

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Department of History
澳門大學社會科學及人文學院歷史系
2010/2011 Spring Semester Seminar Series No. 2

History lecture
歷史學講座

The Findings of the Russian Expeditions in the Manuscript Collection
俄羅斯科學院東方文獻研究的 20 世紀初俄國中亞探險考察資源

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(former St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS)

4 pm - 5:30 pm

4th May 2011 (WED)

Auditorium II, UM Library 圖書館二號演講廳

Mandarin Chinese 普通話演講

Abstract :

The collection of manuscripts and early printed books in IOM in total consists of more than 100 thousand items in 65 dead and living languages. It is the largest in Russia and one of the two or three valuable collections of Eastern manuscripts in the world. This holding became a result of targeted collecting efforts of generations of researchers, travelers, statesmen, diplomatists and enthusiasts of Oriental studies in Russia. The history of IOM can be traced back to November 1818, when the Asiatic Museum, the earliest in Europe academic specialized institution on Oriental Studies was founded in St Petersburg. It was established as a particular fund, "museum", for storage of Oriental manuscripts.

From the middle of 19th century, one of the most important sources to replenish manuscript collections in Russia became the all-inclusive expeditions to Central Asia. Owing to the materials, brought by these expeditions, research schools such as Dunhuang Studies, Tangut Studies, and Uighur Studies developed in Russia.

The prominent traveler Nikolay M. Przhevalsky (1839--1888) undertook four expeditions to Central Asia between 1870 and 1880, covering a total of thirty thousand kilometers. His pursuit was taken up by his students and followers. The 1893--95 expedition led by V.A. Roborovsky and P.K. Kozlov along with large natural science collections, brought to St Petersburg a number of manuscripts and art objects from Turfan. Russian diplomatists contributed greatly to academic research into the region collected manuscripts and art objects, buying them from the locals and carrying out archaeological excavations. The outstanding results were achieved by expeditions headed by S.F. Oldenburg, whose journeys to Turfan (1909—10) and Dunhuang (1914—15) were referred to as Russian Turkestan expeditions. The materials acquired by S.F. Oldenburg in the course of his expeditions including a vast collection of Dunhuang manuscripts have entered the Russian Institute for Oriental Manuscripts. In 1909—11 and 1913—14, Sergey Ye Malov(1880—1957) made journeys to Eastern Turkestan and Central China to study the language and everyday life of the local Turkic nationalities. Highly effective was the expedition led by P.K. Kozlov, who in 1907—09 discovered the ruins of the dead Tangut town of Khara-Khoto in the Gobi Desert and delivered unique relics of Tangut art and written texts to St. Petersburg. The manuscripts collections from Central Asia were extensively studied in Russia during whole the 20 century, and now the further intensive research of them is an important target for the academics worldwide.

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