

# Mongol Studies in France

## 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries

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### **Abbreviations**

CEMS	Centre d'Études mongoles et sibériennes
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
EHESS	École des Hautes études en sciences sociales
<i>EMSCAT</i>	<i>Études Mongoles &amp; Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques &amp; Tibétaines</i>
EPHE	École pratique des Hautes Études
GSRL	Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités
INALCO	Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales
SEMS	Société des études mongoles et sibériennes

This article explores the evolution of Mongol studies in France (including Mongolia, Inner Mongolia [P. R. China], Buryatia and Transbaikalia [Russian Federation]) in France from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.<sup>1</sup> It first presents the pioneering contributions of Paul Pelliot and Louis Hambis, as well as the creation of the chair of “Religions of North Asia” and of the Centre d'Études mongoles et sibériennes<sup>2</sup> (CEMS). This historical overview explains why in France Mongol studies were combined with Siberian studies, whereas in other European countries like England, Poland and Hungary, Mongol studies are usually paired with Tibetan studies due to their focus on Buddhist textual collections.

The article then discusses the development of Mongol studies in the 2000s, marked by the emergence of a younger generation of researchers, and outlines various collaborative projects and academic activities. It also provides a detailed list of professors, assistant professors, doctors, and PhD students by discipline. The subsequent sections cover archaeological co-operations between French and Monaco, and Mongolian teams; French exhibitions featuring Mongol art and photographs of Mongolia, and translation works of contemporary Mongolian literature and poetry.

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<sup>1</sup> We would like to thank Raphaël Blanchier, Matthieu Chochoy, Alice Crowther, Anna Dupuy, Roberte Hamayon, Charlotte Marchina and Sandrine Ruhlmann for their valuable additions and corrections to an earlier version of this article. We also thank Gaëlle Lacaze for sharing with us a paper she authored to celebrate the sixty years of French teaching in Mongolia, September 2023 (Lacaze 2023a).

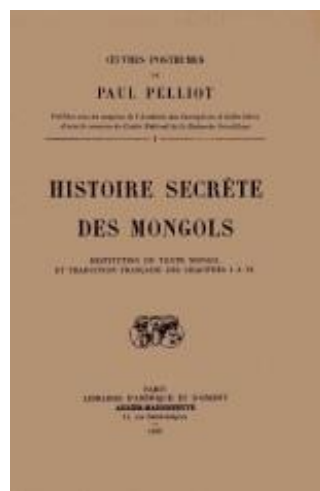
<sup>2</sup> Centre of Mongol and Siberian Studies.

## Mongol studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Paul Pelliot** (1878-1945), the most renowned orientalist of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is widely recognised for his study of the Dunhuang manuscripts.<sup>3</sup> Remarkably, he could read Mongolian among thirteen other languages. In 1911, a Chair of Languages, History, and Archaeology of Central Asia was created for him at the Collège de France in Paris. Pelliot's contributions to Mongol studies include his research on the accounts of medieval travellers to Mongol territories, such as those of Marco Polo and Plano Carpini, and his partial translation of the *Secret History of the Mongols* into French.<sup>4</sup>

His disciple and successor at the Collège de France, **Louis Hambis** (1906-1978), made significant contributions to Mongol history, covering topics such as the Mongols during the Ming period (1368-1644), Mongolian grammar, and a translation of Marco Polo's account.<sup>5</sup> Hambis also published some of Pelliot's posthumous works on medieval history and Kalmyk history.<sup>6</sup> In 1974, he was appointed director of the Centre de recherche sur l'Asie centrale et la Haute Asie.<sup>7</sup>

Another distinguished scholar of Inner Asia, **René Grousset** (1885-1952), is known for his *L'Empire des steppes* and a biography of Chinggis Khan.<sup>8</sup> As a curator of the Musée Guimet and a professor at the École du Louvre, Grousset offered a historical narrative in which the Mongol empire represents just one, albeit the most grandiose, phase of the history of the empires of the steppes that significantly altered the course of Eurasian history. His vast erudition, combined with his reliance on a wide range of often secondary sources, is characterised by a systemic vision shaped by the concepts of empire and, above all, civilisation.



<sup>3</sup> In 1908, he purchased several thousands of Chinese, Tibetan, Sanskrit, Kuchean, Khotanese, Sogdian and Uyghur manuscripts anterior to the 11<sup>th</sup> century in the Mogao “library” cave near Dunhuang (Gansu Province, China).

<sup>4</sup> See notably Pelliot 1923 on Mongols and Papacy; Pelliot 1959-1973 on Marco Polo, and his partial translation of the *Secret History of the Mongols* (Pelliot 1949).

<sup>5</sup> Plan Carpin 1965; Hambis 1945; Hambis 1969; Polo 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Pelliot and Hambis (translation and annotations) 1951.

<sup>7</sup> Central and High Asia Research Centre.

<sup>8</sup> Grousset 1938; Grousset 1946.

In contrast to Grousset's global approach, **Jean Aubin** (1927-1998) focused on the imperial period within the context of medieval Iran. As director of studies in the history of Islamic Iran at the École pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) from 1964 to 1994, Aubin shed light on the complex mechanisms by which Mongol culture was assimilated by sedentary Muslim Persia.

His disciple, **Denise Aigle** (born 1943), centred her research on intercultural and religious exchanges, with particular emphasis on the political implications of the conversion of part of the Mongol elite to Islam (Aigle 2005). Her work also explores how this major event impacted the Mongol rulers' relations with Christian princes and shaped European representations of the Mongols.

## The 20<sup>th</sup>-century creation of a chair of “Religions of North Asia” and of the CEMS

In the field of anthropology, **Éveline Lot-Falck** (1918-1974), a specialist of Siberian shamanism, learned Mongolian and attended courses by Paul Pelliot at the Collège de France starting in 1942, later continuing her studies under Louis Hambis. In 1952, she was appointed curator of the Département des Arctiques et d'URSS d'Asie<sup>9</sup> at the Musée de l'Homme<sup>10</sup> in Paris, where she developed a significant collection of data on the populations of Inner Asia and Siberia, including those from the USSR and Mongolia. In 1963, the renowned ethnologist Claude Lévi-Strauss created the Chair of Religions de l'Eurasie septentrionale et de l'Arctique (Religions of Northern Eurasia and the Arctic) for her within the Fifth section of the École pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE).

Western scholars were unable to access the Mongolian People's Republic during the communist period until diplomatic relations between France and Mongolia were established in 1966. Following the signing of an exchange protocol in 1966 between the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique<sup>11</sup> (CNRS) and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, **Françoise Aubin** (1932-2017) and **Roberte Hamayon** (born 1939) were able to visit Mongolia. F. Aubin was the first researcher from a “capitalist” country to visit Mongolia, hosted by the Academy of Sciences in 1966 and by the State University in Ulaanbaatar in 1967. F. Aubin, a jurist, sociologist, and historian, was L. Hambis' disciple at the École pratique des Hautes Études. Her PhD thesis, defended in 1965, focused on popular uprisings in 13<sup>th</sup>-century North China. As a researcher at CNRS, she was affiliated with the Centre de Recherches Internationales<sup>12</sup> (CERI) in Paris.

Upon returning from her first ethnographic fieldwork in Mongolia in the fall of 1967, R. Hamayon, an anthropologist and linguist, researcher at the CNRS, initiated the first course on Mongolian language and culture at the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales<sup>13</sup> (INALCO, then named École nationale des langues orientales vivantes<sup>14</sup>) in Paris, where she taught until 1973. In 1965, she was temporarily assigned to the Musée de l'Homme, and purchased Mongolian artefacts for the museum during her fieldwork in Mongolia. In 1968, she joined the Laboratoire d'Éthnologie et de Sociologie Comparative<sup>15</sup> (LESC) at the University of Paris-Nanterre. The following year, she established the

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<sup>9</sup> Department of the Arctic and USSR Asia.

<sup>10</sup> Museum of Mankind.

<sup>11</sup> National Centre for Scientific Research.

<sup>12</sup> International Research Centre.

<sup>13</sup> National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations.

<sup>14</sup> National School of Modern Oriental Languages.

<sup>15</sup> Laboratory of Ethnology and Comparative Sociology.

**Centre d'Études Mongoles et Sibériennes (CEMS)** and, in 1970, founded the annual journal *Cahiers d'Études Mongoles*. The CEMS brought together researchers and INALCO students, who contributed papers to the *Cahiers d'Études Mongoles*. In 1974, R. Hamayon succeeded É. Lot-Falck in the chair at the EPHE, which was renamed "Religions d'Asie du Nord,"<sup>16</sup> and occupied this position until 2007.<sup>17</sup> She supervised PhD students and trained a new generation of scholars specialising in Mongolia and Siberia.<sup>18</sup> In 2002, both the CEMS (including its library) and the journal were transferred to the EPHE, where they remain affiliated, and R. Hamayon became a statutory member of the Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités<sup>19</sup> (GSRL, UMR 8582) laboratory. In 2006, she was awarded the Silver Medal by the CNRS.

In 1973, **Jacques Legrand** (born 1946) succeeded R. Hamayon as the head of the department of Mongolian language and civilisation at INALCO. In 1998, he established in Ulaanbaatar the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilisations under the auspices of UNESCO, and served as the chair of its Academic Council.<sup>20</sup>

**Alain Desjacques** (1956-2020), a specialist in traditional Mongolian music and assistant professor of musicology at the University of Lille III, made numerous trips to Mongolia starting in 1983. In 2018, he was appointed attaché for cultural and educational cooperation at the French embassy in Mongolia. In 2015, he donated the instruments, disks, books, musical scores, and recordings he had collected during his travels to the Musée des Instruments de Musique<sup>21</sup> (MIM) in Brussels.

## The *EMSCAT* journal

Since their foundation in 1970, the *Cahiers d'études mongoles* progressively gained international stature; it was renamed *Études mongoles et sibériennes* ("Mongol and Siberian Studies") in 1976 and *Études Mongoles & Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques & Tibétaines*<sup>22</sup> (*EMSCAT*) in 2004. It now has 55 issues.<sup>23</sup> The issues from 1 to 38-39 were digitalised and are now accessible on the Persée database.<sup>24</sup> In 2008, a monograph series on Mongolia and Siberia titled "Nord-Asie" was created as a supplement to *EMSCAT* (8 volumes in 2024). Since 2009 (issue 40), the journal is published only in electronic form. Today, *EMSCAT* is edited by the Société des études mongoles et sibériennes<sup>25</sup> (SEMS) founded by R. Hamayon in 2013, with the support of the EPHE.

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<sup>16</sup> Religions of Northern Asia.

<sup>17</sup> This chair is now occupied by Grégory Delaplace.

<sup>18</sup> A Festschrift was published in her honour: Buffetrille, Lambert, Luca and Sales (eds) 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Societies, Religions, Secularities Group.

<sup>20</sup> He was the president of INALCO from 2005 to 2013.

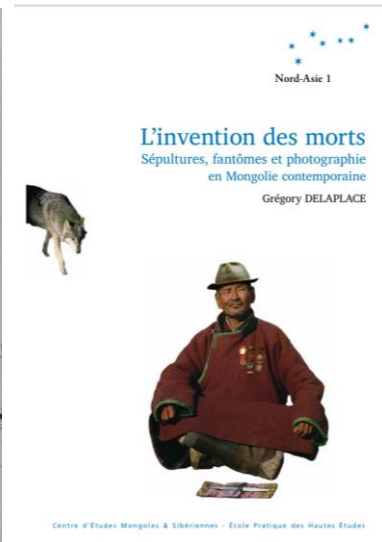
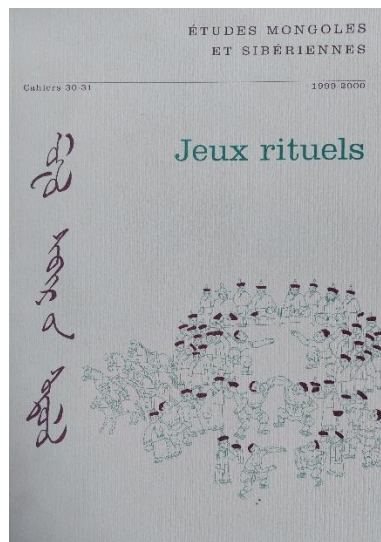
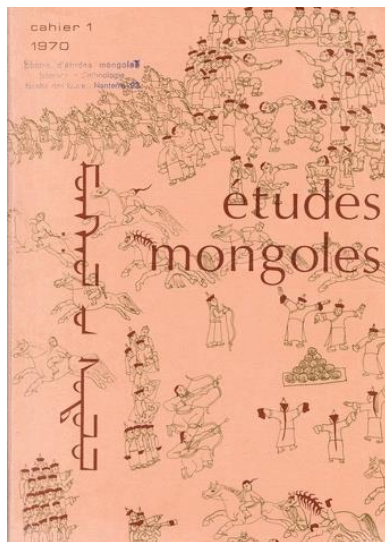
<sup>21</sup> Museum of Musical Instruments.

<sup>22</sup> Mongol and Siberian, Central Asian and Tibetan Studies.

<sup>23</sup> <http://emscat.revues.org/>.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.persee.fr/collection/emong>.

<sup>25</sup> Society for Mongolian and Siberian Studies.



## The second generation of Mongolists in the 2000s

Since the fall of the communist regimes in the USSR and Mongolia, along with the opening of China, Mongol studies have experienced substantial growth. Researchers have gained access to conduct fieldwork in Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, and Buryatia, as well as to explore archives and participate in international collaborations. Many of today's scholars in Mongol studies, now holding academic positions, were former students of R. Hamayon. France and Cambridge—the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU)—have become the leading centres for the anthropology of Mongolia in the West. Other disciplines, such as history, sociology, political science, law, archaeology, art history, and literature, are represented by individual scholars. The four main centres of Mongol studies in France are:

1/ The **CEMS (Centre d'Études mongoles et sibériennes)**, created in 1969 at Paris-Nanterre University, became affiliated with the École pratique des Hautes Études in Paris in 2002.<sup>26</sup> Until 2019, it functioned as an unofficial research centre, hosting a monthly seminar known as the "Atelier du CEMS," initially organised by Isabelle Charleux and Virginie Vaté, which brought together doctoral students and researchers. During the 1990s and 2000s, CEMS served as a hub for academic exchanges between the National University of Mongolia (MUIS) and French institutions. It facilitated long-term scholarly exchanges focused on Mongolian language and culture, involving notable academics such as Sedenjavyn Dulam<sup>27</sup> and Tseveliin Shagdarsüren, who spent extended visits at the CEMS. Throughout its existence, the Centre also maintained a privileged relationship with the Mongolian Embassy in France. One of its initial projects was an ambitious French-Mongolian dictionary, which is now being continued in Ulaanbaatar by Father Pierre Palussière and will be published by the SEMS. These initiatives have significantly enhanced and energised academic cooperation between France and Mongolia, making it increasingly dynamic and mutually beneficial.

<sup>26</sup> It was founded by R. Hamayon and is currently headed by Jean-Luc Lambert. <https://www.ephe.psl.eu/ressources-savoirs/bibliotheques#cems>.

<sup>27</sup> S. Dulam initially served as a lecturer in Mongolian at INALCO and was later invited, along with Ts. Shagdarsüren, in the framework of an exchange protocol funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2019, the CEMS's specialised library, containing approximately 6,000 volumes, was relocated to the Humathèque, the new Library of Humanities at Campus Condorcet in Aubervilliers, north of Paris. The activities previously conducted by the CEMS were transferred to the GSRL and SEMS. The Seminar of Mongol Studies, now organised by Isabelle Charleux and Grégory Delaplace, is affiliated with the EPHE.<sup>28</sup>

2/ **INALCO University** offers Licence (Bachelor) and Master degrees in Mongolian language and civilisation.<sup>29</sup> Since 2018, the Section d'études mongoles (part of the Département Eurasie, Langues, Littératures et Civilisations Aérales<sup>30</sup>) has been headed by Charlotte Marchina, training between five and twenty students annually. INALCO has signed an Erasmus cooperation with the University of Bonn and cooperation agreements with the National University of Mongolia (MUIS). A significant part of Mongolian language courses is taught by a native lecturer from the MUIS, who is appointed for three years at INALCO. Additionally, each year, several French students from INALCO spend a semester or an entire academic year studying Mongolian in Ulaanbaatar.

3/ Researchers from the **Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités** (GSRL) and EPHE, who are also active in the SEMS, focus particularly on Mongol religions and teach at the EPHE or INALCO. Between 2011 and 2018, several GSRL researchers participated in a collaboration with the Normal University of Inner Mongolia in Hohhot, China, which had signed a cooperation agreement with the EPHE. In 2015, an Erasmus cooperation agreement was established between the EPHE and the Department of Mongol Studies at the University of Bonn.

Other specialists in Mongol studies are researchers at the CNRS or teach at institutions such as Sorbonne University in Paris, Université Paris-Nanterre, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and various provincial universities, including those in Nice Sophia Antipolis, Brest, Toulouse, Clermont-Ferrand, and Tours.

4/ The **Société des études mongoles et sibériennes** (SEMS) is a learned society that regularly organises events, exhibitions, conferences, and workshops focused on Mongolia and Siberia. It circulates a newsletter on Mongol and Siberian studies<sup>31</sup> and maintains an information website, the Site des Études Mongoles et Sibériennes, created by Vincent Micoud.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the SEMS currently publishes the journal *EMSCAT* and its supplement, "Nord-Asie."

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<sup>28</sup> <https://gsrl-cnrs.fr/seminaire-des-etudes-mongoles-et-siberiennes/>.

<sup>29</sup> At INALCO, Mongolian studies were initially part of the department of Russian studies, and were later integrated into the Eurasia Department, which also includes Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Kurdish, Mongolian, Ossetian, Uyghur, Uzbek, Pashto, Persian, Kazakh, Tatar, and Turkish studies. See: <https://www.inalco.fr/langues/mongol>.

<sup>30</sup> Mongolian Studies Section, Department of Eurasia, Languages, Literatures and Areal Civilisations.

<sup>31</sup> <https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr/lettre-sems/>.

<sup>32</sup> <https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr>.



## Funded projects and conferences

French Mongolists have organised numerous national and international conferences in France, Great Britain, and the United States, and have secured funding for several projects, including:

- 2002-2005: Several researchers from the CEMS<sup>33</sup> conducted a project titled “Steppe, taiga, tundra,”<sup>34</sup> focusing on “Orientation in the Mongol and Siberian World” (Geode-EPHE), which resulted in a publication.<sup>35</sup> Some of them also participated in the European project “Non-European Components of European Patrimony” (NECEP), originally developed by the Max Planck Institute for the European Commission and organised in France by Maurice Godelier. As part of this project, they developed a prototype database intended to catalogue non-European objects held in European museums.<sup>36</sup>
- 2003-2006: The CEMS developed a cooperation with the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit at the University of Cambridge, leading to the organisation of two conferences in Cambridge, one in Paris, and the publication of four scholarly works. The French symposium titled “Representing Power in Inner Asia: Legitimising, Consecrating, Contesting,” organised by G. Delaplace, Yves Dorémieux, and R. Hamayon, brought together over twenty specialists from the United States, Japan, Europe, and Russia in Paris. This event was the occasion of an interdisciplinary discussion on how various states and polities in Inner and East Asia have used both material and immaterial representations across different historical periods.<sup>37</sup>
- 2007: The Young Mongolists European Workshop, organised by G. Delaplace and Y. Dorémieux (EPHE), took place in Songeons (Oise) from January 2 to 7, 2007. The workshop brought together thirty young anthropologists of Mongolia from Europe, Mongolia, and Japan.
- 2012: The international conference on “Espace et patrimoines mongols,”<sup>38</sup> held during the “Week of Mongolia” in Paris, attracted a large audience. Approximately forty researchers, many from Mongolia and Russia, participated with support from various sponsors. The conference significantly impacted Franco-Mongol cultural exchanges. The Week of Mongolia also organised diverse artistic events, including painting, music, and dance, as well as conference-debates aimed at discovering Mongol culture.
- Since 2018, Gaëlle Lacaze and Mathieu Molet (an ecologist and professor at Sorbonne Université, SU-INEE) have been leading the research project titled “Résistance des groupes humains aux changements environnementaux”<sup>39</sup> (Lacaze 2023b).

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<sup>33</sup> Isabelle Charleux, Grégory Delaplace, Stéphane Dudoignon, Jean-Luc Lambert, Alexandra Lavrillier, Alexandra Marois, Gaëlle Lacaze, Virginie Vaté.

<sup>34</sup> Steppe, Taiga, Tundra.

<sup>35</sup> See *EMSCAT*, special issue “L’orientation,” 36-37, 2006.

<sup>36</sup> G. Delaplace and Yves Dorémieux started the NECEP database on Mongol objects.

<sup>37</sup> The conference was held at the Institut Européen en Sciences des Religions, March 23-25, 2006. The proceedings have been published in two volumes (Charleux, Delaplace, Hamayon and Pearce, eds 2010).

<sup>38</sup> Mongol Space and Heritages. It was organised by Marie Bertrand, Raphaël Blanchier, Johanni Curtet, Léa Macadré, Charlotte Marchina and Laura Nikolov, May 10-13, 2012, in four languages (French, English, Russian and Mongolian).

<sup>39</sup> Resistance of Human Groups to Environmental Changes.

- In 2019, G. Delaplace and Caroline Humphrey (MIASU) organised a conference on “Distance and Speed: Rethinking the Imaginative Potential of Pace and Velocity in Inner Asia” at the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac in Paris.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2019, I. Charleux, and Jake Dalton (University of California, Berkeley), obtained the France-Berkeley Fund project titled “Points of Transition: *Ovoo* and the Ritual Remaking of Religious, Ecological, and Historical Politics in Inner Asia.” A workshop and a conference on this topic were held at the University of California, Berkeley (USA) in 2019.<sup>41</sup>
- 2021: I. Charleux initiated a Bilateral Exchange Program with Mongolists from Chungnam National University, Korea University, and Seoul National University. Together with Paehwan Seol, she organised a Franco-Korean workshop titled “Mongol Studies at the Crossroads: Korean-French Perspectives” on December 8-9, 2021.<sup>42</sup>
- 2021: A conference titled “Terrains mongols en perspective: Problématiques croisées, enjeux contemporains”<sup>43</sup> was held at INALCO on November 19-20, 2021.<sup>44</sup> Organised by Raphaël Blanchier, Anna Dupuy, Veronica Gruca, G. Lacaze, Ch. Marchina, and Isaline Saunier, the event brought together researchers from various disciplines who conduct fieldwork in Mongolia or among Mongolian-speaking communities. The conference focused on field conditions and the evolution of research practices and methodologies.
- Antoine Zazzo leads an ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) project titled “Le cheval et l’émergence du pastoralisme nomade dans les steppes orientales – MOBISTEPPE” (2021-2025).<sup>45</sup> Ch. Marchina also participates in this project.
- As a Visiting Associate Professor at the CNEAS (Centre for Northeast Asian Studies) at Tohoku University in Sendai from November 2023 to January 2024, Ch. Marchina has been fostering new collaborations with Japanese anthropologists specialising in Mongolia and Siberia. In January 2024, a workshop gathering anthropologists studying Mongolia was organised, facilitating initial connections and presenting current research projects carried out by Japanese and French researchers. This initiative aims to encourage future collaborations. Additionally, Ch. Marchina is collaborating on a research project on nomadic pastoralism led by Yuki Konagaya.

French Mongolists are thus actively engaged in international networks, collaborating with scholars from Japan, Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria and Italy. They recently invited international scholars such as Lars Højer (University of Copenhagen), Valeria Gazizova (University of Heidelberg), Kristina Jonutyé (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), Alevtina Solovyeva (University of Tartu), Seol Paehwan (Chungnam National University), Ines Stolpe (University of Bonn), Uranchimeg Tsultemin (Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis), Bettine Birge (University of Southern California), and Jennifer Purtle (University of Toronto).

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<sup>40</sup> March 7-8, 2019. The proceedings were published as a special issue of *Inner Asia* (22) in 2020.

<sup>41</sup> Organised by Isabelle Charleux, Marissa Smith and Jack Dalton, 20-22 February 2019. The proceedings were published as a special issue of *EMSCAT* in 2021. <https://www.gsrl-cnrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Ovoo-Program.pdf>.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.gsrl-cnrs.fr/workshop-franco-coreen-mongol-studies-at-the-crossroads-8-9-decembre-2021/>.

<sup>43</sup> Mongol Fieldworks in Perspective: Crossed Issues, Contemporary Stakes.

<sup>44</sup> [https://www.inalco.fr/sites/default/files/asset/document/terrains\\_mongols\\_programme\\_vf.pdf](https://www.inalco.fr/sites/default/files/asset/document/terrains_mongols_programme_vf.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> The Horse and the Emergence of Nomadic Pastoralism in the Eastern Steppes. <https://anr.fr/Projet-ANR-20-CE27-0018>.



Mongol studies in France are not confined to the field of French humanities but are integrated into broader comparative research. This includes comparisons with the religions of Russia and China at GSRL and with Central Asian and Tibetan cultures through the *EMSCAT* journal. Additionally, several researchers are engaged in French and European projects that explore other cultural areas.

These projects and events highlight the dynamism of Mongol studies in France, fostering collaboration among various institutions and promoting research to a broader audience. Since 2000, researchers have increasingly been involved in exhibitions, public events, and publications designed to reach the general public.

## List of French Mongolists

Following the first generation of Mongolists, a second generation has taken on research and teaching positions in various universities and institutes. Currently, Mongol studies in France includes 16 full researchers, 10 postdoctoral fellows, 10 PhD candidates, and around a dozen Master's students. Since the creation of the Département Eurasie, Langues, Littératures et Civilisations Aréales at INALCO, a growing number of students have developed an interest in Mongol studies. The cooperation with the National University of Mongolia (MUIS) has fostered exchanges, with French students spending several months to a year in Mongolia. Additionally, two Mongolian PhD students have recently received three-year doctoral scholarships from the French Embassy in Mongolia.

**Below is a list of French and Belgian researchers on Mongolia per discipline** (see also: <https://etudesmongolesetsiberiennes.fr/reseau/>).

### Anthropology:

- **Alain Desjacques** (1956-2020), a specialist in traditional Mongolian music, began his career as an assistant professor of musicology at the University of Lille III before becoming the attaché of the cultural and educational cooperation at the French embassy in Mongolia in 2018. Publication: Desjacques 2009.

### Retired

- **Isabelle Bianquis** is a professor emeritus of anthropology at Université François Rabelais (Tours). She is a specialist of food, relationship to the environment, state rituals, and heritagisation. She has collaborated extensively with Prof. S. Dulam. Publication: Bianquis 2013.
- **Roberte Hamayon** was professor at the EPHE, anthropologist and linguist. She is a specialist of the languages and cultures of the Mongol and Siberian peoples, focusing particularly on the anthropology of shamanism, games, and rituals. Publications: Hamayon 2015; Hamayon 2016; Hamayon 2017 [1980]; Hamayon, Suxbaatar and Beffa 1978 [1975]; Hamayon and Beffa 2015; Hamayon and Francfort (eds) 2001. She also recorded Mongol and Buryat songs: Hamayon 1973.

### Full researchers

- **Raphaël Blanchier**, associate professor of anthropology at Université Clermont Auvergne (Clermont-Ferrand), studies Oirad dances *bii biyelgee* and examines Mongolian dance through

the lenses of heritage-making processes and national identity in the context of globalisation. Publication: Blanchier, forthcoming.

- **Grégory Delaplace**, professor at the EPHE (GSRL), studies relations with the dead, cemeteries, “invisible beings” (ghosts and *gazryn ezen*), as well as various aspects of contemporary religions (including shamanism and *fengshui*), as well as politics and culture (e.g., the hip-hop movement) in Ulaanbaatar. Publication: Delaplace 2008.
- **Laurent Legrain**, associate professor at Université de Toulouse, explores the uses of singing and the professionalisation of “traditional” music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as contemporary Mongol archery. Publication: Legrain 2014.
- **Charlotte Marchina**, associate professor and head of the Mongol studies section at INALCO, researches human-animal relations in nomadic pastoralism among Mongols and Buryats. Her work examines the evolution of long-term mobility from an interdisciplinary perspective, in collaboration with the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle<sup>46</sup> and the Mission Archéologique Française en Mongolie.<sup>47</sup> Publication: Marchina 2021.
- **Gaëlle Lacaze**, professor of anthropology at Sorbonne Université, investigates body techniques, nomadism, visual anthropology, cross-border movements, migrations and the diet of Mongol and Kazakh peoples, as well as sexuality in the post-communist world. Publications: Lacaze 2012, 2018.
- **Sandrine Ruhlmann**, a researcher at CNRS, focuses on techniques and food practices, their relationship with politics and religion, and their evolution under the effect of globalisation and modernisation. She also examines the governance of zoonoses in Mongolia, and, more recently, the concept of compromise as an “art of composition” to explore Mongol strategies of resistance in both communist and post-communist contexts, to resist or exist. Publication: Ruhlmann 2019.

### Post-doctorate researchers

- **Bernard Charlier**, PhD, investigates the territorial implications of nomadic herders migrating to Ulaanbaatar, and the practices of wolf hunters in western Mongolia. Publication: Charlier 2015.
- **Aurore Dumont**, PhD, studies *ovoo* rituals, shamanic funerary sites and processes of heritagisation of Tungus, Buryat and Mongol groups in Hulunbuir, Inner Mongolia.
- **Léa Macadré** completed a PhD on the Museum of National History in Ulaanbaatar.
- **Isaline Saunier**, PhD, examines clothing and fashion in Mongolia, and is currently working in technical studies of the textile collections at the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac (Paris).

### PhD students

- **Eléa Boennec**, PhD student in geography: “Glocalisation of Feminist Positionings in Contemporary Mongolia” (Sorbonne Université).

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<sup>46</sup> National Museum of Natural History.

<sup>47</sup> French Archaeological Mission in Mongolia.

- **Anna Dupuy**, PhD student: “Inhabiting Space with Its Waste: Domestic Waste Management in Contemporary Mongolia” (EHESS, 2018-).
- **Veronica Gruca**, PhD student: “Family Stories: Sociability, Rituals, and Daily Life of the Buryats of Mongolia” (EPHE, 2018-).
- **Ma Xin**, PhD student: “Reinventing Tradition: The Transmission and Revival of Shamanic Practices among the Barga Mongols in Hulun Buir (Inner Mongolia)” (EPHE, 2022-).
- **Jeanne Riaudel**, PhD student in geography: “Multispecies Interactions and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia: An Approach Based on Mobility and Environmental Perceptions” (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2023).
- **Mina Yalcintas**, PhD student: “The Emergence of Shamanism among the Muslim Kazakhs of Darkhan: Inter-Ethnic Relations and Collective Spirituality in Contemporary Mongolia” (EPHE, 2022).

### Other

- **Laetitia Merli**, PhD, an anthropologist and filmmaker, has produced several films on shamanism in Mongolia. Publication: Merli 2010.
- **Johanni Curtet**, PhD, an ethnomusicologist and musician specialising in throat singing (*höömii*), studies the transmission of intangible cultural heritage. He contributed to the creation of the *höömii* application for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO in 2010. He is currently the artistic director of the association “Routes Nomades.”<sup>48</sup>
- **Tilman Musch**, PhD, an anthropologist, has worked on nomadism and oral traditions among the Buryats. Publication: Musch 2008.

### History and art history:

- **Françoise Aubin** (1932-2017), a researcher at CNRS, was a jurist, sociologist and historian who authored numerous articles on Mongol history and ethnography, the collectivisation in the communist period, the Scheut missionaries in Inner Mongolia, and various festivals and commemorations—including the late 20<sup>th</sup> century nationalist revival of the figure of Chinggis Khan. She also studied the Kalmyk community in France. Publications: F. Aubin 1975, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2002; F. Aubin and Hamayon 1998; F. Aubin and Hamayon 2002. In addition, F. Aubin made significant contributions to Chinese studies, particularly as one of the first to explore Chinese Islam.<sup>49</sup> Her archives are preserved and accessible at the Humathèque Library on Campus Condorcet.
- **Jean Aubin** (1927-1998), director of studies at the EPHE, was a specialist of the history of Islamic Iran. Publications: J. Aubin 1971, 1995.

<sup>48</sup> <https://routesnomades.fr/>.

<sup>49</sup> A Festschrift was published in her honour: Aigle, Charleux, Goossaert and Hamayon (eds) 2011.

## Retired

- **Denise Aigle**, a professor at the EPHE, specialist in the Ilkhanid period. Her research focuses on the mechanisms of Mongol domination in Iran, the Ilkhans' conversion to Islam, and the reinterpretation of myths. Publications: Aigle 1995, 2005, 2015, 2023; Aigle (ed.) 2000; Aigle (ed.) 2011.
- **Marie-Dominique Even**, a researcher at CNRS, explored the history and religious representations in Mongol societies, the revival of religions in Ulaanbaatar in the 2000s, and the status of the Mongol minority in China. She also translated *The Secret History of the Mongols* into French with Rodica Pop. Publications: Even 1988-1989; Even and Pop 1994.
- **Jacques Legrand**, professor of Mongolian language and civilisation at INALCO, studied Mongol law during the Qing dynasty and nomadic pastoralism. He has also authored French-Mongolian and Mongolian-French dictionaries. Publications: Legrand 1976, 2001; Legrand and Karkucińska-Legrand 2007; Legrand and Sükhbaatar 2011.

## Full researchers

- **Isabelle Charleux**, director of researches at CNRS (GSRL), studies monastic architecture, town planning, Buddhist art and artefacts, ancestral portraits, ancient cartography, heritage processes, and sacred sites and pilgrimages in Inner Mongolia and Mongolia. Publications: Charleux 2006, 2015; Charleux (ed.) 2016.
- **Frédéric Constant**, a professor at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, is a historian specialising in Chinese and Mongol law during the Qing dynasty. Publication: Constant 2018.
- **Marie Favereau**, an associate professor of medieval history at Université Paris-Nanterre, is a specialist of the Golden Horde. She co-curated the exhibition "Gengis Khan: Comment les Mongols ont changé le monde"<sup>50</sup> and edited its catalogue, *Les Mongols et le monde*. Publications: Favereau 2018, 2021.
- **Thomas Tanase**, an assistant professor in medieval Mediterranean history at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, studies the relations between the Latin West and the Mongol world. His research primarily focuses on the Crusades and medieval Latin expansion. Publications: Tanase 2013, 2016, 2019; Plan Carpin 2016; Héthoum de Korykos 2023.

## Post-doctorate researchers

- **Valentina Bruccoleri**, PhD, postdoctoral researcher at Ca' Foscari University in Venice. Her research focuses on the diffusion of Chinese ceramics from the Yuan period in the Golden Horde Khanate.
- **Matthieu Chochoy**, PhD, an associate researcher at the Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies (IOA) at the University of Bonn, Germany, examines the circulation of sources related to Chinggis Khan and Tamerlane within the French orientalist network during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Publication: Chochoy 2021.
- **Simon Berger**, PhD, investigates the socio-political organisation rooted in military structures of the Mongol Empire and earlier Eurasian nomadic empires.

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<sup>50</sup> "Genghis Khan: How the Mongols Changed the World."

## PhD students

- **Alice Crowther**, PhD student: “The Administration of the Imperial Hunting Grounds of the Qing Dynasty (1636-1911)” (EPHE). She also teaches (since 2022) Classical Mongolian and Manchu-Sibe at the Institut des langues rares<sup>51</sup> (ILARA), EPHE-PSL.
- **Gulsen Kilci**, PhD student: “Interdynastic Relations Between the Koryŏ Kingdom (918-1392) and the Yuan Empire (1271-1368) Through the Lens of Matrimonial Alliances: A New Imperial Order in East Asia?” (Université Paris-Cité, 2021-).

## Archaeology:

### Full researchers

- **Sebastien Lepetz**, an archaeologist at CNRS, works at the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle in Paris. He is the director of the Mission Archéologique Française en Mongolie. Publication: Lepetz 2023; Lepetz et al. 2022.
- **Jérôme Magail**, an anthropologist at the Musée d’Anthropologie préhistorique de Monaco,<sup>52</sup> is heading the Mission archéologique Mongolie-Monaco<sup>53</sup> with Yerüül Erdene Chimiddorj. His research focuses on the archaeology of the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Xiongnu period in Mongolia and Siberia. Publications: Magail 2014; Magail et al. 2011.
- **Antoine Zazzo**, director of researches at CNRS, works at the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle. He is an archaeozoologist who studies how environmental factors are recorded and preserved in the tissues of fossilised vertebrates.

