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Prof. Christopher P. Atwood
Introduction to Ordos Documents (Central Eurasian Studies 520)
Syllabus for the course offered in 2001
Indiana University
Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies

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U520: Introduction to Ordos Documents

Instructor: Christopher P. Atwood

Time and Place: 2:30-5:00 Tuesday, GB321

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In this course we will read in English translation Mongolian texts and documents copied or collected in the early twentieth century by Catholic Scheut missionaries in southern Ordos (Inner Mongolia). The documents in this valuable collection, covering a wide range of Mongolian life, have been extensively transcribed and translated, giving a unique window onto both Mongolian life and the methodology of Mongolistics. As we read and discuss the documents, we will learn the various pre-modern poetic, epistolary, prayer, ritual handbook, and legal formats used by writers and officials in pre-revolutionary Inner Mongolia and be introduced to the major problems and pitfalls in their use. Topics covered by the documents and to be discussed in class include Buddhist didactic poetry, Buddhist and folk religious prayers, political ideology and rituals of the Mongolian banner administration, the Chinggis Khan cult, manuals for weddings and horse races, legal privileges of the nobility, district self-defense and border disputes, financial structure and difficulties of the Mongolian banners, Chinese colonization and Mongolian resistance organizations (*duguilangs*), banditry, and Mongolian relations with the Scheut missionaries themselves. The ultimate aim of the course will be to develop a rounded picture of a pre-revolutionary Mongolian society through the use of native documentary material.

Prerequisite: Some prior course work in Chinese or Mongolian history or Tibeto-Mongolian religion. Knowledge of Mongolian and/or French helpful but not necessary.

Requirements: The class will be held in seminar format. Students will write a research paper on a topic chosen in conjunction with the instructor. The format will be one of an extended introduction giving background to and explication of a defined body of Ordos documents including those dealt with in the course and/or others published by Antoine Mostaert, Joseph van Hecken, or Altan'orgil and other contemporary Inner Mongolian scholars. No exams. Grades will be based on class participation and the paper. Students will be required to submit weekly e-mail questions or comments on the reading two days before class, and will give an oral presentation of their research topics near the end of the semester.

Course Materials: A course packet with the relevant articles and Henry Serruys's *Kumiss Ceremonies and Horse Races* (1974) will contain all the weekly class readings.

Weekly Readings (author is Henry Serruys, unless otherwise noted)

1. Introduction

2. Writing and literacy.

"A catalogue of Mongol manuscripts from Ordos," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 95, no. 2 (1975), 191-208.

Walther Heissig, "The Mongol manuscripts and xylographs of the Belgian Scheut-Mission," *Central Asiatic Journal* 3 (1957/8), 161-189.

3. Buddhist didactic poetry. Historical legends

“Two didactic poems from Ordos,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 6 (1973), 425-483.

“A manuscript version of the legend of the Mongol ancestry of the Yung-lo ancestry,” in *Analecta Mongolica*, ed. John G. Hangin and Urgunge Onon. Mongolia Society Occasional Papers, no. 8. Bloomington, Ind; Mongolia Society, 1972, pp. 19-61.

4. Buddhist prayer and ritual

“A Mongol Lamaist prayer: *ndüsün bsang* ‘Incense offering of origin,’” *Monumenta Serica* 28 (1971), 321-418.

5. Political rituals.

“A genre of oral literature in Mongolia: The addresses,” *Monumenta Serica* 31 (1977), pp. 555-613.

Kumiss Ceremonies and Horse Races: Three Mongolian Texts. Wiesbaden; Otto Harrassowitz, 1974.

6. Wedding ceremonies

“Four manuals for marriage ceremonies among the Mongols, part I,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 8 (1974), 247-331.

“Four manuals for marriage ceremonies among the Mongols, part II,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 9 (1975), 275-360.

7. The Chinggis Khan cult

“A Field Trip to Ordos: The Cult of Chinggis-Qan, the Darqad, and Related Subjects: A Newspaper Report from 1936,” *The Mongolia Society Bulletin* 9 (1970), 37-54.

