

On the History of Chinese Book Collections in Russia: The Library of the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok

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Chinese library holdings in Russia began to form in the 18th century, when books in Chinese first found their way into Russian libraries. The genuine interest of the Russian and European public in Chinese culture, law, and the state system, combined with curiosity about Chinese exoticism, resulted in the growth of ample private collections of Chinese decorative arts. The first Chinese books brought to Russia were part of exactly this kind of collection. Since the Imperial Library and the *Kunstkammer* had been founded in 1714 to hold Peter the Great's collections of rarities, collecting attained the character of educative activities on a national scale. From 1727 onwards, the Russian Academy of Sciences endeavored to replenish its Chinese library holdings.¹ At the academy's request, Chinese books were acquired by Russian plenipotentiaries² and shipped

- 1 Gaston Cahen, *Histoire des relations de la Russie avec la Chine sous Pierre le Grand (1689–1730)* (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan, 1912), xcvi–xcvii.
- 2 [Johann Vollrath Bakmeister (1732–1788)], *Опыт о библиотеке и кабинете редкостей и истории натуральной Санкт-Петербургской Имп. Академии Наук, изданный на французском языке Иоганом Бакмейстером, подбиблиотекарем Академии Наук, на российский язык переведенный Васильем Костыговым* [On the Library and the Chamber of Curiosities and Natural History at the St. Petersburg Imperial Academy of Sciences. Edited in French by Johann Bacmeister, Assistant Librarian at the Academy of Sciences. Translated into Russian by Vasily Kostygov] (St. Petersburg: Akademia nauk, 1779), 93–94.

by European missionaries.³ The first acquisitions from private individuals date back to 1748.⁴

By 1818, when the Asiatic Museum was founded in St. Petersburg, the academy's book collection included 279 books written in Chinese.⁵ They were mainly the basic sources for the study of China: works on history, geography, science, and law; dictionaries; encyclopedias; works of classical literature and belles-lettres. Quite a few of these works were dedicated to Christian theology and translated by European missionaries. Thereafter, the Asiatic Museum, which had as one of its objectives the growth of the academy's library holdings for basic study of the Orient, established firm links with the Russian Orthodox Mission in Beijing and throughout the 19th century regularly received Chinese books through the mission. In 1864, the museum's holdings of Chinese manuscripts and xylographic prints increased twofold, owing to the incorporation of the library of the Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By the middle of the 19th century, along with the main scholarly library of the Asiatic Museum, a few university collections of Chinese books were formed in Russia which were mainly intended for teaching and educational activities. The first accessions of Chinese books to Kazan University, where in 1837 the Chinese Language Department was founded, were made thanks to Professors Daniil P. Sivillov (1798–1871), Osip M. Kovalevskij (1801–1878) and Vasilij P. Vasil'ev (1818–1900). Many of the manuscripts and printed editions had been purchased with university funds during their research journeys, while many

- 3 Petr P. Pekarsky / Пекарский П.П., *История Императорской Академии наук в Петербурге* [A History of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg], 2 vols. (St. Petersburg: Akademia nauk, 1870–73), 1: 189.
- 4 Z. I. Gorbacheva / Горбачева З.И., *Краткое описание китайских ксилографических изданий коллекции Института народов Азии Академии наук СССР (Ленинградское отделение). Вып. I. География. (На правах рукописи)* [A Concise Description of the Chinese Xylographic Editions from the Collection of the Institute of Asian Peoples of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Leningrad Branch). Issue I. Geography. (Printed as manuscript)] (Leningrad: Institut narodov Azii, 1961), 7.
- 5 *Каталог китайским и японским книгам, в библиотеке Академии наук хранящимся, по препоручению господина Президента оной Академии С.С. Уварова, вновь сделанный Государственной коллегии иностранных дел переводчиками коллежскими ассессорами Павлом Каменским и Степаном Липовцовым* [Catalogue of Chinese and Japanese Books Kept in the Library of the Academy of Sciences, Newly Compiled by Order of President of the Academy S. S. Uvarov by Collegiate Assessors Pavel Kamensky and Stepan Lipovtsov, Translators at the State Collegium of Foreign Affairs] (St. Petersburg: Akademia nauk, 1818).

others had been presented to the university by private collectors. Later on, in 1855, the Faculty of Oriental Languages was founded at St. Petersburg University; an important stock of Oriental textbooks and scholarly studies was handed over to the Oriental Department of the university's main library from Kazan University, the Kazan Gymnasium and the Institute of Oriental Languages at the Richelieu Lyceum.⁶

Throughout the 19th century, the book holdings of the Asiatic Museum and university libraries continued to grow thanks to purchases, individual gifts, and donations by heirs of deceased Orientalist scholars. Both the contents and the existing practice of gathering the largest Chinese book holdings were criticized by Russian Sinologists, who aimed to create a genuine 'research laboratory'.⁷ Still, by the beginning of the 20th century, two rather large collections existed in St. Petersburg—the main academic holdings of the Asiatic Museum and the collection of St. Petersburg University. Both of them included books and manuscripts intended for various purposes. The opening of the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok marked the beginning of an advanced stage in gathering and systematizing university library holdings with the objective of creating libraries of a new type.

