

Creating the Set of Multi-functional Electronic Catalogues for Mongolian and Tibetan Texts Kept in Russian Depositories

Alexander A. Stolyarov, Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS, Russia

The project under description is actually a part of a large Program, aimed at creating the mutual all-Russian information space in the field of Oriental Studies. The main goals of this program were reported at the 1st ICAS in Netherlands in last June. One of them is «to establish the spirit of fruitful cooperation and confidence between different scientific institutions, centers and research teams working in the field of Oriental Studies both in Russia and in other CIS republics» (Vide: Rybakov, Stolyarov, Vasilyev. EurAsian...). The whole program consists of several units among which there are such as The unit of Turkic studies, The unit of Mongolian and Tibetan studies, The unit of South Asian studies, etc. At the moment it can be said that the Program has been launched due to the financial support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Researches.

At the Kyoto EBTI-4 meeting I tried to comment on the content and present condition of Buddhist collections in Russia. The Table showing it can be found at the EBTI website (see EBTI-97 meeting). Now I'd like to highlight some items of this Table which were selected as the initial stage of the unit of Mongolian and Tibetan studies of the Program. Here they are.

Table 1: Initial stage of the unit of Mongolian and Tibetan studies

1. European Russia

1.1. Moscow

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
1. Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS Library, Roerich's memorial collection	1. Books in European, South Asian languages and Chinese - some 5000 items; catalogued 2. Xylographs: Tibetan and Mongolian - some 250 items (catalogued)	no	yes

1.2. St. Petersburg

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
2. Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS, Saint-Petersburg's branch Library	1. Books (including ancient and rare) in South Asian, South-East Asian languages, Chinese, Japanese and European languages (catalogued) 2. Xylographs:	yes	yes

	<p>Chinese - some 50000 (catalogued), Mongolian - 3825 (catalogued), Tibetan - over 200000 (M.Roach),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscripts & xylographs: Chinese: a) Dunhuang - some 12000 (4-11 cc.; near 1/4 catalogued), b) Khara-Khoto - some 460 (11-14 cc.; catalogued), c) fond “Nova” - several hundreds (partly catalogued), Japanese - 2702 (described), Korean - 1329 (catalogued), Manchurian - 900 (catalogued), Tanghut - 8325 (partly catalogued), <p>3. Manuscripts: Chinese - 41 (catalogued), Khotan-Sakh - 297 (catalogued), Mongolian (including documents) - 4067+526 (catalogued), Prakrits - 3 (catalogued), Pali - some 35 (catalogued), Sanskrit - over 400 (catalogued), Soghd - 36 (catalogued), Tibetan - 66 (catalogued), Tokharian B - 33 (catalogued), Uighur (including documents) - 4046+50 (partly described) Vietnamese - 6 (not catalogued),</p> <p>6. Impressions: Chinese - some 1035 (partly catalogued)</p>		
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1.3. Republic Kalmykia

1.3.1. Elista

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
3. Kalmykian Institute for Humanities and Applied Studies Scientific Archive	2-3. Manuscripts & Xylographs: Oirat and Tibetan - some 500 (partly described and catalogued)	yes	yes

2. Asian Russia

2.1. Republic of Buryatia

2.1.1 Ulan-Ude

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
6. Buryat Institute of Mongolian Studies, Tibetan Studies and Buddhism	2. Xylographs and 3. Manuscripts - some 200.000 items 4. Sculpture 5. Icons	yes	yes

These four centers are to form the starting core of Mongolian and Tibetan unit off the whole Program. There is a real researcher or a research group working in each of them.

1. For George N. Roerich's memorial collection I can firstly mention its keeper, Jury Ya. Tsygankov and also Serguei Dudko who is a postgraduate student of the Ancient Orient's Dept of the Moscow's Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS. The latter has already prepared the 1st version of digital catalogue for George N. Roerich's memorial collection of Tibetan blockprints.
2. There is another research group in Saint Petersburg's branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the RAS, headed by its director, Eugene I. Kychanov. His team is about to begin work over the preparing the digital catalogue for the Tanghuthian MSS.
3. The third research group is beginning its work in Elista at Kalmykian Institute for Humanities and Applied Studies. The director of the Institute Andrey T. Goryayev is its curator. The group is beginning work over the digital catalogue for the collection of Oirat and Mongolian MSS and blockprints kept at the Institute.
4. The third research group is headed by Tsymjit P. Vanchikova who is a head of the MSS Division of Buryat Institute of Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies of the Siberian Branch of the RAS. This team is now working over the digital catalogue for the Institute's collection of Mongolian and Tibetan blockprints.

There is one more essential element or participant in this Program. I mean EAOS - EurAsian Oriental Server. It is the first and till the present day the sole Russian server which contains scientific information dealing with countries, peoples and problems of Eastern or Asian location or origin. It has URL: <http://www.orient.ru>. It was created and is now functioning due to the financial support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Researches. It is considered to be the important tool for the fulfilment not only of the proclaimed Program but also of the task to create the mutual all-Russian information space in the field of Oriental Studies.