“A Mongol prayer to the spirit of *_inggis-qan*’s flag,” in *Mongolian Studies*, ed. Louis Ligeti, Budapest; Akademiai Kiado, 1970, 527-535.

“A *dalalg-a* invocation from Ordos,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 16 (1982), 141-147.

“The cult of *_inggis-qan*: A Mongol manuscript from Ordos,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 17 (1984), 29-62.

“A Prayer to Cinggis-qan,” *Études mongoles . . . et sibériennes* 16 (1985), 17-36.

8. Astrology. Miscellaneous rituals.

“A Mongol horoscope of the year 1914,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 18 (1974), 175-179.

“Offering of the fox: A shamanist text from Ordos,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 4 (1970), 311-325.

9. Ordos Mongols and the Scheut missionaries.

“Franco-Sino-Mongol missionary safe-conducts,” *The Canada Mongolia Review* 4 (1978), 16-32.

“Missionary Safe-Conducts: An Additional Note,” *T’oung-pao* 73 (1987), 116-119.

“Mongol texts regarding an anti-Christian conspiracy in 1903,” *Mongolian Studies: Journal of the Mongolia Society* 4 (1977), 39-55.

“Letter of apology from a troublesome lama, 1905,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 24 (1980), 117-128.

“Twelve Mongol Letters from Ordos” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 12 (1978), 255-272.

“Two Mongol letters” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 5 (1971), 95-104.

10. The nobility and the banners

“A question of land and landmarks between the banners Otog and- üsin (Ordos),” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 13 (1979), 215-237.

“On border guards in Otog (Ordos),” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 40, no. 3 (1977), 581-585.

“Two Mongolian documents,” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 34 (1974), 187-191.

“A quarrel among the noble families of- üsin banner, Ordos,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 20 (1976), 297-309.

List of Documents to form basis of paper due.

11. Mongol banners and the Chinese state--the formal organization.

“A receipt from Outer Mongolia from 1907,” *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, vol. 24, no. 3 (1971), 331-335.

“A document from 1904 dismissing an Ordos prince from office,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 19 (1975), 206-210.

“Mourning regulations in Ordos,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* vol. 40, no. 3 (1977), 580-581.

“An imperial restoration in Ordos, 1916-1917,” *Études mongoles . . . et sibériennes* 16 (1985), 51-59.

“A collective letter of protest by the Mongol princes of Ordos, 1920,” *Oriens Extremus* vol. 23, no. 2 (1976), 213-224.

“A letter of protest from Ordos against the creation of provinces, 1923,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 21 (1977), 251-258.

12. Criminal cases

“A question of thievery,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 10 (1976), 287-309.

“Mongol letters from Otog (Ordos) 1920-1923 regarding a number of murder cases,” *Annali (Istituto Orientale di Napoli)*, vol. 40, no. 3 (1980), 421-464.

13. Banner finances and administration (time on Monday or Tuesday, TBA)

“A socio-political document from Ordos: The *dürim* of Otog from 1923,” *Monumenta Serica* 30 (1972/3), 526-621.

“Five documents regarding salt production in Ordos,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 40, no. 2 (1977), 338-353.

“More about the Otog salt lakes,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 42, no. 1 (1979), 61-65.

“A Letter from Ala□an to the Catholic Bishop of Ordos,” *Ural-Altische Jahrbücher* n.f. 2 (1982), 224-233.

14. Colonization and land problems

“Two complaints from Wang banner, Ordos, regarding banner administration and Chinese colonization (1905),” *Monumenta Serica* 34 (1979/80), 471-511.

“A Mongol banner pays its debt,” *Monumenta Serica* 36 (1984/5), 511-544.

“Problems of land in- üsin banner, Ordos,” *Zentralasiatische Studien* 11 (1977), 205-222.

15. Popular protest and the *duguilang* movement

“Documents from Ordos on the ‘Revolutionary Circles,’ Part I,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 97, no. 4 (1977), 482-507.

“Documents from Ordos on the ‘Revolutionary Circles,’ Part II,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 98, no. 1 (1978), 1-19.