The foundation on 21 October 1889 of the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok was conditioned by the needs of Russian foreign policy in the Far East: Orientalists who would be good practical workers were in high demand. Four departments were established at the institute, namely for the study of (1) Chinese and Japanese, (2) Chinese and Korean, (3) Chinese and Mongolian, and (4) Chinese and Manchurian. Their curricula included the modern history, politics, law and economies of all the other countries of the Far East. The institute was headed by an outstanding scholar on Mongolia, Professor Aleksej Matveevich Pozdnev (1851–1920), while a few recent graduates from St. Petersburg University were appointed lecturers for the main courses. They were Apollinarij V. Rudakov (1871–1949), Petr P. Shmidt (1869–1938), Evgenij G. Spalvin (1872–1933), Nikolaj V. Kyuner (1877–1955), Aleksandr V. Grebenshchikov (1880–1941), Grigorij V. Podstavin (1877–1924), and Gombozhap Ts. Tsyubikov (1873–1930).

6 *Востоковедные фонды крупнейших библиотек Советского Союза* [Oriental Holdings of the Largest Libraries of the Soviet Union] (Moscow: Nauka, 1963), 218.

7 Vasilij M. Alekseev / Алексеев В.М., «Китайский и корейский фонды» [Chinese and Korean Holdings], in *Азиатский музей РАН. 1818–1918. Краткая памятка* [The Asiatic Museum of the RAS, 1818–1918. A Volume in Commemoration] (Peterburg: Akademia nauk, 1920), 64.

The Oriental Institute immediately set itself the goal of building an ample library that could provide a basis for the practical study of languages and the contemporary situation in the Far East, as well as of various aspects of Oriental studies. Before the institute was formally established, letters proposing the exchange of printed material had been sent to major universities and scholarly centres. Already on October 4, 1899, Moscow University sent 39 copies of the »Bulletin« of its Departments of Law and History and Philology to the Oriental Institute.⁸ At about the same time, the Asiatic Museum and St. Petersburg University began to regularly send their publications to Vladivostok. Religious organizations also contributed to the library. On February 25, 1900, the Russian Orthodox Mission in Japan presented its publications, mainly books with Christian content in Japanese, to the library of the Oriental Institute.⁹

Educational goals and objectives had determined the initial make-up of the institute's library stock, which comprised encyclopedias, manuals, reference books, periodicals, dictionaries and readers.¹⁰ The purchase of didactically relevant material was increasingly funded by the institute. In a letter sent to the chairman of the Archaeological Commission in 1901, A. M. Pozdnev, the director of the institute, observed that the Oriental Institute was located far from the main centres of Russian science, possessed limited funds, and was lacking opportunities to use the literature of other institutions. Therefore, he considered it his duty to put together an ample library »to be used by professors and students as well as by all those engaged in the study of the district, even though they may not be on the institute's staff.«¹¹ On that occasion, Pozdnev asked the Archaeological Commission to send its printed materials and henceforth provide the institute with its publications. He addressed the same request to the commander of the General Headquarters, Lieutenant-General Viktor V. Sakharov (1848–1906), expecting his support on sending the institute

8 *История Дальневосточного государственного университета в документах и материалах 1899–1939 гг.* [A History of the Far Eastern State University in Documents and Materials, 1899–1939] (Vladivostok: Dalnauka, 2004), 89.

9 «Список книг» [List of Books] (*Российский государственный исторический архив Дальнего Востока* [Russian State Historical Archives of the Far East; hereafter HAFE]), Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 9, ff19–25).

10 *Известия Восточного института* [Bulletin of the Oriental Institute] 4,3 (1902), 128–129.

11 V. M. Serov / Серов, В.М., «Становление Восточного института (1899–1909 гг.)» [The Formation of the Oriental Institute (1899–1909)], *Известия Восточного института Дальневосточного государственного университета* [Bulletin of the Oriental Institute of the Far Eastern State University] 1/1994, 25.

publications of the Military Expert Committee at the General Headquarters. The answers to these letters sent by Pozdneev were positive.¹²

The Assembly of the Oriental Institute, its highest governing body, was the gathering of its academic staff, which regularly made decisions on the improvement of the library's structure and on the augmentation of its holdings. Among the librarians who worked at the library during different periods were the chief scholars of the Oriental Institute Petr P. Shmidt, Evgenij G. Spalvin, and Nikolaj V. Kyuner. The institute ordered books in European languages from the largest bookshops in Berlin, Leipzig, Paris, and London, while those in Oriental languages were ordered from Shanghai. The library received a great number of informative and research periodicals. Its holdings of journals were torrentially growing. In 1900, the library ordered 30 periodicals in Russian and 9 in Oriental languages.¹³ For 1902, the Assembly approved a list of 172 newspapers and journals in Russian (37 titles), English (43), French (17), German (15), Chinese (11), Japanese (42) and Korean (7). Among the ordered Russian editions were the Bulletin of Law (*Вестник права*), Journal of the Ministry of Education (*Журнал министерства народного просвещения*), The Historical Herald (*Исторический вестник*), Science Digest (*Научное обозрение*), Old Times in Russia (*Русская старина*), The Orthodox Companion (*Православный собеседник*), Russian Economic Review (*Русское экономическое обозрение*), St. Petersburg Gazette (*Санкт-Петербургские ведомости*), and many others. The Chinese newspapers ordered were *Bowen bao* 博聞報, *Guo wen bao* 國聞報, *Xinwen bao* 新聞報, *Tongwen Hubao* 同文滬報, *Hanbao* 漢報, *Hubao* 滬報, *Jingbao* 京報, *Zhong-wai ribao* 中外日報, *Zhong-wai xinbao* 中外薪報, *Sbenbao* 申報, and *Yuzhe huicun* 諭摺彙存.¹⁴

Publications by the institute made a up special part of the library. Pozdneev demanded that professors »were as close as possible to modernity and illustrated their theories with facts and examples taken from the current life of the Orient«. ¹⁵ Thus, regular journeys to the countries they studied became indispensable for the members of the academic staff. All the more so; they travelled with a view on preparing new lectures, manuals and reading-books. Over the

12 Серов, «Становление Восточного института», 25.

13 НАФЕ, Fund 226, Inv. 1, Unit 9, f33; *История Дальневосточного государственного университета* [A History of the Far Eastern State University], 90.

14 *Известия Восточного института* 4,3 (1902), 123–129.

15 Stanislav S. Grigortsevich / Григорцевич С.С., «Из истории отечественного востоковедения. (Владивостокский Восточный институт в 1899–1916 гг.)» [From the History of Oriental Studies at Home (The Vladivostok Oriental Institute in 1899–1916)], *Советское востоковедение* 4/1957, 131.

years of the institute's activities, many unique series of lectures were produced and dozens of manuals published, many of which were in high demand by other Russian educational institutions.¹⁶ Many works were published in the Proceedings of the Oriental Institute, an annual issued from 1900 onwards. This periodical won recognition in Russia as well as abroad. Some centres of Oriental studies in the West applied to the institute to send them the Proceedings on a regular basis and they produced reviews of the periodical in their own publications.¹⁷ In July 1907, the Oriental Institute opened its own printing house, with a lithographic printing office appended soon afterwards.

When sent to the countries they studied, all members of the academic staff as well as the students of the institute personally participated in the acquisition of books for the library. Quite a few books were purchased by Petr P. Shmidt and Evgenij G. Spalvin.¹⁸ In 1900, the student K. I. Dmitriev delivered some books from Li Hongzhang's 李鴻章 (1823–1901) library from Tianjin.¹⁹ The most notable accessions to the library were made thanks to expeditions headed by Apollinarij V. Rudakov.²⁰

- 16 See «Письмо декана Факультета восточных языков Императорского Санкт-Петербургского университета о присылке книги Г.В. Подставина (март 1903 г.)» [Letter by the Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Languages of St. Petersburg Imperial University about the Shipping of Books by G. V. Podstavin (March, 1903)], in *История Дальневосточного государственного университета*, 94; «Запрос из библиотеки Императорского Санкт-Петербургского университета о присылке книг А.М. Позднеева» от 13 декабря 1904» [Letter of Inquiry from the Library of the St. Petersburg Imperial University about the Shipping of Books by A. M. Pozdnev, Dated Dec 13, 1904], in *История Дальневосточного государственного университета*, 94.
- 17 V. S. Kuznetsov / Кузнецов В.С., «Симпозиум по истории востоковедения во Владивостоке» [Symposium on the History of Oriental Studies in Vladivostok], *Народы Азии и Африки* 6/1969, 219.
- 18 Серов, «Становление Восточного института», 26.
- 19 Aleksandr N. Khokhlov / Хохлов А.Н., «А.М. Позднеев—основатель Восточного института во Владивостоке» [A. M. Pozdnev as the Founder of the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok], *Известия Восточного института ДВГУ* 1/1994, 43.
- 20 The biography of this eminent Sinologist has not yet been written. He is also known as the organizer of higher education teaching in Russia's Far East, and was honoured by many government awards, both Russian and foreign (e.g. Legion of Honour in 1911). For details about A. V. Rudakov see Leonid I. Chuguevsky / Чугуевский Л.И., «Рудаков Аполлинарий Васильевич. Фонд 96 (Архива востоковедов)» [Rudakov Apollinarij Vasil'evich. (Archives of Orientalists) Fund 96], *Бюллетень Архива востоковедов* 3/1963, 53–62; Rudol'f V. Vyatkin / Вяткин Р.В., «Аполлинарий Васильевич Рудаков (К столетию со дня рождения)»

Rudakov made a few journeys to China during which he gathered valuable material for his own research as well as for the Library of the Oriental Institute. He was first sent to Beijing from 1896 to 1899 immediately after his graduation from the Faculty of Oriental Languages of St. Petersburg University. In May and June 1900, Rudakov visited South Manchuria; in August 1900 he made a trip to Hunchun; from September 1900 to February 1901, he worked in the Qiqihar archives, and from May to September 1901 he headed an expedition to Mukden (Shenyang),²¹ organized for the study of the book collections there.

