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ERICH HAENISCH

The death on 21 December 1966, at the age of 87, of Professor Erich Haenisch is a severe blow to Mongolian studies. Haenisch was one of the outstanding representatives of the old generation of scholars and combined expert knowledge of Chinese, Mongolian, and Manchu. In this age of narrow specialization and worship of methodology at the expense of real knowledge of the matter, there are not many scholars who are experts in so many fields.

Mongolian philology owes Haenisch very much. His works referring to this field may be divided into several groups. These are the Saghang Sechen studies, investigation of the Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih and Hua-yi yi-yü, the hP'ags-pa script, and fragments of Mongolian pre-classical writings, and, finally, polyglot inscriptions.

Haenisch was the founder of modern Saghang Sechen studies. It is interesting to note that it was Sagang Sechen to whom the twenty-four year old candidate for a Ph.D. degree, Haenisch, devoted his dissertation, and it was the same Saghang Sechen's work that was published by the eighty-six year old senior scholar of Mongolian studies, only a few months before his death. Inbetween, two other large publications dealing with Saghang Sechen appeared.<sup>3</sup> On the basis of Haenisch's publications, as well as those by the Reverend A. Mostaert, CICM, a critical edition of the text of Saghang Sechen's annals can now be prepared.

The second group of Haenisch's works deals with the Secret History. Haenisch is the founder of Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih studies. These are his most important works which alone would have perpetuated his name in the history of Mongolian studies, even if none of his other works were known. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of these works, which are a brilliant testimony to the mastery of their author, who had an equal command of both Chinese and Mongolian. Only an expert in these two fields could have taken upon himself the extremely difficult task of deciphering and translating the Chinese transcription of the Mongolian text. Attempts at this had been made<sup>4</sup> before, but Haenisch was the first to publish the transcription of the text,<sup>5</sup> the first dictionary of words contained therein,<sup>6</sup> the first complete translation<sup>7</sup> and an interesting article<sup>8</sup> on the grammatical features of the language of the Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih.

The Secret History is an important Middle Mongolian text. No comparative or historical linguistic work on Mongolian is possible without careful study of the rich material presented in Haenisch's works, which opened a new chapter in the history of Mongolian studies.

A work very close in some respects to the Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih is the Sino-Mongolian glossary and collection of documents known as the Hua-yi

yi-yu of 1399, which Haenisch investigated in two works.<sup>8</sup>

Haenisch also discovered three previously unknown Mongolian inscriptions in 'Phags-pa script. The philological and historical commentaries given in his book contain important data on taxation and tax exemption in the Yuan Empire.

There are fragments of Mongolian writings of the pre-classical period among the numerous manuscripts discovered by the German Turfan Expeditions. It was Haenisch's merit to discover them lying in the Museum, almost unnoticed by anyone, and to publish and make them accessible to scholars.<sup>10</sup> One of them turned out to be a Mongolian version of the Alexander Romance, the other was identified as a commentary on the Buddhist work Bodhicaryavatara of 1312, etc., to which some fragments of the work Subhasitaratnanidhi in 'Phags-pa script should be added.

To these and other, minor, works on Mongolian subjects, several polyglot inscriptions should also be added. Haenisch published and translated them, and appended important commentaries.<sup>11</sup>

Haenisch is the author of many other important works in the fields of Mongolian, Manchu, and especially Chinese studies. It is impossible to dwell on them in this brief article.<sup>12</sup>

This brief necrology would be incomplete if the undersigned left unmentioned that Haenisch was a great person as well as a great scholar. The author of these lines had the great privilege of knowing the deceased personally and being regarded by him as his close friend. Haenisch belonged to the better part of the German people, to that part that rejected National Socialism. It was characteristic of Haenisch, in 1943 at the peak of the Nazi regime, to show the undersigned into his working room, point in the direction of a large portrait of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and say, "I am faithful to him. I do not accept the present gang." It certainly required much courage to say this in the then prevailing atmosphere, when everyone was suspicious of everyone else, and the walls had ears.

