

# *Notes on Our Collection of Central Asian and Siberian Literature*

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Within the special collection of “Altaic and Palaeoasiatic Languages, Literature and Culture” financed largely by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for more than 40 years until 2015, when the programme was stopped, one of the best collections of material from and about Sinkiang and Centralasia has been brought together at the State- and University-Library in Goettingen. Since 2019 the State and University Library in Goettingen has secured new funding for its Central Asian Collection within the program of the Special Information Services by the DFG.

## **Central Asia:**

The State and University Library collects literature in the field of humanities especially in the autochthonous languages of Central Asia and Siberia. This includes a very good collection of Kazakh and Kyrgyz literature as well as literature in Uzbek, Turkmen and other languages of Central Asia. I will highlight two important special collections within the Central Asian Collection:

### **The Sinkiang Collection:**

The Sinkiang-Collection includes thousands of titles in the Uighur, Kazakh and Kirgiz language, most of them in Arabic script. Furthermore you will find titles in Oirat, Mongolian, Sibo-Manchurian, Dagur and of course Chinese within this collection. There is also plenty of material from neighbouring Kazakhstan, Usbekistan, Mongolia and other Centralasian republics and the Asian part of Russia.

There are currently more than 7000 titles in Uighur available in Goettingen, most of them from Sinkiang, but also some from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Here just an example for a collection of Uighur folk-literature available under the shelfmark 2010 C 9 : 1-12 Uyğur xälq eğız ädäbiyati qamusi / Abduraxman Äbäy.

The 283 volume set of archive material from the Ch’ing-dynasty from Sinkiang in Manchurian language in facsimilized form has recently been bought for the library and can be consulted easily in our reading room in the new Cultural Studies Centre (Shelf mark: 2013 B 461 : 1-283 清代新疆满文档案汇编 Qing dai Xin jiang Man wen dang an hui bian).

This collection of recent publications is complemented with older material from the 1930s to 1970s. This includes older issues of Sinkiang newspapers like the Sinjang Geziti (from 1949), the Inqilabi šärqi Türkistan (1947 f.), Ärk (1946 f.), šinjiang Uyghur geziti (1936/37). There are also newspapers in Oirat from 1950 onward or in Sibo language (Čabčal serkin, since 1980). Newspapers are not bought as regular subscriptions, but older bound issues are bought as sources for the language and culture of the peoples of Sinkiang. They are not complete.

The minority group of Chinese muslim, known as Hui or Dungan, holds a special place. Many of them are of Uighur origin, but most have lost their original language and speak only Chinese. There is a 235

volume set of Hui literature: Shelfmark 2010 B 1210: 1-235 Hui-zu dian-cang quan-shu 回族典藏全書。

There are several Collectanea of older literature on the Muslim “Northwest” of China, mostly reprints of Qing- or Republican literature and most of it in Chinese. Many of these can be found under the following shelf-marks: 2013 B 583:1- ; 2013 B 585:1- ; 2012 B 2559:1- ; 2011 B 1557:1- ; 2011 B 1560:1- ; Please use the GUK for your search <https://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de> Make sure the search category is set to ” [SGN] shelf mark” . Insert the shelf mark including the number 1 for the first volume, e.g. 2013 B 583:1 , getting the result please click again on “range of volumes”.

Since 2017 all non-Chinese textbooks (except in European languages like English) are banned from schools in Sinkiang and language education in the indigeneous languages of Sinkiang has ceased completely. The material stored in the Sinkiang Collection in Goettingen is therefore a safe haven and cultural treasure trove for non-Chinese literature.

Many of these books are available in our large reference library freely accessible over four floors:

<http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/en/locations-facilities/locations-and-opening-hours/cultural-studies-divisional-library/>

### **Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus literature at the State- and University-Library Goettingen**

Within the framework of the special collection “Altaic and palaeoasiatic languages, literatures and cultures” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for now over four decades tens of thousands of titles in the different Mongolian and Manchu-Tungus languages have been bought and are now part of the State- and University Library in Goettingen. In addition there are Mongolian and Oirat manuscripts and prints, mainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, in the v. Asch collection, which holds also rich material from Siberia and the Middle East.

### **Mongolian Literature:**

The State- and University Library Goettingen houses over 18.000 Mongolian titles from and about the different Mongolian peoples, including the Kalmyk, Oirat, Dagur, Buryat, Khalka and other Mongolian ethnic groups in China etc.

The catalogue in Goettingen uses the established transcription system for titles in the Uiguro-mongolian script, as used in Krueger/Groenbech “An introduction to classical (literary) Mongolian”.

The transcription is also known as Mostaert-Vladimirtsov. For details see:

<https://collab.its.virginia.edu/wiki/tibetan-script/Mongolian%20Transliteration%20%26%20Transcription.html>

Mongolian literature published in China is mainly in the Uiguro-mongolian script, or in the Clear Script, i.e. Todo bichig for the Oirat. Mongolian books from Mongolia and Russia are mainly in the Cyrillic script.

Facsimiles of older Mongolian titles are also published regularly. E.g. a reprint of the Mongolian Kanjur from 1720, cf. shelf mark ZB 18604: 101-208.

## Some more examples of Mongolian literature in Goettingen:

Mergen keid-ün sudur-un čiyulyan (6 Kästen), Huhehot 2012 (shelf mark 2013 B 2105:1-6 plus 6 DVDs) (Mongolian sutras for recitation in temples, reprinted in the traditional format, together with DVDs that illustrate the chanting.)

Geser-ün bürin bičig (shelf mark 2010 B 1038 : 1-5). This a collection of versions of the Mongolian national epos, the Geser epos. For the Oirat the Janggar is the corresponding epos. Type "Janggar" into the searchslot of our homepage. Many Oirat books in Todo script are still awaiting proper cataloguing though. Contact me directly for Oirat material.

Mongγol sudulul-un nebterkei toli = Encyclopaedia of Mongolian studies (14 vols.) ; Huhehot 2002-2010 (shelf mark FB 28688 : 1-14)

Daičing ulus-un mayad qoli; Hailar 1990-1992 (shelf mark FB 28606 : 1-22) (Mongolian Veritable Records of the Qing-Dynasty. 22 vols.)

Daičing gürün-ü dotuyadu yamun-u Mongγol bičig-ün ger-ün dangsa (23 vols), Huhehot 2005 (shelf mark 2006 B 1598:1-23 ) (A facsimile edition of letters and documents from the „Neige“, the imperial secretariat responsible dealing with the Mongols, Tibetans, Hui (mainly muslims from Sinkiang) from the years 1671 to 1743. The first 14 fascicles for 1671 to 1687 are mainly in Mongolian, rarely in Manchurian. Manchurian documents increase in number for later years. For the last years of this period there also appear some Tibetan documents. The Index-Volume in Mongolian-Manchurian script provides some details as to the language of each document.)

Ordos barayun γarun dumdadu qosiyun-u teüke-yin mongγol dangsa ebkemel-ün songyumal (12 vols. ); Hulun buir (Hailar) 2012 (shelf mark 2013 B 1793 : 1-12) (Collection of Mongolian language archive material from the Righthand Wing of the Middle Banner of Ordos)

Mongolyn tüühen survalž bičigijn cuvral / Mongol Ulsyn Ih Surguul'. Ėrhlèn hëvlüülsën A. Canžid; hjanan tohiolduulsan Š. Čojmaa (30 vols.) ; Ulanbator 2006 (2007 A 7168:1 -30) (Historical sources and chronicles, most as facsimile of the original plus translation and footnotes in cyrillic Khalka)

Bibliotheca Oiratica: Ulanbator 2006 ff. (vol. 1 mit Signatur 2012 A 16907) (Series of monographs in Oirat Studies, ca. 35 titles until 2013. Additional subseries of Oirat biographies.)

Dumdadu ulus-un mongγol sudulul-un kömürge (中国蒙古学文库); Shenyang 1997- (different shelf marks e.g. 2013 A 12848 to 12891) (Series of monographs of Mongolian studies in China, over 150 titles until 2013. Most titles in Mongolian, some in Chinese.)

Jegün qaračın, jegün mongγol-un arad-un aman üliiger (12 vols.), Shenyang 2008 (shelf mark 2009 A 16312 : 1-12) (Folktales from the Left Qaracin-Banner)

Qoriduyar γayun-u dumdadu ulus-un mongγol uran jökiyal-un sedgül-ün degeji bičig, Peking 1999-2009 (shelf mark 2010 A 18961:1-45) (Collection in 45 vols. of valuable contributions in Mongolian language from literary journals from China.)

