

# Mongolian Collection in the Library of the Musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet

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The library of the Musée national des arts asiatiques – Guimet (Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts) in Paris houses Mongolian xylographs and printed books, including calendars, Peking blockprints, such as the Tibetan-Mongolian dictionary by *Iharampa* Ngawang Tendar (1759-1840?), the renowned grammarian and philologist from Alaša Banner in western Inner Mongolia, and a New Testament dated 1846 (inv. 1129). The most remarkable work is the Mongolian translation of the complete work of First ICang skya qutuytu Ngag dbang blo bzang chos Idan.

## 1. Mongolian translation of the complete work (*gsum 'bum*) of First ICang skya qutuytu Ngag dbang blo bzang chos Idan (1642-1714), dated 1727

Peking blockprint, 7 volumes

*Pothi* format, H. 15.5 cm; W.: 62 cm, written with red ink, illustrations

Date: 1727

Inv. BG60795

Collected works (*gsung 'bum*) of First ICang skya/Jangjiya qutuytu Ngag dbang blo bzang chos Idan (1642-1714), head lama of Inner Mongol Buddhism during the Qing dynasty and state preceptor of Emperor Kangxi (r. 1662-1722). It was translated on Emperor Yongzheng's order (r. 1722-1735) and printed in Beijing in 1727, to be included as a supplement of the Mongolian *Danjuur* (*bsTan 'gyur*, printed in Beijing in 1749).

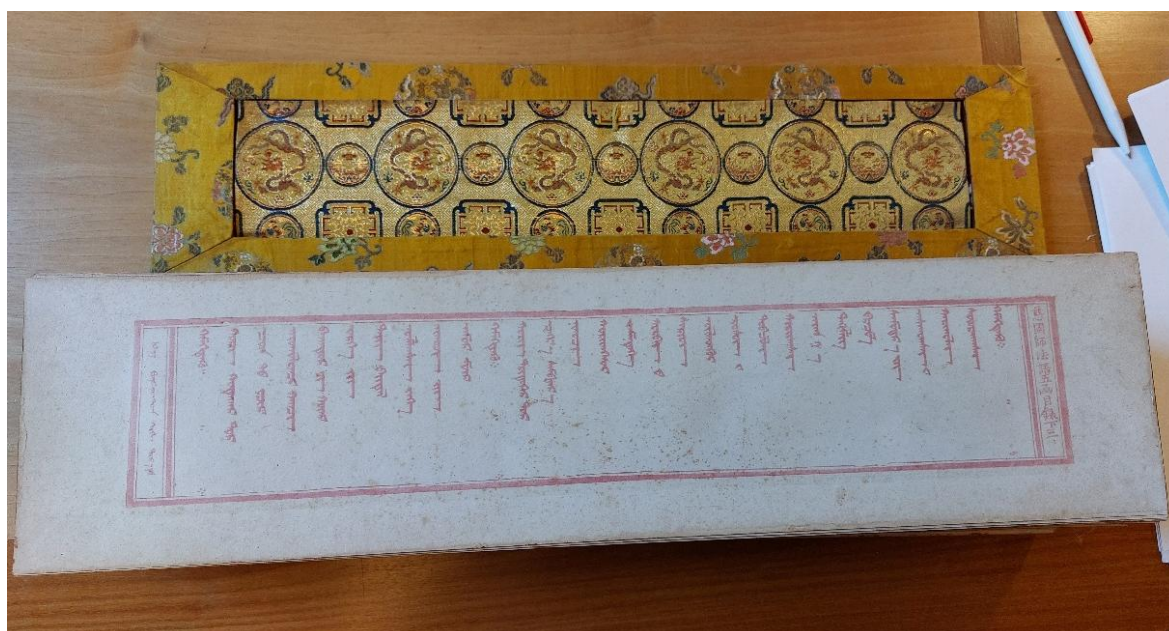
Each volume, wrapped in cloth, is protected by two wood plates overlaid with gold-yellow silk and multicoloured motifs of dragons, flowers, and clouds. The interior of each plaque forms a frame, the central rectangular recess of which is protected by three double layers of silk in different colors. Within the recess, two vignettes depicting deities frame a text written in gold ink on a black background. The