### Post-doctorate researchers

- **Nicolas Lazzerini** defended a PhD in 2020 on: “Isotopic Contribution ( $\delta^{13}C$ ,  $\delta^{15}N$ ,  $\delta^{18}O$ ,  $87Sr/86Sr$ ) to the Knowledge of Mobility, Pastoral Practices and Rites in Current and Ancient Societies of Mongolia” (Labex BCDiv).

## PhD students

- **Anne-Caroline Allard**, PhD student: “Bronze Age Burial Mounds and Deer Stones in Mongolia. Archaeological Recording and Patrimonialisation” (Sorbonne Université).

## Sociology:

### Full researchers

- **Linda Gardelle**, a researcher at ENSTA Bretagne, studies pastoralism and its development policies, nationalism and the construction of national identities in Mongolia and Africa, as well as identity dynamics and the relationship between education and politics, using a comparative approach with other countries. Publication: Gardelle 2010.

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<sup>51</sup> Institute of Rare Languages.

<sup>52</sup> Museum of Prehistoric Anthropology of Monaco.

<sup>53</sup> Joint Monaco-Mongolia Archaeological Mission.

### Post-doctorate researchers

- **Anna Jarry-Omarova**, PhD (independent researcher and Project Manager for the Observatoire des violences envers les femmes<sup>54</sup> at the Conseil départemental de la Haute-Garonne<sup>55</sup>), focuses on gender in the political space in Mongolia since the democratisation in 1992. Publication: Ducloux et al. 2012.

### Political sciences:

#### Full researcher

- **Antoine Maire**, PhD, is an associate researcher at the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique<sup>56</sup> (FRS). His research focuses on Mongolia's development strategy after 1990 and its impact on the country's international positioning. Publications: Maire 2012, 2016, 2021.

### Architecture:

#### Full researcher

- **Olivier Boucheron** is an architect at the École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris la Villette<sup>57</sup> (ENSAPLV, 2002).

#### PhD students

- **Amgalan Sükhbaatar**, a Mongolian architect and PhD student (supported by a scholarship from the French Embassy in Mongolia), examines the transformations of architecture, urban space, and urban life in Ulaanbaatar from a historical and anthropological perspective (1990-2020) (EPHE, 2019-).

### Literature:

#### Full researcher

- **Virginie Le Tellier**, an associate professor of literature at Cergy Paris Université (École, mutations, apprentissages [EMA]), studies the representation of Kalmyks in Western, Russian and Kalmyk literature since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### Linguistics:

#### Post-doctorate researcher

- **Sainzayaa Tsedengdorj** (Saiyinjiya Caidengduerji), PhD, is a specialist of the Khorchin dialect.

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<sup>54</sup> Observatory of Violence Against Women.

<sup>55</sup> Haute-Garonne Departmental Council.

<sup>56</sup> Foundation for Strategic Research.

<sup>57</sup> National School of Architecture of Paris-La Villette.



In conclusion, the first generations, with limited access to the field, primarily relied on historical, ritual, and literary texts. However, since 1990, following the opening of Mongolia and Russia and easier access to China, French researchers have increasingly conducted extensive fieldwork. Today, Mongol studies in France are vibrant, with new PhD theses started each year, particularly in anthropology. Recent research themes address contemporary issues such as politics, the environment, nomadic pastoralism, tangible and intangible heritage, religions, fashion, Mongol identity, and material culture, with a notable majority of female researchers contributing to these studies.



*CEMS, Paris-X Nanterre, 1998*



*R. Hamayon and Ts. Shagdarsüren, CEMS, 1986*



*R. Hamayon (standing) at the international conference "Representing Power in Inner Asia," 2006*





*J. Legrand, V. Micoud and F. Aubin at the international conference "Representing Power in Inner Asia," 2006*



*International conference "Representing Power in Inner Asia," 2006*



*Ceremony for the presentation of the Festschrift volume to F. Aubin, CEMS, 2011*



*Week of Mongolia (Paris), I. Charleux, R. Hamayon and Altangul Bolat (MUIS, Ulaanbaatar), 2012*





*RO. Hamayon receives the Altan gadas medal at the CEMS, 2016*



*Students of INALCO together with the Ambassador of Mongolia, 2021*

## Archaeological co-operations

In the field of archaeology, the Mission Archéologique Française en Mongolie<sup>58</sup> (MAFM), created in 1992 under the aegis of UNESCO, excavated the necropolis of Egiin Gol (Bulgan Province) from 1994 to 1999 under the direction of Pierre-Henri Giscard. From 2000 to 2012, the Mission, led by Jean-Paul Desroches (curator at the Musée national des arts asiatiques–Guimet<sup>59</sup>), subsequently undertook the excavation of tombs of the Xiongnu necropolis of Gol Mod in Arkhangai Province. This work significantly contributed to the development of Franco-Mongolian relations.<sup>60</sup> Currently, the MAFM is directed by Sebastien Lepetz (Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle),<sup>61</sup> and collaborates with the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in Ulaanbaatar (Lepetz 2023). The project focuses on studying protohistoric and historic nomadic and semi-nomadic populations in central Mongolia and the Altai region. A key aspect of this research involves developing geochemical markers to trace the mobility of human populations and their livestock across different timescales.<sup>62</sup>

From 2014 to 2017, the archaeological team led by Éric Crubézy (Université Toulouse III Paul Sabatier) and Pierre-Henri Giscard (Institut des Déserts et des Steppes) conducted excavation campaigns at Tamir Urtaan.<sup>63</sup>

Since 2008, the Mission archéologique Mongolie-Monaco, under the aegis of the Musée d’anthropologie préhistorique de Monaco (Jérôme Magail) and the Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia (Yerüül Erdene), has been carrying out an archaeological survey of the necropolis of Tsatsyn Ereg in Arkhangai Province. This multidisciplinary project incorporates palynology, geomorphology, topography, and anthropology. Additionally, the expedition has managed the restoration of the Buddhist monastery of Zayain Khüree and has published a volume detailing the history and restoration of the monastery.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> French Archaeological Mission in Mongolia.

<sup>59</sup> National Museum of Asian Arts–Guimet.

<sup>60</sup> See the exhibition catalogues: Desroches 2003; National Museum of Mongolia, Giscard and Turbat 2015

<sup>61</sup> Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, CNRS, MNHN – 2014-2021.

<sup>62</sup> Antoine Zazzo and Sébastien Lepetz supervised the PhD thesis of Nicolas Lazzarini. See [www.mission-archéologique-française-en-mongolie.fr](http://www.mission-archéologique-française-en-mongolie.fr). Publication: Lepetz et al. 2022.

<sup>63</sup> [Eveha International \(eveha-international.com\)](http://eveha-international.com)

<sup>64</sup> Charleux (ed.) 2016.





