

East Asian Studies in Ukraine

Country Report on East Asia Related Academic Institutions in Ukraine

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Visit of three institutions in Kyiv (Kiev), 13-14 September, 2001

Introduction into the history of Oriental Studies in Ukraine

In Ukraine all academic institutions related to Oriental Studies (including East Asian Studies) are very young. They have been established only since the creation of Ukraine as an independent state 1991. However, there is a strong academic tradition in Ukrainian Oriental Studies which goes back to the famous Ahatanhel KRYMSKY (1871-1942). The personality of this scholar has an effect to the present academic institutions of Oriental Studies in Ukraine which are proud of referring to him. Born and raised in Ukraine, Krymsky spent the first half of his career as an Orientalist in Moscow at the Lazaresvsky Institute of Oriental Studies (1889-1918). The second half of his career occurred in Kyiv (1918-41) after the revolution and the emergence of Ukraine as a state entity. Here during the first decade Krymsky was the Permanent Secretary of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The renaissance in humanities scholarship at the Academy in the 1920s owed significantly to his untiring leadership and high standards. Because of the Stalinist persecutions of the 1930s and Krymsky's resulting political, financial and personal hardships, numerous of his studies remain in manuscript, either unfinished or without the chance of being printed. In 1941 Krymsky was arrested by the N.K.V.D. and died in prison in Kazakhstan in 1942. Not only from the point of view of Oriental Studies the pre-war period is felt as a tragic epoch for all academic life in Ukraine which was cut from international contacts over a long period.

1. The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies

Visit 13 September 2001, 15:00-17:30

Participants (Members of the Academy)

- Prof. Dr. Lescia MATVEEVA (Director, Turkish Studies)
- Prof. Dr. Boris Pavlovich YATSENKO (Geography, Japan)
- Prof. Dr. Vadym Anatolyevich RUBEL (History, Japan)
- Dr. Viktor KIKTENKO (Director of the Bureau of Far East Studies),
- Dr. Vasyl GAMYANIN (Sinology, History)
- Sergi KAPRANOV (Philosophy/Religion, Japan)
- Valentyna Viktorovna ZUYEVA, M.A. (Anthropology/Folklore, just returned from Japan, The University of Hiroshima) as guest but not member of the Academy

Introduction

The Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies is a Research Institute founded in 1991. 17 October 2001 it celebrates its 10th anniversary. The Institute is headed by Prof. Dr. Lescia MATVEEVA (Turkish Studies) and consists of three sections:

- Historiography and Source Studies
- Classical Orient
- Modern Orient.

Emphasis is put exclusively on research. The whole Institute employs approximately 50 full-time researchers. Another 10 researchers are associated with the Ukrainian Institute of World Economy and International Relations (see below) which is part of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Additionally there are scholars affiliated both with the The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and with The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, respectively, The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The Institute publishes twice a year the academic journal “The World of the Orient” in Ukrainian (very short summaries in English). The journal focuses on traditional Oriental Studies rather than on modern Social Sciences.

East Asian Studies

Within The Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies Modern East Asian Studies are related to the Section Modern Orient, Bureau of Far East Studies which is headed by Dr. Viktor KIKTENKO (Sinologist). At present the total research personnel of the Bureau of Far East Studies consists of 5 scholars, of whom 2 (full-time researchers) are associated with China and 3 (members of the Academy) with Japan. With regard to East Asia there is neither a specific academic journal nor a book series, let alone a library. The funding situation is obviously not good. Similar is true for the unsatisfying condition of the old classical building where the Institute is housed, despite its attractive location in downtown Kyiv (northern fringe of Khreschatyk). Apart from academic institutions in Moscow there is no international cooperation at the institutional but at the individual level. Institutional cooperation with further European partners as well as participation in international programs is appreciated. Yet a handicap could be that English as a lingua franca is not well understood by the colleagues (exceptions prove the rule). On the other hand, they have a very good knowledge of East Asian languages, such as Chinese and Japanese, particularly when considering the fact that they have stayed in their research countries usually not a long time. At present research results are published exclusively in Ukrainian. Academic networks in Europe are predominantly associated with Russia.

Chinese Studies

Sinology/Philosophy/History of Ukrainian-Chinese Relations:

Dr. Viktor KIKTENKO (member of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, Director of the Bureau of Far East Studies):
Tel./Fax: (044) 490-6173, e-mail: victor@gilan.uar.net.

