

THE CENTRAL ASIAN NEWSLETTER

Editors: S. Enders Wimbush
Marie Broxup

P.O.Box 131
Oxford
OX1 2NJ
U.K.

Volume 1 No. 3

March 1982

FROM THE EDITORS

Our efforts to incorporate as an organization to further the cause of Central Asian research have taken an interesting turn. We have yet to receive from the Registrar of Companies official notice of incorporation. However, we have been notified that because of new provisions in British law, it is unlikely that we shall at this stage be permitted to use the word "Institute" in our title. Rather than bore our readers with the details of this most recent development, we wish only to say at this juncture that we now have applied to become a "Society"; the Registrar has indicated that he will accept us as such. Should this prove to be the case, we shall become The Society for Central Asian Studies, rather than the Institute of Central Asian Affairs. The Society for Central Asian Studies will function precisely as we have intended from the beginning: as a publisher of materials dealing with Central Asia and the ethnically and religiously contiguous regions, as a repository for research materials, and as a sponsor for seminars and conferences.

The first issue of Central Asian Survey has been sent to the publisher; we are now preparing the second issue. For the latter, we still seek quality manuscripts on the history, politics, language, economy, arts and culture of Central Asia. All manuscripts are examined by an editorial board for a final decision regarding publication.

We also are contemplating the inauguration of a "Special Studies" series to encompass studies of all kinds. Of particular interest in this regard are studies written in languages other than English. It may be possible to publish "Special Studies" in their original language,

whether Turkish, Russian, or, possibly, the Central Asian languages. Although we are only beginning to explore the possibilities for such a series, we encourage readers to submit manuscripts for consideration.

As noted later in this Newsletter, we are investigating the possibilities for publishing a regular survey of the Soviet Central Asian vernacular press. Currently, we envisage covering the major media in Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Turkmen, Tadzhik, Uighur, Azeri, and Volga and Crimean Tatar. If this proves to be possible, we shall notify readers of the subscription details.

Finally, again let us express our appreciation for all of the support we have received for the Newsletter and our other activities. Comments and criticism are always welcome, as are the occasional compliments.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscription to The Central Asian Newsletter currently is without charge. Interested parties are requested to write to us at the above address.

SOVIET PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Shunbergen Bekpanovich Amanturlin, Perezhitki Animizma, Shamanisma, Islama i Ateisticheskaiia Rabota (Alma Ata: Ministry of Education, Kazakh SSR, 1977), 134 pp., 2000 copies. Based on sociological surveys in four Kazakh vilages (in the Alma Ata, Karaganda, and Aktiubinsk regions), this book includes extremely interesting, word-for-word accounts of talks with believers, who give their reasons for remaining Muslims. The book also includes a catalogue of superstitions currently alive among the Kazakhs.

Sergie M. Demidov, Turkmenskie Ovliady, (Ashkhabad: Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy and Law, 1976) 196 pp., 2780 copies. Detailed analysis based on written and oral sources of the "holy tribes" and Sufi orders in Turkmenia. Includes a complete bibliography.

Khuzhama S. Shukurova, Urta Osie Respublikala. Rida Khotin-Qizlar Masaliai Ral etilishini burzhua sokhtalashtirish. (Bourgeois Falsifications Concerning the Solution to the Women's Problem in the Republics of Central Asia). (Tashkent: "Uzbekiston", 1979, 40 pp., in Uzbek. This little pamphlet is interesting less for its content (which repeats well-known pronouncements by Lenin, Krupskaya, Clara Zetkin and Madame Kollontay on the importance of women's liberation in Muslim lands) than for the curious selection of Western specialists to denounce. Nearly all of these specialists published their important works 20-30 years ago: Vincent Monteil (Les Musulmans Sovietiques, Paris, 1957), Baymirza Hayit (Turkestan im XX Jahrhundert, Darmstadt, 1956), Alexander Park (Bolshevism in Turkestan, New York, 1957), Walter Kolarz (Russia and Her Colonies, New York, 1952), Herbert Dierstein, Geoffrey Wheeler (several works in the 1960s), and Norton Dodge (who edited a collection entitled The Soviets in Asia).

Problemy ateisticheskogo vospitaniia v usloviakh Karachaevo-Cherkessii (Cherkessk: Institute of Economy, History, Languages and Literature, 1979), 155 pp., 1500 copies. An extensive survey on the degree of religious belief among the Muslim population of Karachai-Cherkess Autonomous Region.

Mikhail Vagabovich Bagabov, Islam: Sem'ia, (Moscow: Nauka, 1980), 175 pp., 10,000 copies. The first part of this book deals with Muslim familial customs in pre-revolutionary Russia, the second part with the reasons why these customs survive today. A special chapter is devoted to kalym.

Saken Bazilbaevich Dorzhenov, Islam bugun kundo (Islam Today) (Frunze: "Kyrgyzstan", 1980), 168 pp., 3000 copies, in Kirghiz. The author is one of the best known specialists of Islam in Kirghizia.

The book is based on sociological research conducted recently in Kirghizia. Chapter I--History of Islamic Expansion in Kirghizia; Chapter II--Present Situation of Islam in Kirghizia; Chapter III--New Trends in Islam, Changes in Religious Morals and Beliefs; Chapter IV--How to Fight Against Religious Survivals. This is one of the very few studies of Islam in Kirghizia.

USSR--MUSLIM SPIRITUAL BOARD

Muslims of the Soviet East, No. 1, 1981, reports that construction work has started on a new large mosque in Dzhizak. The building site was allocated free by local authorities.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

L'Islam et l'Etat dans le Monde d'Aujourd'hui Publie sous la direction de Olivier Carpe, avec la participation de F. Aubin, J.-F. Bayart, A. Bennigsen, C. Coulon, J.-P. Digard, P. Dumont, M. Gaborieau, V. Graff, G. Grandguillaume, D. Lombert, C. Lemerrier-Quellejay, S. Nasr, A. Popovic, M. Seuret, J.-L. Triaud. presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1982.

A.G. , G. Sergeeva, Obsuzhdaiutsia problemy demografii i trudovykh resursov. Vestnik Statistiki, No. 1, 1982.

Ziautdin Babakhanov, Islam and the Muslims in the Land of the Soviets. Moscow, Progress Publishers, 1980.

Nancy Lubin, "Assimilation and Retention of Ethnic Identity in Uzbekistan," Asian Affairs, Vol. XII, Part III, 1981.

E. A. Aliev, "Literaturnoe nasledie-studentu", Russkii iazyk v natsional'noi shkole, No. 1, 1982. Deals with the frustration of teaching Russian literature to first year students at the M. F. Akhundov Institute in Azerbaidzhan.

Vestnik Statistiki, various presentations of results of the 1979 Soviet census can be found in Nos. 2 and 6-12 for 1980 and in Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, and 12 for 1981.

NEW RESEARCH MATERIALS

o Afghanistan Research Materials Survey (ARMS). Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Southern California. Director: Professor Nake Kamrany, Department of Economics, Univ. of Southern California, University Park, Los Angeles, California 90007. Deputy Director: Professor Leon B. Paullada, Dept. of Political Science, Northern Arizona University, Route 3, Box 160, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001. ARMS aims to assemble and publish a comprehensive analytical bibliography of all published materials on Afghanistan, as well as writings not yet published, such as doctoral dissertations and materials in public and private archives. All scholars interested in the project are invited to contact the Directors.

o Russian Micro Project. Dalhousie University, Killam Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H8, Canada (telephone: 902-424-2188) Directed by Professor David R. Jones (at the above address), this project aims to microfiche selected items from the Dalhousie Russian Reserach Collection and to offer the microfiche for sale. A number of unusual items are included in the project, including:

RSFSR, NK po delam natsional'nostei, politika Sovetskoi vlasti: po natsional'nomu voprosu za tri goda, 1917-1920, Moscow, 1920.

Ugolovnoe zakonodatel'stvo SSSR: soiuznykh respublik (Osnovnye zakonodatel'nye akty), Moscow 1957.

