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Author(s): Gerard Clauson

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it is rare for linguistic material to be presented with such clarity and, above all, accessibility, as it is here. This is a most valuable contribution to the study of medieval Hindi and, it is hoped, should serve as a model, both in its intentions and its methodology, for further studies. It will only be when there are sufficient studies of this quality that we can hope to have a clear picture of the linguistic history of medieval Hindi. It is also to be hoped that Dr. McGregor will return again to this field where there is so much to be done, and where he has already, in this present study, demonstrated his obvious competence.

S. C. R. WEIGHTMAN

ROSANE ROCHER : *Alexander Hamilton (1762-1824) : a chapter in the early history of Sanskrit philology.* (American Oriental Series, Vol. 51.) xii, 128 pp. New Haven, Conn. : American Oriental Society, 1968.

Alexander Hamilton appears in all histories of Indology as the man who carried the new learning of the (Bengal) Asiatic Society, of Charles Wilkins and William Jones, to continental Europe. Caught in France by the resumption of war after the failure of the peace of Amiens, he used his nominal captivity to catalogue the Sanskrit manuscripts in the former royal library in Paris and to teach Sanskrit to a number of pupils, pre-eminent among whom was Friedrich Schlegel, the founder of German Indology. In this study Dr. Rosane Rocher sets herself the twin tasks of giving flesh and bones to a man who up to now has been little more than a name, and of proving that Hamilton was a notable personality and scholar in his own right and not just the vehicle for communication between Calcutta and Paris or Heidelberg. To provide any certain information about Hamilton turned out, in fact, to be remarkably difficult. Although most eighteenth-century British notables leave abundant tracks behind them, the date of Hamilton's birth is not known, nor are the names of his parents, nor is it possible to say precisely when he left India, and the date of his departure from France is conjectural. Only one letter written by Hamilton survives and he only put his name to one publication (the Paris catalogue), although he wrote a number of anonymous pieces. With great resourcefulness, clearly backed by an immense stock of patience and perseverance, Dr. Rocher has uncovered the main outlines of Hamilton's life and produced a series of attributions for his writings, mostly articles in the *Edinburgh Review* and the

Asiatic Annual Register. The evidence for the dating of an event, or for or against Hamilton's authorship of a particular piece, is set out scrupulously and in full, and Dr. Rocher makes her case most persuasively. Hamilton's career and his *œuvre* seem to be established as firmly as they are ever likely to be in view of the extraordinarily intractable problems involved. However, some readers may not think that the second part of Dr. Rocher's case is quite so emphatically proven. She argues that Hamilton has not 'received the attention he undoubtedly deserved', and that he himself was 'a giant' whatever his influence may have been. Certainly Hamilton can have been no ordinary person to have won the affection and esteem of the circle connected with Francis Jeffrey and the *Edinburgh Review* or to have won the French and German admirers whom Dr. Rocher lists. His reputation as Professor of Sanskrit at Haileybury seems to have been high. On the other hand, his published work was meagre—no contribution to *Asiatick Researches* while he was in Calcutta and only one edition of a text, a very vulnerable version of the *Hitopadesa*—and its quality is unremarkable, except perhaps for the catalogue. The extracts from Hamilton's articles, which are reproduced by Dr. Rocher, often seem strongly evocative of William Jones both in their manner and in their content. But if Hamilton was a man whose quality evidently revealed itself in personal contact rather than in his writings, the calibre of his friends and their enthusiasm for him seems to be the strongest reason for giving Dr. Rocher the benefit of the doubt about his own calibre.

P. J. MARSHALL

K. B. KEPPIING and others (tr.) : *More pismen : faksimile tangutskikh ksilografov, perevod s tangutskogo, vstupil'nye stat'i i prilozheniya* [by] K. B. Kepping, V. S. Kolokolov, Ye. I. Kychanov, A. P. Terent'ev-Katanski. (Pamyatniki Pis'mennosti Vostoka, xvi.) 2 vols. : 495 pp., 108 plates ; 271 pp. Moscow : Izdatel'stvo 'Nauka', 1969. Rbls. 2.72, 1.95.

