

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL ALTAISTIC CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

No. 5

April, 1970

The highly successful 12th meeting of the PIAC, held in Berlin, capital of the German Democratic Republic, from August 27 to September 2, 1969, was distinguished by an unusually high attendance and by a welcome, massive participation of Soviet, Mongol, and French colleagues. It is thanks to the latter that an invitation to hold our 13th meeting in France was issued. It will be for the first time in its history that the PIAC will meet on French soil. That the invitation was issued from Strasbourg shows that Altaic studies, or Turcology at any rate, are now becoming established in places other than Paris. We hope that more French universities will soon welcome the other branches of the discipline.

The Strasbourg meeting notwithstanding, two major events are scheduled to take place in the near future: the Congress of Mongolists and the 28th International Congress of Orientalists. This Newsletter carries some information about both events, but unfortunately up to publication time the Secretary-General had received no information concerning the precise date of the Ulan Bator meeting.

By tradition as well as by necessity most of the research done in Altaic studies is linked with universities. The almost world-wide crisis which at present affects their functioning had, relatively speaking, little effect on our studies. At least this is the impression your Secretary-General gets from his point of observation. Perhaps he may be forgiven for a slight bias when he attributes this favorable situation to the above-average intelligence, maturity, and purposefulness of the students in whose hands the future of Altaic studies rests.

It is customary to put the blame for any delay in publication on "unforeseen circumstances." If ever such a plea was justified it is now, when I apologize for not having distributed No.5 of this informal Newsletter earlier. A heart attack suffered last February stopped or slowed down my activities for a long period, and very nearly put an end to them. I mention this fact also to explain to many PIAC members why my correspondence was, and is, somewhat lagging behind schedule. Though now back in harness, the old horse cannot trot as fast as it used to. But jets carry even invalids, and I am looking forward to meeting you all at the 13th annual meeting of the PIAC: Au revoir à Strasbourg!

DENIS SINOR
Secretary-General

IN MEMORIAM: ELEANOR LATTIMORE (1895 -1970)

Eleanor Lattimore, née Holgate, wife of Owen Lattimore, died suddenly in New York on March 21.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, she received a B.A. from Northwestern University. She and Owen Lattimore were married in Peking in 1923, and their honeymoon was spent on a journey from Peking to India through Central Asia.

This is not the place to mention the works she has written either alone or in collaboration with her husband. At her death she was engaged in editing the autobiography of the late Dilowa Khutuktu.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Eleanor Lattimore personally will mourn the passing away of a most gracious lady, charming, unpretentious, and yet endowed with an uncommon understanding not only of the higher issues of human existence but also of the techniques necessary to tackle them successfully. She attended several of the PIAC meetings, and we will miss her at those to come.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Professor Lattimore, a faithful member of the PIAC. May he find solace in continuing his and her work for many years to come for the benefit of all of us.

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1969 INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRIZE FOR ALTAIC STUDIES

The 1969 recipient of the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies--commonly known as the "PIAC Medal"--was Sir Gerard Clauson. He acknowledged the news of this award in the following letter dated September 20, 1969:

"The telegram from PIAC informing me that I had been awarded the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies arrived while I was on tour in various parts of England and I could not acknowledge it until I got back to my address book.

"It is customary on these occasions for the recipients of such awards to express their surprise and gratification. I do not suppose that anyone has ever done so more sincerely than myself. I was really astounded that when there are so many really distinguished scholars in this field who have not yet received this award that I should have been so highly honoured. I am profoundly grateful to all my friends and colleagues for this token of their esteem and to Indiana University for their generosity in instituting an award for competence in a field of studies which lies so close to my heart.

"Perhaps I might also take this opportunity to thank all my friends who signed the greeting card which I found when I returned home and to say again how very much I regret that it was impossible for me to be with them in Berlin."

28TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS

The 28th International Congress of Orientalists will be held at the Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T., from January 6 to 12, 1971. All scholars of the languages, history, literature, and culture of Asia are welcome. Inquiries should be addressed to:

The Secretary-General
28th International Congress of Orientalists
Australian National University Post Office
via Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
AUSTRALIA

Altaic Studies will be represented at the Congress in the CENTRAL AND NORTH ASIA SECTION, and our colleague Professor S.A. Wurm is in charge of the program.