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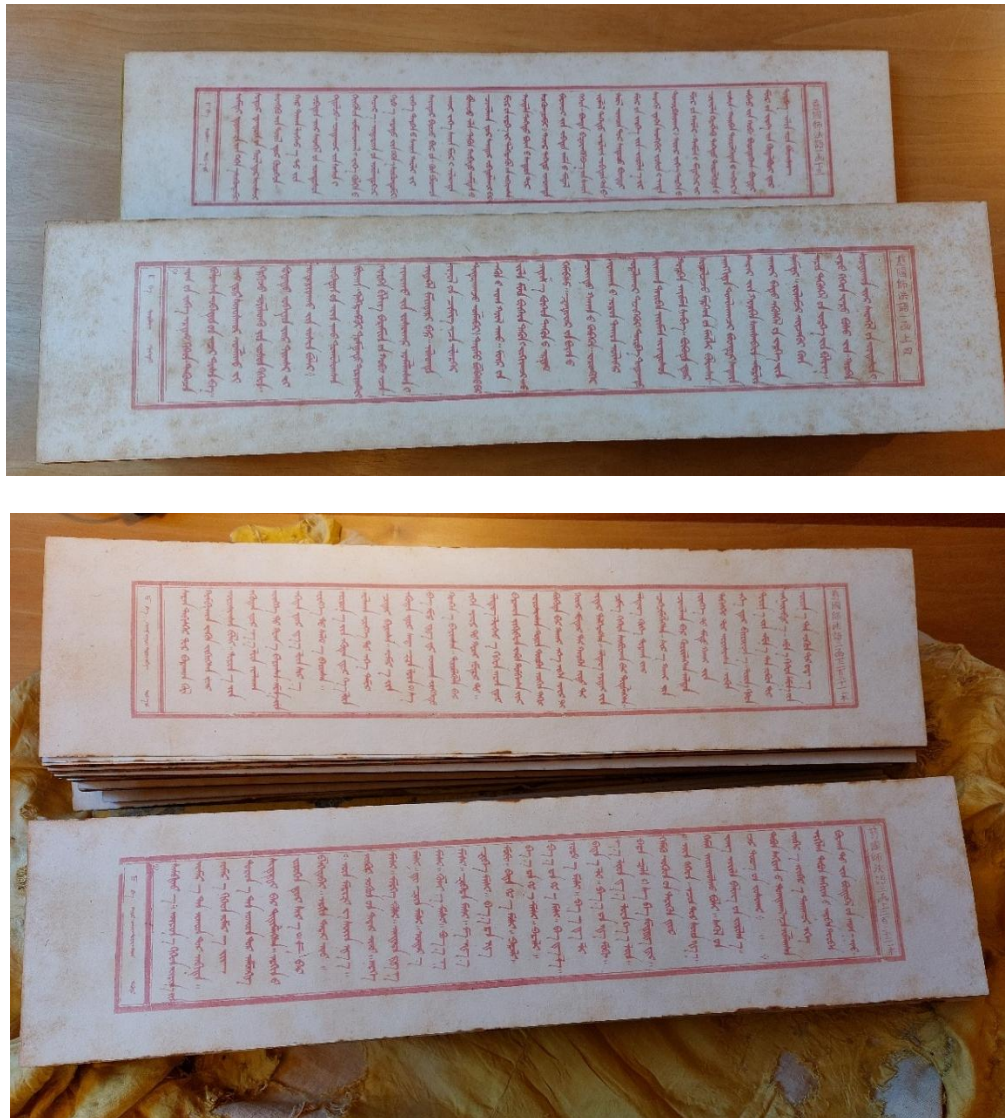
<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank Cristina Cramerotti, Director of the museum library, for giving me access to the Mongolian collection.

edges are decorated with the eight auspicious symbols arranged in a stylized floral design on a red background.

Reference: <https://guimet.fr/en/our-collections/treasures-historic-library/changkya-khutukhtu-gsumsbum>. This website publishes the book's vignettes depicting Buddhist deities and Tibetan masters.







Mongolian translation of the complete work (*gsum 'bum*) of First ICang skya qutuytu Ngag dbang blo bzang chos ldan (1642-1714). Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, BG60795

## 2. *Ner-e udq-a-yi todudqaγči saran-u gegen gerel kemekü sudur-un bičig orusiba*

Mongolian title: *Ner-e udq-a-yi todudqaγči saran-u gegen gerel kemekü sudur-un bičig orusiba*

Tibetan title: *brDa' yig ming don gsal bar byed pa'i zla ba'i 'od snang zhes bya ba bzhugs so* ("The Tibeto-Mongol Wordbook, The Bright Light of the Moon That Clarifies the Name and the Meaning")

Peking blockprint of 1838, *pothi* format, bilingual text. Tibetan and Chinese pagination, 139 fol. Tibetan lines/page with short vertical Mongol lines under the Tibetan words.

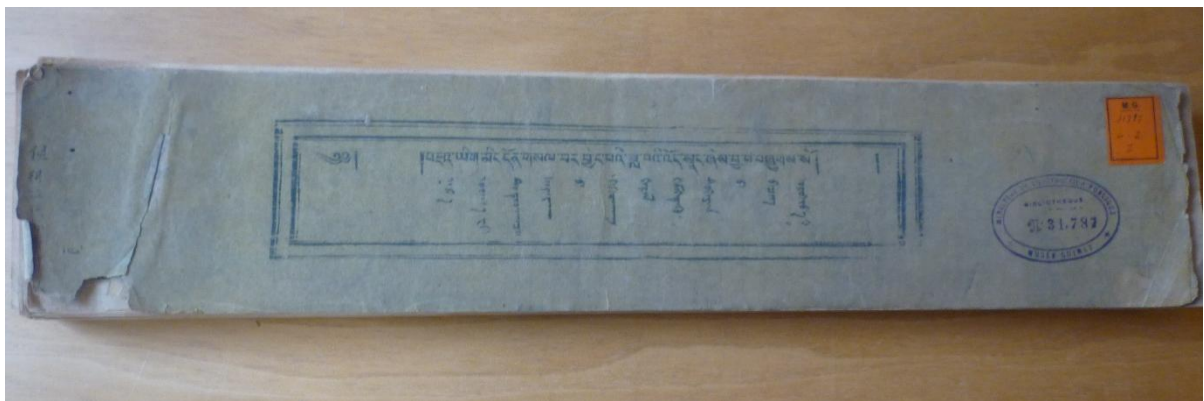
Author (fol. 137b): A la sha (A lag sha) *lha rams pa* Ngag dbang bstan dar (Ayvaandandar, 1751 or 1759-1840 or 1842), famous grammarian and philologist from Alaša Banner in western Inner Mongolia (also referred to as Tendar Lharampa/bsTan dar lha rams pa). For his biography: <https://treasuryoflives.org/biographies/view/Ngawang-Tendar/5338>

Date: Törü gereltü-yin arban naimaduṃṃar on (1838).

Fonds tibétain, Inv. 31787, Gift of M. Soulié

Published: A lag sha Ngag dbang bstan dar 1982.

This is a Tibetan-Mongolian dictionary, that gives the equivalent of Tibetan words in Mongolian below. Aṃvaandandar used an Urga dictionary (*'Chol bar sla ba / Eriküy-e kilbar*) and other sources. The words are arranged in the Tibetan alphabetical order. The blocks were kept in the printing shop of the Songzhusi. Copies are kept in different libraries (Aalto 1953: 86; Heissig and Sagaster 1961: no. 536). Kara 2000: Mong. 5, p. 15-17; Uspensky 1999, no. 828; Kollmar-Paulenz 2025: no. 176). See Kara (2000: Mong. 5, p. 15-17) for details on the sponsor and scribe and the transliteration of the Tibetan and Mongolian colophons.