Philology/Sinology/History, particularly History of China 1911-49:

Dr. Vasyl GAMYANIN (member of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies): E-mail: victor@gilan.uar.net.

Japanese Studies

Japan: Economic and Political Geography

Prof. Dr. Boris Pavlovich YATSENKO (member of both The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, and The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) - see below: The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Alisa Borisovna KURGANSKA (junior fellow, M.A. Pennsylvania University, daughter of Prof. YATSENKO, at present no research at the Academy in Kyiv, she lives in the U.S.A.

Japanese History, particularly history of the Tokugawa era

Prof. Dr. Vadym Anatolyevich RUBEL (member of both the The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, and The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) - see below: The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Philosophy/Japanese Studies

Sergi KAPRANOV (senior fellow, researcher, preparation of Ph.D., member of both The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, and The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Institute of Philosophy) - see below: The University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Japanese Law

Liudmila Fedorivna PAVLYSHYNA (senior fellow/researcher, preparation of Ph.D., member of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies).

Other East Asian oriented institutions associated with The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Another potential for East Asian Studies is the Ukrainian Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Section Asia and Pacific Region. This Institute is a part of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine but is housed outside of the Academy. It is a pure research institute and employs taken together 10 researchers. As for the Section Asia and Pacific Region Prof. Dr. SIDNIEV until recently did research on Modern Chinese Studies in areas such as History, Political Science, and Economy. Meanwhile, however, he retired and became vice-rector of a commercial institute in Kyiv. At present nobody in the Section Asia and Pacific Region at Ukrainian Institute of World Economy and International Relations seems to do research on East Asia.

Finally there is the Crimean Department of Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies in Simferopol which, however, has no relation to East Asia Studies.

2. The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Oriental Studies Division

Visit: 14 September 2001, 11:00-13:00

Participants

- Prof. Dr. Grygoriy I. HALYMONENKO (Director/Dean, Philology/Turkology)
- Sergiy A. KOLODKO (Vice-Dean, Chinese Language)
- 6 Students

General Introduction of Kyiv University

The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv enjoys a special status among all other higher educational facilities in the Ukraine. Its origin can be traced back to the early 17th century when Kyiv Mohyla Academy was established in 1632 as the first institution of higher education in Ukraine. In 1834 Kyiv University was founded as a new type of University and became a focal point of national consciousness under Russian autocracy. Presently about 20,000 students study under more than 2,000 professors and teachers at 16 faculties and 3 institutes of Kyiv University which in 1939 was named after the famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. Its attractive location near downtown Kyiv and its classical buildings that stem from the 1840s provide an

aura of a Quartier Latin en miniature.

Faculty of Foreign Languages, Oriental Studies Division

Departments of Oriental Studies at The Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv have been opened in the Faculty of Foreign Languages only since 1990. Since then oriental languages have been taught as the principal speciality. In 1995, the Oriental Studies Division was created with the rights of a faculty. Its old but renewed building as well as its location (Shevchenko Blvd., 14) within the University Quarter just near Taras Shevchenko Park provide a good atmosphere.

Emphasis is put on training philologists, teachers and translators in the following languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Chinese, Georgian, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Uzbek as well as English language.

Research

Main areas of research are closely related to language and literature, such as text linguistics, theoretical problems of oriental research, oriental languages lexicology, genre and stylistic problems of translation, comparative research of languages, history of oriental literatures, methods of compiling oriental languages dictionaries. Courses are offered both for the students of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Oriental Studies Division, and of non-linguistic faculties of the University.

The results of research are published in the faculty journal "Oriental Language and Literature" (exclusively in Ukrainian). There is no book series yet.

Teaching

Teaching consists of main and special courses. Main courses include practical courses in the languages mentioned above, history of the Indo-Iranian, Semito-Hamitian, Turkish, Sino-Tibetan, and Altai languages, theoretical phonetics, stylistics, and lexicology, introduction to Altai, Sino-Tibetan, Japanese, Semito-Hamitian, and Indo-Iranian studies, comparative grammar, theory and practice of translation, area studies, oriental literatures, theoretical and practical courses of oriental languages for the students of the Institutes of Journalism, the International Relations, and Ukrainian philologists. Special courses are related to methods and principles of linguistic research, stylistic differentiation of oriental languages vocabularies, text stylistics, oriental language lexicography, etiquette forms in oriental languages, translation difficulties

with oriental languages, Ukrainian language and oriental languages contacts, oriental language poetics, literature genres of the East, medieval literature, courtesy poesy of the East, peculiarities of development of the oriental literatures in the 20th century.

The number of undergraduate students comes to 400, the number of postgraduate students to 38. In Ukraine students usually enter university with the age of 17 and study 4 years until they graduate with a B.A. As postgraduates they study another 1 year (Magister) or 3 years (M.A.), and in very special cases another 3 years for a Ph.D. (which in Ukraine is supposed to be higher ranked than in Germany; in Ukraine there is no 'habilitation').

Personnel

The staff consists of 3 professors and 4 associate professors, as well as 1 lecturer each per language. Director/Dean is Prof. Dr. Grygoriy I. HALYMONENKO (Philology/Turkology), Tel. (38044) 221-32-95, respectively (38044) 295-61-89.

Vice-Dean is Sergiy A. KOLODKO (Practical Chinese Language, Technique of Translation), Tel. (38044) 221-32-95, Mobile phone (044) 561-88-47; 8-067-401-88-47; Fax (38044) 234-61-66; E-mail: kolodkosa@yahoo.com.

Cooperation

The scientists of the Oriental Studies Division support relations with many national and foreign scientific centres and train specialists for Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, Potebnya Institute of Language Studies, Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature as well as governmental institutions and ministries.

East Asian Studies

Teaching

East Asian Studies focus on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (Vietnamese is not included). Courses are provided in Chinese by Sergiy A. KOLODKO (Practical Chinese Language, Technique of Translation), in Japanese by Elena DEBEIKO (Lecturer) and by a Lecturer for Korean. Courses include also Area Studies which are related to Geography/Political Science (Prof. Dr. Boris Pavlovich YATSENKO, Faculty of Geography) and History (Prof. Dr. Vadym A. RUBEL, Faculty of History). Among a total of 400 underground students of the Faculty of Foreign Languages about 120 students focus on Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Arabic languages, about the half of

them make use of a fellowship (1000 US\$ per year). There are not yet postgraduate programs in the East Asian Studies.

Library

Inside of the Oriental Studies Division there is no library related to East Asia, as is true for the central library of Taras Shevchenko National University. Existing books are predominantly copies of textbooks granted by the Chinese Embassy, respectively, by Japan Foundation. The best place for getting East Asia related literature in Kyiv is Vernatzki Academic Science Library situated far outside of the University near Mosqua Square.

Institutional contacts

Institutional contacts are not yet much advanced, particularly with regard to international networking. At present, a scientific conference on “China and Ukraine: Past Present, and Future” is planned 17 October, 2001 (the day of the 10th anniversary of the foundation of Ukraine), promoted by the Embassy of China. Conference languages are Ukrainian, Russian, and Chinese.

Research

As for Social Sciences related to East Asia there is no research in the Oriental Studies Division, due to the fact that the institution puts emphasis on philology. Apart from that the institution itself is very young yet and, consequently, its research infrastructure as well as the funding situation poor. However, there are two scholars who contribute to East Asian Area Studies (both in teaching and research) but have their domain in their own faculty:

Prof. Dr. Vadym A. RUBEL, associated with the Faculty of History, specialised on Tokugawa Japan (Ph.D. thesis), Tel. (38044) 221-3275.

Prof. Dr. Boris Pavlovich YATSENKO, associated with the Faculty of Geography (Head of Regional Geography and Tourism), specialised on Japanese Economic and Political Geography (Ph.D. thesis on the Structure of the Japanese Economy: Nihon Keizai Kôzô), Tel. (38044) 266-9249.

International cooperation

Cooperation with European partners as well as participation in international programs is highly appreciated by the staff. Also the present young students I learnt to know (pleasant-intelligent, motivated, good English) showed a vital interest, particularly for postgraduate programs in East Asian Studies which are not yet offered in Kyiv.

3. The University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Oriental Studies Center (OSC)

Visit: 14 September 2001, 17:30 – 19:30

Participants

- Prof. Dr. Volodymyr Fedorovich REZANENKO (Director of OSC, Philology/Oriental Studies)
- Sergi KAPRANOV (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- 12 Students of OSC

General remarks on The University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Founded in 1632 by the Metropolitan Petro Mohyla The Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is the oldest institution of higher education in Ukraine. Widely respected and supported by all members of the Ukrainian society it was shut down by the Russian tzarist government in 1819. Then it changed under the Russian Orthodox Church to the Kyivan Theological Academy which remained in its historical premises until 1918. In 1992, after a 175-year hiatus, the Academy was reinstated as a secular teaching institution, becoming a symbol of the rebirth of independent Ukraine. In 1994 the Academy was granted the status of “National University”. It consists of 6 faculties, several departments as well as studies and research centers. The old and partly renovated classical buildings in the Podil town district (north and near of downtown Kyiv) provide an attractive university location.

Oriental Studies Center (OSC)

The OSC was founded only in 1996 and focusses on the following goals: 1. organizing and coordinating interdisciplinary Oriental Studies in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences, 2. carrying out educational and cultural programs in the field of Oriental Studies, 3. facilitating cooperation between Ukrainian specialists and those in the Far East countries. At present the number of staff is limited to the Director of OSC, Prof. Dr. Volodymyr F. REZANENKO (Japanese Studies) and to a lecturer for Japanese Language.

Teaching

OSC has prepared a two-year teaching program leading to certificates in Japan Studies or China Studies in the context of a B.A. degree. It also hosts a Buddhological

seminar and an Oriental studies discussion group. Usually students study a certain main subject in Humanities, Social Sciences or Natural Sciences, additionally at OSC they are trained in Japanese Language and Japanese Studies (History, Law, Linguistics, Political Science, Sociology, Literature, Culture). At present Chinese and China Studies are not yet presented but are supposed to be supplied soon. In 2001 about 20 students were involved in OSC courses.

Research

Research in the narrow sense is more or less identical with one person, OSC-Director Prof. Volodymyr F. REZANENKO, Dr. of Philology and an expert of Japanese Language and Japanese Studies. His former scientific interests cover categories of the ancient Chinese philosophy in the etymology, semantic and graphical structure of the hieroglyphics. The main topic research in OSC for 2001-2005 is “The social structure of the Japanese society”. Another subject refers to comparative analysis which puts emphasis on “Japanese and Euro-American models for the global socio-cultural paradigm”. In October 2001 OSC will host a scientific seminar entitled “The social structure of the Japanese society: history and modern tendencies.”

According to the questionnaire filled out by Prof. REZANENKO, the number of research personnel is 10. However, this personnel means (except Prof. REZANENKO himself) primarily students who prepare a thesis for their certificate in Japan Studies. The following “Research Papers” in work reflect the variety of subjects which are dealt with at OSC (in brackets the authors, Nr. 4-10 students):

1. The Japanese model from the point of view of Japanese researchers (Volodymyr REZANENKO)
2. Peculiarities of the structure of the Japanese model (Volodymyr REZANENKO)
3. Society and personality (Euro-American and Japanese concepts) (Volodymyr REZANENKO)
4. Genesis of the Japanese society (Valentyna KOSTYRINA)
5. Samurai moral precepts: modern issues (Valentyna KOSTYRINA)
6. Japanes social system in the highly developed information space (Andrij OLEFIRENKO)
7. Development of the social system of Japan and other countries of East Asia (Maryna GOSTIK)
8. Japanese enterprise and the theory of globalization (Tetyana VLASKO)
9. The possibility of using the Japanese model on the global level (Andrij PODOLYKA)
10. The influence of the Japanese script system on the development of culture (Maria KOLYVAJ)

There are not yet Academic Journals or Book Series for publishing the results of OSC research.

Other research on Japan at The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

As a senior fellow at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sergi KAPRANOV (member of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, see above) prepares for a Ph.D. dissertation on “shisô” and “shûkyô”: Thoughts and religion in the Heian Era – with regard to the Ise-monogatari.

International Cooperation

International cooperation is limited yet on a personal level, e.g. with the International Research Center of Japanese Culture (Kokusai bunka kenkyûjo) in Kyôto. Institutional cooperation with European partners as well as participation in international programs is highly appreciated. The present young students I learnt to know (pleasant-intelligent, motivated, good English) showed interest particularly for postgraduate programs in East Asian Studies which are not yet offered in Kyiv.

Conclusion

The present OSC is more or less a one-man Institute: Prof. Volodymyr Fedorovich REZANENKO, a very motivated and challenging scholar and teacher.

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