

Acquisitions of Chinese Books by the Russian Academy of Sciences and Their Cataloguing in the 18th Century

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Akvizície čínskych kníh Ruskou akadémiou vied a ich katalogizácia v 18. storočí

Resumé Štúdiá sa zaoberá počiatkami akvizície čínskych kníh v 18. stor. Ruskou akadémiou vied, skúma širokú škálu dobových zdrojov v latinčine, ruštine, francúzštine a ďalších relevantných jazykoch, rovnako ako doteraz nepreskúmané archívne pramene tejto inštitúcie. Štúdiá tiež sleduje nedostatky, ktoré ovplyvnili zbierky a ktoré boli predmetom príslušného výskumu tejto problematiky od konca 19. stor.

Abstract This study is an inquiry into the 18th c. beginnings of the Chinese collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences, examining a wide range of contemporary sources in Latin, Russian, French, and other relevant languages, as well as hitherto unexplored archival sources of the Academy. Aided by relevant research about the issue undertaken from the the late 19th c. onwards, it also traces lacunes that have affected the collections.

Keywords Russia, Sinology, History · Russian Academy of Sciences (1724), Collections, Catalogues

The collection of Chinese manuscripts and xylographs in the Russian Academy of Sciences, whose core collection comprises the holdings of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (the former Asiatic Museum), has its origins long before the foundation of the Asiatic Museum (1818) and the academy itself (1724).

No exact information appears to have survived regarding the first arrivals of Chinese books into Russia, although it is certain that from the early 18th century onwards they found their way in different manners into Russian collections. The

practice of collecting historical documents, manuscripts and antiques in Rus' dates from its early days. Initially their reliquaries were churches, monasteries, and the treasuries of princes and later on tsars.¹ In the 18th century private collections came to play an important role and began to include materials and books on natural history and science, in addition to items connected with history and art.

In the 16th century interest in China grew markedly in a number of European countries, with numerous publications about China appearing and collections of Chinese books being formed.² This could not fail to attract the attention of Russian scholars—especially since Russia's academic life in those days was dominated by »aping Polish schools, which were completely under the sway of the Jesuits«. ³ Both in Europe and in Russia, academic studies of China's culture, history, law and system of government were coupled with a curiosity about Chinese exoticism, which manifested itself in a vogue for Chinese curios, mainly artworks. The latter resulted in the emergence of impressive collections of Chinese *virtu* at the Russian court and in the homes of the nobility.⁴ Their private libraries would often include books in Oriental languages, including Chinese. Chinese books, most probably brought from Europe, were found, for

- 1 T. V. Stanyukovich, *Kunstkamera Peterburgskoi Akademii nauk* [The Kunstkamera of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences] (Moscow—Leningrad: Izdetel'stvo Akademii nauk SSSR, 1953), 7.
- 2 O. L. Fishman, *Kitai v Evrope: mif i real'nost' (XIII – XVIII vv.)* [China in Europe: Myth and Reality (13th–18th Centuries.)] (St Petersburg: Peterburgskoe Vostokovedenie, 2003): 77 and 340–341.
- 3 P. P. Pekarsky, *Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge* [The History of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Petersburg], 2 vols. (St Petersburg: izdanie Otdeleniya russkogo yazyka i slovesnosti Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 1870), 1: 15.
- 4 R. F. Its, »Pervye kitaiskie kollektzii v Rossii« [The First Chinese Collections in Russia], in *Saint-Petersburg—Kitai. Tri veka kontaktov* [St Petersburg—China. Three Centuries of Contacts] (St Petersburg: Evropeiskii Dom, 2006), 44.

example, in the collection of the Russian Empire Vice-Chancellor Heinrich Johann Friedrich Ostermann (1686–1747) and other important people.⁵

Peter I was an active collector who made numerous acquisitions, including books in every field of knowledge,⁶ when travelling around Europe on the »Grand Embassy« mission from 1697 to 1699. To store Peter's ample collections, the Imperial Library and Kunstkamera were established in 1714. The backbone of the Imperial Library was formed by the books and manuscripts from the tsar's libraries and the Apothecary *Prikaz* (the Ministry of Health), which had been relocated from Moscow. The library also received books »that our troops had come by when capturing towns in the Ostsee (Baltic) lands« as well as the libraries of deceased or disgraced dignitaries.⁷ In 1720 the library contained works by Russian, other Slavic, Latin, Greek, French and German authors, and had a collection totalling up to 15 thousand volumes.⁸

When the Academy of Sciences was established in 1724, the Imperial Library and Kunstkamera were made a part of it.⁹ Subsequently the book stocks

5 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk* [Materials for the History of the Imperial Academy of Sciences], 10 vols. (St Petersburg: Tipografiya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 1885–1900), 5 (1889): 324.

6 Stanyukovich, *Kunstkamera*, 32.

7 Pekarsky, *Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge*, 1: 15.

8 »Intimnaya perepiska Feofana Prokopovicha s Yakovom Markovichem« [The Private Correspondence of Theophan Prokopovich with Jacob Markovich], *Kievskaya starina* [Kievan Antiquity] 2 (1882), 508; Stanyukovich, *Kunstkamera*, 36.

9 M. I. Radovsky cites an interesting opinion given by the academician Gerhard Friedrich Müller (1705–1783) on the corpus and significance of the St Petersburg academy collections. During his journey to England in 1731, G. F. Müller got acquainted with the collection and library built up by Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753), then the president of the Royal Society in London. Later they were to become the backbone of the British Museum. Later Müller wrote the following: »Early in 1753, he (Sloane) died at an advanced age, having proposed in his will that his invaluable treasure be preferably offered for a specified amount to the Empress of Russia. That was probably found to be unnecessary, for the Petersburg collection of natural science, historical monuments and works of art was so comprehensive itself that there was no need to accept the offer« (M. I. Radovsky, »Poseschenie Peterburgskoi Akademii nauk kitaiskimi gostyami v 1732 g.« [The Chinese Guests' Visit to the Petersburg Academy of Sciences in 1732], in *Iz istorii nauki*

of the academy were steadily enlarged.¹⁰ Certain new arrivals were properly inventoried and registered when accepted for entry,¹¹ and from the very outset a complete catalogue was on the agenda. The issue of cataloguing was recorded for the first time in 1724 in the employment contract of deputy librarian Johann Daniel Schumacher (1690–1761), whose duties were specified as »having the library and Kunstkamera personally overseen, having everything in the library and Kunstkamera properly taken care of, and having the library books and the Kunstkamera’s miscellany catalogued«.¹²

The expeditions sent by Peter I to explore Siberia played a great part in the building up of the academy’s collections. The first materials received by the academy were related to »the writing system of the Mongols and the Chinese«, and resulted from the travels of Daniel Gottlieb Messerschmidt (1685–1735) to Western Siberia, Dauria (Transbaikal) and Mongolia.¹³ After returning to St Petersburg in February 1727, Messerschmidt did not hasten to hand over the collections he had gathered under the pretext of having *no complete item-by-item* inventory of the items. Therefore, the collections were sequestered.¹⁴ A special committee was set up on 28 April 1727; the team, which consisted of J. D. Schumacher, J. N. Delisle, T. S. Bayer and J. C. Buchsbaum, »unanimously ruled that everything mentioned above, including the books received from Dr Messerschmidt and some other descriptive documents, should be handed over to

i tekhniki v stranakh Vostoka. Sbornik statei [From the History of Science and Technology in Oriental Countries. Collected Articles], 3 vols. (Moscow: Izdatel'stvo vostochnoi literatury, 1961), 2: 85.

