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“Truthful Record of the Qing Dynasty”: Peculiarities of Acquisition and Structure of the Monument

Abstract

Based on generalization of the Russian, Mongolian, and Chinese scholarship, the article presents a structural characterization of the Qingshilu (“Truthful record of the Qing dynasty”), historical monument of the Manchu rule over China. The authors describe the complex process its creation in great detail. The analysis clarifies the issue of identifying the language of the primary source, which, in turn, increases opportunities of revealing the full potential of the historical and cultural heritage of the multilingual variants of the manuscript. Having studied

historiographical discourse on the correlation between multilingual variants of Qingshilu in the historical works in Old Mongolian, Manchu, and Chinese, the authors conclude that it is possible to turn up new data on the history and culture of the Mongolian peoples of the Qing period by scrutinizing the materials of the 2“Truthful record of the Qing dynasty” published in 2013 in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China on the basis of the Mongolian variant of the Qingshilu. Concerning the structure of the Qingshilu, discrepancies in assessments of its total volume should be noted. Following the analysis of Russian and foreign scientific literature on the “Truthful record of the Qing dynasty,” a need has emerged to demarcate notions of semantically close terms reflecting the structure of the monument. Since in the source studies on the Qingshilu corpus there is no uniform and well-formed terminological tradition, the authors offer a system of terms and notions developed on the basis of refined description of the language of the original oeuvre. Such system is necessary for correct analysis and description of the sizeable and multilayered structure of the Qingshilu corpus. An attempt has been made to reconstruct the contents and determine places where all sets of the manuscript books of the Qing chronicle are kept.

### Keywords

Qingshilu (“Truthful record of the Qing Dynasty”), China, Mongolia, Qing dynasty (1644–1911), Oriental studies, source studies.

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