

УДК 94(47)+94 (470.47)+930.253

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-4-1206-1216

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About the Collection of Tibetan and Mongolian Written Sources Donated to the Archive of the Kalmyk Scientific Center of the RAN by E. B. Ubushiev: Using Donation Inscriptions to Touch Up the Portrait of Donator

Abstract

The article studies documents from the scientific archive of the Kalmyk Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences with its acquisitions of late 1960s – early 1980s. Collection of old-written sources in Oriental languages (Tibetan, Oyirad and Mongolian) occupies a special place in the archival collection; it is concentrated in 2 fonds (fond 15 and 8). Fond 15 consists of personal library of a famous Kalmyk priest Tugmyud-gavji (O. M. Dordzhiev) (1887—1980); it has been well-studied in a number of publications. As for fond 8, it consists of handwritten and

Written by Delyash N. Muzraeva
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printed materials acquired from different owners over years of the research center (formerly Institute) work; there is next to nothing known of the documents provenance. Content of the documents in both fonds is related to Buddhism, traditional religion of the Kalmyks for the last 400 years: there are examples of Buddhist book-learning, mainly in Tibetan and Mongolian languages; there are also manuscripts using 'todo bi'iq' ('Clear Script') writing, which were created in the middle of the 17th century. The article also describes manuscripts and xylographs in Tibetan and Mongolian languages which were donated to the Institute by priest Erdni Bakaldykovych Ubushiev (1905—1981). A distinctive feature of these written sources is abundance of inscriptions on the marginalias, most of which are donator's gift inscriptions — a phenomenon quite rare for Buddhist books. The article cites a number of such records and provides their transliteration and translation. The author tries to find out what motivated the donator, what goals he pursued when using these books and when transferring them for archival usage and storage. Manuscripts and xylographs from fond 8 enrich our understanding of the composition of Buddhist writings of the Kalmyks and of the history of diffusion of individual texts. Great source studies value of this fond lies in what we can learn about donators from inscriptions of ownership and donation inscriptions on the documents.



Keywords

Documentary sources, archive of the Kalmyk Scientific Center of the RAS, written monuments, Oriental languages, donation inscriptions, E. B. Ubushiev.

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Wednesday, 09 June 2021 16:54

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Grant information

The research was carried out within the frameworks of state subsidy —project 'Old-Written literature of the Mongolian peoples: Texts and studies' (registration no. AAAA-A18-118021090005-1).

Submitted 10.07.2018, published:

MUZRAEVA, D. N. Kolleksii tibetskikh i mongol'skikh pis'mennykh istochnikov Kalmytskogo nauchnogo tsentra RAN, postupivshikh ot E. B. Ubushieva. Shtrikhi k portretu fondoobrazovatelya po darstvennym zapisyam [About the Collection of Tibetan and Mongolian Written Sources Donated to the Archive of the Kalmyk Scientific Center of the RAN by E. B. Ubushiev: Using Donation Inscriptions to Touch Up the Portrait of Donator. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2018, no. 4, pp. 1206-1216. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-4-1206-1216

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Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .