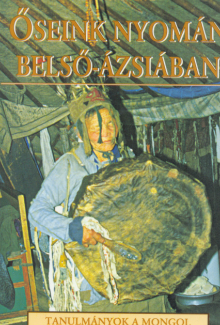


Slides of the Presentation

*Department of Inner Asian Studies
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest*

A map of the Republic of Serbia, divided into administrative districts. The districts are color-coded: Vojvodina (light blue), Belgrade (grey), Central Serbia (light green), and Kosovo (light pink). A network of red lines, representing the Rottár network, is overlaid on the map. A dashed red line runs horizontally across the center of the map. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the districts: Vojvodina, Belgrade, Central Serbia, and Kosovo. The text 'Map by ROTTÁR' is written in the bottom right corner.

Map by ROTTÁR Máté

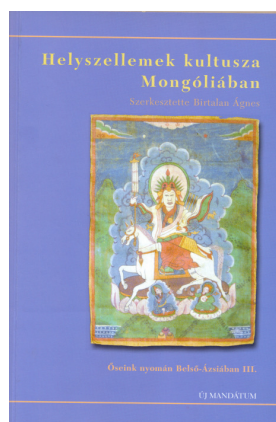


MF KÖNYVEK 2

ŐSEINK NYOMÁN
BELSŐ ÁZSIÁBAN

TANULMÁNYOK A MONGOL
NÉPI HIEDELEMLIVÁGRÓL
I.

NEMZETTANKÖNYVTÁR



The history of the Expedition

The Expedition wished to revive the tradition of field research of Hungarian scholars (KARA György, RÓNA-TAS András, URAY-KÖHALMI Katalin) who carried out research in Mongolia in 1957, and to extend it according to the changed circumstances. On the part of Hungary, the Research Group of Altaic Studies of HAS and the Department of Inner Asian Studies at ELTE University, and on the part of Mongolia, the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences concluded an agreement in 1990 under which the Expedition began work in 1991.

On 20th century expeditions and field researches, see Birtalan, Ágnes – Sárközi Alice, Hungarian Explorers of Mongolia in the Twentieth Century. In: *A New Dialogue between Central Europe and Japan*. Institute for Social Conflict Research, HAS – The International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Budapest – Kyoto 1997, pp.119–122.

The aim

The main aim of the researches was to diversely document the dialects and folk culture of ethnic groups living in the western counties (first of all Khowd/Xowd and Uws) and in the northern county of Khöwsgöl/Xöwsgöl. The Expedition extended the goals of research to the exploration of historical and religious sources in archives and private collections.

The participants

Field research is led by SÁRKÖZI Alice and BIRTALAN Ágnes, archival research is supervised by BETHLENFALVY Géza and SZILÁGYI Zsolt. PhD candidates and students of the department are continuously involved in the research, and graduates of the department also contribute findings of their individual research trips (SERES István, SOMFAI KARA Dávid).

The Mongolian coordinator is the Mongolian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Linguistics and Literature. The Mongolian colleagues participating in fieldwork and publications are: X. SAMPILDENDEW (†), J. COLŌ, O. SAMBŪDORJ, O. SÜXBĀTAR, B. KATŪ, G. GANTOGTOX.

Fieldworks in China

In 2006, fieldwork and archival research in Mongolia was complemented by research among the Mongolian minorities of China. The fieldwork in China is organized by SÁRKÖZI Alice and BALOGH Mátyás.

The significance of the Expedition

The Expedition, the Hungarian coordinator of which is now the Department of Inner Asian Studies, is a high-priority project in the Hungarian-Mongolian cultural and educational agreement signed in 2007. The academic and political leaders of Mongolia including the president of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences Bātarīn ČADRĀ, the former president of the state, Nacagīn BAGABANDI, speaker of the Mongolian parliament Danjangīn LÜNDEĀNCAN, minister of education Ōljīsaixan ENXTÜWŠIN all stressed during their visits to Hungary the salient importance of the educative work at the ELTE Department of Inner Asian Studies and the scientific and educational significance of the Expedition.

Main research topics of the Expedition and the research methods #1

Documentation of the **language condition** of Mongolian ethnic groups, first of all the Oirats/Oirads and Darkhats/Darxads.

The main research method is making audio recordings; recording folk texts, free conversations on various fields of popular culture including everyday routine, customs, feasts, unwritten laws, taboos regulating the life of the community (*cēr*-system). To collect dialectal phenomena, we also used the phonological questionnaire worked out by Michael WEIERS, professor of the Inner Asian Studies at Bonn University (Institut für Zentralasienkunde). The dialectal documentation is continuous and revisiting the communities and making new recordings will provide the possibility of studying the changes of language and dialects in the long run.

Main research topics of the Expedition and the research methods #2

Documentation of the folk **culture** of Mongolian ethnic groups; examination of tradition, transition and innovation. Areas in which material is collected: genres of folk poetry; communal customs; traditions of the communities connected to religions and beliefs. The principal research method is making audio recordings to collect festive and ritual folklore texts, free conversations on topics of popular culture. An important aspect of documenting folk culture is the photo and film documentation.

