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# Orientierungen 36 (2025)

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***European-Chinese Imperial Maps and Gazetteers Related to the Kazakh (Qazaq) Khanate and Its Adjacent Regions from the 16th to 19th Centuries*, by Nurlan Kenzheakhmet.** XV + 425 pp. Deutsche Ostasienstudien, 44. Gossenberg: Ostasien Verlag, 2023. ISBN 978-3-946114-85-7

The author of this weighty volume is a Kazakh born in Xinjiang, who studied in Moscow and Beijing and who is now a research professor at the Eurasian Research Institute of Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University in Türkistan (Southern Kazakhstan). As an archaeologist, historian and geographer he was well qualified to author an equally heavy volume entitled *Eurasian Historical Geography as Reflected in Geographical Literature and in Maps from the Thirteenth to the Mid-Seventeenth Centuries* (2021) which may justly be considered a predecessor of the book under review now; it analyzes the oldest Korean world map of 1402, known as “Kangnido” 疆理圖.

The present volume follows the format of its predecessor: it is divided into two main sections – the first of which is devoted to historical geography while the second, modestly called “appendix”, is a comprehensive gazetteer to the maps under discussion.

The first part introduces the subject by explaining the importance of analyzing historical maps of Central-Eurasia for the historiography of the region and emphasizes the many challenges in identifying localities, and harmonizing the widely differing information in the cartographical and underlying textual sources through the centuries. The treatment of the subject is more or less chronological, starting with the Golden Horde and then focusing on the Kazakh Khanate and its representation in both European and Chinese maps. The Khanate was a Kazakh state in Central Asia, established in 1465, succeeding the Golden Horde. It became powerful and extended its borders until it fell under Russian domination by the middle of the 19th century. According to the early European view the inhabitants of the regions East of Moscow were generally called Tatars, but gradually more detailed maps, like those of the Swedish prisoners of war in Russia, allowed to distinguish a number of ethnic groups and peoples. A particular role was played by European Jesuit missionaries to China, e.g. by Matteo Ricci (1552–1610), the founder of the mission, who authored several large world maps, and various later missionaries who helped with the preparation of three atlases of China and the adjacent countries, namely the Kangxi Atlas (1718), the Yongzheng Atlas (1728) and the Qianlong Atlas (1772) (they are called after the reign periods during which they were made).

Ricci's map "Kunyu wanguo quantu" 坤輿萬國全圖 of 1602 gives the term *da-da* 鞑靼 (a name also used in Chinese sources) for Tartary. A major impact on European cartography was made by Nicolaas Witsen (1641–1717), mayor (burgomaster) of Amsterdam and diplomat who had visited Russia (see his *Noord en oost Tartarye*. Amsterdam 1705) and especially his map "Tartaria, sive magni Chami imperium ex credendis amplissimi viri d. Nicolai Witsen". Amsterdam (1687; later version 1708) which was widely used in other maps. The same is true for Philipp Johann von Strahlenberg (originally Tabbert, ennobled in 1707; 1677–1747), an officer in the Swedish army, who was taken prisoner of war in Russia after the battle of Poltava (1711–1722) and who collected diligently geographical and historical data on the Tatars and other Turkic tribes. His book *Das Nord- und Ostliche Theil von Europa und Asia, in so weit solches das gantze Russische Reich mit Siberien und der grossen Tatarey in sich begreiffet* (Stockholm 1730) and the accompanying map "Nova Descriptio Geographica Tatariae Magnae" became standard works on the subject.<sup>1</sup>

1 See also "Ph. J. von Strahlenberg und seine Karte der Grossen Tatarei (zwei Briefe Strahlenbergs an J. Ph. Breyne, 1723 und 1724)", by Larisa Bondář et al., German trans. by H. Walravens, *CAJ* 65 (2022), 121–149. [The translation is somewhat augmented and revised as compared with the Russian original (*Kunstkamera* 2022.1, 72–98).]

