

ERICH HAENISCH

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ERICH HAENISCH

The death on December 21, 1966, at the age of 87, of Professor Erich Haenisch is a severe loss to Far Eastern studies and has come as a grievous shock to his colleagues and friends. He was one of the few remaining representatives of the old generation of scholars in his field. As such, he combined an excellent knowledge of Chinese, Mongolian, and Manchu, and made valuable contributions to studies in all three domains. Haenisch was a many-sided scholar, and the list of his publications includes works on various subjects of Sinology, Tibetology, Manchu, and Mongolian studies.¹ In our age of specialization, there are not many scholars who are experts in so many fields.

Leaving Haenisch's contributions to Sinology to the competent judgment of specialists, the undersigned, avoiding the risk of appearing presumptuous, will confine himself to discussion of Haenisch's accomplishments in Mongolian and Manchu studies.

Mongolian philology owes particularly much to Haenisch. His works referring to this field can be divided into four main groups. These are: (1) Sagang Sechen studies, (2) polyglot inscriptions, (3) investigation of the *Yüan-ch'ao pi-shih* and *Hua-yi yi-yü*, and (4) 'Phags-pa script and fragments of Mongolian pre-classical writings.

It is no exaggeration to say that research on Sagang Sechen was a work of Haenisch's whole life. It was Sagang Sechen to whom Haenisch, at that time a twenty-four year old candidate for a doctor's degree, devoted his dissertation,² and it was the same Sagang Sechen whose work was published, after a magnificent manuscript belonging to the palace library

¹ "Verzeichnis der Schriften von Erich Haenisch", *Studia Sino-Altaica, Festschrift für Erich Haenisch zum 80. Geburtstag* (Wiesbaden, 1961), pp. 3-11. The list is by no means up to date and includes only works that appeared before 1961.

² *Die chinesische Redaktion des Sanang Setzen, Geschichte der Ostmongolen, im Verleiche mit dem mongolischen Urtexte*, phil. Diss. (Berlin, 1904).

in Peking, by the eighty-six year old scholar of world-renown.³ Between these two works, his first attempt at scholarly work and his last major work, Haenisch published two other works dealing with Sagang Sechen. The one was his excellent edition of a Sagang Sechen manuscript which belonged to the library of the then Mongolian Learned Committee (at the present time, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences) in Ulanbator and which was made known to science by Haenisch who had discovered it when he was working at that library, in 1927.⁴ The other was Haenisch's publication of the xylographic version of the same work.⁵ On the basis of these publications, to which also those by the Reverend Antoine Mostaert, C.I.C.M. should be added, a complete critical edition of the text of Sagang Sechen's history can be now prepared, which will take into consideration all variant readings found in different manuscripts. Schmidt's text edition and translation are utterly obsolete. The task of the Mongolists is now to establish the critical text of Sagang Sechen's annals and to give a new translation. This has now become possible to a large extent thanks to Haenisch. The fifth work of the greatest importance, which also belongs in this category, is Haenisch's publication of the Manchu version of Sagang Sechen's history.⁶ The Manchu alphabet being more precise than the Mongolian, the Manchu spelling of proper names enormously facilitates restoration of the correct pronunciation of names of little-known places or persons mentioned in Sagang Sechen's historical work. In concluding the discussion of Haenisch's contribution to the study of Sagang Sechen, let it be remarked that largely thanks to Haenisch's efforts our knowledge of that most important Mongolian historical work surpasses that of any other Mongolian historical source.

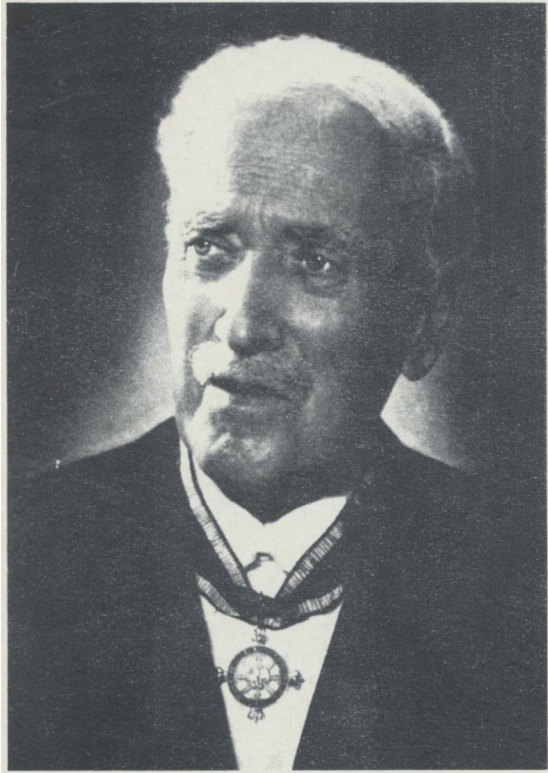
The second group of Haenisch's works deals with epigraphy. Entirely Mongolian or polyglot inscriptions which are partly Mongolian are numerous. Some of them commemorate the founding of a temple or monastery, other glorify great events such as victory. Haenisch's contribution to the study of Mongolian epigraphy is considerable. He published, translated, and commented on the quadrilingual inscriptions in the

³ *Qad-un ündüsün-ü erdeni-yin tobčiya, Eine Pekinger Palasthandschrift* (Wiesbaden, 1966).