We find an account of the most important results of his journeys to Beijing, Manchuria and Heilongjiang in Rudakov's autobiography, compiled on June 22, 1941:

Prof. P. P. Schmidt and I brought some important works in Chinese and Manchurian from China for the library as early as in 1899. Then during the Boxer Uprising of 1900 I discovered a Manchurian archive in Qiqihar containing several thousands of volumes that were of utmost significance for Oriental studies. The archive was purchased at my insistent request and sent to the Library of the Oriental Institute. During the same period, I brought [editions of] the *San zang* [三藏] and the *Daozang* [道藏] from Manchuria, which were more than one thousand volumes, making a complete corpus of Buddhist and Taoist scriptures published during the rule of the Ming Dynasty (from the 16th to 17th centuries) and a great number of rare books in Chinese and Manchurian, representing various different genres of Chinese literature. This contribution to our library has immediately placed it among the largest European Oriental book collections; as for the Manchurian part of our collection, it remains unique, surpassing in this respect even the collection of the British Museum. [...] In the autumn of 1900, I was in Hunchun where I was collecting official and business documents in Chinese and Manchurian that survived after the devastation of this city. In the autumn of the same year (on September 15), I was sent to North Manchuria to study local archives. During my sojourn in Qiqihar (until January 20, 1901), I had an opportunity to purchase the local Chinese and Manchurian archive of the Qiqihar *jiangjun* [將軍] that are of great importance for the study of North Manchuria. I personally delivered this archive to Vladivostok (it is presently kept in

[Аполлинарий Васильевич Рудаков (On the Occasion of the Centenary of his Birth)], *Народы Азии и Африки* 4/1971, 216–218; Chuguevsky, «Рукописи неопубликованных работ А.В. Рудакова и материалы к ним» [Manuscripts of Unpublished Works by A.V. Rudakov and Related Material], *Народы Азии и Африки* 4/1971, 218–220; Sergey Yu. Vradny / Врადий С.Ю., «Профессор китаеведения А.В. Рудаков» [A. V. Rudakov, Professor of Sinology], *Известия Восточного института ДВГУ* 5/1999, 68–74.

21 Vuatkin, «Аполлинарий Васильевич Рудаков. (К столетию со дня рождения)», 216.

Moscow). At the same time, I discovered classified documents written in Chinese in certain offices in Qiqihar concerning the Boxer movement and casting new light on the back-stage participation of the Chinese government in the movement. These documents can be found in the addenda to my monograph *The Yihetuan Society*, while their translations are given in the main part of the book. During this trip, the *San zang* and *Daozang* (Complete Corpus of Buddhist and Taoist Scriptures) were also purchased, as well as many other books.²²

As is becoming clear from this report, Rudakov objectively estimated the significance of the archaeological finds acquired during his trips, and gave very exact descriptions of the material discovered. The Manchurian archive brought to the Oriental Institute in 1901 from Qiqihar comprised 20,000 volumes of manuscript material from the central archives of Heilongjiang Province. The archives included »valuable literature providing materials for the study of the everyday life of the Northern non-Russians, diplomatic relations with Russia beginning from the 18th century till the end of the last century, the Chinese colonization of North Manchuria as well as of its economic setup and political structure«. ²³

After the reorganization of the Oriental Institute in 1920, the Manchurian archive, among all other Institute's holdings, entered the Library of the Far Eastern State University. In 1928, according to the direction of the People's Commissariat for Education (Narkompros) and a decree of the All-Russian Executive Committee of the USSR, it was transferred from Vladivostok to Moscow and handed over to the Moscow branch of the Central Historical Archives of the RSFSR (now the Russian State Archives of Ancient Documents). In August 1956, according to a decision of the government of the USSR, the whole Manchurian archives were returned to China. In May 1955 the processing of the archives and its preparation for transfer to the PRC was entrusted to the Central State Archives of Ancient Documents in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies.²⁴ The description of the archives occupied a large group of

22 «Автобиография профессора Рудакова А.В., им самим составленная» [Autobiography by Professor A. V. Rudakov, Compiled by Himself] (*Приморский государственный объединенный музей им. В.К. Арсеньева* [V. K. Arseniev State Museum of the Primorsky Region], Fund 2, f2-2v, 5v-6).

