

## NEWSLETTER

No. 14

August 1983

In this issue of our Newsletter some indication will be found to the effect that world-wide interest in Central Asia is growing, and that societies, journals, newsletters dealing with the area - i.e., approximately, the southern part of the Soviet Union and the northern parts of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan - multiply. Only time will tell which of these societies or publications will attain some permanency, which others will prove to have been ephemeral. Our PIAC has always shown much interest in the history, the literatures, the civilization of Central Asia and, hence, welcomes this development. It would seem that the greatest strides are made on the opposite ends of the chronological scale. Prehistoric archaeology and contemporary Central Asian problems are the poles attracting most of the attention; the former no doubt as a result of remarkable excavations, the latter because of its obvious political implications. There is no denying that the study of the modern scene has attracted a fair number of charlatans or people who try to sell their own political conceptions in the wrapper of soi-disant area expertise. Their activity should not be allowed to discredit a field of valid, scholarly enquiry. At a recent scholarly meeting, a young expert in demography presented an interesting, well-researched paper on contemporary Central Asian population questions. The chairman - a widely, and deservedly respected scholar - would not allow any discussions to take place. "Let's confess" - said he - "there is little interest in these matters", - or words to this effect. The remark was, of course, discourteous, arrogant and, also, completely mistaken. The audience would have loved to discuss the paper. Let us hope that attitudes such as the one just described should remain the exception rather than becoming the rule. Conversely, perhaps one day the "modernists" will also grasp the basic truth that the present can never be properly understood without a thorough knowledge of the past.

Denis Sinor  
Secretary General

## THE PIAC'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the PIAC was held in Uppsala, Sweden, from June 8 to June 11, 1982, under the presidency of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring, ably assisted by Professor Staffan Rosén. As behooved the occasion of a silver jubilee, the meeting was not only well attended, it also offered a fine opportunity to rejoice at the success of an initially modest undertaking. Twenty-five consecutive, annual meetings held in fifteen countries constitute a fine record.

Denis Sinor was re-elected Secretary General of the PIAC for a term of five years.

The Committee in charge of awarding the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies took the unusual (but not unconstitutional) step of honoring simultaneously the two scholars who in the first quarter of a century of the PIAC's existence served as Secretary Generals: Professors Walther Heissig and Denis Sinor.

The Proceedings of the meeting will be published by the Swedish Academy under the joint editorship of Gunnar Jarring and Staffan Rosén.

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## THE PIAC'S TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Sponsored jointly by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Center for Far Eastern Studies of the University of Chicago, the 26th meeting of the PIAC will be held in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., from August 15 to 20, under the presidency of Professor Luc Kwanten.

## CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON THE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Co-sponsored by the Washington Center of the Asia Society and the Middle East Institute, the prestigious Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington, D.C.) organized a conference (March 10-11, 1983) aimed at surveying the state of Central Asian Studies in the United States, and at exploring ways and means of strengthening this field of studies within the United States. The convenor was Mr. David Nalle, who mobilized considerable financial resources to ensure the success of this gathering, attended by some fifty to seventy people recruited from academe as well as from various governmental or para-governmental agencies. Participants came not only from the United States but also from France, Turkey, and the German Federal Republic.

In spite of the thorough preparation of the meeting, it is doubtful whether it has achieved its announced purpose. With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to state that discussions would have been more realistic and less prone to the airing of real or imagined nationalistic grievances had all the participants been residents of the United States. The problems to be discussed were specifically American: how to improve Central Asian studies in the U.S.A. Quite understandably, and generally speaking, foreign participants had little knowledge of, and only moderate interest in, the intricate web that links various agencies, government, and Congress with one another, let alone with universities, and even the functioning of the latter can be quite bewildering when viewed with European eyes. Some of the discussions were also marred by the sometimes vociferous assertions of political views concerning past, present, or even future political events, views which had very little relevance to the central preoccupation of the Conference.

Another, rather sad, fact that became apparent was the inability of some to bridge the gap between, as it were, "pure" and "applied" research. While advocates of the former tend to deny any justification of the latter, they wish to be supported by financial means they are reluctant to seek.

Of course some papers and some discussions were constructive and useful. It is hoped that these will take up the bulk of the Proceedings of this meeting which the patient energy of Mr. David Nalle will, we are sure, soon produce. In many ways the Conference was a success; it did show some of the basic weaknesses of Central Asian studies in the U.S.