⁴ *Eine Urga-Handschrift des mongolischen Geschichtswerkes von Secen Sagang alias Sanang Secen* (= *Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Institut für Orientalforschung, Veröffentlichung Nr. 25*) (Berlin, 1955).

⁵ *Der Kienlung-Druck des mongolischen Geschichtswerkes Erdeni yin tobci von Sagang Secen* (Wiesbaden, 1959).

⁶ *Monggo han sai da sekiyen, Die Mandschu-Fassung von Secen Sagang's Mongolischer Geschichte, Nach einem im Pekinger Palast aufgefundenen Holzdruck in Umschreibung herausgegeben* (Leipzig, 1933).



monastery of Pi-yun-ssu⁷ and An-yüan-miao,⁸ and two likewise quadrilingual inscriptions commemorating the war in Jungaria in the eighteenth century.⁹ Not to mention the historical and linguistic value of those inscriptions, let it be remarked that they are of great interest as polyglot texts which permit of establishing exact equivalents of Chinese words in other languages, and may be used as material for the study of translation technique in the eighteenth century.¹⁰

The third group comprises Haenisch's works on the 'Secret History'. These are the most important works of his which alone would have secured to their author the honor place in history of Mongolian studies, even if he had not published anything else. It is hard to overestimate the importance of these works which testify to the mastery of their writer, a scholar fully equipped with expert knowledge of both Chinese and Mongolian. Only a scholar completely at home in the Chinese and Mongolian fields could have taken upon himself the difficult task of deciphering and translating the Chinese transcription of the Mongolian text. The Mongolian text of the 'Secret History' had been known since 1872 when it was discovered by Palladius. Being an excellent Sinologist but possessing a limited knowledge of Mongolian, Palladius transcribed the Mongolian text crudely with the letters of the Russian alphabet and gave his manuscript to Pozdneev, obviously expecting him to rework it mongolistically. Pozdneev did not do anything, probably because he lacked the necessary sinological training, and let the manuscript lie in his desk for almost fifty years, having confined himself to publishing a few excerpts, strange as it may look, without mention of Palladius' name. In 1925, after Pozdneev's death, the manuscript was acquired by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR which lent it, the same year, to Pelliot. Later Kozin published his work entirely based on Palladius' reconstruction. However, Pelliot's posthumous edition of the 'Secret History' remained incomplete, and Kozin's work turned out to be entirely unsatisfactory. Thus, it was Haenisch who published the first transcription of the text,¹¹ the first

⁷ "Die viersprachige Gründungsinschrift des Klosters Pi-yun-sze", *Ostasiatische Zeitschrift*, N.F., 1 (1924), pp. 1-16; "Nachträge und Berichtigungen zu der Übersetzung der Inschrift vom Kloster Pi-yun-sze", *ibid.*, pp. 164-66.

⁸ "Die viersprachige Gründungsinschrift des Tempels An-yüan-miao in Jehol vom J. 1765", *Abhandlungen der geistes- und sozialwissenschaftlichen Klasse, Akad. d. Wiss. u. d. Lit., Mainz*, Jhg. 1950, No. 15, pp. 1155-74.

⁹ "Zwei viersprachige Inschriften zum Dsungarenkrieg aus den Jahren 1755-1758", *Miscellanea Academica Berolinensia* (Berlin, 1950), pp. 224-47.

¹⁰ To the inscriptions mentioned here, also three monuments in 'Phags-pa script should be added which will be discussed *infra*.

¹¹ *Manghol un Niuca Tobca'an (Yüan-ch'ao pi-shi), die Geheime Geschichte der*

dictionary of words contained therein,¹² the first complete translation,¹³ and an interesting article on the grammatical features of the language of the 'Secret History'.¹⁴

The 'Secret History' is an important Middle Mongolian text, the oldest and the largest of all, and is of the highest value from the point of view of language history. 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 history of Mongolian studies.

A work very close in some aspects to the 'Secret History' is the Sino-Mongolian glossary and collection of documents known as *Hua-yi yi-yü* of 1389, which Haenisch investigated in two works.¹⁵

The fourth and last group of Haenisch's works on Mongolian subjects to be discussed here includes his studies of 'Phags-pa documents and his editions of fragments of Mongolian pre-classical texts in Uighur script. Haenisch discovered and published three inscriptions in 'Phags-pa script which had been unknown theretofore. The philological and historical commentaries given in his book contain important data on taxation and tax exemption in the Yüan Empire.¹⁶

There are among the numerous manuscripts discovered by the German Turfan Expeditions also fragments of Mongolian writings of the pre-classical period. For many years they were lying almost unnoticed by anyone, although later they proved to be of the highest value. 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 *Bodhi-*

Mongolen. Aus der chinesischen Transkription im mongolischen Wortlaut wiederhergestellt (Leipzig, 1937).

