

## CONTENTS

<i>TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH</i>	5
<b>E. Kychanov.</b> Tangut Buddhist Books: Customers, Copyists, and Editors	5
<b>K. Solonin.</b> The Masters of Hongzhou in the Tangut State . . . . .	10
<b>I. Petrosyan.</b> The <i>Mawlid-i Nabī</i> by Süleymān Çelebī and Its Two Versions . . . . .	16
<i>TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION</i> . . . . .	24
<b>E. Rezvan.</b> The Qur'ān and Its World: VII. Talisman, Shield, and Sword	24
<i>MANUSCRIPTS CONSERVATION</i> . . . . .	35
<b>N. Brovenko.</b> An Arabic Bible in the Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies: the Problems of Restoration.	35
<i>ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES</i> . . . . .	39
<b>A. Matveev.</b> Visual Arts and Computing. Works of Art as a Source for the History of Warfare: a Database Project . . . . .	39
<i>PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT</i>	62
<b>O. Akimushkin.</b> An Entire Library in a Single Binding . . . . .	62
<i>BOOK REVIEWS</i> .	70

### Front cover:

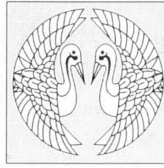
“Zulaykhā recognises in Yūsuf, who is led as a slave before the Pharaoh's palace, the youth whom she saw in a dream”.  
Miniature to the poem *Yūsuf wa Zulaykhā* by Nūr al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Jāmī. *Gulshan*, manuscript E 12  
in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, fol. 203 b, 37.0 × 27.2 cm.

### Back cover:

**Plate 1.** “Wedding celebrations of the young ruler of Ḥalab and Gul”. Miniature to an untitled poem by Muḥammad Kāzīm b. Muḥammad Riḍā, the same manuscript, fol. 116 a, 36.8 × 29.0 cm.

**Plate 2.** “Yūsuf, rescued from the well, among the members of the merchant Malik's caravan”. Miniature to the poem *Yūsuf wa Zulaykhā* by Nūr al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Raḥmān Jāmī, the same manuscript, fol. 202 a, 36.3 × 25.2 cm.

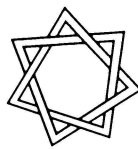
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**ТБЕСА**  
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*The Editorial Board of* **MANUSCRIPTA ORIENTALIA**

*dedicates this volume to*

*Professor Nishida Tatsuo,*

*outstanding scholar in the field of linguistics and Tangut studies,  
on the occasion of his 70th birthday*



November 26, 1998 marks seventy years since the birth of Professor Nishida Tatsuo, a well-known linguist in international Oriental studies circles and an outstanding specialist on Tibeto-Burman languages. Prof. Nishida Tatsuo was born in the city of Osaka. During the Second World War he endured hardships and the terror of intense bombings. In his words, these experiences remained with him for the rest of his life. Bombing partially destroyed the building of the Institute of Foreign Languages in Osaka, where Prof. Nishida studied after completing secondary school. On March 31, 1948 he graduated from the Osaka Institute of Foreign Languages, at present the Department of the Chinese Language at the Osaka University of Foreign Languages. One of his teachers was Prof. Ishihama Juntaro, who collaborated with N. A. Nevsky on reviving the study of texts written in the dead Tangut language. To this aim, articles on Tangut studies jointly authored by Ishihama Juntaro and N. A. Nevsky appeared in 1927 and 1930. It was Prof. Juntaro who suggested Tangut studies — the study of the language and literature of Hsi Hsia — to his talented student as a promising field.

Nishida Tatsuo came to the University of Kyoto on 1 April 1948 and stayed there until 1992. After his retirement he continued his work there as professor emeritus. Prof. Nishida earned his first degree in 1951 and his doctorate in 1962. From 1956 on he taught on the Philological Faculty of Kyoto University, attaining the status of full professor in February 1972.

Prof. Nishida's first study was dedicated to a well-known inscription in Chü-yung-kuan, the Tangut text of which he investigated. In May 1959, he received the award of the Japanese Academy for his work. In March 1962, Prof. Nishida defended his doctoral dissertation "An Analysis of the Literature of Hsi Hsia and a Study of the Hsi Hsia Language". The publication in 1960 of A. N. Nevsky's two-volume "Tangut Philology" served as a great support to Prof. Nishida in his scholarly pursuits. In 1964—1966, Prof. Nishida published his two-volume "Study of the Language of Hsi Hsia", for which he received the Imperial Award of the Japanese Academy.