10 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 1 (1885): 182, 184, 187, 191, 194, 208.

11 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 1 (1885): 208, 462–472.

12 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 1 (1885): 14.

13 Stanyukovich, *Kunstkamera*, 33.

14 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 1 (1885): 289–290.

the Academy of Sciences». ¹⁵ The academician Theophilus Siegfried Bayer (1694 to 1738) noticed some »striking rarities« among Messerschmidt's collection, ¹⁶ although unfortunately it is not clear whether it included any books in Chinese. After the collections were taken from the explorer, the academy reimbursed him for every expense, obtaining from him a signed statement (*sworn pledge*) not to make unauthorized »publications about the books, descriptions and curios« kept in the *Kunstkamera*. ¹⁷

Johann G. Backmeister, who compiled the first guide book to the library of the Russian Academy of Sciences, dated the inception of the academy's Chinese book collection to 1730: »The first Chinese books to enter the library were those that Mr Lange, the resident Russian representative at the Chinese court, had brought from the Jesuit missionaries in Beijing in 1730; there were 82 books in eight folders. Likewise, the others have also been delivered to us from the same reverends.« ¹⁸

Information on the Jesuit activities and their publications in China came to the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences from European scholars, particularly from T. Bayer, who made use of some Chinese sources in his writings from 1713 onwards. ¹⁹ When travelling on the invitation of the RAS to St Petersburg in 1725,

15 *Ibid.*, 1: 297.

16 *Ibid.*, 1: 347.

17 *Ibid.*, 1: 348.

18 J. G. Backmeister, *Opyt o biblioteke i kabinete redkosti i istorii natural'noi Sankt-Peterburgskoi Akademii nauk, izdannyy na frantsuzskom yazyke Ioganom Bakmeisterom, bibliotekarem Akademii nauk, na rossiiskii yazyk perevedennyi Vasiliem Kostygovym* [Work Experience in the Library and the Curio and Natural History Chamber of the St Petersburg Imperial Academy of Sciences, Published in French by Johann Backmeister, Deputy Librarian of the Academy of Sciences, Translated into Russian by Vasily Kostygov] (St Petersburg, 1779), 93–94.

19 Theophilus Siegfried Bayer began learning the Chinese language in Königsberg in 1713. Living in Berlin from 1715 to 1717, with the assistance of M. B. Lacroze he gained access to »everything the Berlin library possessed where books and manuscripts about China were concerned« (Pekarsky, *Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge*, 1: 183, 185–186). In writing his *Præceptiones de lingua Sinica*, T. Bayer 'borrowed' some information from the unpublished works by M. Martini, P. Couplet and L. Piquesia (V. P. Taranovich, »Akademik Bayer i ego trudy po vostokovedeniyu« [Academician Bayer and His Orientological Works; typewritten text kept in

Bayer »entertained hopes of finding in Russia plenty of materials for his studies of China; that failing, he decided to inform the public of what he had already collected with great effort and at huge cost.«²⁰ The St Petersburg Academy of Sciences strove to make use of diplomatic missions to establish contacts with the Jesuits and through them get Chinese books from Beijing as well as the clerics' own works. It appears that Bayer made a list of books that the academy desired to obtain from China through the offices of diplomat Sava Lukich Vladislavich-Raguzinsky (1669–1738). The order was not carried out because the envoy was given the list on the Russian border on 8 March 1727 when he was already on his way back from Beijing.²¹ At the same time, Raguzinsky brought to Russia some glossaries purchased by him in Beijing for the Russian Collegium for Foreign Affairs (the Foreign Ministry).²²

Purchasing books for the RAS and the performance of other tasks was entrusted to Lorenz Lange, who went to Beijing with the first Russian merchant caravan on 13 September 1727.²³ The list passed to him included 'two famous dictionaries'—*Da zi hui* and *Hai bien*—as well as the following dictionaries

the Archives of Orientalists of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (hereafter *AO IOM RAS*), store 102, unit 2, folio 6. In his preface to *Museum Sinicum*, T. Bayer mentions the scholarly merits and works of many of the Jesuit missionaries (T. S. Bayer, *Museum Sinicum. In quo Sinicae Linguae et Letteraturae ratio explicatur* (Petropoli, 1730), 8, 12, 15–16, *passim*).

20 Pekarsky, *Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge*, 1: 188.

21 G. Cohen, *Histoire des relation de la Russie avec la Chine sous Pierre le Grand* (1689–1730) (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan, 1912), xcvi–xcvii. Of the writings listed, only N. Trigault's work is now extant in the xylograph holdings of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

22 Cohen, *Histoire des relation de la Russie avec la Chine*, cxlvi.

23 T. S. Bayer had met Lorenz Lange, whom Peter I had transferred to Berlin to master German and French, in 1715 (see *AO IOM RAS*, f102, unit 2, f5).

compiled by the Jesuits (published or pending publications): a lexicon by Lazaro Cattaneo 郭居靜 (1560–1640) *Vocabularium Sinicum, ordine alphabetico Euroaeorum more concinnatum et per accentus suos disestum*; an encyclopaedia by Nicolaus Trigault 金尼閣 (1577–1628) *Vocabularium Sinarum ad vocabula Europea* 西儒耳目資 1628; and Chinese-Portuguese and Portuguese-Chinese dictionaries by Alvaro de Semedo 魯得照 (1585–1658) and Christian Herdtricht 恩理格 (1635–1684).²⁴ No complete list or description of the books brought by Lange from China was made at the time.²⁵ What survives provides mere hints at their content; they were dictionaries, »the first one in Latin and Chinese, the second in 12 bindings, also in Chinese, and the third in 14 bindings also in Chinese«.²⁶

Bayer used the opportunity of the second caravan to China (1731–1732) to use Lange and send the Jesuits his work *Museum Sinicum*, published in 1730, and a letter dated 1 September 1731 which started a lively scholarly correspondence which lasted until the mid-1760s.²⁷ According to P. P. Pekarsky, Bayer's contacts

24 Cohen, *Histoire des Relation de la Russie avec la Chine*, xcvi–xcvii.

25 T. K. Shafranovskaya and K. I. Shafranovsky, »Priobretenie v nachale XVIII v. kitaiskikh knig rossiiskim rezidentom v Kitae Lorentsom Langom« [The Purchase of Chinese Books in the Early 18th Century by Lorenz Lange, the Resident Russian Representative in China], in *Strany i narody Vostoka* [Countries and Peoples of the Orient] (Moscow: Izdatel'stvo vostochnoi literatury), 1 (1959): 295–301; P. Y. Skachkov, *Ocherki istorii russkogo kitaevedeniya* [Essays on the History of Russian Sinology] (Moscow: Nauka, GRVL, 1977), 32–33, 300–301.

