

## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH</i> . . . . .  | 3  |
| V. Livshits. Sogdian Buddhist Fragment KR IV/879 No. 4263 from the Manuscript Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies . . . . .  | 3  |
| Valery Polosin. Muslim Bindings with <i>al-Khālidiyānī</i> Double Borders . . . . .   | 9  |
| <i>TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION</i> . . . . .   | 13 |
| E. Tyomkin. On the Term <i>Itihāsa</i> and the Problem of the Structure of the <i>Mahābhārata</i> Text . . . . .  | 13 |
| <i>PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS</i> . . . . .   | 19 |
| O. Vasilyeva. Oriental Manuscripts in the National Library of Russia . . . . .  | 19 |
| O. Frolova. Some Notes on the Arabic Manuscripts and Collections in the Library of the Oriental Faculty of the St. Petersburg University . . . . .                    | 36 |
| A. Sazykin. The Collection of Mongolian Manuscripts and Xylographs in the Ethnological Museum of the Republic of Tuva in Kyzyl . . . . .                              | 44 |
| <i>ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES</i> . . . . .  | 50 |
| H. Braam, M. Vandamme. A Robust and Versatile Solution for the Digital Publication of Manuscript Materials . . . . .  | 51 |
| <i>PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT</i> . . . . .  | 56 |
| A. Khalidov. A Unique 14th Century Literary Anthology Manuscript from Baghdad . . . . .   | 56 |
| A. Sazykin. Illustrated Manuscript of “One Hundred Thousand Verses” in the Mongolian Fund of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies . . . . . | 62 |
| <i>BOOK REVIEWS</i> . . . . .   | 64 |

### Colour plates:

#### Front cover:

The inside of the manuscript's front cover (on the left): Čudabandaka (Skt. Cūdāpanthaka; Tib. Lam-phran-bstan), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 5 (call number K 24), 15.0 × 16.0 cm.

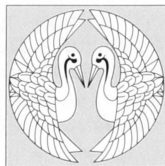
#### Back cover:

**Plate 1.** The inside of the back cover (from left to right): 1. Esru-a (Skt. Brahmā, Tib. Tshangs-pa); 2. Bigar (Skt. Śiva, Tib. ?); 3. Qormusta (Skt. Indra, Tib. brGya-byin), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 5 (call number K 24), 52.0 × 15.5 cm.

**Plate 2.** The inside of the front cover (on the left): Inggida (Skt. Aṅgaja, Tib. Yan-lag-'byung); (on the right) Bagula (Skt. Bakula, Tib. Ba-ku-la), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 4 (call number K 24), 53.0 × 15.5 cm.

**Plate 3.** The inside of the back cover (from left to right): 1. Qayanggiru-a (Skt. Lohakhaḍga Hayagrīva, Tib. Rta-mgrin lcags-ral-can); 2. Beiji Maq-a-kala (Skt. Aghora Mahākāla, Tib. Beg-tse); 3. Coytu Ökin tngri (Skt. Ekamātā Shrī Devī, Tib. Ma-cig dpal-ldan lha-mo), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 4 (call number K 24), 52.0 × 15.5 cm.

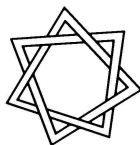
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES  
ST.PETERSBURG BRANCH



# **Manuscripta Orientalia**

*International Journal for Oriental Manuscript Research*

Vol. 2 No. 2 June 1996



**75ESA**  
**St. Petersburg-Helsinki**

---

---

## **ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

In 1995 different institutions started the publication of the CD-ROM series connected with the handwritten heritage. The "Memory of the World" program of UNESCO was presented as the realisation of the new approach to safeguarding documentary materials and as the first step in creating the decentralised interactive world library. The first issues of the series will contain the manuscripts and early printed books of the Prague National Library, those of Sofia, the Radzivil Chronicle stored in the Library of the Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia), Memoria de Iberoamerica, the San'a' manuscripts, and the manuscripts preserved in the Kandilli Observatory in Istanbul. Some of the above-mentioned CD-ROMs are already published.

The colleagues from SS Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia, in cooperation with Ukrainian programmers of the "Diamed" Company (Donetsk), have published two CD-ROMs containing correspondingly the richly decorated 13th century manuscript of the Qur'an and about 15 thousand images of the Balkan Tetraevangelia, as well as a number of the Qur'āns dated from the 12th—17th centuries.

This year, within the project "Asiatic Museum. Treasures from St. Petersburg Academic Collection of Oriental Manuscripts (CD-ROM Series)", at least two very interesting manuscripts from the collection are expected to be published. The first of them is the "Secret Visionary Autobiography" of the Fifth Dalai Lama Ngag-dbang blo-bzang rgya-mtsho (1617—1682). His work is an outstanding specimen of Tibetan spirituality, being both the record of Dalai Lama's years-long visionary experiences and a description of the most esoteric rituals of Tibetan Buddhism as well.

The second CD-ROM publication will contain a three-volume manuscript of great importance from both the textological and codicological points of view. It appears to represent one of the earliest Arabic translations of the Bible, as well as the oldest copy of such a translation. The manuscript was transcribed in Damascus in 1236 from the original executed in Antioch in 1022. In 1913 it was presented to the Russian Tsar Nicholas II by Gregory IV, the Patriarch of Antioch.

In one of the next issues of *Manuscripta Orientalia* we hope to publish our first observations about the work on the project. Publishing the paper of our Dutch colleagues, which is connected with another joint project on digital publication of 8 Rabghūzī MSS from the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, we would like to propose to all interested in the problems connected with CD-ROM publication to take part in the discussion by sending us their articles, comments, or even short remarks on the subject. In continuation of the tradition of the "Correspondent Round Tables" (see *Manuscripta Orientalia*, I, 3 (1995), pp. 47—58) it seems to be very helpful to use this fruitful form of exchange of opinions and to publish the corresponding material in one of the next issues of the journal.

It is really interesting to discuss some technical aspects of the CD-ROM production connected with the problems of the input of the material, the approaches to the problem of the rights protection, Internet possibilities, the necessity and volume of "multimedia entertainment" of different kind to be included in the purely scholarly publications. And last but not least, it would be of some use to consider the problems of CD-ROMs distribution and the questions of marketing. It is odd enough, hundreds of CD-ROM publications were presented at 1995 Frankfurt Book Fair, but during my stay in New York in December 1995 I was unable to find even one of them.

I am sure that now, when many CD-ROM projects are on their way, the discussion of the topics mentioned above, as well as of those connected with the problem in general, could be of some use to the readers of *Manuscripta Orientalia*.

*Efim Rezvan,*

author and coordinator of the project  
"Asiatic Museum. Treasures from St. Petersburg Academic  
Collection of Oriental Manuscripts (CD-ROM Series)"