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

Irina Popova

Resumé Štúdia sa zaobíra počiatkami akvizície čínskych kníh v 18. stor. Ruskou akadémiou vied, skúma širokú škálu dobových zdrojov v latinčine, ruštine, francúštine a ďalších relevantných jazykoch, rovnako ako doteraz nepreskúmané archívne prameňe tejto inštitúcie. Štúdia tiež sleduje nedostatky, ktoré ovplynuli 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practice of collecting historical documents, manuscripts and antiques in Rus’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. 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. 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’. 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. 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: Izdeteľstvo 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, Istorija 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 kollektsii v Rossi» [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.  

Peter I was an active collector who made numerous acquisitions, including books in every field of knowledge, 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. 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.

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

6 Stanyukovich, Kunstkamera, 32.
7 Pekarsky, Istoriya Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk v Peterburge, v. 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 (1685–1733) 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 sequestrated.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

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11 Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 1 (1883): 208, 462–472.
12 Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 1 (1883): 14.
13 Stanyukovich, Kunstkamera, 33.
the Academy of Sciences.\textsuperscript{15} The academician Theophilus Siegfried Bayer (1694 to 1738) noticed some »striking rarities« among Messerschmidt’s collection,\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.«\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{19} When travelling on the invitation of the RAS to St Petersburg in 1725,
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. 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. 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).

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. The list passed to him included ‘two famous dictionaries’—Da zi bì 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.
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, f3).
compiled by the Jesuits (published or pending publications): a lexicon by Lazarro Cattaneo (1560–1640) *Vocabularium Sinicum, ordine alphabeticó Europaeorum more concinнатum et per accentus suos disestum*; an encyclopaedia by Nicolaus Trigault (1577–1628) *Vocabularium Sinarum ad vocabula Europae*; an encyclopaedia by Alvaro de Semedo (1585–1658) and Christian Herdtricht (1635–1684). No complete list or description of the books brought by Lange from China was made at the time. 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.

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. According to P. P. Pekarsky, Bayer's contacts

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26 Skachkov, *Ocherki istorii russkogo kitaevvedeniya*, 32.
27 V. P. Taranovich, «Nauchnaya perepiska SPb. Akademii nauk s izuizami, 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 *Arkhiwmy materialy po istorii zapadnorojupeiskogo i rossiiskogo kitaevvedeniya* [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 Rossii, 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 hui 子虚) and Hai pien (Hai pian 海篇), but also a very comprehensive Sino-Latin handwritten lexicon by Parrenin». 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». On his return in 1732, Lange handed Bayer the Jesuits’ letters written in reply.

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. 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...


*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.\(^{31}\)

The academy also made attempts to have its publications sold in China.\(^{31}\)

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 *Mangiu-ni goren bidke*, *Sin ke, Çin xu čiven cie* and *Tschuen tschue u-tsche*,\(^{36}\) stating in the description of *De Lexico Sinico Ču gvéy* that he knew of three editions of the *Zi būi* 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 dla 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.


\(^{38}\) T. S. Bayer, »De Confucii Libro Chûn čieu*, ibid., vol. 7 (»Ad annos 1734 & 1735«, Petropoli 1740), 393–394, 395, 397, 398.

\(^{39}\) 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.
it became known as the Camera Catalogue. 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. 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.

The academicians’ severe criticism was not unjustified: J. F. Brem’s catalogue only covered books in European languages. 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*


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

46 Ibid., 7 (1895): 643.

germanicum, Jacobi Golii Iacobi lexicon arabico-latinum and some others. 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.

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.