26 Skachkov, *Ocherki istorii russkogo kitaevedeniya*, 32.

27 V. P. Taranovich, »Nauchnaya perepiska SPb. Akademii nauk s iezuitami, prozhivavshimi v Pekine v XVIII veke« [The Scholarly Correspondence of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences with the Jesuits Residing in China in the 18th Century], in *Arkhivnye materialy po istorii zapadnoevropeiskogo i rossiiskogo kitaevedeniya* [Archive Materials on the History of Western European and Russian Sinology], ed. by T. A. Pang and O. V. Shatalov (St Petersburg, Voronezh: Rossijskaya Akademiia Nauk, Ministerstvo obrazovaniya Rossijskoi Federatsij, 2004), 38–39, 82. V. P. Taranovich's unpublished article entitled »Akademik T. Z. Bayer i ego trudy po vostokovedeniyu« [Academician T. S. Bayer and His Works on Sinology] (1939), the manuscript of which is kept in the Archive of Orientalists of the IOM RAS, investigates the issue of the academy's correspondence with the Jesuits. The article includes the following information: »A perusal of the minutes of the Academy Conferences held in the 18th century reveals that the total number of missives sent by the Academy of Sciences and the analysis of the content of the

with the Jesuits were encouraged and helped by H. F. Osterman, who »of his own accord, lent him from his library not only the Chinese printed lexicons *Çu gvéy* (*Zi bui* 字彙) and *Hai pien* (*Hai pian* 海篇), but also a very comprehensive Sino-Latin handwritten lexicon by Parrenin«. ²⁸ As a result, Bayer »set to work on preparing a large dictionary and translating different books, especially encouraged by generous parcels from the Jesuits named Kögler, Pereira, Slaviček, Parrenin and Gaubil«. ²⁹ On his return in 1732, Lange handed Bayer the Jesuits' letters written in reply. ³⁰

Afterwards, the Russian Academy regularly sent to China all the books it published; each of the three Jesuit collegia in Beijing also forwarded their writings to the academy. ³¹ On 12 June 1732 the Chinese embassy arrived in St Petersburg and paid a visit to the Russian Academy of Sciences, where it was presented with three copies of the three-volume editions of *Commentarii*

extant letters received by it from Beijing prompts one to assume that the total number of letters to and from Beijing should be about 150. In reality about 100 of them have survived. Out of that number we have found nine letters written by Bayer and seven letters addressed to him. Believing, as we do, that Bayer's correspondence with the Beijing Jesuits might be useful not only for Bayer's profile as a scholar, but also for the history of learning in general and Sinology in particular, we deem it necessary to include the correspondence in an appendix to this essay in the form of copies of the original documents kept in the archives of the Academy of Sciences. At the same time, we provide a list of the non-extant letters from the correspondence with references to the sources evidencing their existence in the past. Perhaps some researchers of Bayer's academic heritage may succeed in finding the missing letters somewhere, which the writer of the present essay has been unable to do« (*AO IOM RAS*, f102, unit 2, f35). The appendix consists of 62 sheets (*AO IOM RAS*, f102, unit 2, ff49–111).

28 Pekarsky, *Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge*, 1: 188–189.

29 *Ibid.*, 1: 189.

30 Taranovich, »Nauchnaya perepiska«, 39.

31 Taranovich, »Akademik T. Z. Bayer i ego trudy«, f19.

Academiae Scientiarum Imperialis Petropolitanae and *Museum Sinicum* as well as with portraits of Empress Anna Ioannovna, Emperor Peter II, »[and] Prince Alexei Petrovich, and pictures of St Petersburg's streets and two triumphal arches«. ³² The academy also made attempts to have its publications sold in China. ³³

In turn, the academy's library was augmented with large numbers of Chinese and Manchurian books, geographic maps, astronomical tables, dictionaries and other items. ³⁴ Some of the manuscripts sent by the Jesuits to Russia were published by the academy. ³⁵

Bayer's works give an idea of the content of the Chinese and Manchurian books in Russia at that time. In his article entitled *Litteratura Mangiurica*, he quoted the writings *Mangju-ni geren bidche*, *Sin ke*, *Çin xu çiven cie* and *Tschuen tschue u-tschu*, ³⁶ stating in the description of *De Lexico Sinico Çu gvéy* that he knew of three editions of the *Zi bui* dictionary, one of them being in his personal possession. ³⁷ Describing the *Chun qiu* chronicle, he analysed the structure of the Nine Classics, mentioned a number of dictionaries and chronicles (*Du yu*, *Tong jian* and others) and made reference to the results of the research by the missionaries Nicolas Longobardi (1559–1654), Matteo Ricci (1552–1610), Martino Martini (1614–1661), Philippe Couplet (1622–1692) and Antoine Gaubil (1689–1759). ³⁸

The scholarly correspondence of the Russian Academy of Sciences with the Beijing Jesuits suffered a grave loss with the early death of T. S. Bayer. Informing the Jesuits of his demise, Baron Korf, the academy president, invited them to continue correspondence with the academy, stressing in particular issues of astronomy, geography and natural history. ³⁹ That determined the content of the

32 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 2 (1886): 140.

33 Shafranovskaya, Shafranovsky, »Priobretenie«, 297–300.

34 Taranovich, »Nauchnaya perepiska«, 84; Taranovich, »Akademik T. Z. Bayer i ego trudy«, f24.

35 Taranovich, »Nauchnaya perepiska«, 86.

36 T. S. Bayer, »Litteratura Mangiurica«, in *Commentarii Academiae Scientiarum Imperialis Petropolitanae*, vol. 6 (»Ad annos 1732 & 1733«, Petropoli 1738), 329.

37 T. S. Bayer, »De Lexico Sinico Çu gvéy«, *ibid.*, 339–340.

38 T. S. Bayer, »De Confucii Libro Chûn çieu«, *ibid.*, vol. 7 (»Ad annos 1734 & 1735«, Petropoli 1740), 363–365, 372, 393, 394, 397.