¹² *Wörterbuch zu Manghol un Niuca Tobca'an (Yüan-ch'ao pi-shi), Geheime Geschichte der Mongolen* (Leipzig, 1939).

¹³ *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 print in 1940.)

¹⁴ "Grammatische Besonderheiten in der Sprache des Manghol un Niuca Tobca'an", *Studia Orient.*, 14:3 (1950).

¹⁵ *Sino-mongolische Dokumente vom Ende des 14. Jahrhunderts* (= *Abh. d. Deutsch. Akad. d. Wiss. zu Berlin, Kl. für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst*, Jhg. 1950, No. 4) (Berlin, 1952); *Sinomongolische Glossare, I: Das Hua-I ih-yü* (= *ibid.*, Jhg. 1956, No. 5) (Berlin, 1957).

¹⁶ *Steuergerechteste der chinesischen Klöster unter der Mongolenherrschaft, Eine kulturgeschichtliche Untersuchung mit Beigabe dreier noch unveröffentlichter Phagspa-Inschriften, Mit 4 Tafeln* (= *Berichte über die Verh. d. Sächs. Akad. d. Wiss. zu Leipzig, Phil.-hist. Kl.*, 92:2) (Leipzig, 1940). This work refers also to the second group of works discussed and is an important contribution to studies in epigraphy.

caryāvatāra of 1312, etc., not to mention a few fragments of the didactic work *Subhaṣitaratnanidhi* in 'Phags-pa script. It is Haenisch's great merit that he collected and published all those fragments and put them at the disposal of other scholars.¹⁷

Haenisch was not only an outstanding Mongolist but, for many years, he was also the leading scholar in the field of Manchu studies. Some works already mentioned *supra* deal with Manchu. Thus, the Manchu version of Sagang Sechen's historical work and the polyglot inscriptions discussed above are important contributions to Manchu studies which have been on a decrease for a considerable length of time in most countries of the world. That they have not died out completely is, to a large extent, Haenisch's merit. To the works in this field belong more works than those mentioned. To enumerate the most interesting and important works on Manchu subjects, Haenisch's study of ancient Manchu clans should be remembered.¹⁸ Likewise, an article on a Manchu-Mongolian diploma issued to a Lamaist dignitary deserves attention,¹⁹ to which also the discussion of the Manchu preface to the documents referring to the war against Galdan Bushuktu should be added.²⁰ Of particular importance are also Haenisch's works on the documents concerning the facts preceding the Gurkha war,²¹ and on a Chinese embassy dispatched to Annam in 1668-69.²² Haenisch is also the author of an excellent brief grammar of the Manchu language which is to be recommended as a very handy manual for the study of that language.²³

We have arrived at the end of this brief survey of Haenisch's works in the fields of Mongolian and Manchu studies, which have enriched our knowledge considerably and provided an enormous material for further study.

¹⁷ *Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung, I: Ein buddhistisches Druckfragment vom Jahre 1312* (= *Abh. d. Deutsch. Akad. d. Wiss. zu Berlin, Kl. für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst*, Jhg. 1953, No. 3) (Berlin, 1954); *Mongolica der Berliner Turfan-Sammlung, II: Mongolische Texte der Berliner Turfansammlung in Faksimile* (= *ibid.*, Jhg. 1959, No. 1) (Berlin, 1959).

¹⁸ "Beiträge zur altmandschurischen Geschlechterkunde", *Festschrift für Friedrich Hirth zu seinem 75. Geburtstag*, 16. 4. 1920 (Berlin, 1920), pp. 171-184.

¹⁹ "Ein mandschu-mongolisches Diplom für einen lamaistischen Würdenträger", *Monumenta Serica*, 13 (1948), pp. 317-30.

²⁰ "Kaiserliches Vorwort zum Aktenwerk über den Krieg gegen G'aldan, Aus dem Mandschu übersetzt", *ZDMG*, 107 (1957), pp. 402-11.

²¹ *Dokumente aus dem Jahre 1788 zur Vorgeschichte des Gorkha-Krieges* (= *Abh. d. Bayerischen Akad. d. Wiss., Phil.-hist. Kl.*, N.F., 49) (1959).

²² *Bericht von einer chinesischen Gesandtschaft nach Annam im Jahre 1668/9, Eine Mandschu-Handschrift aus dem Pekingener Palastmuseum* (= *ibid.*, 60) (1965).

²³ *Mandschu-Grammatik mit Lesestücken und 23 Texttafeln* (Leipzig, 1961).

Even a very long and detailed necrology can give only a general idea about the deceased scholar to whom homage is paid. Haenisch lived a long and a very industrious life which was also highly successful as far as his scholarly activities were concerned. To discuss his accomplishments in detail and give a true portrait of the outstanding scholar and the friendly and charming person that Haenisch was, cannot be achieved in this short article.

Seattle

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