Zhongguo bianjiang shizhi jicheng : Neimenggu shizhi juan 中國邊疆史志集成 / 內蒙古史志 (Shelf mark 2006 B 934 : 1-70 ) (Collection in 70 vols. of older material mainly in Chinese language on the culture and history of Inner Mongolia.)

## Mongolian and Oirat newspapers:

We don't have regular subscriptions for daily newspapers. Nevertheless we occasionally buy older newspapers, bound per month or year from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s onward from Sinkiang and

Inner Mongolia in the minority languages of that region. This includes the Oirat daily from Sinkiang: Šinĵiyang-giyin ödör-in sonin (shelf mark: Ztg B 256) or from Inner Mongolia : Kōlün-buir-un sonin (Ztg B 260) and Öbör monggol-un edür-ün sonin (Ztg B 259). Similar material is bought in the Uigur, Kazakh, Kirgiz or Sibo language.

Many of these books are available in our large reference library freely accessible over four floors:

<http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/en/locations-facilities/locations-and-opening-hours/cultural-studies-divisional-library/>

### Search in the online-catalogue of the State- and University Library in Goettingen:

Go to our homepage: [www.sub.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de)

Click into the searchslot and select a catalogue. First catalogue (GUK) is for holdings within Goettingen only. Second catalogue is the GVK - GBV Union Catalogue showing you the holdings of libraries of seven states in Northern Germany. The second catalogue can also display non-Latin scripts, at the moment mainly used for Chinese and Korean, but increasingly Mongolian in Cyrillic and uiguromongolian scripts, too.

The search slot on our homepage will automatically deliver results on the GUK if not chosen otherwise. You can use this first search slot to insert keywords in German like “Mongolen” “Musik” to get results on the music of the Mongols.

Using the first slot on our homepage you can look for books in a specific language by using the keyword “spr” plus the language code. If you use the English version of the search page please use lng instead of spr. You will find the language and country codes on the GUK clicking onto “Help” and then “Special search keys”. The list of search keys is not available in the English version. So switch to German and scroll down to Sprachcode Sprachen Spr for the list of the said codes.

<https://www.gbv.de/du/katricht/anhang02.pdf>

“spr mon” will get you all titles in Mongolian, “spr bua” all titles in Buryat, “spr xal” in Kalmyk etc. You may combine two or more search keys. The search key for country is “lcd”, thus all books from mainland China: “lcd XB-CN”. All Mongolian books from China: “spr mon and lcd XB-CN”, all Mongolian books from the Republic of Mongolia: “spr mon and lcd XB-MN”. More complicated searches are explained in others of my introductions like “ Literature from Sinkiang” (please scroll down to end of this document) and “The special collection of Altaic Literature in the State- and University Library Goettingen” .

Nearly all the books from the 1990s onward have been classified using the GOK (Goettingen Online Klassifikation). Please proceed to the GUK and click onto Systematic Search on the left side. Under Philologien you will find Altaische Sprachen (Altaic languages) and from thereon Mongolian languages. If you then selected a certain language like Khalka Mongolian you can further narrow down your search by the number that follows the GOK language code JTM. Thus 636 stands for novel, 632 for poetry etc. Numbers beginning with 4xx are for books that contain works by more than one author. 5xx is for research on literature, 3xx for grammar and linguistics, dictionaries etc. Dictionaries always appear under 300.

If you feel comfortable with the German language you may find the following side very helpful:

<http://www.eromm.org/project/doku.php?id=sacher:gok> Here the GOK is organized in a more user

friendly way. Click on Ethnologie and then on QMA. Scroll down to Mittel- und Nordasien (Middle and Northasia), to find the titles about the ethnology of the peoples of Middle- and Northern Asia. QMI is for Turkey. QML 610 for Mongolian peoples in general, QMM 800 for Outer Mongolia etc.

History of the Middle-Asian republics is under PUJ, the Osman Empire under PU 240 ff, history of Turkey under PSB. PUX is for Mongolian history.

The section for history is not displayed properly at the SUB homepage. Please use the [www. eromm...](http://www.eromm.org) link:

<http://www.eromm.org/project/doku.php?id=sacher:gok>

The following page by Stephan Heupst, who works at the SUB Goettingen, offers several useful links and converters for East- and Centralasian languages. It is only available in German.