39 Taranovich, »Nauchnaya perepiska«, 86.

books to be received by the academy from Beijing. On 12 March 1739 a parcel containing »one large Chinese dictionary in six folios and 40 volumes«, »one folio with six Chinese books«, »four Chinese calendars and two small Chinese books« and so on was delivered from the Jesuit Southern Collegium in Beijing.⁴⁰

The growth of the library's book stocks was accompanied by constant cataloguing, which was initially performed in the form of inventories of certain sections of the collection. On 2 November 1732 a solemn government decree ordained that »inventories or catalogues should be submitted stating how many Russian and foreign books, hand-written or printed, the library holds as well as what art objects and natural curios are found in the *Kunstkamera*, whence they came and under whose supervision they are stored.«⁴¹ In reply the academy sent a report signed by its president, Lavrenty Blumentrost, dated 22 January 1733, which read as follows:

The available catalogues of the books and objects kept in the library and *Kunstkamera* were immediately dispatched to translators for rendering, and as soon as they have been translated they will be submitted to the ruling senate accompanied by a note stating the origins of those books, natural objects, curios and instruments, informing which of them are missing, to whom they were borrowed and who authorized the loan. The librarian Schumacher has been in charge of the library and *Kunstkamera* since 1714 under the supervision of the archiver Areskin and under my own superintendence. The present state of the library and *Kunstkamera* owes a great deal to his toil and diligence.⁴²

The first general description of the library's corpus resulted in a catalogue compiled by J. F. Brem.⁴³ The catalogue was published from 1742 to 1744 in separate issues (a total of 32) with half-titles which included the letter index of the chamber (*camera*), i.e. the room where the book was kept, the hall number (repositories) and the name of the systematic or subject section. For this reason

40 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 4 (1887): 49.

41 *Ibid.*, 2 (1886): 187.

42 *Ibid.*

43 J. F. Brem, *Bibliotheca Imperialis Petropolitana pars prima-quarta*, (Petropoli, 1742-1744).

it became known as the *Camera Catalogue*.⁴⁴ In 1744 the catalogue got clad in a French binding and ultimately three volumes were released (Parts 1–3 appeared in Volume 1 and Part 4 in Volumes 2 and 3). The work on cataloguing was managed by the librarian Johann Daniel Schumacher (1690–1761), the councillor of the Academy Office (*Akademicheskaya kantselyariya*), who zealously worked on distributing the catalogue both inside Russia and abroad.⁴⁵ The poor quality of this catalogue as well as many other things about the councillor's behaviour caused considerable resentment among the academy membership. In one of the complaints lodged with the senate in September 1745, some academicians had this to say:

On Councillor Schumacher's instructions, catalogues of the library and Kunstkamera have been published, which would not have been a useless act had they been properly written. But since some of them are written very badly, not even a little good can be expected of them. They may in fact bring shame on the academy in foreign countries. The catalogues were printed without the academy's knowledge or approval by the professorial community, without any attempt to correct the numerous defects they have; they have already been distributed among foreigners, creating the impression that there are no people here who would be able to notice defects of this kind and rectify them.⁴⁶

The academicians' severe criticism was not unjustified: J. F. Brem's catalogue only covered books in European languages.⁴⁷ Exceptions were only made for some dictionaries and grammar books for Oriental languages, with titles in Latin—such as, for instance, *Christi Clodii Compendiosum lexicon latino-turcico-*

44 *Svodnyi catalog knig na inostrannykh yazykakh, izdannyykh v Rossii v XVIII veke. 1701–1800* [A Composite Catalogue of Foreign-Language Books Published in Russia in the 18th Century], 3 vols. (Leningrad: Nauka, Leningradskoe otdelenie, 1984–1986), 1 (A–G, 1984): 1.

45 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 7 (1895): 80.

46 *Ibid.*, 7 (1895): 643.

47 T. K. Shafranovskaya, K. I. Shafranovsky, »Svedeniya o kitaiskikh knigakh v Biblioteke akademii nauk v XVIII v.« [Information about Chinese Books in the Library of the Academy of Sciences in the 18th Century], in *Nauchnye i kulturnye svyazi Biblioteki Akademii nauk SSSR so stranami zarubezhnogo Vostoka* [Scientific and Cultural Links of the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR with Countries of the Orient] (Moscow–Leningrad: Izdatel'stvo Akademii nauk SSSR, 1957), 85.

germanicum, Jacobi Golii Iacobi lexicon arabico-latinum and some others.⁴⁸ The 1741 catalogue of the academy museum's collections, entitled *Musei Imperialis Petropolitani* (in two volumes, each comprising three parts), only contained information on Chinese curios, pictures and coins.⁴⁹

Although the first printed catalogues of the academy's library hardly covered any books in Oriental languages, inventories of Chinese books had been made fairly early and existed in handwritten form. Data on the time and authorship of the academy's first catalogues of its Chinese books are rather contradictory. Zoya Ivanovna Gorbacheva (1907–1979) made this observation:

Catalogues and lists (or 'registers', 'inventories', 'descriptions' and 'stocks' as they used to be called) were made repeatedly—both for an entire batch from this or that period, or for its separate parts. However, [...] most of them are non-extant and we know of their existence only from occasional mentions, references or other indirect evidence.⁵⁰

According to J. G. Backmeister, the first catalogues of Chinese books in the academy's collection were written by Illarion Kalinovich Rossokhin (1717–1761) and Alexei Leontyevich Leontyev (1716–1786).⁵¹ These catalogues were known to the scholarly community in manuscript form and appear to have never been reproduced by a printing press.⁵² At a later date, M. I. Brosset (1802–1880) pointed out in his *Report* that A. L. Leontyev's catalogue had been used when

48 *Bibliotheca Imperialis Petropolitanae*, 4 vols. (Petropoli, 1774), 1: 246, 249.

49 *Musei Imperialis Petropolitani*, 2 vols. (St. Petersburg, 1741), 2 («Pars prima, qua continentur res artificiales»): 72–152, 449–450.

50 Z. I. Gorbacheva, *Kratkoe opisaniie kitaiskikh ksilograficheskikh izdaniy kolleksii Instituta narodov Azii, Leningradskoe otdelenie* [Brief Description of Chinese Xylographic Editions of the Collection Held by the Institute of Asian Peoples of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad Branch], 3 issues, 1 (Geography, Leningrad: IAP, AS of the USSR, 1971, published as a manuscript): 14.

51 J. G. Backmeister, *Opyt o biblioteke*, 94.

52 See *Svodnyi catalog russkoi knigi grazhdanskoi pečati XVIII v.* [A Composite Catalogue of the Russian Civil Printing Books of the Eighteenth Century], 3 vols. (Moscow: Gosudarstvennaya biblioteka SSSR im. V. I. Lenina, 1962–66): 2 (1964) and 3 (1966).

compiling the description of *Musei Imperialis Petropolitani* as well as in J. Busse's report.⁵³ Yet no titles of the Chinese books were provided in the inventory of the academy museum's collections or in J. Busse's survey.