This is a most important addition to the series of Tangut studies produced by Soviet scholars and an essential work of reference for anyone making a study of the Tangut language. 'The sea of characters' (the title is an abbreviated one which appears on every page of the text ; the full title was probably 'The precious rhymes of the sea of characters of the White High Great Kingdom') is a

dictionary of a very unusual type. The only surviving xylograph is incomplete. It must originally have contained a preface, a list of the 97 'rhymes' (that is the whole of a Tangut word except the initial sound) of the level tone (the surviving text begins with the page containing the 36th and following rhymes), and a list of characters ending with each of these rhymes. The whole of the second part containing the list of the rhymes of the rising tone and the characters ending with these rhymes is lost, and some of the pages of the first part are lost or damaged. Associated with this work, and perhaps the third part of it, is one called 'The sea of characters, mixed categories', also unique and incomplete.

Within each rhyme in the 'Sea of characters' the individual characters are arranged in the order of their initial sounds, homophonous characters being grouped together. Each character is followed by: (1) an analysis of its structure; (2) a translation or explanation of its meaning, often quite long; and (3) a *fan-ts'ieh* (to use the Chinese phrase), i.e. two characters representing the initial sound and the rhyme. Where there are several characters with the same sound (homophones), the *fan-ts'ieh* is given only under the first character with a statement of the number of characters in the group.

The 'Sea of characters, mixed categories', of which the beginning and end are lost and the remainder incomplete, contains characters with initial sounds which did not fit conveniently into the phonetic structure which formed the basis of the 'Sea of characters'. It is divided into two parts, for the level and rising tone respectively, but within each part the characters are arranged on a different principle, in groups beginning with palatals, velars, denti-alveolar spirants and affricates, denti-palatal spirants and affricates, glottals, and liquids respectively. The characters within each group are arranged in the order of their rhymes, and the individual entries are on the same lines as those in the 'Sea of characters'.

Vol. I contains the introductory articles, a translation of the text of both works, and a facsimile. Vol. II contains material derived from other sources: (1) a list of the first 56 of the 86 rhymes of the rising tone; (2) a list with brief translations of characters known to belong to these rhymes; and (3) a similar list, taken from a MS of the 'Phonetic tables', of characters belonging to one or two rhymes of the level tone and most of the remaining rhymes of the rising tone. It ends with a list, prepared by Professor Kolokolov, of all the characters in the book, 5,146 in number. This is 673 less than the characters in the list at the end of Sofronov's *Grammatika tangut-*

skogo yazyka (reviewed in *BSOAS*, xxxii, 2, 1969, 416) compiled from the text of the 'Homophones', which is almost complete.

There are other differences between the two lists. The arrangement of the characters in this list is based on an analysis of the structure of each character starting from the right-hand bottom corner; Sofronov's list is based on an analysis starting from the left-hand top corner. In the special circumstances of Tangut the difference, so far from being a nuisance, is positively beneficial, since it gives the searcher a double chance of locating a character which is damaged or difficult to read.

There is another difference between the two lists. The authors of the present book do not suggest the original phonetic value of individual characters, contenting themselves with presenting the evidence and saying that they feel that it would be premature to go further. Sofronov would no doubt agree that it would be premature to reach firm conclusions on this subject; and he points out that the pronunciation of Tangut at the end of the twelfth century, the date of nearly all the external evidence, differed substantially from the pronunciation in A.D. 1036 when the script was invented, which is probably also about the date when the system of initial sounds and rhymes was devised. He does, however, discuss the subject at considerable length and has produced a plausible list of the phonetic values of the initial sounds and a tentative table of the phonetic values of the rhymes (1) as they were probably represented by the *fan-ts'iehs* of the 'Sea of characters', and (2) as they were probably pronounced at the end of the twelfth century. In his index each character is accompanied by references to (1) its rhyme and (2) its position in the homophones, and in nearly every case a tentative late twelfth-century pronunciation. The two lists are therefore complementary. The student of Tangut itself now has at his disposal the main part of a dictionary and, with the help of Sofronov's grammar can approach Tangut texts with some confidence. The student whose purpose is rather to discover the position of Tangut in the Tibeto-Burman language group and, if possible, to reconstruct the original pronunciation of Tangut words at the time when the script was invented is also now well equipped for this task.

GERARD CLAUSON

STUART H. BUCK: *Tibetan-English dictionary, with supplement.* (Publications in the Languages of Asia, 1.) xviii, 833 pp. Washington, D.C.: