

**I. V. Kul'ganek.** *Katalog mongoloiazychnykh fol'klornykh materialov Arkhiva vostokovedov pri SPb FIV RAN.* Sankt-Peterburg: Peterburgskoe vostokovedenie, 2000, 320 str. — Arkhiv rossiiskogo vostokovedeniia, V.

**I. V. Kulganek.** *Catalogue of Mongolian-Language Folklore Materials in the Orientalists' Archive at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences).* St. Petersburg: Peterburgskoe vostokovedenie Publishing House, 2000, 320 pp. — Russian Oriental Studies Archive, V.

The Catalogue under review is the first catalogue of its type. The idea of it emerged as a result of the author's work on rich Mongolian folklore archival materials kept at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. They were gathered by several generations of Russian scholars, travellers, and folklore collectors. The Academy of Sciences library's first acquisitions date to the mid-eighteenth century and include materials on the folklore of the Selengin Buryats. Those were collected during D. G. Messerschmidt's expedition to Siberia and G. F. Müller (in Russian rendering Miller) and P. S. Pallas' expedition to the Transbaikal. They were later transferred to the Asiatic Museum, which was founded in 1818, and became part of the Orientalists' Archive at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies when it was formed in 1931. A large number of folklore materials collected, for example, by Ts. Zhamtsarano, B. Baradiyn, and N. Ochirov were acquired from the Russian Committee for the Study of Central and East Asia.

Among all these documents those collected by amateurs are of no less importance. The vast range of the materials and their geographical variety are indeed impressive. The author of the Catalogue is known as a scholar wholly captivated by Mongolian folklore studies and as its ardent propagandist. Owing to this exceptional obsession with the subject, the author could produce most valuable reference work indispensable to all interested in Mongolian folk literature. The own studies of the author on Mongolian folklore, as well as her rich experience in personal collecting folklore materials in Mongolia, helped I. V. Kulganek to fulfil a difficult task of identifying numerous documents, which have escaped scholars' notice so far.

The publication was financed by the American IREX foundation. Materials from the electronic version of the Catalogue created with financial support from the RGNF (State Scientific Fund of Russia) were also used. The book makes use of exclusive photographs from the family archives of Orientalists' relatives as well as expedition photographs taken by the Dutch artist Ch. Horn during his 1998 journey to Mongolia.

Until now, there has been no full description of Mongolian folklore materials in the Orientalists' Archive at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, nor even a brief catalogue has been made. Only some of the materials were mentioned or described in special articles by S. F. Oldenburg, S. A. Kozin, T. P. Goreglyad, L. I. Chuguyevsky, L. S. Savitsky, and I. V. Kulganek.

The materials have always evoked great interest, as the Archive's visitors' register shows. It contains the names of many Russian and foreign Mongolists from all over the world. To evaluate the significance of this archival collection, one must remember that the archive contains 3,000

works representing oral poetic and prose genres of Mongolian folklore; among them one can find a real masterpiece of Mongolian folk literature recorded from well-known storytellers in various dialects of the Mongolian language: Mongolian itself (Khalkha, Derbet, Uzumchi, Uriankhai, Zadaga, Ordos, Chakhar), Buryat (Khorin, Agin, Abaga, Kudin, Songol, Kizhingin), and Kalmyk (of the Don and Stavropol Kalmyks).

At present, folklore materials are found in the following funds: Sec. I, inv. 3 "Mongolia and Tibet"; Sec. II, inv. 1, "Buryats and Kalmyks"; Sec. II, inv. 1 "Materials of various individuals", as well as in nine individual archival funds: B. B. Baradiyn, Ts. Zh. Zhamtsarano, A. M. Pozdnev, O. M. Kovalevsky, K. F. Golstunsky, V. A. Kazakevich, V. D. Yakimov, B. I. Pankratov, and D. A. Klements (a short description of these funds are given in I. V. Kulganek, "Mongolian folklore materials in the Orientalists' Archive at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies", *Manuscripta Orientalia*, IV/4 (1998), pp. 52–4).

The Catalogue opens with the Introduction where the author reviews the history of the Archive's formation; an English translation of the Introduction is also given. A separate chapter on collectors and informants provides biographical information and lists the main scholarly works of authors who gathered the collection. Photographs of collectors are also included. The Russian text of biographies is translated into English. The author gives brief biographies of A. V. Burdukov, T. A. Burdukova, B. Ya. Vladimirtsov, K. F. Golstunsky, Ts. Zhamtsarano, V. A. Kazakevich, D. A. Klements, O. M. Kovalevsky, B. I. Pankratov, A. M. Pozdnev, D. A. Rudnev, Ya. I. Schmidt, and V. D. Yakimov.

The Catalogue itself consists of descriptive articles that follow a format based on recommendations for the scholarly presentation of documentary materials in Russian archives. In all, the Catalogue contains 301 entries. Each entry includes information on language, year of recording, informant, place of recording, form, dimensions, writing instrument, number of pages, lines per page, location in document, document author, document title, call number of a document. An item of description is considered one (or a few) folklore works recorded at the same time, from a single informant, or a group of texts (a collection) that represents a whole. The materials are arranged in the following sections: (i) the epic; (ii) poetry; (iii) prose; (iv) songs; (v) confessional folklore; (vi) aphorisms; (vii) studies; (viii) materials for dictionaries, dictionaries; (ix) registers; (x) notes; (xi) various.

Each time the author indicates what script — academic, Latinised transcription or old-Mongolian script — is employed in the document. Descriptions contain notes which provide additional information on folklore material, informants, and manuscripts.

Several concordances are also present, which makes the Catalogue easy to use: these are concordances of genres and call numbers, collectors, genres and entries' order numbers.

The Catalogue provides specialists in Mongolian studies with information on valuable folklore materials kept in the Orientalists' Archive at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. It should be said too that there is much, among them, to interest the specialists. This book amply fulfils all requirements. We can, I hope, look forward to publishing most inter-