23 «Автобиография профессора ДВГУ А. В. Рудакова» [Autobiography by A.V. Rudakov, Professor in the Far Eastern State University] (*Дом музеев Дальневосточного технического университета. Фонд А.В. Рудакова* [The House of Museums of the Far Eastern Technical University], A. V. Rudakov Fund, fi).

24 Aleksandr I. Kostanov / Костанов А.И., «История "Маньчжурского архива" в России» [The

researchers and archivists, and the results of their work was later summarized in an article by Ekaterina F. Zhelokhovtseva.²⁵

There are many narratives enshrouding the history of the formation of the Chinese manuscript holdings in Russia. One of them is associated with Rudakov's journey to Mukden in the summer of 1901. The oral tradition of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (formerly the Asiatic Museum and the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies) of the Russian Academy of Sciences has it that the most important Chinese manuscripts, transferred to Leningrad from Vladivostok in 1935 and deposited in the NOVA collection, had been delivered to Russia by this very expedition.

The main objective of Rudakov's expedition to Mukden might have been a purely archaeological one. The journey was organized upon the initiative and with the active participation of Nikolaj Ivanovich Grodekov (1843–1913), Governor-General of Priamurye (Outer Manchuria). He was the first to report to the Russian government and to Grand Prince Konstantin Konstantinovich, President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, on the Mukden Imperial book collections.

On November 15, 1900, Grodekov sent a telegram from Qiqihar to the director of the Oriental Institute, Aleksej M. Pozdnev. He reported the following:

After the seizure of Mukden, I asked for the permission of the War Minister to take from the library the materials that may present interest for future research. Which is why it is essential to send Rudakov on this mission. The President of the Academy of Sciences also asked for my assistance in preserving the Mukden Library for research purposes. I reported to His Highness about the supposed mission of Rudakov and requested august support for my project. Presently, the War Minister is informing me that the Minister of Foreign Affairs does not see any obstacles to sending Professor Rudakov for an expert examination of works kept in the library of the Mukden Palace, with a view to acquiring some of the rarities from this library on the strict condition that a certain remuneration is paid for them and with the consent of the Chinese government. On account of the aforementioned: first, I wonder whether you have any objections to sending Rudakov for an examination of

History of the »Manchurian Archive« in Russia], *Отечественные архивы* [Domestic Archives] 3/1998, 17.

25 Ekaterina F. Zhelokhovtseva / Желоховцева Е.Ф., «Материалы местных учреждений Северо-Восточного Китая XVII–XIX вв. в «Маньчжурском архиве»» [17th to 19th Century Materials of Local Institutions in North-East China in the »Manchurian archive«], *Проблемы востоковедения* [Problems of Oriental Studies] 4/1960, 176–185.

the Mukden library; second, this mission will take about one year because of the prodigiousness of the materials accumulated in Mukden; third, there will be hardly any opportunity to purchase rare books from the library because of the lack of funding and complicated formal procedures. We shall be compelled to copy the most interesting documents, and therefore to find funds for hiring copyists; fourth, the Institute hardly possesses the required means, hence it is necessary to apply for funding.²⁶

Following Grodekov's application, 5,000 rubles were supplied by May 1901 and imperial permission was granted for the Mukden expedition. The group, consisting of A. M. Pozdneev, A. V. Rudakov, E. G. Spalvin and five students, was to begin the four-month mission on May 1, 1901.²⁷ For different reasons, Pozdneev and Spalvin could not take part in the journey, and the following group of scholars was finally formed: Associate Professor A. V. Rudakov, Associate Professor P. P. Shmidt, N. V. Kyuner (who was about to be conferred the title of professor), and the second-year students S. I. Goryainov, K. I. Dmitriev, and Aleksandr P. Khionin (1879–1971).²⁸ In his response to Grodekov's letter, Pozdneev proposed that the supplied means should be distributed among the participants of the group in the following way: Rudakov, Shmidt and Kyuner should receive 250 rubles each per month, in sum 3,000 rubles for four months. The rest of the money was to be kept at the disposal of Rudakov »for hiring copyists, purchasing writing implements, paying gratuities to librarians and workers of the Mukden archives, who will certainly be helpful to the expedition when examining archival documents and book-holdings, and, finally, for acquiring those works of literature considered of value and for possible purchasing by the expedition.«²⁹

In his letter to Pozdneev of May 5, 1901, Grodekov pointed out that he had especially informed local military officials about Rudakov's mission. They were

26 HAFE, Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 31, ff36–44.

27 *Ibid.*, f.49.

28 Among the three students sent to Mukden, only Aleksei Pavlovich Khionin (1879–1971) was to play a significant role in Chinese studies. He was a foremost organizer of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Harbin (1925–41). See Galina I. Kanevskaya / Каневская Г.И., «Оправдавший надежды Приамурского генерал-губернатора» [Meeting the Expectations of the Governor-General of Priamurye], *Известия Восточного института* 6/2001, 20–27. The fate of Sergei Ivanovich Goryainov and Konstantin Ivanovich Dmitriev after their graduation from the Oriental Institute in 1903 remains unknown. See *Государственный архив Приморского края* [The State Archives of the Primorsky Region], Fund 115. Inv. 1, units 271 and 322.

