1339)" in *CAJ*, XIX (1975), pp. 194—8.

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8.0×8.5 cm. Xylograph. Black print on paper of light grey colour. A small fragment of the left hand upper corner of a large leaf with illustration of which only the lower part of a kneeling figure is preserved. Presumably the *pustaka/poṭhī* format was similar to what is seen in the University of St. Petersburg manuscript of Shes-rab Sengge/Širab Singgi's Mongolian *Lalitavistāra* (see facsimile in N. Poppe, "The Twelve Deeds of Buddha. A Mongolian version of the *Lalitavistāra*", *Asiatische Forschungen*, 23,

Wiesbaden, 1967) and in some Yuan-time Uighur prints (see, for instance, A. v. Gabain, *Die Drucke der Turfansammlung*. Sitzungsberichte der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, 1967, p. 26, and my review in *Narody Azii i Afriki*, 5, 1968, pp. 205—7; see also more in P. Zieme, *Buddhistische Stabreimdichtungen der Uiguren*, Berliner Turfantexte, XIII, Berlin, 1985, p. 39, n. 10, text No. 2, *Visantara-jātaka*, fragments a—i, etc.). The left-hand side double-line of the text-frame and a part of the

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