Review of the Book: Bibliographies of Mongolian, Manchu-Tungus, and Tibetan Dictionaries

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Review


This bibliography is based on unpublished bibliographies of Mongolian, Manachu-Tungus, and Tibetan dictionaries that were compiled over 25 years ago by John R. Krueger, Larry V. Clark, and Michael L. Walter, respectively. Hartmut Walravens found these listed in the John R. Krueger Bibliography (ed. By William V. Rozycki. Bloomington: Eurolingua 2001. 77 p. Arcadia bibliographica virorum eruditorum, 18) and contacted Prof. Krueger, who provided him with the manuscripts.

Since so much time had passed since these bibliographies were first compiled, Walravens enlisted the help of Manfred Taube to update the Mongolian and Tibetan bibliographies. Walravens himself updated the Manchu-Tungus bibliography and provided title indexes and personal name indexes for each of the three sections. He also harmonized the organization of the three original bibliographies. New entries (marked with an asterisk in the text) were added to the original list, and missing data was added to many of the original entries. Entries in each of the three sections are numbered consecutively by the original compilers; however, new entries have been interspersed in chronological order with the original entries, and the numbering on these newer entries is distinguished from the original numbering by the addition of letters (e.g., ..., 124, 125, 125-A, 125-B, 125-C, 126, ... ). Each of the three main sections begins with a preface by the compilers of the section.

Chinese entries are given in both (traditional) Chinese characters and Wade-Giles Romanization. Japanese entries are generally given in both Kanji/Kana and Hepburn Romanization. Korean entries are given in McCune-Reischauer Romanization and often also in Hanja (Chinese) characters. All other non-Roman script languages (including Mongolian, Manchu, Tibetan, Russian, etc.) are given in Romanized form only.

The first section, by Krueger and Taube, provides entries for 484 Mongolian dictionaries (317 numbered entries plus 167 interspersed entries with number-letter combinations). This section is divided into subsections listing monolingual dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries (Arabic, Armenian, Chagatai-Turkic, Chinese, Czech, English, Esperanto, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Kazakh, Korean, Latin, Manchu, Persian, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish, Tibetan, and Turkish/Turkic), and multilingual dictionaries. These are followed by subsections on Buriat, Kalmyk, dialect dictionaries (Chakhar, Dagur, Darigangga, Dörbet, Inner Mongolia, Jarud, Moghul, Monguor, Oirat, Ordos, Tung-hsiang, Udzumuchin, and Zakhčin), and dictionaries of special topics and terminology (Administrative, Botanical, Buddhism/Religion, Cultural/History, Education, Fine Arts, Folklore, Geography/Geology, Idiom, Journalism, Law, Loanword, Medical-Medicinal, Mortuary, Music, Onomastics, Orthography and Linguistics, Poetics/Literature, Reverse, Science,
Social-Political, Sports, Synonyms, Technical, Terminological, Writing, Zoology, and an appendix on Economy). Titles in each subsection are listed chronologically. There is also a list of sources and references.

The compilers note that the list is not exhaustive. They exclude, for example, glossaries of less than 1000 words found in beginners’ text books, scholarly articles about particular dialects, phrase books and conversation guides, etc. In addition to the usual bibliographic information, the entries also provide information about the script used, transcriptions, and the order of letters.

The second section, compiled by Clark and Walravens, covers Manchu-Tungus languages. There are 211 entries for dictionaries in this section (169 numbered entries plus 42 additional interspersed entries indicated by number-letter combinations). There is also at the end a list of 24 Sources and Additional References, which are included in the sequential numbering.

The largest part of this section covers Manchu, which is taken to include not only classical Manchu, but also Sibe and Ming Dynasty Jurchen as well as the spoken Manchu dialect of the city of Aigun. The Manchu entries are divided into subsections on monolingual dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries (Chinese, Dagur, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Mongol, and Russian), multilingual dictionaries, and an appendix giving a chronological list of 28 Manchu lexicons of the Ch’ing Dynasty. These latter are not included in the sequential numbering.

Following this there is a subsection on the Southern Tungus languages (dictionaries in English, Japanese, and Russian) followed by a subsection on the Northern Tungus languages (dictionaries in English, French, German, and Russian). These two subsections cover Nanai, Ulchen, Santan, Orok, Kur-urmi, Oroch, Udehe, Evenki, Barguzin, Solon, Negidal, and Even.

The final section, compiled by Walter and Taube, covers Tibetan. This section lists 293 titles (287 numbered entries plus 6 interspersed entries indicated by number-letter combinations). The compilers note in their preface that no attempt was made at completeness in any area. This section is divided into subsections for monolingual dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries (Chinese, English, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Latin, Mongolian, Newari, Russian, Sanskrit, and Zhang Zhung), polyglot dictionaries, Bon terminology, Buddhist vocabularies, dialect vocabularies, epic vocabularies, medical and pharmacological glossaries and terminology, personal names, place name lists and studies of geographical terms, archaic and preclassical materials, printing and colophon terminology, social/political terminology, orthography, science and technology, and humanities. There is also a short list of references.

This book should prove invaluable to anyone desiring information on the extant dictionaries of these languages.

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