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). These catalogues were known to the scholarly community in manuscript form and appear to have never been reproduced by a printing press. At a later date, M. I. Brosset (1802–1880) pointed out in his *Report* that A. L. Leontyev’s catalogue had been used when

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48 *Bibliothecæ Imperialis Petropolitanae*, 4 vols. (Petropoli, 1774), 1: 246, 249.
51 J. G. Backmeister, *Opyt o biblioteke*, 94.
compiling the description of *Musei Imperialis Petropolitani* as well as in J. Busse’s report. 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. 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’cbzhurskii yazyk* [Rules for Translating Chinese Formal Speeches into Manchurian])
- Man Hanzi sbijing, Man Hanzi qing wen qimeng 滿漢字詩經, 滿漢字清文啟蒙 (*Grammatika man’cbzhurskaya s kitaikim yazykom* [Manchurian Grammar with Explanations in Chinese], one book)
- Man Han behixing li 滿漢合璧性理 (*Estestvoslovie na man’cbzhurskom i kitaikom yazykakh* [Natural Science in Manchurian and Chinese])
- Tongwen guanghui quan shu 同文廣義全書 (*Vokabuly man’cbzhurskie s kitaikim yazykakh po glavam* [Manchurian Glossaries with Chinese Explanations Chapter by Chapter])
- Xiuxiang shuibu quan zhuo *繡像水浒全傳* (*Istoriya o 108 slavnykh razboinikakh, kotorye byli pri tsaryakh sunskikh, na kitaikom yazyke* [A Tale about 108 Famous Robbers in the Reigns of the Song Emperors, in Chinese], two books with drawings)
- Xiuxiang xiyouben quan 繡像西遊貞詮 (*Istoriya o stranstvovanii odnoi dukhovnoi persony v zapadnye storony* [A Tale about the Travels of a Priest into Western Countries], with drawings, two books)


54 Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg Branch (hereafter *A RAS SPbB*), f. 3, inv. 1, unit 59, f203.
• Xiuxiang Song jingebong zhuan 續像宋精忠傳 (Istoriya o sunskom general-feldmarshale, koim obrazom on posyatadal 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 续像金瓶梅 (Istoriya o pokbozdennyakh odnogo bogatogo cheloveka i semi zbenschin, 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 bïi 字彙 (Leksikon kitaiskii [Chinese Lexicon])
• Ming gong sbi 名公詩 (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 guanjue 八旗官爵 (Tabel’ vos’mi divizii man‘chzhurskikh, vsekh chinovnykh lyudei. Gde i kto sluzhit i kak nazvaemykh 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 经绅 (Tabel’ shtatskikh chinov [A Table of Civilian Ranks])
• Zhong shubei lan 中枢備覽 (Tabel’ kitaiskogo voiska [A Table of the Chinese Military])
• Yuzhi tianxia yitong shi 御製天下一統志 (Geografiya polnaya vsego kitaiskogo gosudarstva [The Geography of the Entire Chinese State])
• Zbibisbushanb流畅 製造署力山莊詩 (Versbi khanskie [Khan Poetry])
• Shengjing zhijie 聖經直解 (Evangelie prazdnichnnoe [A Gospel for Festive Use])
• Suan fa 筋法 (Arifmetika kitaiskaya [Chinese Arithmetic]) and
• Da qing lü 大清律 (Ulozhenie [Code])

55 A RAS SPb, f.3, 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».

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. 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. 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, 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», 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.

56 Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 4 (1887): 620.
57 Taranovich, «Akademik T. Z. Bayer i ego trudy», 228.
59 Materialy dlya istorii Imperatorskoi Akademii nauk, 4 (1887): 748.
60 Ibid., 4 (1887): 750.
In March 1748 the academy purchased 15 Chinese and Manchurian books from different persons recommended by I. K. Rossokhin. 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.» 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.