<http://laoutouzi.wordpress.com/>

**Sometimes German codes like spr instead of English lng don't work. So if you have clicked the English flag, try lng mon instead of spr mon etc. The quotation marks sometimes don't work with language search. So try the backslash instead, i.e. spr\ kor for Korean books. The computer nerds in the background like to change the programmes now and then without telling anyone. Don't despair. Ask me and I will try to sort out any problems.**

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## **Manchu-Tungus literature:**

Most of the Tungus and palaeoasiatic peoples in Siberia and Manchuria have no tradition of written literature before the 1920s. The Manchu and their forefathers the Jurchen are the one major exception, making it possible to trace the Manchu language back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The southern Tungus language of Manchu has been the official language in the China of the Qing Empire until 1911 since the Manchu conquered China around 1644, and earlier in the Manchurian Khanat. Huge amounts of Manchu language material is preserved in the archives of China and is now gradually published in large facsimile editions. One example is the Manchu archive for Sinkiang from Qing Dynasty times that has been published in 283 volumes in 2012 (shelf mark 2013 B 461 : 1-283) Qing dai xin jiang man wen dang an hui bian 清代新疆满文档案汇编.

A similar facsimile edition has been published for the area of the commandery of Hunchun covering northeastern Manchuria: Hunchun (Huichun) fudutong yamen dang 琿春副都統衙門檔 (shelf mark 2010 B 291 : 1-238). This collection also contains Chinese and even Russian material for the later years of the Qing Dynasty.

Mainly Chinese language titles for the history and culture of Manchuria from 1748 to 1934 from the archives of the province of Liaoning in southern Manchuria have been collected in the 151 volume set : Dong-bei bian-jiang dang-an xuan ji 東北邊疆檔案選輯 (清代民國) (shelf mark 2011 B 2888: 1-151).

Junjichu manwen Zhunga'er shizhe dang yibian 军机处满文准噶尔使者档译编 3 vols, Peking 2009. (Shelf mark 2011 B 43:1-3) This Facsimile edition reproduces the official documents and letters from

the time of the Dzungar wars 1734 to 1754 in the Manchu language from the archives of the Yishidang, a yamen or office dealing with the barbarian emissaries to the Manchu court in Peking. A Chinese translation is also given for each Manchu document.

The complete Manchu Kanjur in 109 boxes as a handmade print from the original woodblocks from 1790 is available under the shelf mark A 2010 B 35001 : 1-109.

And yes there is Manchurian erotic literature available, too: The novel *Jinpingmei* in an unabridged Manchu version, shelf mark 76 A 2300 : 1-10.

Manchu literature has always been ridiculed as not original translation literature from Chinese. Apart from the huge amount of Manchu archive material, the Manchu language itself mainly lived on after the fall of the Qing-Dynasty amongst the Sibos in Ili at the modern Kazakh border in western Sinkiang. There are autochthonic epic works in Manchu by the Sibos like the “Ba na-I ucun” the epic tale of the long trek of the Sibos from Manchuria to Ili in the 18<sup>th</sup> century after the second Dzungar war (shelf mark ZA 17336:106) .

After the fall of the Qing dynasty 1911/12 the use of the Manchu language declined fast. Today Manchu is actively only used amongst the Sibos in Ili and Sinkiang in general. In Goettingen you can find the twice-weekly Manchu language newspaper from Chabchal/Ili, the *Cabcal serkin*, since 1980 (shelf mark ZTG B 238).

Older literature of the Sibos from Qing- and Republican times has been reissued in facsimile prints, e.g. shelf mark 2010 B 538:1-5 *Sibe uksura i gukure tende isinaha julen cagan*.

All literature in Manchu available at the State- and University Library Goettingen can be found by inserting “spr mnc” into the searchslot at [www.sub.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de). Under Systematic Search in the GUK literature from around 1994 onward is classified under JWY xxx. You can also use German keywords like “Sibo”, “Sinkiang”, “Mandschurei” (Manchuria), “Mandschu” (Manchu), “Jurcen” etc., using the searchslot on our homepage.

Goettingen has the largest collection of literature from and about SINKIANG in Europe. This includes about 10.000 titles in the Uighur, Kazakh, Kirgiz language. There is also rich fundus of literature in the Oirat, Mongolian, Sibos language from Sinkiang.