(The Proceedings of the conference will be available through the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institution Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20560.)

SEMICENTENNIAL OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
OF WARSAW UNIVERSITY

1983 is the semicentennial year of the foundation of the Oriental Institute of Warsaw University, an institution with a fine reputation in the field. Although the PIAC has never met in Poland, its relationship with Polish scholars connected with the Institute has been excellent. One of them was kind enough to send us the following summary of the Institute's history.

In Poland the Oriental Institute of Warsaw University is the largest centre of studies and research in languages and cultures of Asia and Africa. It was established by the faculty of Humanities of Warsaw University on June 23, 1932, and approved by the state authorities on Nov. 6 of the same year. The Institute was established thanks to the energetic efforts and persistence of its first director, Prof. S. Schayer, an outstanding indologist. Included in the curriculum of the new Institute was the indological seminar (run by Schayer himself) together with Egyptology as well as Chinese and Turkish Studies. The Institute also organized courses in oriental languages at the Higher School of Living Languages of the East, headed since 1938 also by Schayer. The library of the Institute owned many priceless and rare Oriental books and manuscripts. The Polish Oriental Bulletin (published since 1937) presented in some more widely known languages the papers of scholars employed by the Institute as well as reviews and reports on the oriental publications. Two issues appeared in 1939 before the outbreak of the Second World War. The joint research of the scholars of the Institute found its expression in the volume entitled "Religions of the East" published in Warsaw in 1938. The Institute kept in touch with Polish orientologists of other centres as well as with scholars working abroad. The high standard of scholarly research was recognized by specialists and was fully appreciated all over the world. Further development of the Institute was abruptly stopped by the outbreak of the war. On Sept. 7, 1939, the building of the Institute was bombed and burnt down together with the library. The employees dispersed and many of them died in the turmoil of war. Prof. S. Schayer, founder of the Institute and its "spiritus movens", died of tuberculosis in 1942.

After the war in 1945 everything had to be started anew. This task was carried out by those few scholars who survived the havoc of war, among them professors W. Jabłonski, A. Zajączkowski and J. Reychman. Along with the chairs of Chinese and Turkish Studies the chair of the philology of

the Ancient East was established following separation from the former Assyriological Seminar. The chair of the Peoples of Central Asia was set up, and to it was added the Indological Section. The chair of Semitic Studies was established to include Ethiopian and Hebrew Studies and, from 1960, also African Studies. The new section of Arabic Studies came into being within the existing chair of Turkish Studies, the Japanese Section within the existing chair of Chinese Studies, and the Section of Egyptology within the chair of the Ancient East. The situation changed in 1969, when, as a result of a general restructuring of the university, all the chairs were renamed and reorganized so that finally, after mergers and dissolutions, the Oriental Institute appeared on the scene. It was divided into five sections further subdivided into thirteen sub-sections to represent all the specialized fields required by teaching.

Specialized libraries were gradually organized within the existing establishments. At present they have more than a hundred thousand volumes including many priceless, old manuscripts.

in 1973 the Scientific Council of the Institute acquired the right to confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Currently there are ninety-five scholars in the Institute including eight professors (three of them part-time), 11 readers (i.e. docents), 5 with the title of doctor habilitatus /D. Litt./, 23 doctors, 7 senior assistants, 12 assistants, 13 research scholars, 16 lecturers and 10 language teachers. Many part-time lecturers, 10 librarians, technical and administrative assistants are also employed at the Institute.

The following have been directors of the Oriental Institute: prof. dr. A. Zajaczkowski /1945-1950/, prof. dr. W. Jabłonski /1950-1957/, prof. dr. A. Zajaczkowski /1957-1961/, prof. dr. S. Strelcyn /1961-1965/, prof. dr. J. Chmielewski /1965-1972/, prof. dr. W. Kotański /1972-1978/, doc. dr. hab. M. Melanowicz /1978-1981/, and doc. dr. hab. T. Majda since 1981.