The earliest extant list of the academy's books in Chinese and Manchurian is the handwritten Register of Chinese Books of 24 March 1741 compiled by I. K. Rossokhin. The books listed in the register (52 titles) had been brought by him from China and sold to the academy for 242 roubles and 30 kopecks.⁵⁴ They were mainly Chinese-Manchurian dictionaries, grammar books, historical writings and works of literature. Each Chinese title in the register was supplied with its equivalent in Russian:

- *Qing wen dianyao* 清文典要 (*Pravila kak perevodit' kitaiskie vysokie rechi na man'chzhurskii yazyk* [Rules for Translating Chinese Formal Speeches into Manchurian])
- *Man Hanzi shijing*, *Man Hanzi qing wen qimeng* 滿漢字詩經, 滿漢字清文啟蒙 (*Grammatika man'chzhurskaya s kitaiskim yazykom* [Manchurian Grammar with Explanations in Chinese], one book)
- *Man Han hebixing li* 滿漢合璧性理 (*Estestvoslovie na man'chzhurskom i kitaiskom yazykakh* [Natural Science in Manchurian and Chinese])
- *Tongwen guanghui quan shu* 同文廣彙全書 (*Vokabuly man'chzhurskie s kitaiskim yazykom po glavam* [Manchurian Glossaries with Chinese Explanations Chapter by Chapter])
- *Xiuxiang shuibu quan zhuan* 繡像水滸全傳 (*Istoriya o 108 slavnnykh razboinikakh, kotorye byli pri tsaryakh sunskikh, na kitaisokom yazyke* [A Tale about 108 Famous Robbers in the Reigns of the Song Emperors, in Chinese], two books with drawings)
- *Xiuxiang xiyouzhen quan* 繡像西遊貞詮 (*Istoriya o stranstvovanii odnoi dukhovnoi personsy v zapadnye storony* [A Tale about the Travels of a Priest into Western Countries], with drawings, two books)

53 M. I. Brosset, »Report of Academician Extraordinary Brosset on the Chinese Library of the Asiatic Museum of the Imperial Academy of Sciences«, *Journal of Popular Education* 30,3 (1841), 1–2; see also *Journal von Russland*, ed. by Johann Heinrich Busse, vol. 2 (Januar–Junius 1796).

54 Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg Branch (hereafter *A RAS SPbB*), f. 3, inv. 1, unit 59, f203.

- *Xiuxiang Song jingzhong zhuan* 繡像宋精忠傳 (*Istoriya o sunskom general-fe'dmarshale, koim obrazom on posytadal za vernost' na kitaiskom yazyke* [A Tale of a Song General/Field-Marshal and How He Suffered for His Devotion, in Chinese], with drawings, one book)
- *Xiuxiang Jinpingmei* 繡像金瓶梅 (*Istoriya o pokhozhdeniyakh odnogo bogatogo cheloveka i semi zhenschin, na kitaiskom yazyke, slavnaya* [A Tale about a Rich Man and Seven Women, in Chinese, Entertaining], with drawings, two books)
- *pin ji kao* 品級考 (*Tabel' shtatskikh i voennykh chinov, na kitaiskom yazyke* [A Table of Civilian and Military Ranks in Chinese], one book)
- *Zi hui* 字彙 (*Leksikon kitaiskii* [Chinese Lexicon])
- *Ming gong shi* 名公詩 (*Virshi slavykh lyudei na kitaiskom yazyke* [Verses by Famous People in Chinese], two books)
- *Lucheng diyi shu* 路程第一書 (*Traktat vsego kitaiskogo gosudarstva na kitaiskom yazyke* [A Treatise about the Entire Chinese State, in Chinese], one book)
- *Ba qi guan jue* 八旗官爵 (*Tabel' vos'mi divizii man'chzhurskikh, vsekh chinovnykh lyudei. Gde i kto sluzhit i kak nazyvayemykh na kitaiskom yazyke* [A Table of Eight Classes of All Manchurian Civil Servants. Where They Are Stationed and the Names of Posts in Chinese])
- *Jin shen* 縉紳 (*Tabel' shtatskikh chinov* [A Table of Civilian Ranks])
- *Zhong shubei lan* 中樞備覽 (*Tabel' kitaiskogo voiska* [A Table of the Chinese Military])
- *Yuzhi tianxia yitong zhi* 御製天下一統志 (*Geografiya polnaya vsego kitaiskogo gosudarstva* [The Geography of the Entire Chinese State])
- *Zhibishu shanzhuang shi* 製避暑山莊詩 (*Virshi kbanskie* [Khan Poetry])
- *Shengjing zhibjie* 聖經直解 (*Evangeliye prazdnichnoe* [A Gospel for Festive Use])
- *Suan fa* 算法 (*Arifmetika kitaiskaya* [Chinese Arithmetic]) and
- *Da qing lu* 大清律 (*Ulozhenie* [Code])⁵⁵

55 *A RAS SPbB*, f3, inv. 1, unit 59, ff203–208 (titles translated and notes provided by I. K. Rossokhin).

In all probability, I. K. Rossokhin's register was regarded as an integral part of the general catalogue of Chinese books in the academy's library; attempts at creating such a catalogue were being made at that time. The books were accepted from I. K. Rossokhin by the library employee Andrei Ivanovich Bogdanov with the proviso that he should receive »these books and acknowledge the act by entering them in the catalogue where the other Chinese books are recorded«. ⁵⁶

I. K. Rossokhin, who was assigned by the Foreign Affairs Collegium (Ministry) to the academy after his return to Russia early in 1741, was repeatedly asked to make inventories of Chinese books and rarities received by the academy from the Beijing Jesuits on an exchange basis and perform other similar jobs. ⁵⁷ In 1742, for instance, he was appointed by the Confiscation Office to participate in the listing of Chinese books from the library of the banished Count Osterman and some other people. ⁵⁸ Those books (23 in all) were handed over to the academy library. In October 1741 the Confiscation Office transferred to the academy an assortment of Chinese objects including nine old glazed drawings on paper in gilt frames, six old unglazed drawings in red which were also on paper, ⁵⁹ and »an unfinished portrait of a Chinese regent's wife«. On 21 September 1742 »a Chinese lacquer casket arrived containing Russian and foreign ancient money and medals«, ⁶⁰ accompanied by a hardbound book with scale pictures of the same old coins with legends specifying the princes' reigns. Together with this there was a hardbound book (its boards pasted with crimson gilt-edged *grodetur* foil) dealing with different Chinese coins. ⁶¹

56 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 4 (1887): 620.

57 Taranovich, »Akademik T. Z. Bayer i ego trudy«, 228.

58 Z. I. Gorbacheva, »Kitaiskie ksilografy i staropechatnye knigi sobraniya Instituta vostokovedeniya Akademii nauk SSSR« [Chinese Xylographs and Early Printed Books in the Collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR], in *Uchenye zapiski Instituta vostokovedeniya* [Proceedings of the Institute of Oriental Studies] 16 (1958), 312.

59 *Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk*, 4 (1887): 748.

60 *Ibid.*, 4 (1887): 750.

61 *Ibid.*, 5 (1889): 747–750, 366.

