

## REPORTS

ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS OF  
THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY (1978)

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The Mongolia Society, founded in 1961 as a non-profit, non-political organization devoted to all aspects of Mongolia, has given much of its energy over the years to publications. Beginning with a Newsletter (vols. 1-3, 1962-4), then a Bulletin (vols. 4-12, 1965-73), the Society now issues *Mongolian Studies: Journal of the Mongolia Society*, a periodical containing scholarly research articles, embracing a cross-disciplinary approach to Mongolia past and present. Volume 5 for 1978 will appear presently. A series of Occasional Papers treated the Mongolian economy, literature, religion, travel and history; and the series, Special Papers, gives works originally written in Mongolian. The Society also sponsored some other publications, like a set of maps and the popular reprinting of F. D. Lessing's large *Mongolian-English Dictionary*.

In 1978 the society issued as Occasional Paper 9, Ramstedt's memoirs of his travels in Mongolia and Asia, *Seven Journeys Eastward, 1898-1912* (277 pages including fifty-two photographs), an adventure-filled account of his studies and research, including valuable political information about the period of Mongolian autonomy. Occasional Paper 10 is A. M. Pozdneyev's account of life in a Mongolian Buddhist (Lamaist) monastery 100 years ago, now titled *Religion and Ritual in Society: Lamaist Buddhism in Late 19th-Century Mongolia* (694 pp.). It treats the divine services, the ritual, the clergy, the temple furnishings, and the relation of the church to the people.

Early in 1978 the Society issued Part One of John R. Krueger's projected large Oirat-Mongolian citation dictionary (204 pages covering the first seven letters, the vowels). The additional parts, to a total of 900 pages, will be issued later. This unique work gives the entire vocabulary of the Western Mongolian literary language for the period of about 1648 to 1924, drawing on all known edited and transcribed dictionaries and texts, plus numerous unedited documents.

Special Paper 6 is devoted to L. Dindub's *Brief History of Mongolia in the Autonomous Period* (214 pages in Mongolian); the editor, Dr. Hangin, gives an English introduction about the work and an index of persons treated. It is a valuable primary source scarcely available even in Mongolia any more. Special Paper 7 deals with the famous Bewitched Corpse Cycle of folktales from Indian sources, *Thirteen Kalmyk-Oirat Tales*, with script text, keyed glossary and literary translation into English by J. R. Krueger. It serves as a convenient handbook and introduction to Oirat (West Mongolian) Studies (120 pp.).

Occasional Paper 11 will be a new English edition of Prof. Nicholas Poppe's Russian work, *Heroic Epic of the Khalkha Mongols*. It is translated and edited and, after a retyping, will probably appear in mid-1979 (210 pp. typescript).

The Society hopes to issue another reprinting of Lessing's Dictionary, an important and standard reference work indispensable for English-speakers. The pressure of other duties and the cost of printing have thus far combined to delay this much-needed publication. Volume 6 of *Mongolian Studies* for 1979 is already organized and will go into preparation presently.

Admission to the Society is open to all persons and institutions having interest in any aspect of Mongolia; dues are \$15 annually (students \$7.50).

The Mongolia Society, Inc.

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#### MONGOLISTIC ACTIVITIES AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

The Mongolia Society is housed in facilities of Indiana University at Bloomington, though it remains a distinct and independent institution.

Since several important projects in Mongolian studies are now under way at Indiana University, I take this liberty to mention them in the thought that some readers may thus secure information about them.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is supporting a three-year project for a new major Mongolian-English dictionary, directed by Hangin and Krueger, with research staff. The project is about half-complete, and letters A-M (about 350 typed pages) are finished in draft. The total may run to about 900 pages; after revision and limited circulation the dictionary will be printed, but it will certainly be at least two full years before it is available. This is a Cyrillic-order modern dictionary with definitions and examples in English, stressing social sciences, literature, history, etc.

The same institution, NEH, is also supporting a Mongolian folklore project which will produce an annotated volume of translated Mongolian folklore in different genres (eight to ten chapters to cover epic, tales, riddles, invocations, proverbs, etc.). A supplement will give the Mongolian texts. This will be finished in 1979 and probably published at a later time.

The Mongolian Studies Humanities Curriculum is sponsored by the Office of Education and will present a one- or two-volume introduction to Mongolian history, civilization and area studies suitable for college courses in Asia. The completion of this project, delayed by many factors, is soon expected, and one would hope it might also soon be published for general use.

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