## There are different ways to **access literature via the online catalogue OPAC:**

Go to the homepage of the library: [www.sub.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de)

One of the easiest ways is by inserting keywords into the search slot of our homepage. These keywords are mainly in German. If you insert “Sinkiang” or “Xinjiang” you will get a rich selection of literature on Sinkiang. Likewise you can use keywords as “Sibo, Uiguren, Muqam, Kleidung

(garment), Musik, Dunhuang, Islam, Seidenstraße (Silkroad)” etc. You can use two or more keywords at a time, to narrow down the search. If you use “Sinkiang Kasachen” you will get literature on the Kazakhs of Sinkiang. If you type “Dunganen” you get literature on the Hui or Dungans within and outside China. “Islam China” might also be a useful combination.

Keywords have been used in cataloguing especially during the last 20 years or so, but they become sparse for older titles.

You can also look for books in certain languages. The search key for language is either spr or lng. Search key lng does not always work, or only if you selected English as the language of the homepage, so please use spr followed by the language code, e.g. “spr uig” for Uighur books. You can combine search keys. The search key for country is lcd. Add the country-code, e.g. “lcd XB-CN” for titles from mainland China. If you combine: “spr kaz and lcd XB-CN” you get all books from China in the Kazakh language.

You will find these special search keys by going onto the homepage, click onto “English” or British flag, click into the search slot, click onto first option GUK. Click onto Help and then onto Special searchkeys. Unfortunately the English version of this page is not complete. Please click onto German, scroll down to point 5 and 6 (4) for lists of these codes. If you arrived at Point 5 or 6 click onto “neue” in the first sentence to get the new language and country codes.

As for older books these codes were not always used. Hence it may be necessary to search for the place of publication, code “vlo” or “ver”. For example “Urumchi” or “Urumqi” etc. resulting in : “vlo urumchi or urumqi or Ürümçi or Wulumuqi or Wu lu mu qi“ . There may be many ways to spell one placename! Chinese names are now given syllable by syllable separated by blanks, but they used to be written as one word until a few years ago. Again you can combine the place name with a language based search, e.g. „(vlo Qäšqär or Ka-shi or Ka shi) and spr uig“ , when looking for Uighur literature from Kashgar. Again you can use a combination of keywords “sw” and language “spr”, e.g. “sw Schulbuch and spr uig” for schoolbooks in the Uighur language.

**Sometimes German codes like spr instead of English lng don't work. So if you have clicked onto the English flag, try lng uig etc. The quotation marks sometimes don't work with language search. So try the backslash instead, i.e. spr\ kor for Korean books. The computer nerds in the background like to change the programmes now and then without telling anyone. Don't despair. Ask me and I will try to sort out any problems.**

Please keep in mind, that in case of multiple searchwords combined by “or”, if followed by a further searchkey(s) added with “and”, the first complex has to be put in brackets!

You can also limit your search by looking for literature published before or after a certain date. Use code “jhr” and the symbols “< “or “>” followed by a date. Thus “(vlo Seoul or Soul) and jhr <2000” will get you about 20.000 titles of books published in Seoul before the year 2000.

It tends to be the easiest way to use the search slot on the homepage of the SUB. If you use the search slot of the GUK, please make sure that the search category is set on “ [ALL] all words “ or the appropriate search category.

Often it is best to search for a specific title using an internet search engine to gain the ISBN or ISSN. This number can be copied and pasted into the search slot of the GUK (search category : [NUM] any number ) or the SUB homepage. This way you avoid possible problems with changing transcription systems.

Chinese, Korean, Mongolian original scripts are increasingly used for cataloguing. At the moment you can't see the original script using the GUK. If you click into the slot on the homepage of the SUB, select second catalogue. This GBV Union Catalogue will also show the holdings of other libraries in Northern Germany and it can display Chinese and other foreign scripts, though there are still some problems with the Uiguro-Mongolian script.

The GUK also offers the possibility of a systematic search via the GOK (Goettingen online classification), used for titles since 1994. So please click onto Systematic Search. Unfortunately parts of the following pages are not available in English. Choose "Philologien" for language based search. Then Ural-Altai philology > Altaic languages > Turkic languages > Eastern Turkic languages etc. If you then selected a certain language like Uighur you can further narrow down your search by the number that follows the GOK language code JPC. Thus 636 stands for novel, 632 for poetry etc. Numbers beginning with 4xx are for books that contain works by more than one author.

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