

Papers on Inner Asia
No. 18

Arash Bormanshinov
Lanham-Seabrook, Maryland

**THE LAMAS OF THE KALMYK PEOPLE:
THE DON KALMYK LAMAS**

Indiana University
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INNER ASIAN STUDIES

Bloomington, Indiana
1991

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PREFACE

The present study is a completely revised, considerably augmented, and rewritten edition of *Lama Arkad Chubanov, His Predecessors and Successors: A Study of the History of the Kalmyk Lamaist Church in the Don Cossack Region of Russia* (College Park, Maryland: Birchbark Press, 1980). In the intervening years, many previously inaccessible pertinent materials (books, articles in journals and newspapers, photographs) became available, thanks to the courtesy of the Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library and the USSR Academy of Sciences Library, both of Leningrad, and the Library of Congress. The author of these lines wants to take this opportunity to tender his many thanks to those three great libraries and their competent staff. Additional oral interviews with elderly Don Kalmyks were useful in verifying and augmenting information relative to certain lamas. The present author wishes to express his deep gratitude to them all.

The most important relevant source materials with regard to the Don Kalmyks and their lamas are located in Novochoerkassk and Rostov-on-Don. They represent two categories of documentation, viz., the primary archival materials waiting to be researched and published, and secondary sources such as the pre-1920 Don Cossack newspapers and magazines. Moreover, historical maps of the Don Cossack region are extremely valuable for any serious research. A definitive study can be written after unhindered access to all the above-mentioned materials can be secured.

After the publication of the first edition of this work in 1980, half a dozen or so reviews of it came to the attention of the present author. Their positive comments in English, French, and German were most gratifying. The reviews in question appeared in 1981-1983 in the following learned journals: (1) H. Halén, *Studia Orientalia* 51:15 (Helsinki 1981), 3; (2) H. Serruys, *Monumenta Serica* 34 (Tokyo 1982), 627-629; (3) N. Poppe, *Zentralasiatische Studien* 15 (Bonn 1982), 549; (4) H. Ermolaev, *The Slavonic and East European Review* 60, part 1 (London 1982), 155-156; (5) F. Aubin, *Archives des Sciences Sociales des Religions* 53/2 (Paris 1982), 395; (6) C. R. Bawden, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 46, part 1 (London 1983), 213-214; (7) M. Taube, *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 78, Nr. 2 (Leipzig 1983), 205-206.

The author of these lines would be most grateful for any critical comments, corrections, amendments, etc.