In March 1748 the academy purchased 15 Chinese and Manchurian books from different persons recommended by I. K. Rossokhin.⁶² That same year the academy bought the books and objects that G. F. Müller had brought from the Second Expedition to Kamchatka. At that time the books were not placed in the library, but rather in the *Kunstkamera*: »A Chinese calendar [...], a Chinese lexicon printed in China—divided into eight parts within one book [...]. In another lexicon there is an unusual portion in which many words have Russian translations«. ⁶³ In 1754 some Chinese objects and books came from L. Lange's heirs, including

a book comprising thousands of Chinese letters [...]. It is a folding book, in which eight sheets are painted with different figures over taffeta; it is bound in a variegated silk fabric. A similar folding book has fifteen sheets of landscapes painted by an old master over taffeta. The book is bound in brocade.⁶⁴

In the fire of the *Kunstkamera* on 5 December 1747, part of the academy's collection perished. In order to make up for the losses in its Chinese section, a physician named Franz Luka Elachich was sent to Beijing in 1753; he was given a detailed 144-page list of items to be purchased to replace the originals which had been lost.⁶⁵ I. K. Rossokhin prepared a number of important instructions and documents expressly for Elachich, such as his *List of Chinese Books Found in the Catalogue of the Paris Library that Should be Procured in China for the Imperial Library in St Petersburg*, dated April 1756.⁶⁶ The list contained 68 items

62 Gorbacheva, *Kratkoe opisaniie*, 7.

63 N. P. Kopaneva, »Rukopisnye katalogi Kunstkamery o kitaiskikh kollekttsiyakh vtoroi poloviny XVIII v« [Handwritten Catalogues of the *Kunstkamera* on the Chinese Collections Dating from the Second Half of the 18th Century], in *Saint-Petersburg–Kitai. Tri veka kontaktov* [St Petersburg–China. Three Centuries of Contacts] (St Petersburg: Evropeiskii Dom, 2006), 27.

64 Kopaneva, »Rukopisnye katalogi«, 27–28.

65 Skachkov, *Ocherki istorii russkogo kitaevdeniya*, 48.

66 The instructions written by I. K. Rossokhin are kept in the Archive of Orientologists of the *IOM RAS* (f152, inv. 2, unit 8): »V kantselyariyu Akademii nauk donoshenie« [A Report to the Office of the Academy of Sciences] (August 1752), ffr-2; »Kratkoe izvestie o rossiiskikh karavanakh, kotorye s rossiiskimi tovarami v kitaiskii stolichnyi gorod Peking po sile

(two of which are written in Manchurian; the others are in Chinese, occasionally with a note that the book should be purchased in both languages). The books were listed by categories:

(I) Lexicons

- (14) *Zhuanzi buimu* 篆字彙目⁶⁷
- (15) *Chuanzi caosbu* 傳字草書
- (19) *Xiruer muzi* 西儒耳目資
- (22) *Meng xuefa* 蒙學法
- (23) *Zhuanzi bui* 篆字彙
- (25) *Zheng yun tong* 正韻通
- (27) *Shanbai jing* 山海經

uchinennogo mezhdru Rossiskoi i Kitaiskoi imperiyami v 1728 godu iyunya 14 dnya traktata chere tri goda khodyat« [A Brief Report about Russian Caravans with Russian Goods Travelling to the Capital City of Beijing Once Every Three Years by Virtue of the Treaty Concluded between the Russian and the Chinese Empires on the 14th of June 1728]ff3-5; »Predstavleni o sposobe, kakim obrazom v Akademiyu kitaiskie starinnye i prochie kurioznye veschi deshevele i sposobnee dostat' mozhno« [Suggestions on How Chinese Antiques and Other Curios Can be Procured for the Academy Easier and Cheaper], ff5-6; »Rospis' tem vescham, kakie v Pekine, skol'ko ya pomnyu, dostat' mozhno. Larion Rossokhin« [A List of Objects that Can be Obtained in Beijing as Far as I Can Remember. Larion Rossokhin; 27 February 1752], ff6v-7v); »Rospis' kitaiskim i man'churskim knigam, kotorye v Imperatorskuyu biblioteku potrebnny (Rospis' vypisannym iz kataloga Parizhskoi biblioteki kitaiskim knigam, kotorye iz Kitaya v Sankt-Peterburgskuyu Imperatorskuyu biblioteku potrebnny)« [A List of Chinese and Manchurian Books that Should be Procured for the Imperial Library in St Petersburg], ff8-15; »Reestr raznym travam, tsvetkam, semenam, nekotogo rody glinam, kamen'yam i prochim raznym materiyam, kotorye v Kitae v aptekakh i drugikh lavkakh, a po bol'shei chasti v tech, gde raznye materialy prodavut, kupit' mozhno« [A List of Various Herbs, Flowers, Seeds, Certain Clays, Stones and Other Things that Can be Bought in Pharmacies and Other Shops, Mainly Those where Minerals are Sold], ffi6-17v.

67 The respective catalogue numbers of the Paris Library are given in brackets. Only three books from the list lack a reference of this kind.

(30) *San cai zi* 三才子

(32) *Ya mi* 雅謎

(II) Geography

(36) *Guangyu ji* 廣輿記

(39) *Liang jing sbisan sbeng junse* 兩京十三省郡色

(40) *Ren jing yang qiu* 人鏡陽秋

(41) *Guanghuang yukao* 廣皇輿考

(43) *Daming buidian, Daqing buidian* 大明會典, 大清會典⁶⁸

(III) History

(44) *Zizhi tongjian gangmu* 資治通鑑綱目 (not the one composed by the dignitary Sima Guang in the Song period, but the one which the Manchu Khan Kanshi picked up and translated into Manchurian, with the traditional Manchurian book not being required)

(45) *Guwen yuanjian* 古文淵鑑 (in Chinese and Manchurian)

(46) *Lishi gangjian bu* 歷史綱鑑補

(47) *Tongjian zhibjie* 通鑑直解

(48) *Chun qiu* 春秋 (in Manchurian, Chinese unnecessary)

(56) *Tai shang san yuan sanpin san guan fa bao* 太上三元三品三官法寶

(58) *Yuzhi baijia* 御製百家

(65) *Tongjian shiwen bianwu* 通鑑釋文辯誤

(66) *Shiji* 史記

(67) *Xi Han shu* 西漢書 (in Chinese only)

(74) *Bei shi* 北史

(75) *Nan shi, Zhou shu* 南史, 周書

(81) *Hong jianlu* 弘簡錄

(83) *Huang ming shi gai* 皇明史概

(85) *Huang ming da shi ji* 皇明大事記

(94) *Guoyu guoce* 國語國策

68 A reference to the Paris Library Catalogue was not provided. There is a note by Rossokhin: »To be bought in both languages, i.e. in Chinese and Manchurian«, *AO IOM RAS*, f152, inv. 2, unit 8, fto v.

(IV) Government

- (160) *Daqinglü*, *Xianxing ze li* 大清律, 現行則例 (in both languages), *Zhong shukao* 中樞考 (in both languages)
- (119) *Liji daquan* 禮記大全 (in Chinese and Manchurian, or only in Manchurian)
- (240) *Wenmiao lilezhi* 文廟禮樂志
- (112) *Shijing* 詩經
- (288) *Laozi jijie* 老子集解

(V) Medicine

- (314) *Huangdi nei jing lingshu* 黃帝內經靈樞
- (316) *Zengbu gujin yijian* 增補古今醫鑑
- (317) *Yizong bi du* 醫宗必讀
- (319) *Wanbinglei jing* 萬病類經
- (321) *Shang hanzhang tu* 傷寒掌圖
- (329) *Bencao tongxuan* 本草通玄
- (330) *Bencao mengquan* 本草蒙全
- (331) *Fenbu ben cao* 分部本草
- (332) *Tongren zhenjiu tu jing* 銅人針灸圖經

(VI) Astronomy and other Mathematical Disciplines

- (335) *Yueling guangyi* 月令廣義
- (337) *Tianwen dacheng* 天文大成
- (338) *Tianwen lue* 天問畧
- (342) *Daqing Kangxi shibanian* 大清康熙十八年
- (345) *Guanyin lingke* 觀音靈課
- (348) *Jihe yao fa* 幾何要法
- (350) *Ceng busuan fatong zongquan shu* 曾補算法統宗全書

(VII) Various Arts

- (358) *Nongzheng quanshu* 農政全書
- (353) *Wujing* 武經
- (355) *Qunshu beikao* 羣書備考
- (357) *Shishi tongkao* 世事通考
- (358) *Yigong kaiwu* 輿工開物
- (363) *Hua dafu* 畫答覆
- (379) *Riben guodixi lue* 日本國帝系畧

In addition to the above books, it is also necessary to try finding the following titles:

- 1) *Ming chao shibshu* 明朝史書
- 2) *Da Qing tianxia yitong zhi* 大清天下一統志
- 4-5) a manuscript history of the Manchu—how they conquered the Chinese state and the decrees of different dates by the present emperor Qianlong, in Manchurian
- 6) a land map of the terrestrial circle that can be obtained from Jesuits engaged in astronomical matters, in Chinese;
- 7) a comprehensive description of all Chinese idols and goddesses
- 8) *Gengzhi tu* 耕職圖 (with a detailed description in Chinese and Manchurian, if available)
- 9) *Waiji* 外記.⁶⁹

In addition, Elachich was given a document entitled A List of Chinese and Manchurian Books Kept in the Library of the Imperial Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg. And These Titles Should Not Be Purchased.⁷⁰ The list is of particular interest because it is this source, in all likelihood, that reflects the entire stock of the academy's Chinese and Manchurian books after the fire of 1747. The list contained 125 titles (including 84 in Chinese and 41 in Manchurian). Below we give the Chinese titles from the list, which its writer grouped into separate categories:

(I) Astronomy and Mathematical Disciplines (13 books, all of them in Chinese)

- 1) *Yuzhi lixiang kaocheng* 御製曆象考成
- 2) *Yuzhiling taiyi xiangzhi* 御製靈臺儀象志
- 3) *Xinzhi yixiang tu* 新製儀象圖
- 4) *Huntianyi shuo* 渾天儀說
- 5) *Yuzhi baxian dui shubiao* 御製八線對數表
- 6) *Yuzhi lixiang kao cheng houbian* 御製曆象考成後編

69 *AO IOM RAS*, f152, inv. 2, unit 8, ff9-15.

70 The catalogue is entitled as follows: »This catalogue was given to physician Elachich when he was sent with a caravan to Beijing for him to know which books the Imperial Library already possessed, lest he buy them again« (*AO IOM RAS*, f152, inv. 2, unit 7, fi).

- 7) *Fangxing tu* 方星圖
 - 8) *Nanbei liang zong xing tu* 南北兩總星圖
 - 9) *Suanfa* 算法
 - 10) *Shixue jingyun* 視學精縉
 - 11) *Yongzhen banian risi tu* 雍正八年日食圖
 - 12) *Yueshi tu* 月食圖
 - 13) *Yongzhen ba nian yueshi tu* 雍正八年月食圖
- (II) Geography and History (one work in Manchurian and five in Chinese)
- 1) *Kunyu yu tushuo* 坤輿圖說
 - 2) *Daqingguo di li tu* 大清國地里圖
 - 3) *Yuzhi tianxia yitong zhi* 御製天下一統志
 - 4) *Huangyu biao* 皇輿表
 - 6) *Lucheng diyi shu* 路程第一書
- (III) History (16 Manchurian and nine Chinese books)
- 17) *Zengding yinshu zizhi tongjian* 增定音註資治通鑑
 - 18) *Jiazi hui ji* 甲子會紀
 - 19) *Chunqiu* 春秋
 - 20) *Xiuxiang jinpingmei* 繡像金瓶梅
 - 21) *Wanxing tongpu* 萬姓統譜
 - 22) *Xiuxiang xiyu zhen quan* 繡像西遊真詮
 - 23) *Xiuxiang shuibu quan zhuan* 繡像水滸全傳
 - 24) *Xiuxiang sanguozhi* 繡像三國志
 - 25) *Xiuxiang songjingzhong zhuan* 繡像宋精忠傳
- (IV) Government [books] on Rights and Ranks (seven Manchurian and five Chinese books)
- 7) *Pin ji kao* 品級考
 - 8) *Ba qi guan jue* 八旗官爵
 - 9) *Zhong shubei lan* 中樞備覽
 - 10) *Jue zhi quan lan* 爵秩全覽
 - 11) *Shi xian shu* 時憲書
- (V) Medicine (four Chinese and two Manchurian titles)
- 1) *Bencao gangmu* 本草綱目
 - 2) *Zhenzhi dacheng* 鍼灸大成
 - 3) *Waiké zhengzong* 外科正宗
 - 4) *Tu zhumai jue* 圖註脈訣

(VI) Philosophy and Morality (24 Chinese and eight Manchurian titles)

- 2) *Man Han beixing li* 滿漢合璧性理
- 6) *Ri jiang si shu* 日講四書
- 7) *Yuzhi bishan zhuangshi* 御製避山莊時
- 9) *Si shu* 四書
- 10) *Yi tujie* 易圖解
- 11) *Si shu* 四書
- 12) *Shujing* 書經
- 13) *Shijing* 詩經
- 14) *Liji* 禮記
- 15) *Yijing* 易經
- 16) *Man Han dui du si shu* 滿漢對讀四書
- 17) *Wujing pangxun* 五經旁訓
- 18) *Manhanshi jing* 滿漢詩經
- 19) *Xiaoxue* 小學
- 20) *Kongzi jiayu* 孔子家語
- 23) *Zhouli zbusu shanyi* 周禮註疏刪翼
- 24) *Man Han shengxun guangxun* 滿漢聖訓廣訓
- 25) *Shengxiantu zan* 聖賢圖贊
- 26) *Ming gong shi* 名公詩
- 27) *Liu jing tu* 六經圖
- 28) *Shengxun guangxun* 聖訓廣訓
- 29) *Shijian lu* 實踐錄
- 31) *Man Han hebi si shu* 滿漢合璧四書
- 32) *Jieshibi wen* 戒士子文

(VII) Jesuit Theology (six titles, all of them in Chinese)

