

Utrecht Papers on Central Asia

*Proceedings of the First European Seminar on Central Asian
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Preface

The papers presented here were read during the First European Seminar on Central Asian Studies, held at Utrecht from 16 to 19 December 1985. This was the first occasion when scholars from Western European countries and from the USSR gathered to study different aspects of Central Asian civilization and culture.

The Seminar was organised at the initiative of the Institute of Oriental Languages and Cultures and the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Utrecht, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Education in The Hague.

We are grateful for the support given by these institutions and for a grant from the Faculty of Arts of the University which made this publication possible. The original texts of the papers have been retained as far as possible. The Editors bear full responsibility for all those changes they felt it necessary to make.

We hope that this first international gathering of scholars in an area which is fast developing into a separate field of study will be followed by many others, which will stimulate and increase international cooperation in this field.

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The Editors
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