The publication of these works by N. A. Nevsky and Prof. Nishida represented a new stage in the study of the Tangut language and the texts written in Tangut. Prof. Nishida was the first to undertake the reconstruction of the phonetics of the Tangut language. Later, after many researches in this field had appeared, he introduced changes in his study on Tangut phonetics in 1983.

Prof. Nishida was the first to posit a complete system of actual phonetic equivalents for Tangut written signs. All subsequent works in the field would have been impossible without his valuable contribution. In 1968, the "Grammar of the Tangut language" by M. V. Sofronov appeared. The scholar employed a large number of new Tangut original sources. Relying on Prof. Nishida's work, M. V. Sofronov presented his own phonetic reconstruction of the dead Tangut language. This was followed by reconstruction of initials and finals by Shi Jin-bo, Ne Hung-in, and Huang Zheng-hua in the republication of the dictionary "Sea of Signs", as well as by the reconstruction of Li Fan-wen. It should be noted that a single, generally accepted phonetic reconstruction of the Tangut language and system for the transcription of Tangut texts is lacking to this day.

As concerns the grammar of the Tangut language, those few scholars who have come after Prof. Nishida Tatsuo took as their starting point the original grammatical observations of Prof. Nishida, at times supporting and sometimes disputing his conclusions.

Tangut studies, to which Prof. Nishida dedicated several monographs and dozens of articles, did not represent the entirety of his scholarly interests. He is the author of more than 150 works, including more than 20 monographs. Prof. Nishida gained renown as a major specialist on Tibeto-Burman languages, publishing his research in a series of dictionaries of the *Hua-yi yi-yu*, the translation bureau of the Chinese Ming dynasty.

The academic career of Prof. Nishida developed very successfully. In 1972, he became the head of the linguistics department of the Philological Faculty and a member of the Kyoto University council; in January 1978, dean of the Philological Faculty; in 1979, President of the Japanese Society of Linguists. From 1986 to 1992, Prof. Nishida was the director of the Central Library of the University of Kyoto. After his retirement, he served as vice-president of the University of Kyoto from 1992 to 1994 and as a professor at the National Centre of Scientific Information Systems in the Japanese Ministry of Education and Culture. In January 1994, for his "contribution to linguistic research", Prof. Nishida received the Asahi prize.

Prof. Nishida's greatest service to scholarship lies in his enormous contribution to the history and comparative study of Tibeto-Burman languages as well as the study of certain rare languages. At the beginning of his career, during his work in Thailand, Prof. Nishida discovered the Bisu language. He also established the existence of Tosu, a previously unknown language.

The overwhelming majority of Prof. Nishida's works are published in Japanese. For this reason they are, unfortunately, insufficiently familiar to specialists working in Tibeto-Burman languages. In Russia Prof. Nishida is known primarily as a Tangut specialist. He is also a great friend of Russian scholars who work in the field of Tangut studies. During his numerous visits to the Saint-Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies Prof. Nishida conducted intensive research in the collection of Tangut manuscripts and old-print books, translating and publishing several texts. In the days of great financial embarrassment in the post-communist Russia, Prof. Nishida offered both moral and financial support to the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. He was one of the first abroad who welcomed the appearance of the *Manuscripta Orientalia* and joined its board of advisors.

As a historian by training, the author of these remarks is not capable to evaluate in full Prof. Nishida's scholarly legacy. However, my investigations in history would have been impossible without Prof. Nishida's profound Tangut studies. His books continue to be of great help in my work. I share Prof. Nishida's views on the nature of Tangut script and highly appreciate his translations from Tangut. His valuable observations on the Tangut language are invariably helpful. I must also confess that I have always valued the personal friendship between Prof. Nishida and myself.

Prof. Nishida has young students in Tangut studies, not to mention numerous students in general linguistics. They will continue the endeavour initiated by their teacher.

The Editorial Board of the *Manuscripta Orientalia*, my Russian colleagues in Tangut studies and the staff of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies warmly congratulate Prof. Nishida Tatsuo on his seventieth birthday and wish him good health and long life. And we all say, 'Dear Prof. Nishida, as before, we are awaiting from you new works'.

Prof. E. I. Kychanov