

## Spis treści / Contents

Preface .....	7
Kirill Alekseev, <i>On the Identification of the Mongolian “Golden” Fragments from Dzungaria</i> .....	9
Sebastian Bednarowicz, <i>On Maltese Names for Some Ancient Agricultural Tools</i> .....	20
Darui Long, <i>A Preliminary Report on the Chinese Buddhist Literature Kept at the Jagiellonian Library in Poland</i> .....	33
Marzena Godzińska, <i>The Asia and Pacific Museum in Warsaw Felt Collection</i> .....	59
Ariadna Matyszkiewicz, <i>The Poetics of Collection in Jinasena’s Ādipurāṇa</i> .....	75
Jamila Oueslati, <i>The Immortality of Folktales by Abdelaziz El-Aroui</i> .....	92
Dana Suleimen, <i>The Tradition of at tergeý – Tabooing the Names of a Woman’s Husband and His Male Relatives in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Kazakhstan</i> .....	126
Vladimir Uspensky, <i>Józef Kowalewski’s Studies on the History of Catholicism in China</i> .....	134
Hartmut Walravens, <i>The Manchu Collection in the Jagiellonian University Library</i> .....	152
Natalia Yampolskaya, <i>A Rare Tibetan Version of the Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā in Mongolia</i> .....	165
Monika Zin, <i>Crossing the Ocean of saṃsāra: Berlin, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, no. III 9023</i> .....	183
Estera Żeromska, <i>On the Paths of nō – from Ernest Fenollosa to the First Reformers of the Western Theatre</i> .....	218
Errata .....	232
Lista Recenzentów RO LXXII, z. 1, 2 / List of Reviewers RO LXXII, nos 1, 2 .....	233

## Preface

*The 7th International Conference of Oriental Studies: Collections of Texts and Artefacts* was held in Cracow, October 22–24, 2018. It was organized jointly by several Polish academic institutions, viz. the Committee of Oriental Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Archive of Science of the PAS and PAAS, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Jagiellonian University, and Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw. The conference gathered together scholars from Peoples Republic of China, Germany, Russia, United States, Great Britain, Thailand, India, Mongolia, and Poland. In this volume we are presenting a selection of papers read at the conference.

The present conference was devoted to the issue of “collection”, broadly speaking as a collection of texts or art objects. By a collection of texts we mean both a specific library collection and a literary work that is a collection of related texts which are forming its body, and by a collection of artistic objects we mean mostly museum collections.

To the first group belong papers by Darui Long on the *A Preliminary Report on the Chinese Buddhist Literature Kept at the Jagiellonian Library in Poland* and Hartmut Walraven’s *The Manchu Collection in the Jagiellonian Library*. The Jagiellonian Library in Kraków is a well known great repository of precious manuscripts both Western and Oriental.

The paper of Kirill Alekseev, *On the Identification of the Mongolian “Golden” Fragments from Dzungaria*, and Natalia Yampolskaya’s study on *A Rare Tibetan Version of the Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā in Mongolia*, are focused on particular parts of larger collections of texts, viz. Buddhist canonical scriptures.

The motif of “collection” in a Jaina large narrative in Sanskrit was discussed by Ariadna Matyszkiewicz in her research paper *The Poetics of Collection in Jinasena’s Ādipurāṇa*.

The cultures of Turkish and Mongolian peoples of Central Asia with their rich felt craft was the subject of Marzena Godzińska’s paper on *The Asia and Pacific Museum in Warsaw Felt Collection*.

Monika Zin’s contribution *Crossing the Ocean of saṃsāra: Berlin, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, no. III 9023* is devoted to a detailed study of a fragmentary painting coming from the Buddhist cave complex in the region of Kucha on the northern Silk Road.

Jamila Oueslati devoted her paper *The Immortality of Folktales by Abdelaziz El-Aroui* to the life and work of Abdelaziz El Aroui (1898–1971), a well-known author of about 200 Tunisian folktales which became popular also in the neighboring countries, Algeria and Libya.

Also a specific vocabulary, in the sense of a systematic collection of words and meanings, may be included under the main topic of the conference. As an example of such approach may serve Sebastian Bednarowicz's paper *On Maltese Names for Some Ancient Agricultural Tools*.<sup>1</sup>

Dana Suleiman in her paper *Tabooing the Names of a Woman's Husband and His Male Relatives' in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Kazakhstan* has shown "how the old Kazakh custom of the ban on uttering the name of a husband and his male relatives by her wife is still observed in modern Kazakhstan".

Vladimir Uspensky presented his research on selected fragments of Józef Kowalewski's unpublished diary which he kept in Beijing in 1830–1931 in the paper *Józef Kowalewski's Studies on the History of Catholicism in China*.

Eстера Žeromska's contribution *On the Paths of nō – from Ernest Fenollosa to the First Reformers of the Western Theatre* discusses a series of experiments in performing arts which were evoked in the West by the interest taken in the Japanese theatre *no*.

Thus, the present volume of "Rocznik Orientalistyczny" offers a selection of papers on different topics covering a large area of studies on Asia and Africa in which different aspects of the concept of collection have been investigated. It is our hope that the papers gathered here will attract attention of the readers offering the new research materials as well as some new ideas on the concept of "collection".

*Agata Bareja-Starzyńska and Marek Mejor*  
Editors of "Rocznik Orientalistyczny", Vol. 72 (2)

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<sup>1</sup> The paper was read at the 6th International Conference of Oriental Studies: Rare, Forgotten and Endangered Languages and Literatures held on November 14–16, 2017 at the University of Warsaw; due to the editors' failure we are including this contribution in the present volume.