1999 is the initial year of the Program. Some sort of the network between the four participants should be established in this year. Mutual tools and criteria of material description should be determined. The logical models of each database along with their prototypes should be created. The results of the year will be reported at the next EBTI-PNC meeting at Berkeley.

Then there comes the turn of the 2nd stage of the Program. The circle of participants will be widened. Eight more research groups are expected to enter the Project. Here they are:

Table 2: Next stage of The unit of Mongolian and Tibetan studies (proposed)

1. European Russia

1.1. Moscow

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
1. State Museum of Orient	4. Sculpture (Mathura-Gandhara-Baktria, India, Tibet, Mongolia, Buryatia) - some 500 items, catalogued 5. Icons (tankas): Tibetan (13-19 cent.) - 460, Mongolian (17-20 cent.) - 450, Buryatian (18-20 cent.) - 700, all catalogued 6. Artefacts (Mathura-Gandhara-Baktria), masks, Tsam dress, catalogued	no	yes

1.2. St. Petersburg

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
2. Institute of the History of Material Culture of the RAS SPb branch of RAS Archive	5. Photo archive - 700000 items (photos & negatives) Archaeology, architecture, ethnography, etc. concerning in particular Russian scientific expeditions to Central and Eastern Asia	yes	yes
3. St. Petersburg University Oriental Dept. of M. Gorky' s Scientific Library	1. Books in South Asian, South-East Asian languages, Chinese, Japanese and European languages - 300000 items, 185000 titles; catalogued 2. Xylographs: Japanese - over 4000, Manchurian - 386 (catalogued) • Manuscripts & Xylographs: Chinese - some 35000 (roughly	yes	yes

	catalogued), Mongolian - over 400 (partly catalogued) Tibetan - some 350 3. Manuscripts: Chinese collection - 90 Japanese - 11000 Indian - 26 Manchurian (including documents) - 78+5 (catalogued) Kalmykian (Oirat) collection - 109		
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1.3. Republic Kalmykia

1.3.1. Elista

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
4. National Archive of RK	2-3. Manuscripts & Xylographs: Oirat and Tibetan		
5. Kalmykian Museum of Ethnography	2-3. Manuscripts & Xylographs: Oirat and Tibetan - some 400 (partly described) 4-5. Sculpture and icons - some 4500, (partly described) 6. Artefacts (dresses)	no	yes
6. Kalmykian Museum of Arts	5. Icons (Including collection of Buryat late painter Donzan Dondukov)	no	no

2.5 Republic of Tuva

2.5.1. Kyzyl

Organisation	Resources: Structure, level of presentation	Equipment	Research groups
7. Tuvinian Republican Regional Museum of 60 Heroes	2. Xylographs: Tibetan - full Kangyr (Beiding edition) • Manuscripts & Xylographs: Mongolian - 938 (catalogued) 3. Documents: Chinese 4. Sculpture 5. Icons 6. Artefacts (masks, dresses)	no	no
8. Tuvinian Research Institute of Language, Literature and History	2-3. Manuscripts & Xylographs: Mongolian (not described)	no	no

1. The research team of the State Museum of Orient is now under creation. At present museum keeps hundreds of collections of masterpieces and artefacts of Asian and African peoples.
2. Galina V. Dluzhnevskaya is the head of research team of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Photo Archive situated at the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the RAS. In particular the photo materials of the early Russian expeditions to Inner Asia organised by the Russian Academy of Sciences in the late 19th—early 20th centuries are kept there.
3. There is computer linguistic laboratory at the Oriental Faculty of St. Petersburg State University but no research team yet.
- 4&5. The research team working in Elista at Kalmykian Institute for Humanities and Applied Studies is preparing to work also at the National Archive of RK and the Kalmykian Museum of Ethnography having their collections of MSS and xylographs.
6. One more research team should be created in the Kalmykian Museum of Arts which should be concentrates over the digital description of the Kalmykian (Oirat) ikons. Svetlana G. Batyreva with her home catalogue of icons kept in the Kalmykian Museum of Arts may be probably the head of this group.
- 7&8. Up to now we have no constant contacts with the Republic of Tuva. At the same time it is known that there are a lot of MSS and xylographs along with artefacts kept at the Tuvinian Republican Regional Museum of 60 Heroes and Tuvinian Research Institute of Language, Literature and History.

The data of the tables presented here is to be corrected. Each research team is to be concentrated upon the narrow block of problems and this will be reflected firstly in the both Tables.

The important step in fulfillment of the 1st stage of the Program will be the International workshop «Computer Studies of Mongolian and Tibetan Historical Sources» which is planned to be held in Moscow at Jul. 12-14, 1999. All participants of the program —both present and future —are preparing to discuss their problems at it: peculiarities, approaches, methods, tools, possible solutions, needs, etc. The results of the workshop will be also reported at the next EBTI-PNC meeting at Berkeley.

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