Main research topics of the Expedition and the research methods #3

Exploration of written documents and archival research. Material to be researched on the spot: handwritten or block-printed relics in Uigur-Mongolian and Tibetan script in the Mongolian and Tibetan languages; Mongolian-language manuscripts in Cyrillic alphabet (folksongs, proverbs, dialectal words, various customs written down by the informants). Research methods: photo documentation, and when it is not possible, transcription in loco. It is important to register the particulars of a written source (owner, circumstances of acquisition or inheritance, place of the material in the owner's milieu; if it is the informant's own recording, the circumstances of the writing.)

A Dayan Dērx offering text written in Oirat script



From the photo archive of the expedition

Main research topics of the Expedition and the research methods #4

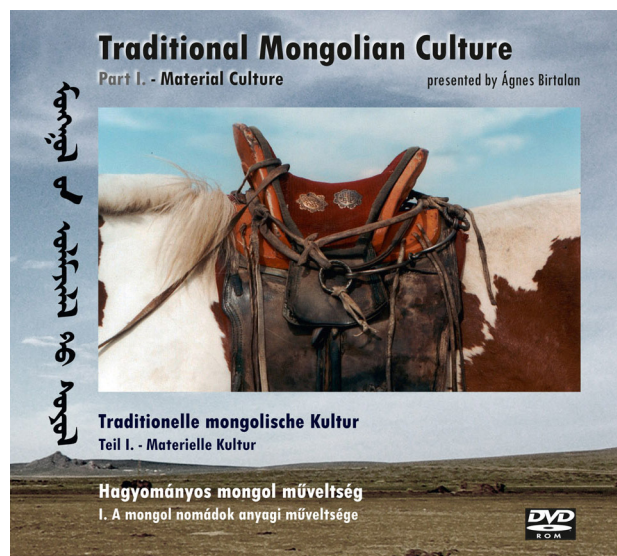
Material culture of the Mongolian ethnic groups. The aim of research is to carry out manysided examination of the material culture of nomads, of the material cultural elements related to the nomadic cultural syndrome on the basis of the methodological approach of Walther HEISSIG and URAY-KÖHALMI Katalin. Research methods: photo and possibly film documentation, audio materials: free conversations on subject-matters of material culture, collection of relevant vocabulary and folklore texts.

The roofring of the yurt



From the photo archive of the expedition (1991)

Traditional Mongolian Culture – a multimedia DVD



Religion

A prominent research area is **religion** mentioned in point #3. The political change of the early 1990s gave rise to the opportunity of documenting in detail the beginning transformation, the re-emergence of free religious practice and the revival of several folk religious cults.

Research topics on religion #1 Revival of Buddhism

- Recording monastic curricula
- Documenting Buddhism-related rituals
- Documenting the reconstruction of monasteries
- Documenting the material stock related to Buddhism
- Collecting folklore connected to Buddhism

Dayan Dērx images



From the photo archive of the Expedition (1998)

Research topics on religion #2 Folk religion (tradition and renewal)

- Documenting and typologizing folk religious rituals, ceremonies (leader, participants, place, time, paraphernalia of ritual)
- Examination of sacral communication
- Study of the syncretic phenomena of folk religion
- Collection and typology of folk religious texts

Places of the sacral communication: Obo and sacral tree



From the photo archive of the Expedition

Research topics on religion #3 Activity of shamans

- Documenting and systematizing the activities of shamans (tradition, innovation)
- Documentation, typology of rituals
- Study of sacral communication and its levels
- Material world of the shamans
- Evaluation of shamanic activity by the community
- Syncretism of shamanic traditions
- Typology of ritual texts (tradition and innovation)

A text fragment of a shamanic invocation

As to the top of my body,
It is Vajrapani, who occupied it.
As to the shoulder of my body,
It is the seventy-five Mahakalas, who
occupied it.
As to the middle part of my body,
It is surrounded by the gods of the black and
white directions.
As to the lower part of my body,
It is surrounded by the fierce Dragon Kings.
Majestic, holy Dayan Deerkh!
(BIRTALAN Ágnes *Darkhad shamanic texts.*)

A text fragment of a shamanic prayer

You are the lord of the eastern direction,
Heart-black god,
You have food from a fiery pot,
You have a fiery snake whip,
You have a rabid wolf as mount,
You have human flesh as food,
You have brown stone as mount,
You come [through?] ore stone,
You come where the spotted wolf slides
My god, [my] majestic power!
(BIRTALAN Ágnes *Darkhad shamanic texts.*)

Black shamaness, Baljir



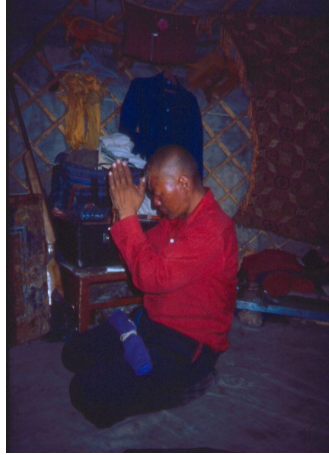
From the photo archive of the Expedition (1993)

Day-ritual of Darkhad shamanesses
(Bayar and Baljir)



From the photo archive of the Expedition (1999, 1993)

Kürl, the yellow shaman performing
a buddhicised weather-magic ritual



From the photo archive of the Expedition (1995)