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. 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. The list contained 68 items

63 N. P. Kopaneva, «Rukopisnye katalogi Kunstkamery o kitaiskikh kollektisyakh vtoroi poloviny XVIII vv» [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.
66 The instructions written by L. 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), ff1–2; »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 Zhanzi buimu 篇字彙目
15 Chuanshi caoshu 传字草書
19 Xiruer muzi 西儒耳目資
22 Meng xuefa 蒙學法
23 Zhanzi bai 篇字彙
25 Zheng yun tong 正錦通
27 Shanhai jing 山海經

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* 雅谜

(II) Geography

(36) *Guangyu记* 廣夷記

(39) *Liang jing shisan sheng june* 南京十三省都色

(40) *Ren jing yang qiu* 人鏡陽秋

(41) *Guanghuang yu kao* 廣皇興考

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

(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 Kansi picked up and translated into Manchurian, with the traditional Manchurian book not being required)

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

(46) *Lisbi gangjian bu* 歷史綱鑑補

(47) *Tongjian zhijie* 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* 通鑑釋文辨誤

(66) *Shi ji* 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* 皇明史略

(85) *Huang ming da shi ji* 皇明大事記

(94) *Guoyu guoce* 國語國策

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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*, f.152, inv. 2, unit 8, f.0 v.
(IV) Government

160) Daqingliu, Xianxing ze li 大清律, 现行则例 (in both languages), Zhong shubao 中 简考 (in both languages)

119) Li ji daquan 禮記大全 (in Chinese and Manchurian, or only in Manchurian)

240) Wen miao lilezhi 文廟禮樂志

112) Shijing 詩經

288) Laozi jijie 老子集解

(V) Medicine

314) Huangdi nei jing lingshu 黄帝内經靈樞

316) Zeng bu gujin yijian 增補古今醫鑑

317) Yizong bi du 醫宗必讀

319) Wanbing lei jing 萬病類經

321) Shang hanzhang tu 傷寒掌圖

329) Bencao tongxuan 本草通玄

330) Bencao meng yuan 本草蒙全

331) Fenbu ben cao 分部本草

332) Tongren zhen jiu tu jing 銳人針灸圖經

(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 開音靈課

348) Jie he yao fa 幾何要法

350) Cong busuan fatong zong guan shu 曾補編法統全書

(VII) Various Arts

338) Nongzheng quanshu 農政全書

355) Wu jing 武經

355) Qun shu beikao 羣書備考

357) Shi shi tong kao 世事通考

358) Yi gong kai wu 肄工開物

359) Hua da fu 華答覆

379) Riben guo dixi 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 shishu* 明朝史書
2) *Da Qing tianxia yitong zhi* 大清天下一統志
3) 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
4) a land map of the terrestrial circle that can be obtained from Jesuits engaged in astronomical matters, in Chinese;
5) a comprehensive description of all Chinese idols and goddesses
6) *Gengzhi tu* 耕職圖 (with a detailed description in Chinese and Manchurian, if available)
7) *Waiji* 外記.

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. 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) *Yuzhi ling taiyi xiangzhi* 御製靈臺儀象志
3) *Xinzhi yixiang tu* 新製儀象圖
4) *Huntianyi shuo* 涉天儀說
5) *Yuzhi baxian dui shubiao* 御製八線對數表
6) *Yuzhi lixiang kao cheng boubian* 御製曆象考成後編

69 *AO IOM RAS*, f.52, inv. 2, unit 8, f.ff.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*, f.52, inv. 2, unit 7, f.).
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 視學精燾
11) Yongzheng banian rishi tu 雍正八年日食圖
12) Yuebi tu 月食圖
13) Yongzheng banian yueshi tu 雍正八年月食圖

(II) Geography and History (one work in Manchurian and five in Chinese)
1) Kanyu tu tuibuo 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
5) Lucheng diyi shu 路程第一書

(III) History (16 Manchurian and nine Chinese books)
17) Zengding yinzhu zizhi tongjian 增定音註資治通鑑
18) Jiazi hui ji 甲子會紀
19) Chunqiu 春秋
20) Xiuqiang jinpingmei 縉像金瓶梅
21) Wanxiong tongpu 異姓統譜
22) Xiuqiang xiyu zhenquan 縉像西遊真訣
23) Xiuqiang shuibu quan zhuian 縉像水浒全傳
24) Xiuqiang sanguozhi 縉像三國志
25) Xiuqiang songjinzong zhuian 縉像宋精忠傳

