HARRASSOWITZ Verlag

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS: ON THE POETICITY OF THE "CHÜ-YUNG-KUAN" INSCRIPTION
Author(s): JOHN R. KRUEGER
Source: *Central Asiatic Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (June 1964), pp. 150-151
Published by: Harrassowitz Verlag
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/41926610
Accessed: 20/10/2014 14:10

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Harrassowitz Verlag is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Central Asiatic Journal*.

http://www.jstor.org

This content downloaded from 198.0.94.217 on Mon, 20 Oct 2014 14:10:45 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

ON THE POETICITY OF THE *CHÜ-YUNG-KUAN* INSCRIPTION

The long and important Mongolian inscription in the archaic and interesting ḥP'ags-pa script found on the great wall of Chü-yung-kuan (Čabčiyal Pass) has been the subject of treatments by Huth, Chavannes, Lewicki, Poppe, and most recently, by P. Poucha (*CAJ*, VIII, pp. 270-280). The article of the last-named is concerned with his discovery that the inscription in question is cast in a poetical form. The author also renders the English translation of Poppe's monograph into German, with brief commentary on the verse form.

In 1937 Marjan Lewicki published (in the *Collectanea Orientalia*, vol. 12) his work *Les inscriptions mongoles inédites en écriture carrée*, in which the text of this inscription is written as poetry and divided into strophes or quatrains, thus clearly showing its poetical nature.

In 1957 appeared the English edition of N. Poppe's 1941 work in Russian, "The Mongolian Monuments in ḥP'ags-pa Script" (vol. 8 of the *Göttinger Asiatische Forschungen*). In this work one can read respecting this inscription (page 7 carried over to page 8) that "The inscription on the gates of *Chü-yung-kuan*, for example, is a Buddhist text, composed on the occasion of erecting a religious edifice, and is moreover written in verse." Further may be cited Note 108 (p. 109), "In as much as the inscription is written in alliterating verses ..."; Note 125 (p. 112), "He translates the verses ..."; Note 113 (p. 113) "this quatrain"; and Note 138 (p. 114) "all four verses of this quatrain alliterate on the syllable *k'e* and *ge* ...".

In 1961 appeared the work *Poetical Passages in the Erdeni-yin Tobči* (*Central Asiatic Studies*, VII) by the author of these lines. On page 11 of this work it is stated that "The long Buddhist inscription in Mongolian ḥP'ags-pa script on the gates of Chü-yung-kuan is cast in alliterated verses, and dates from 1345. Lewicki's edition of ḥP'ags-pa texts reproduces the

This content downloaded from 198.0.94.217 on Mon, 20 Oct 2014 14:10:45 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions

inscription in verse form, but that of N. Poppe conforms to the actual lines of the *stèle*." Stanza 4 is then given in verse form together with further comment on the poetical nature as contrasted with poetry of the *Secret History*.

In the light of these citations, therefore, it seems that the hope of learning substantial new facts about this inscription and its poetical nature is not borne out by the article in this journal alluded to.

Indiana University JOHN R. KRUEGER

CORRECTION

The undersigned wishes to declare that the book *Kirghiz Manual* (*Indiana University Publications*, Volume 33 of the *Uralic and Altaic Series*, Indiana University, Bloomington, and Mouton and Co., The Hague, The Netherlands, 1963) is the product of Mr. Raymond J. Hebert's independent work and that the undersigned should not be regarded as a co-author as it is said on the title page of the book. The undersigned only helped Mr. Hebert in his research and feels that he could not take any credit for work that was entirely performed by Mr. Hebert. Besides, it should be remarked that the undersigned did not read the proofs of Hebert's book, otherwise he would have corrected all the misprints and errors which had escaped Mr. Hebert's attention, such as *kerege* "frame" (p.121) instead of "wall"; *üydögü* "husband" (p. 145) instead of "wife"; *Šota Rustaveli* "a Kirghiz writer" (p. 148) instead of "Georgian writer", etc.

April 15. 1964 NICHOLAS POPPE

This content downloaded from 198.0.94.217 on Mon, 20 Oct 2014 14:10:45 PM
All use subject to JSTOR Terms and Conditions