PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL ALTAISTIC CONFERENCES
(P.I.A.C.)

NEWSLETTER

Permanent International Altaistic Conference
Goodbody Hall 101
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
June 1989

It was with very great pleasure that the PIAC received the invitation to hold its 32nd annual meeting in Norway. Few academic units carry the word "Altaic" in their titles. As for Uralic-Altaic, I think that the Ural-altaisk Institut of the University of Oslo and the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies of Indiana University - at least in their names - have no parallels elsewhere. It is thus most appropriate that the PIAC should visit, and honor, an Institute so much focused on a field which our organization may call its own.

All in all, it may be said that times are propitious for Altaic studies. The proliferation of associations, workshops, seminars, newsletters focusing on Central Asia, Mongolia, Turcology etc. bears witness to this increased interest. Only time can show how these undertakings will fare. Of course, there are the perennial financial problems which are said to plague the universities but I do not think that, viewed in a global perspective, these have to be taken very seriously. It has been said that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder; the same would apply to financial problems, often more imaginary than real, which plague Academe. As experience in many countries and universities has consistently shown over the years, these can be overcome by vigorous advocates of our discipline.

Such difficulties as may exist are more than compensated for by the marvellous improvement in scholarly communications. The momentous transformations taking place in the Soviet Union and in China have already produced important changes in the practice of Altaic studies. Firstly, scholarly communications have immeasurably improved through easier travel, more frequent correspondence, better attendance at international meetings. Secondly - although still only in modest dimensions - visit to lands where Altaic peoples live, and even field-work among them, have become a possibility. It is a real pleasure to receive letters from American or European students studying the languages and cultures of, say Inner Mongolia or Kashghar. And if limitations on free movement have not altogether disappeared, there is reasonable hope for further improvement. I know for certain that members of the PIAC, wherever they are, would not only welcome such changes but that they are also working for bringing them about. Here again, money is not the real issue. The individual ingenuity of young men and women eager to travel to the lands they are keen to visit and to know usually overcomes this barrier. With some luck - or is this too much to ask? - in a few years, progress may lead us to a situation which was considered normal at the beginning of this century.

Denis Sinor
Secretary General
FOR THE RECORD

29th MEETING OF THE PIAC

Sponsored by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Acedemy of Sciences USSR and the Institute of Linguistics of the Academy of Sciences Uzbek SSSR, the 29th Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference was held in Tashkent (Uzbek SSR) from September 15 to 2. Professor Vadim Solntsev was President of the Meeting.

Professor Károly Czeglédy was awarded the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies (PIAC Medal).

30th MEETING OF THE PIAC

Under the presidency of Professor Gustav Bayerle, the 30th Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference took place on the Bloomington Campus of Indiana University from the 18th to the 25th June 1987. It was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center of Indiana University.

There were 54 participants, representing 13 countries: China (Peoples' Republic) 4; Finland 1; Federal Republic of Germany 3; France 1; German Democratic Republic 1; Holland 1; Hungary 4; Italy 1; Japan 2; Norway 3; Turkey 3; USA 25; USSR 5.

At the Business Meeting, held on June 23, 1987, Professor Denis Sinor was re-elected Secretary General of the Conference. In accordance with the constitution of the PIAC he is to serve for five years, up to the 35th meeting, to be held in 1992.

The Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies was awarded to Professor Pentti Aalto (Finland).

31st MEETING OF THE PIAC

Under the presidency of Professor Hans-Peter Vietze, the 31st Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference took place in Weimar (German Democratic Republic) from the 13th to the 19th June 1988. It stood under the joint sponsorship of the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and the Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR.

Professor Francis Woodman Cleaves (USA) was awarded the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies.
PAST PIAC PROCEEDINGS

Queries are constantly being received concerning the Proceedings of our meetings. Here is a list of these publications.


4th Meeting (Cambridge, England 1961): A short report was included in the proceedings of the 5th Meeting.