The following languages are taught in the Oriental institute: Akkadian, Arab, Bengali, Chinese, Coptic, Egyptian, Ethiopian, Georgian, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Hittite, Japanese, Korean, Malayan, Mongolian, Persian, Pashtu, Sanskrit, Suahili, Sumerian, Tajik, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, Uzbek and Vietnamese. Many other languages, both living and dead, are studied at the Institute without being regularly taught. Research work conducted at the Institute includes linguistics, the theory of literature, history, religious, social, economic and political problems, culture, art and ethnography of different regions of Asia and Africa. While carrying out such a manifold research in both ancient and contemporary Asian and African civilizations, the Institute

also investigates their links with European culture and particularly their political and cultural relations with Poland and the inspirations and influences of the Eastern literature and art upon Polish culture.

The main didactic task of the Institute is to offer Master of Arts courses in Arabic, African, Ethiopian, Egyptian, Ancient East, Hebrew, Indological, Iranian, Japanese, Mongolian, Chinese and Turkish Studies. After completing a five-year course in any of these fields the title of Master of this specific discipline is awarded to the student.

The Institute maintains numerous contacts both individual and within the framework of reciprocal agreements with many centres of Oriental Studies throughout the world. Scholars working at the Institute are invited to deliver lectures, to take part in research projects and to participate in various degree awarding procedures. They, as well as their students, are offered brief and longer scholarships and fellowships abroad. The Institute also invites in similar capacities outstanding specialists from abroad. Our scholars often participate in congresses, seminars and conferences organized abroad. Many belong to various national and international societies and take an active part in the work of numerous committees, advisory bodies, and international commissions. Each year the Institute organizes national scientific sessions as well as conferences, seminars and congresses with foreign participants.

Although the Institute has no regular publication of its own, the editorial activity of its scholars is considerable. It includes articles, books, handbooks for students, popularizing works and translations. These include many joint ventures and encyclopaedias published in Poland and abroad.

During the fifty years of its existence, the Oriental Institute had to overcome difficulties, many of which were not of a scholarly nature. The PIAC salutes the Institute on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and expresses the wish that the second half of its first century should be one of peaceful, successful scholarly activity.

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The Proceedings of the 24th meeting of the PIAC, held in Jerusalem in 1981, are now in proofs and will appear as a special number of the Israeli periodical Asian and African Studies with Professor Marcel Erdal as guest editor.

## STUDIA URALO-ALTAICA

For ten years now, the Institute for Altaic Studies of the József Attila University at Szeged (Hungary) has published a series entitled Studia Uralo-Altaica and edited by Professors P. Hajdu, T. Mikola, and A. Róna-Tas who heads the institute. No doubt, outside the Soviet Union, Szeged is now the most important center of conventional, i.e. mainly linguistically oriented, Altaic studies. We have cognizance of seventeen volumes so far published, of which the following deal with Altaic subjects.

- No. 1, A. Róna-Tas - S. Fodor, Epigraphica Bulgarica. A volgai bolgár-török feliratok. 1973, 189 pp.
- No. 4, H. Paasonen, Tschuwaschisches Wörterverzeichnis. Eingeleitet von A. Róna-Tas. 1974. [Reprint of the vocabulary first published in 1908.]
- No. 8, Ph. J. von Strahlenberg, Das Nord- und ostliche Theil von Europa und Asia. With a preface by John R. Krueger. [Reprint of the edition published in Stockholm in 1730.] 1975.
- No. 10, Käthe U. Köhalmi, Chrestomathia Sibirica. Auswahl aus der Volksdichtung der sibirischen Urvölker. 1977, 233 pp.  
 [Contains in transcription sample texts in Old Turkic (Yenissei inscriptions), Shor, Khakas, Siberian Tatar, Tuvín, Yakut, Buriat, Kamnigan, Evenki, Even, Nanai, Ulcha, Nivkh, Chuckchee, Eskimo, and Yukakir.]
- Nos. 14-15, Sir Gerard Clauson, An Etymological Dictionary of Pre-Thirteenth-Century Turkish. Index. With a preface by A. Róna-Tas. 1981, 339 + 261 pp. [A computerized index, alphabetical and a tergo of the original version, with some other additions.]
- No. 17, A. Róna-Tas (Editor), Studies in Chuvash Etymology. I. 1982, 240 pp. [Contains eight articles by five authors. The last of these is a carefully prepared "Select bibliography towards a future etymological dictionary of Chuvash", compiled by Ádám Molnár.]