According to a recent circular, the subject matters to be dealt with in the Central and North Asia program are, roughly speaking, the following:

Altaic studies	Mongolian culture
General	Tungus languages
Turkic languages	Tungus culture
Turkic culture	Uralic studies
Mongolian languages	Other (Tokharian, etc.)

If you wish to read a paper at the Congress, Professor Wurm would be grateful for receiving its title, together with an abstract, no later than September 1, 1970. His address is:

Professor S.A. Wurm
Deputy Director
Central and North Asian Sections
28th International Congress of Orientalists
c/o Department of Linguistics, I.A.S.
A.N.U., Box 4, P.O., Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
AUSTRALIA

The PIAC cannot but regret the fact that the term "Altaic" does not appear as such among the titles of the six sections of the Congress. It will be for the first time in nearly two decades that such an omission occurs. However, we hope that Altaic studies in their historical as well as their linguistic aspect will be well represented in Canberra. We are particularly happy at the prospect of meeting some of our Australian colleagues who, precisely in the field of historical research, can boast of considerable achievements. We wish Professor Wurm good luck in the difficult task of organizing the meeting.

Professor Dr. Lokesh Chandra writes from New Delhi:(11/27/69):

"Professor Bira, Member of the Parliament of the Mongolian People's Republic, was in Delhi to represent his country at the meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Union, in November 1969.

"He visited the International Academy of Indian Culture on 9 November 1969 to get acquainted with research being carried out here.

"Professor Bira was fascinated by the Tibetan version of the travels of Hsüan Chang, the Prince of Pilgrims to India. This was translated by Gung Gombojab, the erudite Mongolian savant of the 17th century. Gombojab was also a great Mongolian Sanskritist and he made new translations of Tibetan and even Sanskrit texts into Chinese for the Manchu edition of the Chinese Tripitaka. Professor Bira will collaborate with the International Academy of Indian Culture in preparing an edition of the Rgy a-nag chos-hbyun or history of Buddhism in China, with an extensive biography of its author Gombojab in the introduction.

"Professor Bira has written chapters on the cultural history of Mongolia in the three-volume History of the Mongol People, published in Ulanbator. Therein, he has given a survey of handbooks of Indic scripts for writing Sanskrit mantras, which are technically known by their Tantric name ali-kali: ali 'the row of a or vowels' and kali 'the row of ka or consonants'. These were initiated by Ayusi Gushi, who compiled five ali-kali, as we are informed by Gombojab in his Mongolian postscript to the Ali-Kali made famous in his edition by Professor Raghu Vira, published in Lahore in 1938. Professor Lokesh Chandra is engaged on its new edition which will be supplemented by new ali-kali texts from Leningrad, Ulanbator and Ulanude. Professor Bira will help Professor Lokesh Chandra in tracing out new ali-kali which are richly represented at the State Library at Ulanbator.

"Professor Bira saw the research being done at the Academy in bringing out three illustrated xylographs pertaining to Ayurveda. They depict the herbs, materia medica of the zoological and mineralogical world, surgical instruments and anatomy. In this connection, he spoke of the need for collaboration with Mongolian scientists working in the Section of Mongolian-Tibetan Medicine, Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Biology, Academy of Sciences, Ulanbator. Mr. Haidup heads this section. He has written a dissertation on the history of ancient Mongolian medicine. He is assisted by a well-known traditional doctor who holds the degree of Manrampa (sman-rams-pa). They are also preparing ayurvedic medicines. Dr. Haidup would be interested in Professor Lokesh Chandra's edition of Yuthok's medical work.

"Professor Bira further said that two young Buryat postgraduates are working at the State University, Ulanbator, on the Amdo chojung or history of the Amdo province of Sinkiang. Professor Semichov and others of the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences are translating into Russian the complete chojung of Amdo.

"Professor Bira's colleague, Dr. Gugdir, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Law, Institute of History, Ulanbator, is keen to get materials on Buddhist philosophy.

"The 50th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Republic will be held on 11 July 1971. On this occasion Professor Shirendib, the President of the Academy of Sciences, is making preparations for the second International Conference of Mongolists at Ulanbator. A scientific report of special interest to Indian research will be made by Professor Damdin Suren on fragments of a trilingual Tibetan-Mongolian-Kalmuk version of the Ramayana, discovered in a manuscript collection at Leningrad. Professor Bira has invited Professor Lokesh Chandra to represent the International Academy of Indian Culture at the Conference.