29 HAFE, Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 31, f.52v.

Vice-Admiral Evgenij I. Alekseev (1843–1917), Head of the Kwantung Region, Lieutenant-General Konstantin V. Tserpitskij (1849–1905), Head of the Mukden Garrison, and Colonel L. S. Grombchevskij (Military Commissar at the Mukden *jiangjun*). »All of them«, wrote N. I. Grodekov,

were requested to provide all possible assistance to the expedition: to introduce the members of the expedition to the local Chinese officials, provide lodgings for the group, to summon low-ranking officials to assist them, and so on. Besides, I request Colonel Grombchevsky to help Mr. Rudakov with getting, as far as possible, gratuitously, redundant copies of books from the Mukden book depositary.³⁰

Later on, Grodekov applied for 5,000 rubles more for the needs of the expedition. He always emphasized that acquiring book rarities from the Mukden library could be allowed only on the condition that certain remuneration is paid for them and with the consent of the Chinese government.³¹

The expedition headed by Rudakov did a great amount of work within a short period. Nevertheless, on closer investigation, it becomes clear that the Chinese manuscripts that had entered the collection of the Oriental Institute and which were later deposited in the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, had not been delivered by the expedition. One of the telegrams sent to the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok from Mukden (regretfully, the names of the sender and recipient remain unknown) states:

The presence of Rudakov is necessary. Everybody is working beyond his capacities, becoming ill with consumption, and the students are missing their classes. The Mukden miracle is immense. [...] The old Manchurian manuscripts that are impossible to purchase, as well as various archaeological rarities, need to be photographed.³²

At the same time, no descriptions of the copied or photographed rarities are to be found in the archives. It would seem that the description of books brought from Mukden to Vladivostok was not made either.

The results of the expedition's work were presented by Rudakov in his monograph entitled *The Bogdokhan Palaces and Book Depositories in Mukden*, which concludes with the appendix *The Catalogue of the Most Important Chinese Literary Works Kept in the Mukden Library*.³³ The main subject of the

30 HAFE, Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 31, ff.54v–55.

31 HAFE, Fund 226. Inv. 1, unit 31, f. 58v.

32 HAFE, Fund 226. Inv. 1, unit 31, f. 45v.

33 Apollinarij V. Rudakov / Рудаков А.В., *Богдоханские дворцы и книгохранилища в Мукдени. С девятью оригинальными фототипиями. Результаты командировки летом 1901 г. в Мукден* [The Bogdokhan's Palaces and Book Depositories in Mukden, With Nine Original Collotype Prints.

work is the description of the layout of the library complex in Mukden, its function and the composition of its holdings. The Mukden Imperial Library was among the four most significant state collections of books in China. It accommodated several book depositaries, with the Wensuge 文溯閣 (The Pavilion of Literary Trends) as the main one. The latter was founded on the order of Emperor Qianlong 乾隆 in 1783. The main contents of the Wensuge holdings comprised 6,864 volumes of the manuscript version of the *Siku quanshu* 四庫全書.³⁴ The other two pavilions of the Mukden library complex—the *Jingdiange* 敬典閣 (The Pavilion of Appreciating the Classics) and the *Chongmoge* 崇謀閣 (The Pavilion of Venerating the Great Design)—housed material directly related to the history of the Qing dynasty. The *Jingdiange* accommodated the imperial genealogies of *yu-die* (300 scrolls) and the *Chongmoge* housed the imperial instructions of *shen-xun* (400 volumes), the chronicles of the *shi-lu* rulers (1,500 volumes) and archive notes in Manchurian, *lao-dang-ce* (14 volumes).³⁵

As A. V. Rudakov notes in the foreword to his monograph, legends about the riches of the Mukden book depositaries spread even in Western scholarly literature. The British Sinologist Edward Parker (1849–1926) wrote in one of his works: »In retaliation, the Russians are now carting off to Europe the whole of the vast manuscript collection from the Mukden Palace: this includes manuscript copies of the Greek and Roman classics, which must have been brought from Europe either by the early missionaries or by the Mongols after their conquests in Hungary.«³⁶

As follows from the autobiography by A. V. Rudakov, the main objective of his expedition to Mukden was an attempt to discover these very rare manuscripts:

From the 1st of May till the 1st of September, 1901, I headed the research expedition to Mukden sent for the study of the Mukden Library. [...] This mission made it clear that the Mukden Library did not possess any ancient manuscripts in European languages supposedly taken out by the Mongols during their invasion of Europe, as the British Sinologist Parker insisted. It contained exclusively a corpus of Chinese literature, in hundreds of thousands of stitched brochures, known as the *Siku quanshu*,

A Report on the Mukden Expedition in the summer of 1901] (Vladivostok, 1901). The Report was also published in *Известия Восточного института ДВГУ* 3,1 (1902), 1–40; 3,2 (1902), 1–56.

34 Rudakov, *Богдоханские дворцы и книгохранилища в Мукдени*, 20.

35 Ibid., 33–34, 38.

36 Edward Harper Parker, *China, Her History, Diplomacy and Commerce from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. (London: John Murray, 1901), 291; Rudakov, *Богдоханские дворцы и книгохранилища в Мукдени*, 1.

which were codified during the reign of Qianlong (18th c.), and the genealogies of the then ruling Great Qing Dynasty in the Manchurian language. Meanwhile, we succeeded in attributing these records to the period when diacritical signs were not yet used in the Manchurian script.³⁷

Though Rudakov did not confirm the existence of European manuscripts in the Mukden collections, in 1902 the Czech Academy of Sciences, Literature and Arts sent a letter of inquiry to the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, and afterwards to the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok, concerning the possible whereabouts of the manuscripts in European languages supposedly taken out of China. This letter of inquiry, dated February 7 (January 25), 1903, states that a considerable part of manuscripts from the Mukden Library

has been purchased by the Russian government and transported partly to Vladivostok and partly to St. Petersburg. It is said that among these manuscripts there were Latin, Greek, Slavic, and also Czech manuscripts that might have found their way to the Library during the Tartar invasion of Moravia. As the latter might be of utmost importance for the Czechs, the Czech Academy most humbly petitions [...] not to refuse the request and inform us whether it is true that a certain part of the Mukden Library has passed into the hands of the Russians, and whether among the manuscripts there are some written in Slavic in general and in Czech in particular.³⁸

Rudakov's expedition was obviously not the source of the Chinese manuscripts of the Oriental Institute. Rudakov, who used to describe in great detail his acquisitions of books and archive documents, did not mention in his report that any manuscripts had been taken out of Mukden. At the same time, the description of the four albums entitled *The Battle Scenes of Emperor Qianlong* (*Qianlong zhan tu* 乾隆戰圖) presented in his book does not correspond to the archaeographical features of the analogous albums presently in the manuscript collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the RAS.³⁹

By October 1903, the general holdings of the Library at the Oriental Institute had increased to 10,785 titles in 46,613 volumes.⁴⁰ In the beginning of the 20th century, books from N. I. Grodekov's and General Nikolaj P. Linevich's (1838–1908) private collections also entered the Library. It possessed the best Oriental collection among the Russian university libraries of the period. As for

37 »Автобиография профессора Рудакова А.В. ...«, ff6–6v.

38 НАФЕ, Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 31, ff83–83v.

39 Rudakov, *Богдоханские дворцы и книгохранилища в Мукдени*, 38–39.

40 *Известия Восточного института ДВГУ* [Bulletin of the Oriental Institute of the Far Eastern State University] 11 (1904), lxxxiii.

the number of items and, in some cases, their quality, it surpassed the Library of the Oriental Department of St. Petersburg University.⁴¹

The fate of the unique Library of the Oriental Institute was tragic. The decisive role in this process must be attributed to the total reorganization of educational institutions in the Far East undertaken in the 1920s and 1930s. The inappropriate methods of storing the archival material of manuscripts and books as well as the lack of their due processing and cataloguing were repeatedly censured. It was for this reason that the first circular on the transfer of the Library's Chinese manuscript and archival holdings to the Asiatic Museum was issued in 1906.⁴² The Catalogue of Chinese Books from the Library of the Oriental Institute by Call Numbers, listing 1,282 titles,⁴³ was but a tentative document and could not solve the problem.

After the reorganization of the Oriental Institute in 1920, all its manuscript and book holdings entered the Library of the Far Eastern State University (*Gosudarstvenny Dal'nevostochny Universitet* Государственный Дальневосточный университет—ГДУ). The holdings of Chinese manuscripts of the Oriental Institute, Far Eastern State University, were singled out and described at the end of 1931 by the senior lecturer Aleksandr Vladimirovich Marakuev (1891–1955), being 23 titles in 115 volumes.⁴⁴ In May 1932, the Chinese manuscripts and xylographs were transferred from the Far Eastern State University to the newly-formed Far Eastern Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. A copy of Marakuev's catalogue was sent to Leningrad for Academician Vasilij M. Alekseev (1881–1951),⁴⁵ who immediately took an interest in the eighteenth-century illuminated edition of Pu Songling's 蒲松齡 stories *Liaozhai zhiyi* 聊齋志異 in 46 volumes. He sent a letter to Vladivostok with the request to transfer this edition to Leningrad. The answer, dated April 20, 1933, and signed by the scientific coordinator of the Far Eastern Branch of the Academy of Sciences, M. N.

41 *Известия Восточного института ДВГУ* [Bulletin of the Oriental Institute of the Far Eastern State University] 11 (1904), cxlvii.

42 НАФЕ, Fund 226, Inv. 1, unit 203, f55.