The volumes may be ordered from John Benjamins, Amsterdam, Holland. Orders from socialist countries should, however, be addressed to Kultura, H-1389 Budapest, P.O.B. 149, Hungary.

## MANCHU STUDIES NEWSLETTER

In 1977 Dr. Larry V. Clark, then a member of the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies of Indiana University, published the first issue of a Manchu Studies Newsletter, modest in appearance but useful in its content. According to the Editor's introductory remarks the Newsletter was "to serve as a forum for the exchange of information concerning international research in Manchu. Its scope extends from the central topics of the rise of the Manchus and the Ch'ing Dynasty backward to include Jurchen studies and forward to include the study of modern remnants such as the Sibe. Its approach is humanistic." This first issue (39 pp.) was generally well received and students of Manchu were looking forward to further numbers.

The PIAC has never obtained a copy of No. II of the Newsletter and, with Dr. Clark's departure from Indiana University, contacts were lost. It is thus with great pleasure that we acknowledge Issues III (1979-1980) and IV (1981-1982) sent to the Secretary General by Professor Jerry Norman of the University of Washington.

No. III (90 pp., typed quarto) contains articles by Stephen W. Durrant "Folklore Motif and Portrayal of Nurhaci in the Man-chou-Shih-lu", Tsumagari Toshiro "The Interpretation of Some Words in the Nišan saman i bithe", and Larry V. Clark, "Manchu Suffix List", and a "Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Erforschung der tungusisch-mandjurischen Sprachen" by H. Walravens, based on V.A. Gorcevskaja's bibliography.

No. IV (90 pp. typed quarto) has articles by Joseph S. Sebes, "A Description of the Tartars (Manchus) by the Jesuit Gabriel de Magalhaes in 1674...", by P. de Jong, "Vowel Harmony in Manchu", by Robert G. Service, "An Alphabetical Index to L. Misig's Catalog of the Manchu Collection in the State Library, Ulan Bator", by Hartmut Walravens, "A.O. Ivanovskij: A Biobibliographical Sketch", and by Larry V. Clark, "Manchu-Tungus Lexicography".

A short note of the Editor informs us that Issue IV constitutes the end of his involvement with the Newsletter. Thus, henceforth, enquiries or material for publication should be sent to:

Professor Jerry Norman  
 Department of Asian Languages & Literatures, DO-21  
 University of Washington  
 Seattle, Washington 98105

The PIAC presents its best wishes to the new Editor and expresses the hope that for many years he may continue the good work so ably started by Dr. Clark.

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A.O. Ivanovskij's Manjurica. I. Obrazcy solonskago i dakhurskago jazykov, (Sankpeterburg 1894) was reprinted in a reduced format and with a short foreword by G. Kara, as vol. 2 of Materials for Central Asiatic and Altaic Studies, (Budapest, Akadémiai Kiadó, 1982). The publication has an English title: Mandjurica I. Specimens of the Solon and Dagur Languages.



## SOME RECENTLY LAUNCHED PERIODIC PUBLICATIONS ON CENTRAL ASIA

Just about a year ago appeared - or so the cover says - the first number of a periodical entitled Central Asian Survey. It is the journal of the Oxford-based Society for Central Asian Studies and its editor is S. Enders Wimbush. There is no indication concerning the frequency at which the issues would follow, but vol. I, Nos. 2/3, appeared dated Oct. 1982-Jan. 1983. No. 1 has 153, Nos. 2/3 157 pages.

According to the Editor's introduction "Central Asian Survey is intended to assist in bridging the gaps in our knowledge about our colleagues and their research, about our different analytical, regional, political, and social viewpoints, and about our interpretations of Central Asia's past and our forecasts for her future. Ours is a search for links to connect the heterogeneous disciplines that comprise Central Asian studies. But we aim not to become another arcane forum in which specialists can speak to one another in language only they understand. Rather, we seek to appeal to specialists and non-specialists alike, to highly trained professionals, to students, to policy-makers, to interested laymen. From time to time this may appear to be an elusive goal, for these can be exclusive constituencies; yet, we are bound together by our common interest in learning more about Central Asia."

The first volume seems to fulfill the aims set by the editor. Strongly present oriented, and not free from political bias the articles are, on the whole, scholarly and informative. This reviewer particularly enjoyed reading a masterly tribute to Sir Olaf Caroe (1892-1981) by George Chowdharay-Best (pp. 93-104 of No. 1, pp. 91-102 of No. 2).