J.T. Plakhutina, Ukreplenie i razvitie organov vnutrennikh del Kazakhskoi SSR (1925-1936 gg.)
Uchebnoe posobie, Karaganda: Kazakh MVD, 1977.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Center for Balkan and Slavic Studies, the University of Chicago, held a conference on the non-Slavic languages of the USSR, 28-29 April, 1981. Among papers delivered were the following:

"Fast vs. Slow Languages (On the Advantage of Speaking Circassian)", John Colarusso, McMaster University

"Grammatical Subject in Lezghian", Igor Mel'chuk, University of Montreal

"Local Suffixes in Shapsug Circassian", Riexs Smeets, State University of Leiden

"Relativization in Avar", Claude Tchekhoff, Universite des Sciences Humaines, Strasbourg

"Ossetic Verb Stem Morphophonology", Michael Job, Ruhr-Universitaet, Bachum

"Relativization in the Iranian Languages of the USSR", John R. Payne, University of Manchester

"Soviet Language Policy; Continuities and Detours", Ali Eminov, Wayne State College, Nebraska

o Middle East Studies Association, University of Washington, held its 15th annual meeting from 4-7 November 1981. One of the panels on the programme was devoted to: "Long-term Afghan-Russian relations; Historical and Current Perspectives".

o The Permanent International Altaistic Conference held its 24th meeting in Jerusalem on 16-20 August 1981. Among others, the following papers were presented (We apologize for the incomplete information):

"Uzbekistan's Council for Raising the Living Standards of the Population: Modernization and Integration", Professor Brown

"The Mennonite Community in the Khanate of Khiva in the Beginning of the 20th Century", Professor Yaroshevski

"Inner Asian Interpreters", Denis Sinor, Indiana University

"The Structure and Essential Procedures of Classical Siberian Shamanism", Professor Piatigorski

"The Soviet Dungans: Chinese Muslims in the Soviet Union", June Dreyer, University of Miami

For further details of these papers, as well as of the forthcoming 25th meeting to be held in Uppsala on 7-12 June 1982, contact the Secretary General, Goodbody Hall 101, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405 USA

o IV Milli Turkologi Kongresi, 19-23 October 1981, Istanbul. Among others, the following papers were presented:

"Turkistan Turk Edebiyatında modern hikaye, Roman ve piyes edebi türlerin dogusu ve gelismesi", Timur Kocaoglu, Radio Liberty, Munich

"Cagdar Guney Azerbaycan Turk edebiyatinin hazi husisyyetleri ve problemleri", Dr. Haver Aslan

"100 yil donumunde Ruslari 1881'de Goktepe'de yaptilari katliam", Mehmet Saray, Istanbul University

HANISTAN FILM

Christian de Ponfilly spent three months in the Panshir in the autumn of 1981 and made a film of the Afghan resistance and the civil organization of the region. The film lasts 50-60 minutes. Excerpts already have been shown on French and Belgium television. The film is strikingly beautiful and has been praised for its activity.

C. de Ponfilly would like to make his film known in the United States and in the United Kingdom. He can be contacted at: 8 Avenue Emile Zola, Paris 75015, France.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

Beginning with this issue of the Newsletter, we shall attempt to present items from the Soviet Central Asian, Kazakh, and Azeri press which might be of interest to our readers. Initially we intend to cover only the Russian language press of these regions; plans are underway, moreover, to provide a more complete survey of the

vernacular language press, which eventually will be made available as a separate publication and at an independent subscription price. Details will follow within the next few months.

From Sovetskaia Kirgiziia (5 January 1982), Pravda Vostoka (7 January 1982) and Kazakhstanskaia Pravda (19 January 1982); I. Anoshkin, "Maguchaia sila sovetского patriotizma". Anoshkin praises Lenin's nationality policy, Soviet patriotism, and internationalism, noting that these feelings are incompatible with the survivals (perezhitki) of national parochialism in any form. "Manifestations of nationalism, localism (mestnichestvo), claims of national exclusiveness and individualism, praise of reactionary traditions and customs are alien to internationalism". And, "We must not forget that national prejudice is a highly lively phenomenon...among politically immature people and that it survives even when the reasons for national antagonism have disappeared". Finally, "We must not overlook the fact that nationalistic survivals are encouraged by the politicians and propagandists of the bourgeois world".