(IV) Government [books] on Rights and Ranks (seven Manchurian and five Chinese books)
7) Pinji kao 品級考
8) Ba qi guanjue 八旗官爵
9) Zhong shuibu lan 中樞備覽
10) Juezhi quanlan 藥秩全覽
11) Shi xian shu 時憲書

(V) Medicine (four Chinese and two Manchurian titles)
1) Bencao gangmu 本草綱目
2) Zhenshi dacheng 鍼炙大成
3) Waike zhengzong 外科正宗
4) Tu zhumai jue 鐵註脈訣
(VI) Philosophy and Morality (24 Chinese and eight Manchurian titles)

2) *Man Han beibixing li* 滿漢合璧性理
6) *Rijiang si shu* 日講四書
7) *Yuzhi bisan zhuangshi* 御製避山莊時
9) *Si shu* 四書
10) *Ti tujie* 易圖解
11) *Si shu* 四書
12) *Shijing* 書經
13) *Shijing* 書經
14) *Liji* 禮記
15) *Yijing* 易經
16) *Man Han dai 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 zhubu shanyi* 周禮注疏刪翼
24) *Man Han shengxun guangxun* 滿漢聖訓廣訓
25) *Shengxiontu zan* 聖賢圖贊
26) *Ming gong sib* 名公詩
27) *Liu jing tu* 六經圖
28) *Shengxun guangxun* 聖訓廣訓
29) *Shijian lu* 實踐錄
30) *Man Han beibii si shu* 滿漢合璧四書
32) *Jieshizi wen* 戒子文

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

1) *Shengjing zbijie* 聖經直解
2) *Tianzhu shiyi* 天主實義
3) *Qiye* 七克
4) *Tianshen bui ke* 天神會課
5) *Shengjian si zi jingwen* 聖教四字經文
6) *Tianzhu shiyi* 天主實義
Lexicology and Grammar (seven Manchurian and 18 Chinese titles)

4) *Man Han chengyu duidai* 滿漢成语對待
5) *Kangxi zidian* 康熙字典
6) *Hai pian* 海篇
8) *Zi bai* 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 guangbui quan shu* 同文廣彊全書
15) *Fengyi zihui* 鳳儀字彙
16) *Zhenzi tong* 正字通
17) *Pingmi zihui* 平密字彙
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) *Qingwen dianyao* 清文典要
23) *Youxue za zi* 幼學雜字
25) *Jincheng yinglun* 進呈論論

In 1756 Elachich handed 42 volumes to the academy library. In 1761 the academy purchased 55 books from I. K. Rossokhin’s widow. 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. According to this register, in that year the academy library already contained as many as 235 Chinese books. Therefore, over

71 *AO IOM RAS*, f.52, inv. 2, unit. 7, ff.1–6.
73 Gorbacheva, *Krashoe opisanie*, 313.
74 *AO IOM RAS*, f.52, inv. 2, unit 9, ff.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'Academie des Sciences de Saint-Petersbourg (St Petersburg, 1776). The book was soon published in German; in 1799 it was brought out in Russian.
76 Ibid., 94–97.
77 Ibid., 93.
79 Kabinet Petra Velikogo, ili podrobnoe i obstoyatelnoe opisanie voskovogo Ego Velichestva izobrazheniya, voennoi i grazhdanskoj odezhdy, sobstvennoruchnykh Ego Velichestva izdelii i prochikh dostopam'nykh veschei, tschno semu monarkhu prinadlezhavshikh, nyne v Sankt-Peterburgskoi Imperatorskoi Kunst-kamere sokhranyayuschikh, s prisovokupleniem k nim dostovernych izvestii i lyubopytnych 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Books Chinese and Manchurian</th>
<th>Number of boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ecclesiastical books</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>philosophy books</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>military and civilian books</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>books on mathematics</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>books on history and geography</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>books on medicine</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>books on grammar</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>miscellaneous books</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total number of folders</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total number of books contained in the folders approximately</td>
<td>2800(^81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Litit 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 Belyayev, Superintendent 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.

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