Central Asian Survey is attractively produced and can be ordered from Oxford Microform Publications, 19a Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD. Americans wishing to subscribe are liable to be penalized by an arbitrary, unrealistic exchange rate.

S. Enders Wimbush together with Marie Broxup are also the editors of The Central Asian Newsletter, attractively produced with no indication given concerning the frequency at which it is published. On the four pages of the last issue we saw (vol. 2, No. 3, May 1983) there was a useful list of recent publications, some news about various ongoing projects and some information taken from the Turkish and the Uzbek presses. The information conveyed by the Newsletter is of interest. It is another matter whether it is worth a subscription which for an American institution is set at \$32. Subscriptions must be pre-paid to the Society for Central Asian Studies, P.O. Box 131, Oxford, OX1 2NJ, Great Britain.

The Journal of Central Asia first appeared in July 1978. It is edited by Professor Ahmad Hasan Dani, Director, Centre for the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Published with the assistance of Unesco, it appears twice yearly, on over three hundred pages, and it is the journal of the International Association for the Study of the Cultures of Central Asia (IASCCA). In its content the journal turns toward the past, often toward prehistory. The cooperation between Pakistani and Soviet scholars provides some important primary material. Territorially the journal focuses its attention principally on Pakistan and Northern India and many of the results obtained through field work undertaken by the "Pakistani-German Study Group for Anthropological Research in the Northern Areas" appear on its pages. Scholars interested in the Gilgit or Hunza regions and in the sometimes spectacular finds that have come to light there can hardly forego the use of this important, scholarly publication.

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Beginning with 1982, the above-mentioned IASCCA is publishing an Information Bulletin prepared by the IASCCA Information and Documentation Centre, headed by Professor S. I. Potabenko and located in the Institut Vostokovedeniya of the Soviet Academy (12, ul. Zdanova, 103777 Moscow). Elegantly produced in a small format (approx. 14.4 x 21.5 cm.), the Bulletin is published twice a year, simultaneously in a Russian and an English version. The first three issues (all bearing the date of 1982) contain short research articles, reports on archaeological investigations, notices on conferences, symposia, and on new publications. Much of this information would not be readily available elsewhere. Main emphasis lies on archaeology, even prehistoric archaeology, but there are also articles dealing with later periods or with general problems. Many, though by no means all, of the articles were originally written in Russian (American participation in this publication is quite considerable), and the English translation does not always do justice to the original text. Particular attention should be paid to giving the titles of Russian publications in their original form, and not only in an English translation, as was done e.g. in the case of Piankova's article on "South-Western Tajikistan in the Bronze Age" (issue 1, pp. 35-46). It would also be wise to control carefully the re-transcription into English of originally non-Russian personal names. Thus, for example, on p. 6 of Issue 6, W. Tomsen should be Thomsen, Senar should be Sénart.

The Bulletin promises to become a very useful publication. Efforts should not be spared to make it as close to perfection as possible.

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The Center for Middle Eastern Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP, now produces a newsletter entitled TASG News, Newsletter of the Turkish/Turkic Area Study Group. Edited by Dr. Margaret Bainbridge, it is published in November, February, and May. The Newsletter's coverage extends well beyond the British Isles and, though news involving Turkish studies make up most of its material, each issue contains some information related to other aspects of Turcology.

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#### PUBLICATIONS FROM TAIWAN

The PIAC has received for distribution No. 13 (September 1982) of the Bulletin of the Institute of China Border Area Studies published by the National Chengchi University, Taipei, and also the Proceedings of the Fifth East Asian Altaistic Conference, December 26, 1979 - January 2, 1980, National Taiwan University, edited by Ch'en Chieh-hsien. (On the conference cf. PIAC Newsletter No. 13, p. 10). The PIAC greatly appreciates this generosity, and will send these publications free, on a first-come first-served basis, to those who ask for them. To help cover postage and handling, it is suggested that per issue ordered \$2 from the USA, four international postal coupons from elsewhere, be included with each order.

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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 to others interested, but it is not for sale. The Editor welcomes items of interest for publication. All correspondence should be addressed to Professor Denis Sinor, PIAC, Goodbody Hall 101, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405, U.S.A.