- 1) *Shengjing zhibie* 聖經直解
- 2) *Tianzhu shiyi* 天主實義
- 3) *Qike* 七克
- 4) *Tianshen hui ke* 天神會課
- 5) *Shengjiao si zi jingwen* 聖教四字經文
- 6) *Tianzhu shiyi* 天主實義

(VIII) Lexicology and Grammar (seven Manchurian and 18 Chinese titles)

- 4) *Man Han chengyu duidai* 滿漢成語對待
- 5) *Kangxi zidian* 康熙字典
- 6) *Hai pian* 海篇
- 8) *Zi bui* 字彙
- 10) *Wufang yuanyin* 五方元音
- 12) *Xin ke qingshu quanji* 新刻清書全集
- 13) *Qingwen qimeng* 清文啟蒙
- 14) *Tongwen guanghui quan shu* 同文廣彙全書
- 15) *Fengyi zibui* 鳳儀字彙
- 16) *Zheng zi tong* 正字通
- 17) *Pingmi zibui* 瓶密字彙
- 18) *Man Han qian zi wen* 滿漢千字文
- 19) *Man Han ming xianji* 滿漢名賢集
- 20) *Man Han san zi jing* 滿漢三字經
- 21) *Man Han tong wenlei* 滿漢同文類
- 22) *Qing wen dianyao* 清文典要
- 23) *Youxue za zi* 幼學雜字
- 25) *Jin cheng yinglun* 進呈鷹論.⁷¹

In 1756 Elachich handed 42 volumes to the academy library.⁷² In 1761 the academy purchased 55 books from I. K. Rossokhin's widow.⁷³

The catalogue, entitled *A Register of Chinese and Manchurian Books Kept by the Academy Library, Written by Alexey Leontiev, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Collegium*, is from 1766.⁷⁴ According to this register, in that year the academy library already contained as many as 235 Chinese books. Therefore, over

⁷¹ AO IOM RAS, f152, inv. 2, unit. 7, ff1-6.

⁷² T. K. Shafranovskaya, »Poezdka lekarya Frantsa Elachicha v 1753-1756 gg. v Pekin dlya popolneniya kollektzii Kunstkamiry« [Journey of Physician Franz Elachich to Beijing in 1753-1756 to Replenish the Kunstkamera Collections], in *Iz istorii nauki i tekhniki v stranakh Vostoka. Sbornik statei*, 2 (1961): 131.

⁷³ Gorbacheva, *Kratkoe opisaniie*, 313.

⁷⁴ AO IOM RAS, f152, inv. 2, unit 9, ff1-14 v; on the 14th volume there is the inscription: »everything duly collected as per this inv. by student Ilia Abramov on the 28th day of August 1766. Duly returned by Andrei Bogdanov«.

the 14 years since Rossokhin's list, the Chinese stocks had grown almost twofold. All the book titles were entered by Leontyev in Russian without any Chinese characters and grouped according to the following categories: (I) Jesuit theology; (II) philosophy, civilian and military affairs; (III) civilian and military affairs; (IV) history and geography; (V) astronomy and geometry; (VI) medicine; (VII) textbooks; and (VIII) miscellany, incomplete, shabby and decrepit books.

I. K. Rossokhin's and A. L. Leontyev's catalogues were made use of by J. G. Backmeister, who published a work in 1776 which became the first printed guide book to present, among other things, the Chinese section of the book holdings of the Russian Academy of Sciences.⁷⁵ Certain information on the Chinese book stock was included in the guide book on a selective basis:⁷⁶ »As for Chinese books,« J. G. Backmeister wrote, »which are regarded in Europe on a par with manuscripts for their rarity, there are 202 folders of them in the library holding close to 2600 books.«⁷⁷ »As nothing particularly worthy of note had been gleaned from these books thus far,« Backmeister went on to cite some of those titles arranged into categories as follows: (I) philosophy books; (II) moral and political rules, apothegms and philosophical notes; (III) books on mathematics; (IV) medical books; and (V) books on philology.⁷⁸

In 1793 and 1800 two editions of Osip Belyaev's work entitled *The Cabinet of Peter the Great* were published.⁷⁹ According to these publications, in the late

75 J. G. Backmeister, *Essai sur la Bibliothèque et le Cabinet de curiosités et d'histoire naturelle de l'Académie des Sciences de Saint-Petersbourg* (St Petersburg, 1776). The book was soon published in German; in 1799 it was brought out in Russian.

76 Backmeister, *Essai sur la Bibliothèque*, 94-97.

77 *Ibid.*, 93

78 *Ibid.*, 94-97. In the French edition of the guide book, the second rubric is entitled »Livres historiques et géographiques« (*Ibid.*, 132).

79 *Kabinet Petra Velikogo, ili podrobnoe i obshchitel'noe opisaniye voskovogo Ego Velichestva izobrazheniya, voennoi i grazhdanskoi odezhdy, sobstvennoruchnykh Ego Velichestva izdelii i prochikh dostopamyatnykh veschei, lichno semu monarkhu prinallezharovskikh, nyne v Sankt-Peterburgskoi Imperatorskoi Kunst-kamere sokbranyayuschikhsya, s prisovokupleniem k nim dostovernykh izvestii i lyubopytnykh skazanii* [The Cabinet of Peter the Great, or a Detailed Description of His Majesty's Waxen Effigy, Mi-

18th century the total number of books in European and Oriental languages in the library of the Russian Academy of Sciences was approximately 40 thousand.⁸⁰ The data pertaining to books in Chinese and Manchurian was contained in a table under the heading A Description of All the Books Found in the Library of the Imperial Academy as follows:

Type	Books Chinese and Manchurian	Number of boxes
1	ecclesiastical books	23
2	philosophy books	33
3	military and civilian books	33
4	books on mathematics	16
5	books on history and geography	59
6	books on medicine	13
7	books on grammar	25
8	miscellaneous books	34
	total number of folders	236
	total number of books contained in the folders approximately	2800 ⁸¹

The rubrication and number of Chinese books in O. Belyaev's description completely coincided with those in A. L. Leontyev's catalogue, except that the last rubric of Leontyev's catalogue states 33 books instead of 34, presumably because of the mechanical omission of Figure 9.

litary and Civilian Clothes, Products from His Majesty's Own Hand and Other Personal Memorabilia Now Preserved in the Imperial Kunstkamera in St Petersburg, Supplemented with Authenticated Information and Curious Legends], 2 parts, published through the endeavours and diligence of Osip Beliayev, Superintendant of the Imperial Kunstkamera (St. Petersburg, 1793).

80 *Kabinet Petra Velikogo*, 32.

81 *Ibid.*, 37.

The first catalogues of the Chinese books in the library of the Academy of Sciences, compiled by I. K. Rossokhin and A. L. Leontyev and surviving to date in manuscript form, have never ever been published in print. However, it were these catalogues, especially the more recent one by A. L. Leontyev, that provided a firm foundation for the creation of the first printed guide book and description of the academy's library which was presented in the late 18th century.

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