From Pravda Vostoka: (6 January 1982); N. Saidalieva (Secretary of the Tashkent Party Raikom), "Priumnozhat' nasledie". The author writes that new rituals and festivities should be encouraged in order to develop a "communist tradition". "The atheistic function of the new rites and celebrations must not be underestimated if we take into account that religion survives mainly because of its ritual aspect and that religious dogmas have not yet been overcome". Saidalieva notes that the feast of "Nowruz Bairam" has now lost its religious significance.

(7 January 1982); M. Uzbekov, "Natsional'nyi vopros v ideologicheskoi bor'be". The author accuses the West of having intensified its propaganda among Central Asian Turkic-speaking peoples. "The nationality problem has become one of the main plots devised by capitalism in its ideological fight against socialism". Bourgeois ideology is trying to distort

the theoretic basis of Lenin's nationality policy with claims of "forced assimilation" and "russification". "This undermining religious and nationalistic propaganda of the enemy aimed at believers--the Muslims of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, and the North Caucasus--has intensified lately in connection with recent events in Iran and Afghanistan". Uzbekov asserts that Western Sovietologists are hoping to see a spillover of these events into Soviet Central Asia. He reminds the reader that "in the past there have been many occasions...when, to save socialism, people had to fight against a rabid demented nationalism". However, he asserts, the present has proved the Soviets to be correct. Uzbekov attacks a number of organizations including the BBC, Voice of America, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, "Turkestan Liberation" in Jakarta, the Union of Central Asian Muslims and the Union of Muslims of New York in the USA, the Muslim Committee in Munich, and an unnamed institute for the study of Islam in Pakistan, which, he claims, is a haven for ex-Basmachis.

From Turkmenskaia Iskra; (9 January 1982), M. Annanepesov and S. Saporov, "Podlinnoe litso ishana--Pravda o 'sviatykh' mestakh". (This article also appeared in the Turkmen language paper Sovet Turkmenistany on the same date). The subject of the article is the shrine of Kurbanmurad, which has become a place of pilgrimage. Kurbanmurad was one of the organizers of the defense by Turkmen of Geok Tepe against the Russians in 1879 and 1881. The authors accuse Kurbanmurad of leading the Turkmen into a massacre in 1881 and then of abandoning them to escape to safety. They deplore that, despite these facts, pilgrims continue to arrive at Kurbanmurad's tomb and that, within the last 2-3 years, a mosque was built without permission at the site.

From Kommunist Tadzhikistana

(5 January 1982); K. Nazirov, "Set' opasnykh mifov". The article attacks the Voice of America, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, The Russian Institute

at Columbia University, the Russian Research Center at Harvard, the University of Southern California, and Professor Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone for her book Russia and Nationalism in Central Asia. The author accuses Western specialists not only of speculating about the resurgence of nationalism in Central Asia but also "through various channels to try and poison the minds of the masses with the venom of nationalism". He concludes by stressing that the bourgeois influence can be potentially very dangerous and must not be underestimated.

(13 January 1982); R. Masov, "Basmachestvo--Uroki istorii". This review article of a newly published book, Basmachestvo, voznikovenie, sushchnost', krakh, by Iu. A. Poliakov, A.I. Chugunov and N.I. Zevelev (Moscow: Nauka) is interesting in that it openly draws a parallel between the 1920s Soviet fight against the Basmachi and the current situation in Afghanistan. The authors state that Soviet scholars are looking to the past to draw lessons for the future. Masov praises the book for pointing out that the Basmachi uprising was only a small localized movement; he then contradicts himself in the next sentence when he points out that, were it not for foreign assistance, the Basmachi movement could, "not have grown into such a large scale st conflict. He concludes by reminding the reader that the nationalistic and pan-Islamic slogans of the Basmachi never managed to disguise the essentially political, counter-revolutionary, and class-oriented character of the conflict.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Professor Vatro Murvar, P.O. Box 285, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005 USA, has authored and published a study entitled Submerged Nations: An Invitation to Theory and Bibliography on One Major Case Study. The bibliography in question is a western languages' bibliography on Turkestan, both Soviet and Chinese. Interested parties should contact Professor Murvar directly for details.