16th Meeting (Ankara, Turkey, 1973): No Proceedings have been published.


20th Meeting (Leiden, Holland, 1977): No Proceedings have been published.

21st Meeting (Manchester, England, 1978): No Proceedings have been published.

22nd Meeting (Ghent, Belgium, 1979): No Proceedings have been published.


25th Meeting (Uppsala, Sweden, 1982): *Altaistic Studies. Papers Presented at the 25th Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference at Uppsala June 7-11, 1982*. Edited by Gunnar Jarring and Staffan Rosén. Published as vol.12 in the series *Konferenser* of the Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien (Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksell, 1982). It can be ordered at a reduced price from the PIAC's Secretariat.

26th Meeting (Chicago, Illinois, USA, 1983): No Proceedings have been published.


29th Meeting (Tashkent, USSR, 1986): No Proceedings are expected.


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FESTSCHRIFT GUNNAR JARRING


Ambassador Jarring has long and close associations with the PIAC. In 1977 he was honored with the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies, in 1982 he was the president of our 25th meeting held in Uppsala. In a letter addressed to the Secretary General in October 1988, he wrote: "I have recovered from my illness of a couple of years ago and am working again as before." This is good news indeed, and the PIAC wishes Professor Jarring and Turcology many more happy years of active research.

BULLETIN
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MONGOL STUDIES (IAMS)

The first issue of the Bulletin of the International Association for Mongol Studies (IAMS) reached the PIAC early in the fall of 1988. The Bulletin is published in English, once or twice a year, and contains news of interest to Mongolists; it is the newsletter of the IAMS which, beginning with 1989, will publish also a scholarly journal entitled either Mongolica or Mongol Studies. Together with the Bulletin it will be sent to members of the IAMS.

Issue 1 (1988) of the Bulletin is a carefully prepared, elegantly presented publication which does honor to the Editor-in-Chief Academician Sh.Bira and to Kh.Khulan, Secretary-Editor.

For further information please write to: Secretariat, International Association for Mongol Studies, 2, Lenin Street, Ulaanbaatar, People's Republic of Mongolia.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL
PROCESSES IN MEDIEVAL CENTRAL ASIA
September 16-21, 1985, Alma-Ata

A Special Issue of the Information Bulletin of the
International Association for the Study of the Cultures of
Central Asia (Moscow 1987, 125 pp., ISSN 0233-5689) contains
the English abstracts of the papers presented at this
conference.

PERSONALIA

Dr. HENRYK JANKOWSKI, a member of the Department of Languages
of Asia and Africa (Institute of Linguistics, Adam Mickiewicz
University, ul. Marchlewskiego 128, 61-874 Poznan, Poland), is
working on Crimean Tatar, Kirghiz, and the Xibo and Kirghiz
minority languages of China. The Institute was founded in
December 1986.

In recent years Dr. ROGER FINCH published a number of
articles of potential interest to members of the PIAC. They
appeared in Waseda Daigaku Gogaku Kyōiku Kenkyusho: Kiyō
(Bulletin of the Institute of Language Teaching, Waseda
University) and include: "A Middle Mongolian Invocation of
Manjusri," "The Hymn to Mahakali by Coski Odser," "The Three
Evil Existences in Middle Mongolian," "Toward a Reconstruction
of the Chinese Characters used for The Secret History of the
Mongols," "Chapter XXX of the Uigur Suvarnaprabhasottama Sutra
(Altun_yarug)." He also published an article on "Vowel Harmony
in Yakut," (Sophia Linguistica (Tokyo) 18 (1985), pp.1-17. -
The author would be happy to send off-prints to those
interested. His address is: Yoyogi 4-26-9, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo,
Japan.

HARVARD STUDENTS FOR INNER ASIA

It is a pleasure to report the formation of the
"Harvard Students for Inner Asia" (HSIA) which has now
received official university recognition. Its first president
is Mr. Douglas A. Hitch, a member of the PIAC.

Harvard's contribution to Inner Asian studies has been
most substantial - the names of Francis Woodman Cleave
(recipient in 1988 of the PIAC medal), Omeljan Pritsak,
Richard N. Frye come readily to mind - and, of course, that of
Joseph Fletcher whose untimely death was a severe blow to the
development of Inner Asian history in general and to Harvard
in particular. It is most fortunate that students at Harvard
try to harness the immense resources of their university for a
more concerted approach to Inner Asian and Altaic studies.
They have the very best wishes of the PIAC.
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AINU STUDIES

With the general aim of promoting Ainu studies, the First International Symposium on Ainu Studies held at Bonn University in June 1987 decided upon founding the International Association for Ainu Studies (IAAS). During the first general meeting, the founding members elected Professor Fosco Mariani (Firenze) president, Professor Alfred F. Majewicz (Poznan), vice-president, Mr. Norbert R. Adami (Tokyo) secretary general.

Any one interested in the Ainus, their history, language and culture is asked to join the IAAS.

Annual membership dues are DM 20.- for members residing in Europe, ¥2000 for residents in Japan, and US$ 15.00 for those living elsewhere. For further information, please write to either of the following addresses:

Mr. Robert R. Adami
171 Tokyo-to, Toshima-ku
Zoshigaya 3-11-4-1203
Paredoru Mejiro JAPAN

Mr. Jürgen Jockel
Taubenstrasse 3
D-4630 Bochum

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SIBERIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

The fifth meeting of the Siberian Studies Seminar was held at the University of Glasgow's Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, 8-10 April 1988. Although numbers attending were relatively small, nevertheless the quality of the papers, the level of discussion and the warmth of hospitality provided by the Institute and its staff combined to make it a most successful and rewarding occasion. The conference's Glasgow organizer was Walter Joyce.

A complete Seminar report with either full texts or substantial abstracts of all papers and one or two additional items will appear in the next issue of SIBIRICA.

The next meeting of the Siberian Studies Seminar will be held again at Glasgow University, 4-8 September 1989. The theme of the conference will be:

"Siberia in the 20th Century: social and economic developments."

Dr. Alan Wood, Department of History, University of Lancaster, United Kingdom, is the driving force behind these seminars, and we feel sure he would gladly answer any questions pertaining to them.
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN RESEARCH

We are pleased to report the creation of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN RESEARCH (AACAR) a non-profit, non-political association headquartered in the Department of History, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain CT 06050, U.S.A.

The annual dues for membership in the AACAR are US$ 25.00 and they include subscriptions to the AACAR BULLETIN and, by arrangement, to the journal CENTRAL AND INNER ASIAN STUDIES. Checks or money orders (in US funds only) should be made payable to AACAR, Professor Audrey L. Altstadt, Treasurer, c/o Department of History, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain CT 06050, U.S.A.

Editor of the AACAR BULLETIN is Dr. H. B. Paksoy, well-known to many PIAC members.

33rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ASIAN AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

The 33RD International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS), better known as the International Congress of Orientalists, will meet on the campus of the University of Toronto, August 19-25.

The program theme is "Contact between Cultures." It will provide scope for studies on the past or present interaction of different regions within Asia, as well as for discussion of Asian cultural interaction with Europe, the Americas, or other regions.

The regional program sections (traditional and modern) include one focused on "Central Asia and Tibet," one on "Iranian Studies," and one on "Turkish Studies." It would appear that the first of these may present the greatest interest for members of the PIAC. It is to be hoped that with our presence at this important meeting we will show that Altaic studies are an integral part of Oriental Studies.

To receive information concerning the Congress please write to: 33 ICANAS, Professor Julia Ching, Victoria College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7, Canada.
SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN INDIANA UNIVERSITY URALIC AND ALTAIC SERIES


Orders should be sent to: Uralic and Altaic Series, Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, Indiana University Goodbody Hall, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, USA. A minimum postage and handling charge of $2.00 within the United States and $3.00 overseas will be included on all orders.

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