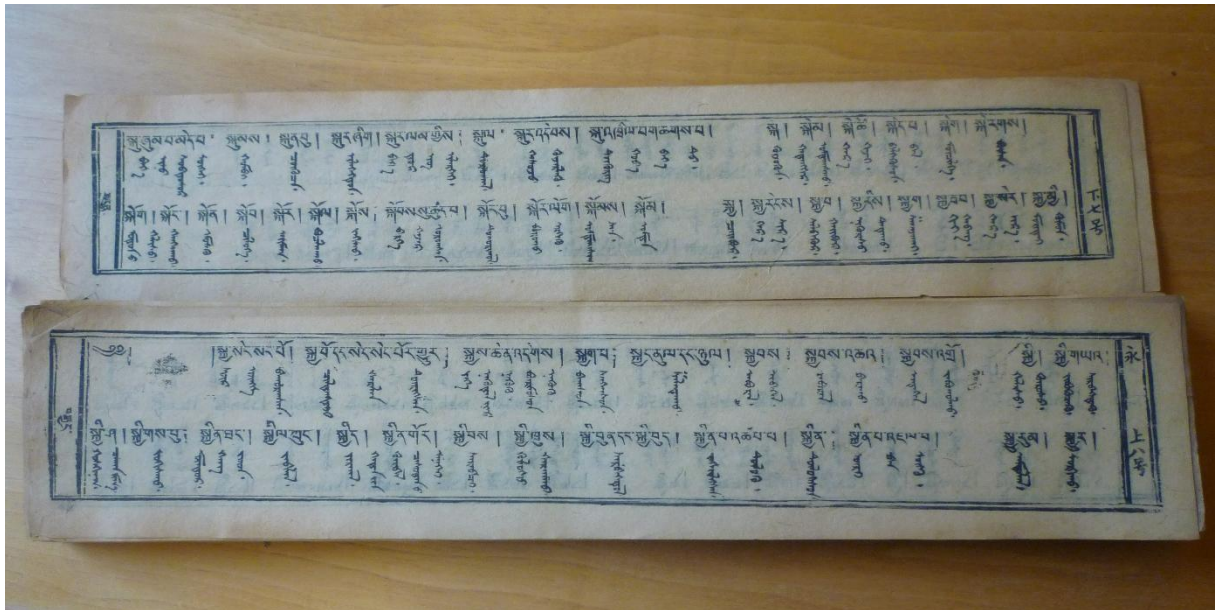


*brDa' yig ming don gsal bar byed pa'i zla ba'i 'od snang zhes bya ba bzhugs so*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds tibétain, Inv. 31787, Gift of M. Soulié. © Isabelle Charleux



*brDa' yig ming don gsal bar byed pa'i zla ba'i 'od snang zhes bya ba bzhugs so*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds tibétain, Inv. 31787, Gift of M. Soulié. © Isabelle Charleux





*brDa' yig ming don gsal bar byed pa'i zla ba'i 'od snang zhes bya ba bzhugs so*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds tibétain, Inv. 31787, Gift of M. Soulié. © Isabelle Charleux

### 3. *Üliger-ün dalai-yin sudur orusiba*

Peking blockprint, 230 fol. (complete edition).

*Pothī* format. Chinese pagination. Two illustrations on the first page, depicting Buddha Śākyamuni and Avalokiteśvara, on both side of the salutation to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

Black ink; use red ink only on the first page.

Date: Dayičing ulus-un Engke amuγulang-un tabin γurbaduγar on. Köke morin jil-ün namur-un dumdadu sar-a-yin sin-e-yin naiman sayin edür-e (1714), written on the last page.

Fonds mongol, Inv. 31789 702 III

Two other editions are located in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France: Inv. 162, 283 fol., and Inv. 152, 168 fol.

*Üliger-ün dalai* ("Ocean of parables") is a collection of well-known Buddhist *jātakas* and is commonly used as the title for the *Siluyun onul-tu kemegdekü sudur* ("Sutra of the Wise man and the Fool"). This work is a translation of the *mZangs blun zhes bya ba'i mdo*, that was originally translated from Chinese, which itself was likely based on a Sanskrit text, though no Sanskrit original is currently known. Siregetü güüsi čorji (fl. 1687-1618) had translated the *mZangs blun zhes bya ba'i mdo* for Altan Khan's manuscript Mongolian *Kanjur*. The *Siluyun onul-tu* also appears Ligdan Khan's *Kanjur* (but the colophon does not mention Siregetü güüsi čorji) and in the 1717-1720 Beijing printed edition of the *Kanjur*.<sup>2</sup>

See *Der Weise und der Thor* edited by I. J. Schmidt with a German translation (1843); Damdinsürüng 1959: 223. Copies are kept in different libraries (Ligeti 1942-1944: 1103; Heissig 1954: 33, no. 27;

<sup>2</sup> Heissig 1954: 33, no. 27.