"Academician Rinchen of Ulanbator visited the Museum of Kizil, which has an interesting collection of Tibetan blockprints and manuscripts from the private and monastic libraries of Tannu-Tuva. It has preserved about four thousand Tibetan texts, most of which have not been catalogued. Rinchen also saw at the library of the Tuva Institute of Language, Literature, and History the unknown manuscript of the Mongol translation of the Uliger-un dalai made by a Khalkha Mongol Buddhist monk, who was one of the disciples of Khalkha Jaya Pandita. Professor Lokesh Chandra will bring out a facsimile edition of this unknown manuscript. Academician Rinchen is publishing the Oirat translation of Uliger-un dalai made by Oirat Jaya Pandita Oghtorghuin dalai."

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ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

The AAS Newsletter is a quarterly publication now in its 15th year. PIAC members will be pleased to learn that as of October, 1969 (Vol. XV, No. 1), a special section devoted to Inner Asia appears in each issue. Editor of the Newsletter is Professor Leonard H.D. Gordon, Purdue University, and the Inner Asian sectional editor is Professor Larry W. Moses, Department of History, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057, who would be glad to receive relevant news from PIAC members. The AAS is a very active organization with over two thousand members, and the special section devoted to Inner Asian studies is a welcome indication of the increasing recognition this field receives in the U.S.

PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MONGOLISTS

by

S. Luvsanvandan, Candidate of Sciences
Secretary, Organizing Committee
II International Congress of Mongolists

I. The Historical Significance of the Congress.

The Second International Congress of Mongolists will be held in Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic, in September 1970, eleven years after the first Congress which was held in 1959. It takes place at a time when many centers for Mongolian studies have been established in many countries of Asia, America, and Australia, when the ranks of Mongolists have been increasing, when scientific research on the history, culture, and economy of the Mongols is being carried on by specialists in many disciplines, and when the scope and aims of Mongolian studies have been broadened and increased in depth.

Whereas the first Congress was made up, for the most part, of specialists in Mongolian language and literature, the second will include scholars in linguistics, literature, folklore, ethnology, archaeology, history, economics, etc. And while the first Congress was attended by some twenty or so scholars from perhaps a dozen countries, many dozens of scholars from more than thirty different countries will come to the second. In addition to requests from delegations, we have received requests from many individuals from various countries who wish to attend as guests or tourists.

The Congress will last for six days. On the first day there will be a plenary session at which "The Present State of Mongolistics" will be discussed by all participants. On the following days the participants will be grouped according to their interests, e.g. language and literature, history and economics, etc. At each session Mongolian scholars and those from abroad will read and discuss their papers.

Preparations are being made for the reading and discussion of more than 100 papers by foreign and Mongolian scholars dealing with important problems of Mongolian history, language, literature, folklore, and economy. Thus the Congress will not only broaden the scope of Mongolistics, but will place Mongolian studies within the larger framework of Asian studies in which the most important problems of Mongolian culture will be examined in relation to Far Eastern culture, and their genetics and typology will be examined from the standpoint of their past history, present development, and future perspectives. This should provide a

significant impetus for the development of general comparative research methods.

The Congress will be an important assembly of international Mongolists and will not only provide a forum for the discussion of interesting and important problems chosen for discussion by Mongolists themselves, but there will be a study of current trends and developments in Mongolian studies and of future plans. Efforts and potentialities will be mobilized to solve important problems in Mongolistics and to create a broader exchange of ideas in the coordination of Mongol studies on an international scale.

II. Preparatory Work for the Congress.

In May 1968 the Organizing Committee for the Second International Congress of Mongolists and a Preparatory Commission were established. The Organizing Committee is headed by Academician B. Shirendeb, President of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Members of the Committee are the well-known Mongol scholars: B. Rinchen, Sh. Luvsanvandan, Ts. Damdinsuren, Sh. Natsagdorji, and the noted foreign scholars: Professor E.M. Zukov of the USSR, Professor L. Ligeti of Hungary, Professor Walter Heissig of Germany, Professor Owen Lattimore of the United States, and Professor Sakamoto of Japan.