-- NICHOLAS POPPE --

Notes:

1. Die chinesische Redaktion des Sanang Setzen, Geschichte der Ostmongolen, im Vergleich mit dem mongolischen Urtexte, Berlin, phil. Diss., 1904.
2. Qad-un undusun-u erdeni-yin tobciya, Eine Pekinger Palasthandschrift, Wiesbaden 1966.
3. Eine Urga-Handschrift des mongolischen Geschichtswerkes von Secen Saḡang (alias Sanang Secen), Deutsche Akademie der Wissen. zu Berlin, Institut für Orientforschung, Veröffentlichung Nr. 25, Berlin 1955; Der Kienlung-Druck des mongolischen Geschichtswerkes Erdeni yin tobci von Saḡang Secen, Wiesbaden 1959. Haenisch also published the Manchu version of this work, which is of great importance because the Manchu transcription of the proper names renders their pronunciation much better than the Mongolian script. Cf. Monggo han sai da sekiyen. Die Mandschu-

Fassung von Secen Saġang's Mongolischer Geschichte, Nach einem im Palast aufgefundenen Holzdruck in Umschreibung herausgegeben, Leipzig 1933.

4. Manghol un niuca tobca'an (Yüan-ch'ao pi-shi), Die Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen, Aus der chinesischen Transkription im mongolischen Wortlaut wiederhergestellt, Leipzig 1937.
5. Wörterbuch zu Manghol un niuca tobca'an (Yüan-ch'ao pi-shi), Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen, Leipzig 1939.
6. Die Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen. Aus einer mongolischen Niederschrift des Jahres 1240 von der Insel Kode'e im Keluren-Fluss, erstmalig übersetzt und erläutert, Zweite verbesserte Auflage, Leipzig 1948. (First printed in 1940.)
7. "Grammatische Besonderheiten in der Sprache des Manghol un niuca tobca'an," Studia Orientalia (Helsinki 1950), 14:3.
8. "Sino-mongolische Dokumente vom Ende des 14. Jahrhunderts," Abh. d. Deutsch. Ak. d. Wiss. zu Berlin, Kl. für Spr., Lit. u. Kunst, Jhg. 1950, No. 4, Berlin 1952; "Sino-mongolische Glossare I, das Hua-I ih-yü," ibid., Jhg. 1956, No. 5, Berlin 1957.
9. "Steuergerechsamkeit der chinesischen Klöster unter der Mongolenherrschaft, Eine kulturgeschichtliche Untersuchung mit Beigabe dreier noch unveröffentlichter Phagspa-Inschriften, Mit 4 Tafeln," Berichte über d. Verh. d. Sächs. Ak. d. Wiss. zu Leipzig, Ph.-hist. Kl., 92:2, Leipzig, 1940.
10. "Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung I, Ein buddhistisches Druckfragment vom Jahre 1312," Abh. d. Deutsch. Ak. d. Wiss. zu Berlin, Kl. f. Spr., Lit. u. Kunst, Jhg. 1953, No. 3, Berlin 1954; "Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung II, Mongolische Texte der Berliner Turfan-sammlung in Faksimile," ibid., Jhg. 1959, No. 1, Berlin 1959.
11. "Die viersprachige Gründungsinschrift des Klosters Pi-yun-szē," Ostasiatische Zeitschrift, N.F., 1 (1924), pp. 1-16; "Nachträge und Berichtigungen zu der Übersetzung der Inschrift vom Kloster Pi-yun-szē," ibid., pp. 164-66; "Die viersprachige Gründungsinschrift des Tempels An-yuan-miao in Jehol vom J. 1765," Abh. d. geistes- und socialwiss. Kl., Aka. d. Wiss. u. d. Lit., Mainz, Jhg. 1950, No. 15, pp. 1155-74; "Zwei viersprachige Inschriften zum Dsungarenkrieg aus den Jahren 1755-58," Miscellanea Academica Berolinensia, Berlin 1950, pp. 224-47.
12. The complete list of Haenisch's publications in "Verzeichnis der Schriften von Erich Haenisch," Studia Sino-Altaica, Festschrift für Erich Haenisch zum 80. Geburtstag, Wiesbaden 1961, pp. 3-11.