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, Qaraqot or Khara Khoto 'the Black City' (Heichengzi in modern Chinese) is the presumably late Mongol name of the "dead city" on the Etin-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].


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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 pustak/pošt format was similar to what is seen in the University of St. Petersburg manuscript of Shes-rab Sengge/Sirab 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 Turfamsammlung. 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, Buddhistsiche Stabreimdichtungen der Uiguren, Berliner Turfexte, 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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