A secretariat with interpreters has been established. Invitations have been issued to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and other Socialist countries as well as to other foreign Mongolists. A preliminary program has also been sent. Questionnaires have been sent with a request for information regarding the state of Mongolistics in various countries and requests for titles and resumés of papers which will be delivered at the Congress. Requests have also been made that copies of publications be sent during the early part of 1969.

The Organizing Committee is now translating the resumés into Mongolian and publishing the papers of the Mongolian scholars. Multiple copies of the papers, publication of various materials, and the organization of various services for the guests and participants are under way. A second bulletin has been issued reporting the progress of the preparatory work, and invitations have been issued to scholars who wish to come at their own expense.

III. Participation of International Scholarly Organizations and Scholars in the Preparatory Work of the Congress.

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR expressed its view of the Congress as follows: "It will be a significant event

for both the broadening and strengthening of the relations of Mongolists," and has organized a special committee to participate in the Congress. The committee has prepared papers to be delivered by its own Mongolists and prepared and planned the publication of special papers for the Congress. The Mongolists of the USSR will actively participate in the translation and publication of the papers to be delivered at the Congress.

The Academies of the Socialist countries and their Mongolists consider this Congress to be a timely and significant event and enthusiastically expressed their willingness to participate and to help in every way.

All the Mongolists who received our invitations consider the Congress to be of great significance and not only notified us of their preparations, but expressed their willingness to cooperate by providing us with the requested information. The President of UNESCO, Mr. René Maheu, in a letter dated March 18, 1968, stated that he considers the Congress to be a significant contribution to Oriental studies and notified us of their decision to aid financially under a provision which includes the study of Mongolian history, ethnology, art and literature in the overall program of Central Asian studies.

IV. Participants in the Congress.

According to a preliminary roster, participating will be some 50 delegates and other scholars accompanying them in addition to guests and other participants. The following well-known scholars have received our invitations: Academician E.M. Žukov, Professor G.D. Sanžeev of the USSR, Academician L. Ligeti of Hungary, Professor Mihailov of Bulgaria, Professor Zajączkowski of Poland, Professors Hazai, Ratchnevsky of the German Democratic Republic, Professors Kalužiński and Dynowski of Poland, Professors F. Burkhardt, Owen Lattimore, Denis Sinor, John Krueger, and Gombojab Hangin of the United States, Dr. J. Boyle, Dr. C. R. Bawden and Ivor Montagu of England, Father Antoine Mostaert and Father Henry Serruys of Belgium, Professors K. Sakamoto, Sh. Hattori, Sh. Ozawa, and T. Kobayasi of Japan, Professors W. Heissig and A. von Gabain of West Germany, Professor K. Thomsen-Hansen of Denmark, Professors L. Hambis and F. Aubin of France, Professor Pentti Aalto of Finland, Professor G. Tucci of Italy, and Professor I. de Rachewiltz of Australia.

Delegations from UNESCO will also attend the Congress as well as guests of honor from India, Burma, the UAR, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Iran.

Finally, when the Congress meets, there will be a conference commemorating "One Thousand Years of Mongolian Writing." At this conference early written works by Mongols, the history of Mongolian printing, rare and valuable books, the relationship of Mongolian writings with those of other peoples, etc., will be discussed. This will provide an important impetus for a study of the historical process of the special development of Mongolian culture and civilization which occupy important positions in the cultural history of the world. We hope that Mongolists will actively participate in this work by contributing papers and discussions.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH PIAC CONFERENCE

Horsholm, Denmark, June 2-6, 1968

In a letter dated February 19, 1970, we learned from Dr. Iben Meyer, President of the eleventh PIAC meeting, that the Proceedings of that meeting, which are to be published in Acta Orientalia, are now in proof stage. Although originally publication of the proceedings had been scheduled for autumn 1968, Dr. Meyer explained in her letter that for reasons beyond her control the manuscript did not reach the printer until autumn 1969. She very much regrets this delay, but feels optimistic that the volume will be available in the very near future.

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The NEWSLETTER of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference is published at irregular intervals, once or twice a year. It is distributed free of charge to members of the PIAC and others interested, but it is not for sale.

The Editor welcomes items of interest for publication and suggests that these should be sent so as to reach him during the autumn 1970. All correspondence should be addressed to:

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