Heissig and Sagaster 1961: 283; Heissig and Bawden 1971: MONG. 485; Uspensky 1999, no. 053; Kara 2000: Mong. 13; Kollmar-Paulenz 2025: no. 38).



*Üliger-ün dalai-yin sudur orusiba*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds mongol, Inv. 31789 702 III. © Isabelle Charleux

#### 4. *Eldeb üliger-ün dalai kemegdekü sudur orusiba*

Peking blockprint, 268 fol. (complete edition).

*Pothi* format. Chinese pagination. Two illustrations on the first page, depicting Śākyamuni and Ānanda (names written in Chinese), on both side of the salutation to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha (Skt. Saṃgha). Illustration of the Four *lokapāla* on the last page, in red ink.

Black ink (red ink only on the first and last pages, and fol. 2a).

Date: Nayiraltu töb jiryaduγar on jun-u terigüten sar-a-yin arban tabun-a sayin edür (1728) on fol. 268

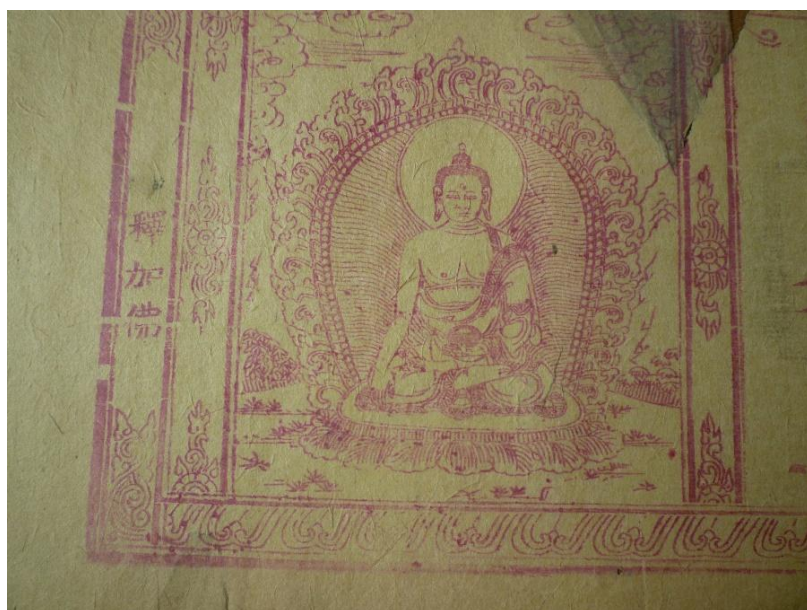
Fonds mongol, Inv. 31788 702 III

On this text, see supra: *Üliger-ün dalai-yin sudur orusiba*.





*Eldeb üliger-ün dalai kemegdekü sudur orusiba*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds mongol, Inv. 31788 702 III. © Isabelle Charleux



*Eldeb üliger-ün dalai kemegdekü sudur orusiba*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds mongol, Inv. 31788 702 III. © Isabelle Charleux



*Eldeb üliger-ün dalai kemegdekü sudur orusiba*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds mongol, Inv. 31788 702 III. © Isabelle Charleux

## 5. Tümen on-u čay ularil toyan-u bičig

Chinese title: *Wannian li shu* 萬年歷書 ("Ten thousand year calendar")

Chinese bound book, 26x14 cm, Black ink, 2 vol., vol. 1, 114 fol; vol. 2, 82 fol.

Printed at Huguosi 護國寺 and Longfusi 隆福寺 Monasteries, Beijing. Chinese pagination.

Date: Būrintü Jäsayci-yin arban γurbaduγar on (1874) (fol. 2b)

Fonds chinois, Inv. 42341

Vol. 1 has a Chinese preface at the end of the Mongolian text. Vol. 2 is entitled *Sayin edür songyuju üjekü altan toli kemekü sudur* (Chinese title: *Ze ji jin jian* 擇吉金鑒); it has a Manchu preface and a Chinese preface at the end.

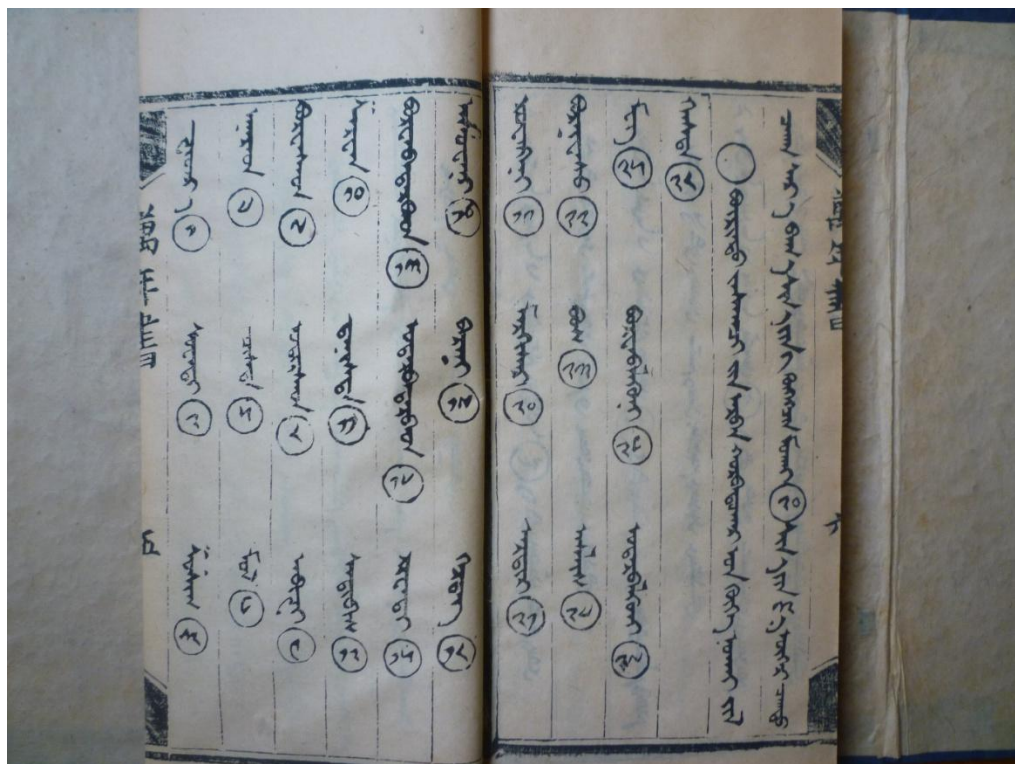
Calendar according to the Chinese astrology system, giving favorable and unfavorable days for various activities during the four seasons of the year. It was translated from Chinese by *meyiren-ü jänggi* (deputy lieutenant) Guušiga of Alaša Banner in Inner Mongolia (see also *Eldeb keregtü qaš qaγurčay neretü bičig*).



On other editions and extracts of the *Altan toli-yin möngke toytaγul* ("The eternal order of the golden mirror") and other calendars, see Heissig 1954: 172, no. 215; Heissig and Sagaster 1961: no. 670; Poppe, Hurvitz and Okada 1964: no. 210; Heissig and Bawden 1971: MONG. 67; Kara 2000: 256.



*Tümen on-u čaγ ularil toγan-u bičig*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42341. © Isabelle Charleux



*Tümen on-u čaγ ularil toγan-u bičig*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42341. © Isabelle Charleux

## 6. *Eldeb keregtü qaš qaγurčay neretü bičig* (“Multi-faceted jade box”)

Chinese bound book, 26x20 cm, Chinese pagination, 2 volumes, vol. 1., 69 fol.; vol. 2, 59 fol.

Date: Dayičing ulus-un Törü gereltü arban yisündüger on (1893)

Fonds chinois, Inv. 42340

This treatise, related to the Chinese astrological compendium tradition, is a fortune-tellers' manual that was popular in Mongolia. The present one is one of its main editions: it was translated in 1895 by Guušiga, a military commander (*jalan*) of Alaša Banner (Inner Mongolia). According to the preface (*juan* 2, 58b), it was translated from *da blama* Üizeng šabrug's<sup>3</sup> Tibetan version of the Chinese text *Xuan ze guang Yuxiaji* 選擇廣玉匣記 (“The expanded almanac of selection, records from the Jade Box”<sup>4</sup>).<sup>5</sup> According to Brian Baumann, this text was also directly translated from Chinese.<sup>6</sup>

See: Heissig and Sagaster 1961: nos. 97-100, Heissig and Bawden 1971: nos. 15, 302; Kara 2000: Mong. 15.