43 »Шифровый каталог китайских книг библиотеки Восточного института [Catalogue of Chinese Books from the Library of the Oriental Institute by Call Numbers] (Vladivostok: Vostochny institut, 1910), 1.

44 Aleksandr V. Marakuev / Маракуев А.В., *Каталог китайских рукописей в Библиотеке ДВ Отделения АН СССР* [Catalogue of Chinese Manuscripts from the Library of the Far Eastern Branch of the AS of the USSR] (Vladivostok: Akademia nauk, 1932).

45 »Санкт-Петербургский филиал Архива РАН« [St. Petersburg Branch of the Archives of the RAS; hereafter SPBA-RAS], Fund 820, Inv. 4, unit 77.

Meisel, stated that the transportation of the whole corpus of the *Liaozhai zhiyi* manuscript was difficult for technical reasons: »Its total weight with packing will amount to half a ton.«⁴⁶ V. M. Alekseev was advised to let the Library know the number of volumes he needed most urgently for his research, so that they could be posted in smaller packages. This letter might have been followed by further correspondence that resulted in the transfer in 1935 of the whole stock of manuscripts in possession of the Far Eastern Branch of the Academy of Sciences to the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies. Konstantin K. Flug (1893–1942) specified in his report for 1935 that he and Leonid S. Puchkovsky (1897–1970) had received, according to the delivery report, 138 manuscripts transferred from the Far Eastern Branch of the AS.⁴⁷ At that time, the Academy of Sciences scheduled for publication the illustrated translation into Russian of the *Liaozhai zhiyi* by »Academiya Art Publishers« in Moscow.⁴⁸

Among the rare books transferred to the Institute of Oriental Studies from Vladivostok was one volume of the famous Ming encyclopedia *Yongle da dian* 永樂大典, described by K. K. Flug,⁴⁹ and the manuscript edition of the Tang treatise *The Essentials of the Policy during the Zhenguan Period* (*Zhenguan zheng yao* 貞觀政要), originally kept in the Hanlin Academy, Beijing. Regretfully, we failed to find exact information about how these books found their way to Russia and who delivered them.

The manuscripts from Vladivostok were put in the catalogue of the NOVA collection of the Leningrad branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies by Maiya Petrovna Volkova (1927–2006) in 1953. In April 1958, *Liaozhai zhiyi*, the most significant work in the collection, according to the decision of the Soviet government and on the order of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (no 38-434 of March 5, 1958), was handed over to the PRC. Among the documents legalizing this transaction, the Archives of Orientalists of the IOM, RAS, there is a letter by the then Head of the Leningrad branch of the IOS AS, Academician Iosif O. Orbeli (1887–1961), dated April 12, 1958, addressed to the Director of the IOS AS Academician of Tadzhik SSR, B. G. Gafurov. The letter said:

46 SPBA-RAS, Fund 820, Inv. 2, unit 154, f.19.

47 »Архив востоковедов Института восточных рукописей РАН« [Archives of the Orientalists of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS], Fund 73, Inv. 1, unit 53, f.55.

48 SPBA-RAS, Fund 820, Inv. 2, unit 154, f.19.

49 Konstantin K. Flug / Флуг К. К., »Две заметки о новых поступлениях в рукописный отдел Института востоковедения« [Two Notes on the New Accessions to the Manuscript Department of the Institute of Oriental Studies], *Библиография Востока* 10 (1936), 131–138.

Dear Babadzhan Gafurovich! The present is to accompany the 46 albums of the Short Stories by Liao Zhai and the manuscript *Liu Zhiyuan zhuàn* in stitched brochures from P. K. Kozlov's excavations in Khara-Khoto. The mentioned manuscripts are packed in 15 boxes intended for transfer to China. Enclosed to each of the 15 boxes is the inventory of its contents. The boxes are to be sent by airplane due to the impossibility to send them as accompanied luggage in a passenger coach and to avoid the risks of transporting them in a luggage van. L. I. Chuguevsky and M. P. Volkova will accompany the boxes. I request you to give instructions on the proper making up of the transfer act for transmission of the material to the State Committee for Cultural Relationships with Foreign Countries, considering the fact that the Leningrad Branch does not possess any direct written command about the transfer of the aforementioned materials.⁵⁰

This is obviously at the same time that the volume of *Yongle da dian* was removed from the holdings of the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies and handed over to China.

About 20 titles of manuscripts presently kept in the IOM RAS are obviously all what remains of the collection of Chinese manuscripts from the Oriental Institute in Vladivostok. The book holdings of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Far East, RAS, comprises about 2,000 volumes of Chinese xylographs with stamps of the Oriental Institute. The rest of the book treasures of this unique educational establishment, collected as a result of purposeful efforts by a whole generation of its professors and students of the Russian state and its citizens, was regretfully dispersed and irretrievably lost in the course of various reorganizations and reforms of the research and educational institutions undertaken during the 20th century.

Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St. Petersburg

50 *Архив востоковедов* [Archives of Orientalists], Fund 152, Inv. 1a, unit 81294, f5.