The author's statements regarding the influence of the European maps are interesting, namely, that they (including Johann Baptist Homann's [1664–1724] "Generalis totius imperii Russorum novissima tabula" of 1722, and Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis terrarum* [1527–1598] et al.) had a major impact on Chinese maps, especially regarding coastlines etc.

The three mentioned imperial atlases had legends not only in Chinese, but there were versions which used Chinese only for China proper while the names for adjacent regions – Manchuria, Mongolia, Xinjiang, and Tibet – were given in Manchu script. This was basically a good idea as the Manchu script is better suited than Chinese for the transliteration of names in foreign languages. It turns out, however, that in many cases apparently the original spelling was not available to the editors, only the Chinese transliteration into Chinese, and thus there was not always much added value in the Manchu version. The same applies also to other bilingual texts, like the *Huang Qing zhigong tu* 皇清職貢圖<sup>2</sup> of the Qianlong period, which is quoted with the description of the Kazakhs in the present work. It is worth mentioning that the Kangxi atlas as edited by Walter Fuchs (1902–1979) in 1943 contains a very useful gazetteer of the place names (including the Manchu ones), while the modern reprint (Beijing 2007; two of the atlases were reprinted not from the originals but from 20th century reprints) does not include the Manchu names. A very useful reference tool regarding foreign names is the imperially commissioned hexaglot dictionary *Xiyu tongwen zhi* 西域同文志 of 1795.<sup>3</sup> It was referenced by Julius Klaproth (1783–1835)<sup>4</sup> whose works and maps, especially his 1836 Map of Central Asia were used by the author.

2 See my review (MS 72.1, 2024, 306–310) of Laura Hostetler and Wu Xuemei (eds. and trs.), *Qing Imperial Illustrations of Tributary Peoples* (*Huang Qing zhigong tu*): *A Cultural Cartography of Empire* (Leiden, 2022).

3 Here the author points out another imperial pentaglot work, *Wuti Qingwenjian* 五體清文鑑, the Imperial Mirror of the Manchu Language. His explanatory note (p. 65, note 21) is, however, erroneous: "Glossary of the Five Dynastic Writings [Pentagonica], which records in a thematically organized system the lexical resources of the five major languages of the Qing Empire". The mentioned facsimile of 1957 is useful, but the modern edition by Oliver Corff et al. is much preferable and boasts separate index volumes for the individual languages: *Auf kaiserlichen Befehl erstelltes Wörterbuch des Manjurischen in fünf Sprachen „Fünfsprachenspiegel“: Systematisch angeordneter Wortschatz auf Manjurisch, Tibetisch, Mongolisch, Turki und Chinesisch* (Wiesbaden, 2013).

4 On the linguist Klaproth see my *Julius Klaproth. Leben und Werk* (Wiesbaden, 1999),

A rare map is also the one which the imperial envoy to the Torghut on the Volga, Tulišen (1667–1741), added to his *Lakcaha jecen de takûraha babe ejehe bithe* which was published first in Manchu in 1723 and then, in the same year, also in Chinese translation (*Yiyu lu* 異域錄).<sup>5</sup>

The mentioned sources are just a selection of several major works that the author examined and analyzed. There is a whole chapter on further historical and geographical works of the Qing dynasty, which describe the Kazakh khanate, like the *Xiyu tuzhi* 西域圖志 and the *Da Qing huidian* 大清會典, and especially an essay on the borders between the Kazakh khanate and the Qing empire. Special coverage is also given to the description and mapping of Central Asia and Siberia in the Qianlong atlas (besides the Kazakh khanate).