*Eldeb keregtü qaš qaγurčay neretü bičig*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42340. © Isabelle Charleux

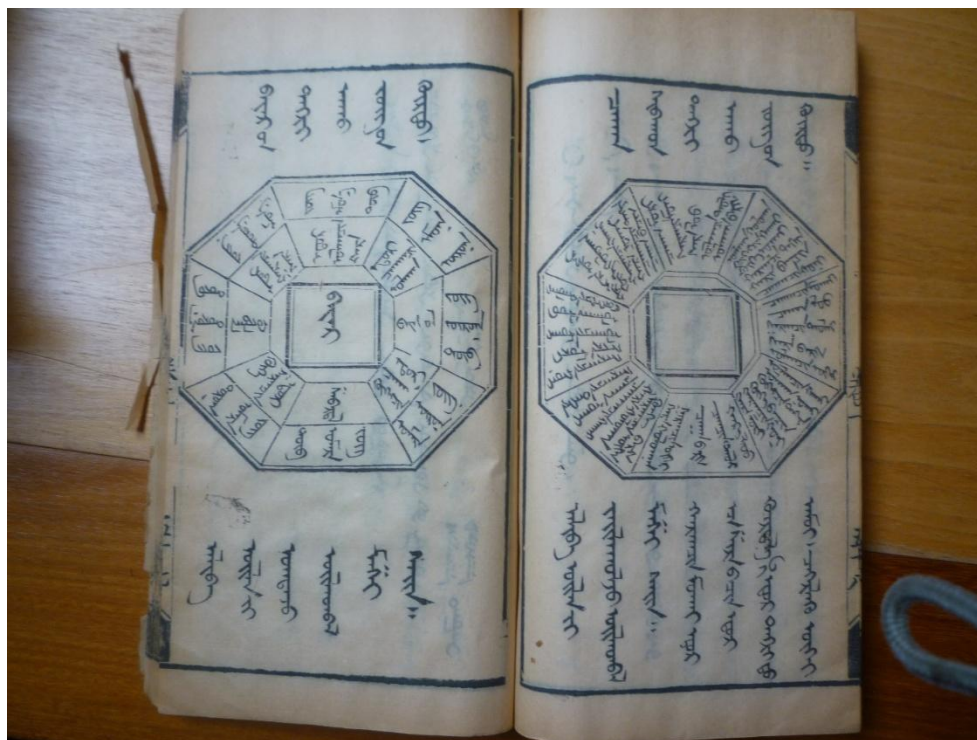
<sup>3</sup> *Da blama* Üizeng šabrug was from Buyan ündüsülügči Monastery (Ch. Fuyin si 福因寺) is commonly known as Jégün keyid (Eastern Monastery, in Chinese, Helanshan beisi 賀蘭山北寺). It is located north of Helan Mountains in present-day Alaša Left Banner.

<sup>4</sup> The *Yuxiaji* is a collection of calendars used by Daoist priests and listing holy days of which numerous different editions circulated from early modern times (the earliest edition is in the Ming Daoist Canon, 1480) to the present.

<sup>5</sup> Bawden 1963: 222; Poppe et al. 1964: 179-180; Heissig and Bawden 1971: 166-170.

<sup>6</sup> This text “flourished from the 19th century but originated in Mongolian in the 17th century [...] The Chinese text is said to be based on Tang sources but evidence in the Mongolian translation suggests Yuan dynasty influence” (Baumann 2008: 12).





*Eldeb keregtü qaš qaγurčay neretü bičig.* Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42340. © Isabelle Charleux



*Eldeb keregtü qaš qaγurčay neretü bičig.* Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42340. © Isabelle Charleux

## 7. *Turban jüil-ün üge-iyer qabsuruγsan neretü erdemten-ü quriyaγsan bičig*

Chinese title: *San he ming xian* 三合名賢集

Mongolian title: *Turban jüil-ün üge-iyer qabsuruγsan neretü erdemten-ü quriyaγsan bičig* ("The Book Collected of Famous Worthies, three kinds of tongue paralleled")

Manchu title: *Ilan hacin gisun i hamcibuha gebungge saisa isabuha bithe*

Manchu-Mongol-Chinese blockprint, Chinese bound book, 24x14 cm. Chinese pagination.

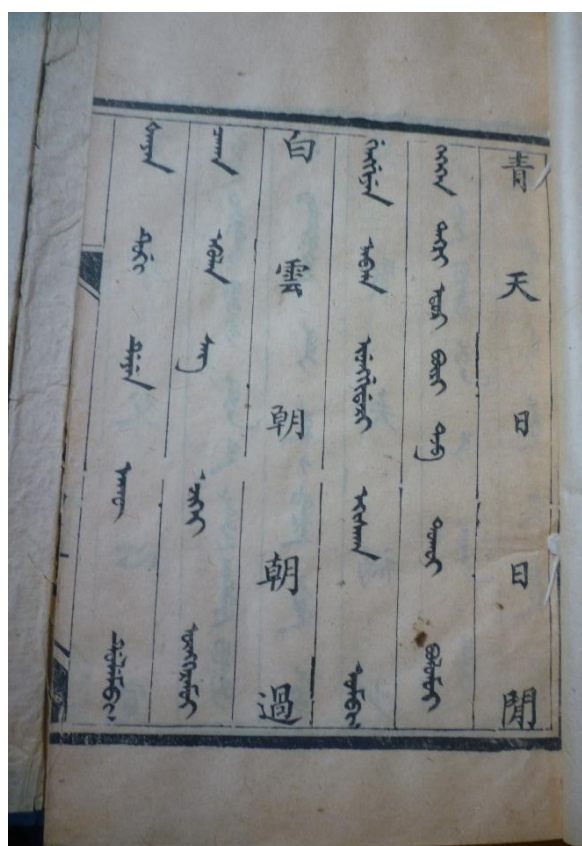
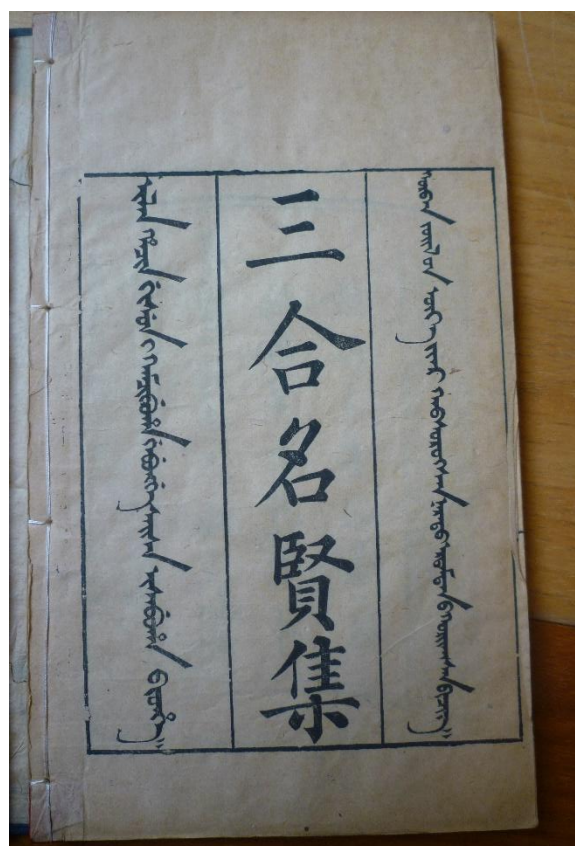
Dated Guangxu *yimao* 光緒己卯/Čing ulus-un Badarayultu törü-yin tabuduyar on (1879)

Printed at Huguosi 護國寺 and Longfusi 隆福寺 Monasteries, Beijing

Fonds chinois, Inv. 42339

Trilingual book of Chinese proverbs explained in Mongolian and Manchu. A book from the same blockprint is preserved in the SOAS University of London.<sup>7</sup>

See: Poppe, Hurvitz and Okada 1964: nos. 199-200; Simon and Nelson 1977: nos. II.65.A-B; Kara 2000: Mong. 13 and Mong. 48.



*San he ming xian*. Bibliothèque du musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, Fonds chinois, Inv. 42339. © Isabelle Charleux

<sup>7</sup> It has been digitized: <https://digital.soas.ac.uk/AA00001181/00001/5x>.



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