Excavation of the Burgast site in 2016 by the team of S. Lepetz (<http://xn--mission-archologique-franaise-en-mongolie-ltd6e.fr/la-mission-archeologique/lequipe/>)

## Exhibitions of Mongol art, artefacts and photographs

As early as 1979, the Musée Cernuschi hosted an exhibition featuring 184 Mongolian modern paintings, marking the first display of Mongolian art in the West. In 1983, the Musée de l'Homme organised an ethnographic exhibition titled "Mongolie, Mongolie, traditions de la steppe."<sup>65</sup> Another small exhibition followed in 1994 at the Musée départemental Albert-Kahn<sup>66</sup> in Boulogne-Billancourt, titled "La Mongolie, à pied, à cheval et en musique."<sup>67</sup> Additionally, two Parisian exhibitions focused on everyday objects and Buddhist art from the Buryats, held in 1982 and 1985 respectively ("Arts traditionnels bouriates" and "Arts traditionnels de Bouriatie"<sup>68</sup>). Various events were also made on the Buryat culture by Tatiana Rybina Lomboletz, Galina Rybina, and the Graltan association.<sup>69</sup>

In 1993-1994, Gilles Béguin, curator of Himalayan arts at the Musée national des arts asiatiques–Guimet, organised the first major exhibition of Mongolian art in Paris, titled "**Trésors de Mongolie**."<sup>70</sup> This exhibition showcased Buddhist art spanning from Zanabazar (1635-1723), the First Jebtsundamba Khutugtu, to his eighth reincarnation, the Bogdo Khan (1869-1924). The accompanying catalogue was the first Western-language publication on Mongolian Buddhist art and addressed the mysteries surrounding Zanabazar's statuary. In 2009, the Musée des Arts Asiatiques<sup>71</sup> in Nice hosted an

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<sup>65</sup> "Mongolia, Mongolia, Traditions of the Steppe."

<sup>66</sup> Albert-Kahn Departmental Museum.

<sup>67</sup> "Mongolia, on Foot, on Horseback and with Music." On exhibition catalogues on Inner Asia: Charleux 2002.

<sup>68</sup> "Traditional Buryat Arts," "Traditional Arts of Buryatia."

<sup>69</sup> <https://graltan.ru>.

<sup>70</sup> "Treasures of Mongolia."

<sup>71</sup> Asian Arts Museum.

exhibition of Mongolian Buddhist art from the private collection of Altangerel, entitled “Trésors du bouddhisme au pays de Gengis Khan.”<sup>72</sup>

In 2000, the exhibition “L’Asie des steppes, d’Alexandre le Grand à Gengis Khan,”<sup>73</sup> organised for the reopening of the Musée national des arts asiatiques–Guimet, was the first to bring together artefacts from both ends of the Eurasian continent, coming from Russian, Mongolian, Chinese, and Kazakh collections. Its aim was to provide a comprehensive overview of Eurasian steppe art over fifteen centuries of history. Notably, the exhibition reunited for the first time in Paris the famous Xiongnu felt carpet from Noïn Ula (Noyon Uul), which had been cut into two pieces upon its discovery in 1925, and sent to the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg and to the Mongolian National Museum of History in Ulaanbaatar.

In 2023-2024, the exhibition “Gengis Khan: Comment les Mongols ont changé le monde”<sup>74</sup> was held at the Château des ducs de Bretagne<sup>75</sup> in Nantes, France. Curated by Jean-Paul Desroches, Marie Favereau, and Bertrand Guillet, the exhibition featured objects from Mongolia’s national collections, including national treasures from the newly established Chinggis Khaan National Museum in Ulaanbaatar, as well as from major French and European museums and important private collections.

Mongol artefacts are housed in various museums across France. These include the Musée du Louvre, which features medieval Ilkhanid art; the Musée national des arts asiatiques–Guimet, with its collection of Yuan art, Buddhist statues, and modern thangkas; and the Musée Cernuschi, which holds Xiongnu and Nestorian objects. The Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac in Paris contains an extensive ethnographic collection from the former Musée de l’Homme, as well as over 700 photographic archives. Additionally, the Musée de la Céramique<sup>76</sup> in Sèvres displays medieval artefacts, particularly Ilkhanid and Yuan ceramics. Some Mongol artefacts are also preserved in regional museums such as the Musée Adrien Dubouché in Limoges and the Musée Georges Labit in Toulouse. Ancient manuscripts and books related to Mongolia are preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France<sup>77</sup> (Paris), the Musée du Louvre, the Library of the Musée national des arts asiatiques–Guimet, the Bibliothèque d’Études Chinoises<sup>78</sup> at the Collège de France, the Bibliothèque universitaire des langues et civilisations<sup>79</sup> (BULAC), and the Bibliothèque d’études tibétaines<sup>80</sup> at the Collège de France.

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<sup>72</sup> “Treasures of Buddhism in the Land of Chinggis Khan.”

<sup>73</sup> “Steppe Asia, from Alexander the Great to Chinggis Khan.”

<sup>74</sup> “Chinggis Khan: How the Mongols Changed the World.”

<sup>75</sup> Castle of the Dukes of Brittany.

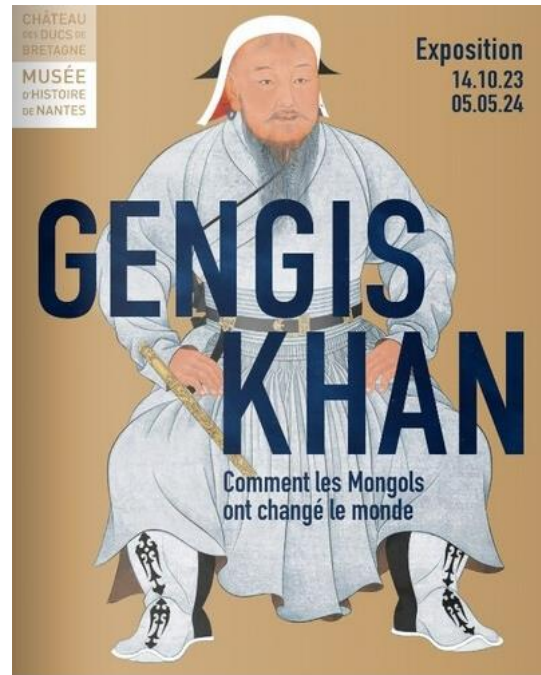
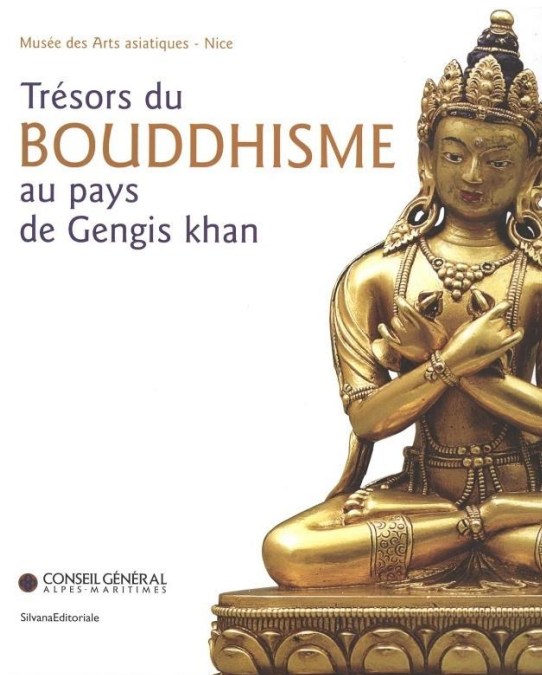
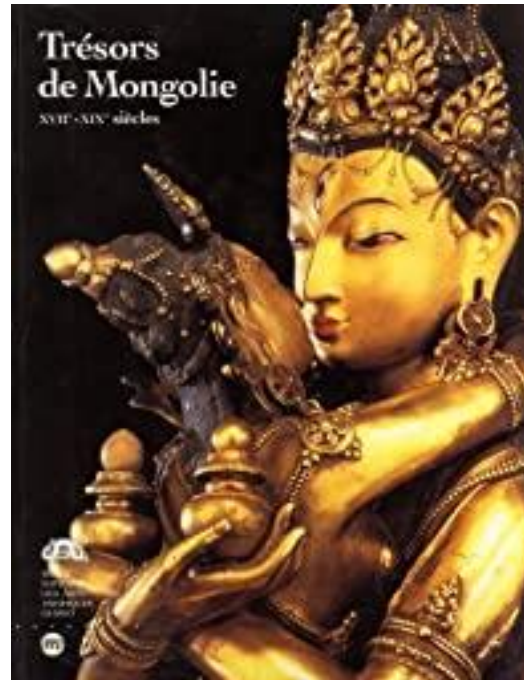
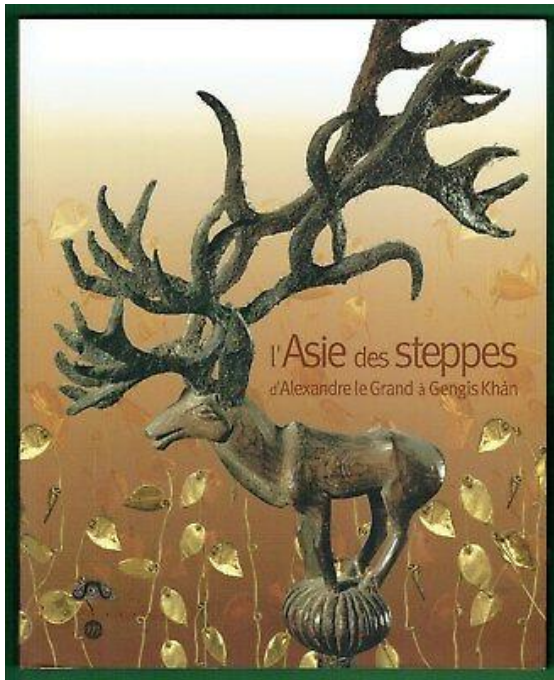
<sup>76</sup> Museum of Ceramics.

<sup>77</sup> National Library of France.

<sup>78</sup> Library of Chinese Studies.

<sup>79</sup> University Library of Languages and Civilizations.

<sup>80</sup> Library of Tibetan Studies.



Several exhibitions have also showcased notable photographic collections, including Bouillane de Lacoste's ("Au pays sacré des anciens Turcs et des Mongols,"<sup>81</sup> 1993), Louis Marin's ("Frontières d'Asie,"<sup>82</sup> 1993), and Stéphane Passet's ("La Mongolie entre deux ères / Mongolia between Two Eras," 2012), which was also exhibited in Ulaanbaatar.

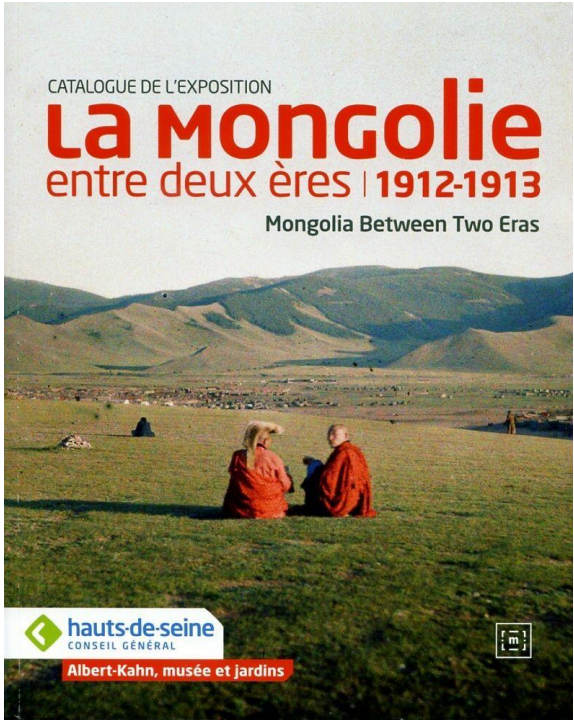
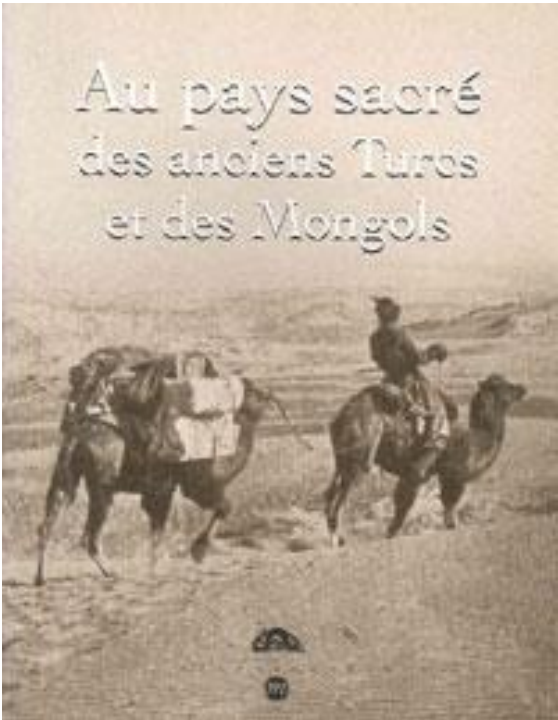
In northern France, the small Musée Guillaume de Rubrouck, inaugurated in 1996 by the President of Mongolia, is located in Rubrouck Village. This village is one of the two presumed birthplaces of Guillaume de Rubruck (the other being in Belgium). The museum exhibits approximately a hundred

<sup>81</sup> "In the sacred land of the ancient Turks and Mongols."

<sup>82</sup> "Frontiers of Asia."



recent paintings, photographs, and ethnographic objects that offer insights into Mongol life. It also emphasises the contemporary relationship between Rubrouck and Mongolia, including the village's twinning with the Mongolian city of Bulgan. The museum hosts events such as the Naadam festival to celebrate this connection.



*The interior of the Rubruck Museum, Rubrouck, France*

## Literature and translation

Beyond institutional frameworks, several researchers and translators—including Nomindari Shagdarsüren, Renchin Munkhzul, Khishig-Erdene Gonchig, Raphaël Blanchier, and Typhaine Cann—are actively involved in translating and studying Mongolian literature and poetry, as well as studying contemporary literature.<sup>83</sup> Their efforts are supported by dedicated editors and publishers such as Marc Alaux (Transboréal), Jérôme Bouchaud (Jentayu), and Emilie Maj (Borealia).<sup>84</sup> Additionally, in 2017, Raphaël Blanchier organised a lecture by Mongolian writer G. Mend-Ooyo on “Le pouvoir des mots”<sup>85</sup> at the EPHE.

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<sup>83</sup> On February 18, 2022, R. Blanchier and Nomindari Shagdarsüren delivered a lecture titled “Circulation of Literary Translations in Mongolia from the Modern Era to the Present Day” at the seminar “Translinguistic Practices: The Social Role of Translation in East Asia in the Modern Era,” organised by Lara Maconi and Florence Zhang at the Centre de recherche sur les civilisations de l’Asie orientale (CRCAO-CNRS-Collège de France).

<sup>84</sup> See: Ulziitugs 2017; *Cœur de bronze* 2019; Blanchier (ed. and transl.) 2020; Blanchier 2022; Ölziitögs 2022a and 2022b; Damdinsüren 2022; *Poésies mongoles* 2022; *Proverbes et dictons de Mongolie* 2022; Ayurzana 2024; Lodoidamba 2024.

<sup>85</sup> « The Power of Words.”

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