The second part or Appendix comprises the major bulk of the book; among the tables given the more important ones are: 3: Place names and legends of Central Asian part of Jenkinson's maps [ms. 1562 et al.] vs. Maps from European and Eastern sources (p. 147-154); 4: "Kunyu wanguo quantu"<sup>6</sup> vs. "Kunyu quantu" 坤輿全圖,<sup>7</sup> and Ptolemy's Geography (p. 155f); 5: The place names and cities on Matteo Ricci's world map (p. 157-162); 6: Central Asian Mongolian place names in the *Seren gerel* ["Moonlight", i.e. the Biography of Zaya Pandita, as ed. and transl. by A. G. Sazykin. 1999; vs. Renat's map, Yongzheng, and Qianlong] (p. 163-169); 7: Tulišen vs. Yongzheng, Qianlong, Witsen and Gaubil (p. 170f); 8: Names of settlements and places in the territory of the Kazakh khanate in the historico-geographical maps and works of the Qing in the 18th century (p. 172-176); 9: Qianlong Atlas (1766) vs. Pansner 1816, Levshin 1831, Klaproth 1836, Hum-

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which offers besides a fairly complete bibliography of the scholar's writings also lists of his printed and his unpublished maps.

- 5 The bibliography lacks Imanishi Shunjū's splendid study and annotated translation of the work: *Kochū Iikiroku* 校注異域錄 Tulišen's I-yü-lu (Tenri, 1964). – There is a new edition by Haneda Akira: *Iikiroku: Shinchō shisetsu no Roshia ryōkō hōkoku* 異域錄—清朝使節のロシア旅行報告 (Tōkyō, 1985).
- 6 The relationship between Ricci's world map and Ptolemy was already dealt with in Pasquale M. d'Elia's monumental edition: *Il mappamondo cinese del p. Matteo Ricci, S.I., conservato presso la Biblioteca Vaticana* (Città del Vaticano, 1938) and his later study in MS 20.1961 (not mentioned in the bibliography).
- 7 "Kunyu quantu" 坤輿全圖, i.e. the 1674 world map by Ferdinand Verbiest S.J. (1633–1688); it might be interesting to know that this map was modeled on Blaeu's large world map. Cf. my article "Father Verbiest's Chinese world map (1674)", *Imago Mundi* 43 (1991), 31–47.

boldt 1843–1844, “General’naya karta zapadnoy Sibiri s Kirgizskoy step’yu”, and Babkov 1912 (p. 177-181); 11: Components of Manchu-Mongol-Turkic-Russian-French-Chinese place names according to their spelling in the Qianlong Atlas (1766) (p. 185-194); A1: Place names of Northern Eurasia (Russian Empire) in the atlases of Yongzheng and Qianlong and on Witsen’s (1687), Ides’ (1704) and Homann’s (1722) maps (p. 199-218); A2: Central Asian place names in the Yongzheng Atlas (p. 219-252); A3: Central Asian place names in the Qianlong Atlas (p.253-359). The tables are arranged in columns to allow easy correlation and comparison with the other sources. The locations of the places in the Yongzheng and Qianlong atlases is by the respective sheets a schema of which is offered at the beginning. The book is concluded by a comprehensive bibliography (p. 367-425).

The volume is printed on heavy paper to allow quality reproduction of the many colored illustrations. At first glance the pictures seem to be a bit too much reduced and the many place names given also in Manchu script may require good eyesight. But one should not overlook a special feature of the book – it is accompanied by a CD-ROM which contains the complete book and in addition files of all illustrations. Thus the maps and pictures may be zoomed and studied without problems. Also, the lack of an index does not make itself felt as full text search is of course another practical feature of this publication.

To conclude: The book is a mine of information in its presentation and analysis of historical source material on the Kazakh khanate and the whole of the Central Asian and Siberian areas. It is an indispensable reference tool and makes the toponyms as given by a wide array of historical maps and descriptions easily available. The finding and correlation tables allow not only spotting a certain locality immediately but often also provide additional explanations for interpreting the names. The immense effort of the author in assembling and explaining all these data from different languages and scripts can hardly be underrated and his merits will be gratefully acknowledged by historians not only of Kazakh history, but also experts on the adjacent cultures – Chinese, Mongolian, Russian/Siberian, and other Turkic peoples, and, thus, historians worldwide.

Besides the author’s tremendous industry and acumen, also the editors and publishers deserve high praise for creating a pleasing layout for an easy to use, but difficult to realize standard work.

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