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ABSTRACTS

PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON PRAGUE SCHOOL OF SINOLOGY I

Marián GÁLIK

Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
galikm2@gmail.com

The aim of this study is to analyse the lives and works of 22 Czech and Slovak Sinologists around Professor Jaroslav Průšek, the members of the Prague School of Sinology from the 1950s to the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the armies of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact in 1968, and partly also later. The Prague School of Sinology became admired by many in the West owing to its achievements in the realms mainly of modern and traditional Chinese literature, linguistics and partly of history and philosophy, but up to now these were not satisfactorily analysed in the scholarly literature. It shows the “reality and myth” around this extraordinary phenomenon in the history of European Sinology.

Key words: Prague School of Sinology, Jaroslav Průšek, history and philosophy, linguistics, literature, translation

MU DAN'S POEM *REVELATION*, THE BIBLE AND WESTERN MODERNISM

Liu YAN

Institute for Transcultural Studies, Beijing International Studies University, No. 1 Dingfuzhuang
Nanli, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100024, China
liuyan_1967@yahoo.com.cn

The purpose of this paper is to unscramble the Christian elements in *Revelation* by Mu Dan, a modern Chinese poet. Mu Dan borrowed them from the *Holy Bible* and Western modernist literature, which made his poetry unique. The books of *Psalms*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Job* from the *Holy Bible* motivated him to use prayer as a literature form in *Revelation*. Mu Dan's religious poems have enriched our thinking about human civilization and the meaning of life. They also provide a special perspective to understand the modern Chinese intellectual's interested in Christian belief and the difficulties they have encountered.

Key words: Revelation, Christian discourse, pilgrimage, Christian belief, modernity

SHUKRĪ AL-ʿASALĪ, AN EXTRAORDINARY ANTI-ZIONIST ACTIVIST

Emanuel BEŠKA

Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
emanuel.beska@sav.sk

This study deals with the anti-Zionist activities of Shukrī al-ʿAsalī in the last years before the First World War. In the autumn of 1910 Shukrī al-ʿAsalī was behind the most vociferous campaign against Zionist purchases in the pre-WWI period. In his capacity as the *q ʿammaq m* of Ṭabarīya he took all possible measures to prevent the transfer of the lands of the village of al-Fūla from Iliyās Sursuq to the Zionists. Even though eventually his efforts were not successful, his extensive publicizing of the case helped to spread awareness of the ongoing Zionist undertaking in Ottoman Palestine throughout Greater Syria and was one of the most significant reasons for growing anti-Zionism during that period. Following his election to the Ottoman parliament in January 1911, he continued to point his finger at Jewish immigration and land purchases. The most important

act of his parliamentary career concerning Zionism was the speech he delivered in May 1911 along with two other Arab deputies – Rūḥī al-Khālīdī and Saʿd Bey al-Ḥusaynī.

Keywords: anti-Zionism, anti-Zionist activist, al-Fūla, land purchases, Palestine, Shukrī al-ʿAsālī

THE LAST YEARS OF KING FAYṢAL I. (1930 – 1933)

Karol SORBY, Jr.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
Hlboká cesta 2, 833 36 Bratislava, Slovakia
karol.sorby@mzv.sk

The significance of the Anglo-Iraqi treaty of 1930 stemmed from the fact that it provided for the termination of a mandate – the first such example followed in the Near and Middle East only in Transjordan sixteen years later – and established a new pattern of Anglo-Arab relations. If Britain was prepared to surrender its mandate by 1930, it arrived at this position reluctantly only after the painful experience of persistent agitation among nationalists in the trust territory and a wide segment of the public in England. The instrument itself assured the United Kingdom a preferential status in Iraq. For the duration of the alliance Britain was allowed to retain two air bases and to make use of all Iraqi facilities for the transit of British armed forces (land, naval and air). Under accompanying notes British ambassadors in Baghdad were to enjoy “precedence in relation to the diplomatic representatives of other Powers”, and the Iraqi government undertook to request a British advisory military mission and normally to engage in consultation with Whitehall, “British subjects when in need of the services of foreign officials”. The twenty-five year treaty, which became operative on Iraq’s admission to membership in the League of Nations on 3 October 1932, proved vital to the United Kingdom in the Near and Middle East campaigns of World War II.

Key words: The end of the British mandate; the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of 1930; internal balance of power; the Assyrian affair; the unexpected death of King Fayṣal

ACCESSIBILITY TO RELATIVIZATION IN ARABIC NON-FINITE SYNTAX

Ladislav DROZDÍK
Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
kaorladi@savba.sk

The aim of the present inquiry lies in examining syntactic positions that non-finite relative constructions are able to relativize, that is, their accessibility to relativization or, in short, their relativizability. The range of relativizable positions in non-finite constructions is confronted with that of the finite relatives. The confrontation of two structurally differing strategies, non-finite (NFR) and finite relativization (FR), entails the task of introducing a unified system of reference and to legitimate the clausal identity of both relative constructions on the basis of an all-inclusive definition of relative clause (RC).

Key words: accessibility (to relativization) or relativizability; antecedent (Ant); attraction; definite - indefinite (article); divided agreement; external/internal inflection and derivation; finite/non-finite relativization (FR/NFR); Gap/Ref relatives; head, head noun (antecedent); *naʿt sababī*; prenominal (left-branching, head-preceding) - postnominal (right-branching; head-following); referent or resumptive pronoun (Ref); relative clause (RC); relative pronoun (Rel); RC acquisition / processing; relativizer (rel); relativizability; subject (S) / non-subject (NS); subject/non-subject relativization (SR/NSR); syntactic position (role); time-aspect (TA) morphology, and related terms.

EXTRACTING CULTURE FROM LITERARY TEXTS SATIRICAL POETRY IN THE Umayyad Period: FROM THE SOCIAL TO THE POETIC

Hosna ABDEL-SAMIE MAHMOUD

Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University al-Abbasiya
Abbasya 11 566 Cairo, Egypt
hosnahosna2000@yahoo.co.uk

The core question of this research revolves around “the ancient Arabic satirical poetry”, particularly in Umayyad period, the flourishing era of satirical poetry and art of Naqā'id (polemic lampoons). The problem posed by the core question deals with the magical nature of satire art of poetry, which is deep-rooted in the ancient individual and group rituals. Its main purpose is to account for the way the collective magical ritual is transformed into collective social and artistic rituals, of which some features were inherited by the satirical poetry in the dawn of Islam and during Umayyad era, and even its most ancient origins in the pre-Islamic times.

Key words: Arabic literature, Arabic culture. Arabic poetry, literary criticism, textual hermeneutic, history of Arabic literature, the Umayyad period, satire, rituals

THE FIRST USE OF THE ROMANI LANGUAGE IN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN SLOVAKIA

Anna RÁCOVÁ
Institute of Oriental and African Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
kaorraco@savba.sk

The aim of our paper is to analyse the linguistic features of the Romani census materials from 2001, which represent the first official use of the Romani language in government documents in the Slovak Republic. Although just a particular set of texts will be analysed here we believe that the census forms can be looked at in more general terms as reflecting the present possibilities of the Romani language to be used for official administrative purposes. It can be assumed that the situation has not changed much during the last nine years which have elapsed since the origin of the census forms. Although the standardization of the Romani language was declared in 2008 and a set of particular books has been published (The Rules of Romani Orthography, The Textbook of Romani, The Conversational Lexicon of Romani Grammar) on this occasion, there is no special institution that would systematically care for the development of the Romani language, especially for its terminology.

Key words: Romani language, vocabulary, borrowings from Slovak, Romani census forms

METAPHOR IN CRITICAL COMMUNICATIVE SITUATIONS

Viktor KRUPA
Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
kaorvikr@savba.sk

This article deals with metaphor in critical communicative situations. The critical communicative situation is defined here as such condition when the available and ready-made linguistic means within the standard inventory are not felt to be adequate to express the intentions of the speaker. The cognitive value of poetic metaphor can not be judged in isolation from its communicative function. Art is no distortion of reality in the pejorative sense but rather a distortion of conventionality. The need to think in a new way is experienced not only by poets. Linguistic creativity is allowed in everyday speech that is incessantly in reached with new expressions.

Key words: Metaphor, critical communicative situation, Pidgin English, hyperbolization, metaphorical transfer

ALCHIMIE, TALISMAN ET SAVOIR MYSTIQUE EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Seyni MOUMOUNI

Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey,
IRSH Bp 318 Niamey – Niger
seynim@aol.com

Alchemy, as an expression of an “abstract” and “popular” culture, practised in the underworlds of professionals (craftsmen, magicians, healers, pharmacists, etc.), has not as yet drawn much attention of Africanist scholars. Making use of hitherto available data, the aim is to show the importance of alchemy in the history of Africa to the South of the Sahara. Data from written sources and information collected on the mystical knowledge will be analysed to show the practice of alchemy and the techniques of development of the magic formulas.

As to the source of the doctrines it is certain that alchemy, being of divine essence, proceeds from the knowledge of the prophets who hold the keys to them and communicate them to their followers. Like their Eastern and Maghrebian colleagues, West African alchemists, while islamising and arabising themselves, enriched the practice of alchemy with knowledge coming from different civilisations. The aim is to identify old and current spiritual perspectives for these magico-syncretistic practices constituting the common heritage of the religious culture.

Key words: Alchemy, Islam, Mystic, Talisman, Africa, Manuscripts Arab, Geomancy

FOUR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTEFACTS
FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION IN SLOVAKIA
(Plates 1–8)

Dušan MAGDOLEN^{*}, Marián SOJÁK^{**}, Tereza ŠTOLCOVÁ^{**}, Jana MIHÁLYIOVÁ^{**}

^{*}Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia
kaorduma@savba.sk

^{**}Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Akademická 2, 949 21 Nitra, Slovakia
sojak@ta3.sk, tereza.stolcova@gmail.com, mihalyiovaj@post.sk

In this paper we want to report on the appearance of new ancient Egyptian artefacts in a private collection in Slovakia. This collection consists of four pieces of original ancient Egyptian artefacts. They were examined in the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The Egyptological investigation was carried out at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Bratislava and the material analysis of the objects at the Institute of Archaeology in Nitra. The paper publishes the results of our research. They comprise various aspects of our investigation including the botanical examination of the wood and the textile composition of the cartonnages. Furthermore, the description and identification of artefacts, their decoration, iconography, transliteration and translation of the hieroglyphic inscription, and the dating of the artefacts are estimated as well.

Key words: ancient Egyptian artefacts, private collection, funerary equipment, coffin, cartonnage mummy-case, textile, hieroglyphic inscription