

Summary

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This book entitled *Mongolian Buddhist Culture: A study of monasteries and temples in Khentii and Khangai* was originally written by M.I. Klyagina-Kondratiyeva, who worked as a librarian in Mongolia's Institute of Scriptures and Manuscripts from 1926 to 1930 at the invitation of Tseveen Jamtsarano. During her work in Mongolia for almost 5 years, she improved the newly established library of Mongolia's scientific institution and went on expeditions in different places with her husband S.A. Kondratiyev.

M.I. Klyagina-Kondratiyeva was interested in the lifestyle, culture and religion of Mongolian nomads during her stay in Mongolia. This time we are publishing her manuscript on monasteries and temples from the Khentii mountain ranges to the Khangai mountain ranges, both in Russian original and in Mongolian translation, together with related photographs that have been kept in a Russian archive, supplemented with relevant archival materials and her biography. The significance of the work lies in the fact that she photographed and studied those Mongolian monasteries and temples 10 years before Stalin's repression that destroyed all of Mongolia's temples in the late 1930s.

In her research, M.I. Klyagina-Kondratiyeva classified Mongolian temples by their architectural features into Chinese-Tibetan style, Real Chinese style and Mongolian-Chinese style. She also examined the structure of each temple in detail. In addition, she compared the internal structures, maps, dormitories of monks, worship places, streets and squares of the monasteries as her notes and photographs show. As she noted in her work, the Institute of Scriptures and Manuscripts made a big effort to make her study successful by giving her financial support, and she carried out her research at the order of the Institute of Scriptures and Manuscripts. Unfortunately, this work has not been published for more than 80 years and finally, thanks to the great effort of T.Yu. Yusupova, a Mongolist scholar from the Russian Federation the possibility to publish it became available. We therefore dedicate this exemplary book in Mongolian and Russian languages about Mongolian monasteries and temples – the embodiment of Mongolian religious culture – to researchers of religious history, ethnography, and architecture.

Although several works on Mongolian monasteries and temples based on archival materials or research have been published lately in Mongolia, this work by M.I. Klyagina-Kondratiyeva who did first-hand survey and research before their destruction is hugely valuable not least because it is the only research work that has been made since the expedition by the famous Russian traveler A.M. Pozdnev from 1892 to 1893. Therefore, the materials and photographs included in this book constitute an important asset for studying Mongolia's monasteries and temples.