

Mongolian Books and Manuscripts of the Centre d'Études Mongoles et Sibériennes, Humathèque Condorcet Library

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The Centre d'Études mongoles et sibériennes (Centre of Mongolian and Siberian Studies – CEMS) was established in 1969 by Roberte Hamayon at the Laboratoire d'Ethnologie et de Sociologie Comparative¹ (LESC, Université de Paris-Nanterre), in collaboration with students from the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales² (INALCO, then named École nationale des langues orientales vivantes³) in Paris.⁴ In 2002, it became affiliated with the École pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE).

The CEMS library was gradually built thanks to researchers bringing back books from their fieldwork missions. Additional books and journals were acquired through EPHE purchases, exchanges for the journal *EMSCAT (Études Mongoles & Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques & Tibétaines)*, and various donations of personal libraries, including those from Laurence Delaby, Claire Sermier, and British Ambassador Thomas Haining, as well as a donation from the Üjümüchin/Üzemchin Right Banner in Inner Mongolia. The EPHE also purchased part of the library of Siberianist H.-J. Paproth and, in 2018, acquired the library and personal archives of Françoise Aubin (1932-2017).

The collection of CEMS covers themes such as ethnology, oral literature, languages, religions, history, politics, and economics. In 2019, the EPHE transferred the CEMS collection to the Humathèque Condorcet Library at Campus Condorcet in Aubervilliers.

The collection consists of over 5,000 printed monographs and approximately 500 periodicals. Most of the books and documents are in Mongolian (both classical and Cyrillic scripts) and Russian; others are in Chinese, other regional languages, and European languages.⁵ The collection also contains offprints, photographs, engravings, sound recordings, films, and various objects, as well as a dozen of ancient books and manuscripts, including:

- Beijing xylographs such as the *Üliger-ün dalai* (18th century, 260 pages) and the Geser epic (1710);
- a manuscript prophecy of the Jebtsundamba Khutugtu (10 pages);

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² National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations.

³ National School of Modern Oriental Languages.

⁴ This text is published with the authorization of Jean-Luc Lambert, the current director of CEMS.

⁵ They are searchable on the Humathèque Condorcet catalogue (https://campus-condorcet.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=33CCP_INST:CCP&lang=fr) and on the SUDOC catalogue (<http://www.sudoc.abes.fr/cbs/xslt/>).

- A socialist-era manuscript declaring that there would be no reincarnation of the Jebtsundamba Khutugtu following the death of the Bogd Khan: *Abural itegel qamuγ-(y)i ayiladduγči boγda-yin surγaγuli orusibai*;
- An incense-offering text (*sang*) to the White Old Man (late 19th-early 20th century, 29 pages on Russian paper), entitled: *Γaγar-un eγen neng yeke Čaγan ebügen-i soyurqal takil-i üileddeküi-yin yosu tusa amuγulang-un erdeni-yin küü šang*;
- A *dhāraṇī* text to Sitātapatrā (Čaγan sikürtü/Tsagaan šükhert): *Mongγul-un keleber qutuγ-tu tegünčilen iregsen-ü orui-ača γaruγsan Čaγan sikür-tei bosud-da ülü ilaγdaqu yekede qariγuluγči degedü bütügsen neretü tarni*, translated by 17th century scholar Ayusi güüsi (**figs 1, 2**);
- A Buryat xylograph: biography of the 84 *mahāsiddhas* (191 pages) (**fig. 3, 4**);
- A sutra on dPal lhan lha mo (Paldan Lhamo, Okin tngri/Okhin tenger): *Okin tngri sudur*;
- A chapter of the New Testament in Mongolia published in Saint Petersburg, 1820.



Fig. 1. *Mongγul-un keleber qutuγ-tu tegünčilen iregsen-ü orui-ača γaruγsan Čaγan sikür-tei bosud-da ülü ilaγdaqu yekede qariγuluγči degedü bütügsen neretü tarni* (*dhāraṇī* text to Sitātapatrā). Humathèque Condorcet Library. © Robin Toublan



Fig. 2. *Mongγul-un keleber qutuγ-tu tegünčilen iregsen-ü orui-ača γaruγsan Čayan sikür-tei bosuda ülü ilaydaqu yekede qarīγuluγči degedü bütügsen neretü tarni (dhāraṇī text to Sitātapatrā.* Humathèque Condorcet Library. © Robin Toublan

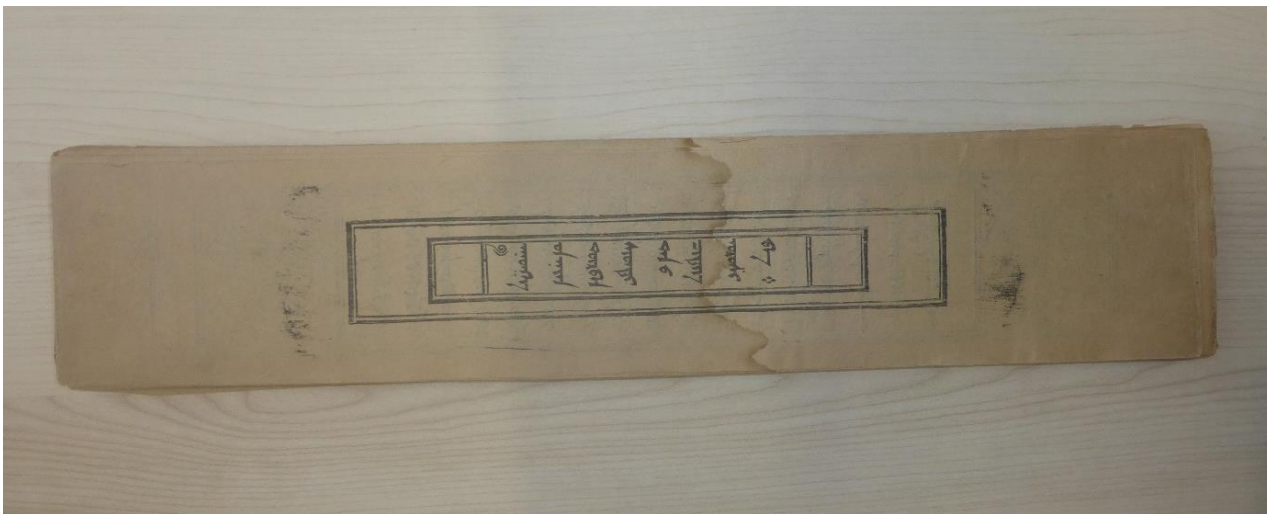


Fig. 3. Buryat xylograph: biography of the 84 *mahāsiddhas*. © Robin Toublan



Fig. 4. Buryat xylograph: biography of the 84 mahāsiddhas. © Robin Toulba