HARRASSOWITZ Verlag

Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung, II: Mongolische Texte der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung in Faksimile (= Abhandlungen der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Klasse für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst, Jahrgang 1959, Nr. 1) by Erich Haenisch
Review by: Nicholas Poppe
Central Asiatic Journal, Vol. 5, No. 4 (1960), pp. 331-332
Published by: Harrassowitz Verlag
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/41926484
Accessed: 16/10/2014 13:27

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Harrassowitz Verlag is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Central Asiatic Journal*.

http://www.jstor.org

This content downloaded from 128.135.12.127 on Thu, 16 Oct 2014 13:27:32 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions

Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung, herausgegeben von Erich Haenisch, II: *Mongolische Texte der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung in Faksimile* (= *Abhandlungen der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Klasse für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst*, Jahrgang 1959, Nr. 1). Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1959. 59 pages.

The publication under review deserves much attention, because it contains a number of photographic reproductions of Mongolian texts which were discovered by the German Turfan Expedition. If these fragments had been published soon after their arrival at the Völkermuseum in Berlin, the Mongolian studies would have been enriched by many important discoveries long ago. Therefore, the Mongolists should be grateful to Professor Haenisch for this valuable material made available to research.

The Turfan Expedition brought a considerable number of fragments of Mongolian manuscripts and ancient xylographs which, in the opinion of the author of these lines, are of a much higher value than the Mongolian fragments discovered by the late Sir Aurel Stein, which belong now to the India Office in London.

The number of the Turfan fragments seems to be large. Professor Haenisch mentions in the preface to his *Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung I*[1] 38 different units, and the book under review gives the reproductions of 51 units including 25 units not mentioned in that preface.

The fragments published in the book under review are classified into four groups: a) Buddhist texts, b) orders and letters, c) literary texts and *varia*, and d) texts in *ḥP'ags-pa* Script.

A thorough study of the fragments in question will probably result in identification of some of them with known texts. At the present time only a few general statements can be made with regard to the contents of the fragments published.

A 1-17 are fragments of a xylographic Buddhist text in verses part of which (e.g., A 6 a-b) are stanzas from a hymn in honour of *Mahākāla*. The xylograph dates probably from the XVI century.

The documents B 1 and B 2 are letters which were published and translated by Ramstedt.[2]

One of the most interesting fragments is a greatly damaged handwritten book (Fragment C) which contains an abbreviated version of the Alexander Saga (C l a-C l h) already published by the undersigned.[3] This is followed by a Buddhist didactic poem (C l h-C l k) which has been prepared for publication by the author of this review.

The fragments C 2-C 4 d belong to a xylographic divination book.

The section D of the work under review contains reproductions of documents in the *ḥP'ags-pa* script. The fragment D l a is most important, because it represents a page of the *Subhāṣitaratnanidhi* which gives the title of this work: *sayin·üget'u erdiniyin saŋ neret'u šastirač'a sayin[hara]ni onoquė nök'ö·e jüyil da·usbayi* "The second chapter 'The Understanding of the Good People' from the book called 'The Treasury of Good Words' has ended". It is the end of the second and the beginning of the third chapter.[4]

The unit D 2 is another fragment of the same xylograph.

[1] *Ein buddhistisches Druckfragment vom Jahre 1312* (= *Abh. d. Deutschen Ak. d. Wiss., Kl. für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst*, Jahrg. 1953, Nr. 3) (Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1954).

[2] G. J. Ramstedt, "Mongolische Briefe aus Idiqut-Schähri bei Turfan, mit einer Einleitung von A. von Lecoq", *Sitzungsberichte der K. Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, 1909, I, S. 838-848.

[3] "Eine mongolische Fassung der Alexandersage", *ZDMG*, 107 (1957), S. 105-129.

[4] Cf. Louis Ligeti, *Le Subhāṣitaratnanidhi mongol, Un document du Moyen Mongol* (Budapest, 1948), p. 19 (III 1 b).

This content downloaded from 128.135.12.127 on Thu, 16 Oct 2014 13:27:32 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions

In conclusion, it should be repeated that the significance of Professor Haenisch's new publication can hardly be overestimated. It is to be hoped that also the remaining fragments will be published, e.g., the fragments of a very fine Oirat Buddhist manuscript (T II D 422).

University of Washington Nicholas Poppe

This content downloaded from 128.135.12.127 on Thu, 16 Oct 2014 13:27:32 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions