

## BOOK NOTICES

Daniel C. Waugh

**Katheryn M. Linduff and Karen S. Rubinson, eds. *How Objects Tell Stories. Essays in Honor of Emma C. Bunker. Inner and Central Asian Art and Archaeology, I. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University; Tournhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2018. 225 pp. ISBN 978-2-503-58021-0.***

This lavishly produced volume inaugurates the new publication series, edited by Judith A. Lerner and Annette L. Juliano, which is replacing the annual *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology*. As Linduff and Rubinson explain in their introduction, “the essays are ‘object-centric,’ inspired by intense visual analysis to discover or untangle the stories intrinsic to objects and contextualizing them as the results of the intersection and transfer of human vision, beliefs, concepts, and imagery, often across extremely long distances...[T]he volume challenges the more circumscribed views of Eurasia as primarily as a place of transmission or as a crossroads or highway along which ideas were carried; Eurasia was also a space of re-invention, experimentation, re-interpretation, and re-purposing” (p. 10). All this a fitting tribute aligned with the interests of Emma Bunker, who has contributed so much to our knowledge of the metal arts of early Inner Asia (and more recently, South-east Asia).

The contents:

Katheryn M. Linduff and Karen S. Rubinson, Introduction.

Trudy S. Kawami, “A Steppe Warrior in Achaemenid Employ? Grave 4.28 at Choga Mish, Khuzistan, Iran.”

Annette L. Juliano, “Preliminary Thoughts on the Restructuring of the Realm of the Spirits: Zoomorphs, Fantastic and Hybrid Creatures (Seventh Century BCE to Sixth Century CE).”

Catrin Kost. “Changed Strategies of Interaction: Exchange Relations on China’s Northern Frontier in Light of the Finds from Xinzhuangtou.”

Judith A. Lerner, “All that Glitters...Foreign Jewelry in Chinese Tombs: from Han into Tang.”

Katheryn M. Linduff, “Guardians of the Brave/Keepers of the Empire: Horses in the Han Imaginary.”

Jessica Rawson, “Gold, an Exotic Material in Early China.”

Karen S. Rubinson, “The Authority of Horse-Rider Iconography: Imagery as the Power of the Past (The Eurasian Steppe and Yunnan in the Late First Millennium BCE).”

Chiou-Peng TseHuey, “Early Copper-base Metals in Western Yunnan.”

Han Rubin and Wang Dong-Ning, “Study of Tin-enriched Ancient Bronzes from the Northern Grassland of China.”

Sergey Miniaev, “Xiongnu Bronze Metallurgy in the Tans-Baikal Area.” [A fuller version of this essay appeared in *The Silk Road* 14 (2016): 147-165.]

Vincent C. Pigott, “The Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC), the Seimo-Turbino Horizon and a Possible Eastward Transmission of Tin-Bronze Technology in Later Third and Early Second Millennium BCE Inner Asia.”

Bibliography of Emma Bunker’s publications.

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**Shaanxi shifan daxue lishi wenhua xueyuan 陕西师范大学历史文化学院 and Shaanxi lishi bowuguan 陕西历史博物馆, eds. *Sichou zhi lu yanjiu jikan (di er ji) 丝绸之路研究集刊 (第二辑) / Journal of Silk Road Studies. Vol. 2. 416 pp. ISBN 978-7-100-15709-4.***

This substantial new annual (this is the second volume to appear), published at Shaanxi Normal University, should be of real interest to students of the Silk Roads who read Chinese. The inauguration of the series was encouraged by the government’s “One Belt and One Road” initiative. This volume contains 27 articles, 25 by Chinese scholars, and one each by Japanese and Russian scholars. There are abstracts and a table of contents in English (pp. 400-412). Subject matter ranges over archaeological, art historical and textual material. Of particular interest are articles relating to Zoroastrianism and the Sogdians; several of the contributions focus on murals at Buddhist cave sites.

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**Konstantin Vladimirovich Chugunov, Hermann Parzinger and Anatoli Nagler. *Tsarskii kurgan skifskogo vremeni Arzhan-2 v Tuve [Arzhan-2, a Royal Barrow of Scythian Times in***

Tuva]. Novosibirsk: Izd-vo. Instituta arkheologii i etnografii Sibirskogo otdeleniia Rossiiskoi akademii nauk, 2017. 500 pp. ISBN 978-5-7803-0275-9.

The excavation of the unlooted Arzhan-2 barrow in Tuva in 1998-2003 revealed a spectacular array of important finds (among them some 5,600 gold objects), which then were quickly brought to public attention by an exhibition in the Hermitage Museum and in 2010 were the subject of the full excavation report published in German (*Der skythenzeitliche Fürstengurgan Aržan 2 in Tuva*). The Russian volume here is a translation of that book, which contains analytical essays by a good many specialists. In large format, the Russian edition includes 153 high-quality plates, in addition to many illustrations throughout.

A joint project of the State Hermitage Museum and the German Archaeological Institute, the excavation produced important new information about burial practices, tomb construction, ritual complexes, and much more. Not least in interest was the preservation of the wooden structures, which then made possible radio-carbon dating from a great many samples. The previously excavated Arzhan-1 tomb is earlier (late 9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century BCE), and is the earliest Scythian burial so far documented. The Arzhan-2 complex can be confidently dated to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries, the main, central burial even more precisely situated between 618 and 604 BCE. The data from Tuva suggest that the Scythians' original center was likely there; the abundant evidence so well known from the region north of the Black Sea documents a later period in their history.

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Nikolai Nikolaevich Seregin and Vladimir Vladimirovich Tishin. *Sotsial'naia istoriia tiurkov Tsentral'noi Azii (vtoraia polovina I. tys. n.e.). Chast' 1: Ocherki sotsial'noi struktury (po pis'mennym i arkheologicheskim istochnikam). Monografiia / A Social History of Türks of Inner Asia (2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium A.D.). Part 1: Essays on Social Structure (based on Written Sources and Archaeological Data). Monograph. Barnaul: Izd-vo. Altaiskogo gos. universiteta, 2017. 344 pp. ISBN*

978-5-7904-2234-8.

A steady stream of valuable publications on early Inner Asia continues to appear from Altai State University Press in Barnaul. This volume surely will attract some interest, as the authors are amongst the best known specialists on the early Türks. They have drawn on scholarship and published primary sources in the full range of relevant languages (the bibliography occupies pp. 269-343), and unlike many who have written on the early Türks, incorporate effectively the very extensive archaeological data (with a good many illustrations). A significant part of the book examines closely the terminology used in the various written sources. They admit that their study cannot in any way be a comprehensive treatment of Türk social structure, as the subject is a large one, with many questions still needing detailed study. A somewhat awkwardly phrased English resume (pp. 263-268) will at least introduce readers who do not know Russian to their approach and conclusions.

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*Zolotoordynskaia tsivilizatsiia /Golden Horde Civilization. Nauchnyi ezhegodnik. No. 10 (2017). Kazan', 2017. 500 pp. + 20 pp. color insert. ISSN 2409-0875 (Online) <<http://civil.goldhorde.ru/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/%D0%97%D0%A6-10.pdf>>; 2308-1856 (Print).*

Book notices in previous volumes of *The Silk Road* have included earlier volumes of this important annual published in Kazan' by the Institute of History of the Republic of Tatarstan's Center for the Study of the Golden Horde and the Tatar Khanates. As a jubilee edition celebrating the first ten years of the publication, this volume is more substantial than earlier ones. While the majority of articles are in Russian (with English abstracts), some are in English (with Russian abstracts). [One of the papers, here in Russian, also has been published in an expanded English version: Emma D. Zilivinaikaia, "Caravanserais in the Golden Horde," *The Silk Road* 15 (2017):13-31.] The range of subjects is broad, among them several relating to "Silk Road" trade. Among the virtues of the programs and publications of the Center in Kazan' is its ongoing commitment to bringing together a wide

array of noted international scholars and making much of the scholarship available on line.

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**Boris I. Marshak.** *Istoriia vostochnoi torevtiki III-XIII vv. i problem kul'turnoi preemstvennosti / History of Oriental Toreutics of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Centuries and Problems of Cultural Continuity.* Sankt-Peterburg: Akademiia issledovaniia kul'tury, 2017. 736 pp. (including 290 b/w illustrations of the objects). ISBN 978-5-9905898-8-9.

The late Boris Il'ich Marshak needs no introduction to students of the Silk Road, as many of his most important publications appeared in English or French; he was a regular contributor to exhibition catalogues. This volume is a substantially revised and expanded version of Marshak's doctoral dissertation (in European practice, the "second Ph.D.") defended in 1982 and published in German in 1986 (*Silberschätze des Orients: Metallkunst des 3.-13. Jahrhunderts und ihre Kontinuität*). The German edition was a translation from the Russian dissertation; the edition here is based on the previously unpublished Russian original, but with the addition of material Marshak worked on and published later and with the inclusion of many new illustrations. Marshak's own work here is supplemented by an explanatory introduction by the editor, V. P. Nikonorov, and an essay by Frantz Grenet (translated from French) providing an overview of Marshak's contributions to the study of Eurasian metalwork, which was pathbreaking for its breadth and methodological innovation. Grenet's essay is illustrated with a number of photos relating to Marshak's career and concludes with images of his burial place at Panjikent, to whose study he devoted most of his academic life. The complete bibliography of his publications included here updates and expands the one which had appeared in the Festschrift for Marshak in 2006.

One has to think that an English translation of this important book would be in order. Short of that, it is an excellent incentive for scholars of the Silk Road to learn Russian, if they do not already read that language.

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**Doris Behrens-Abouseif.** *Practising Diplomacy in the Mamluk Sultanate: Gifts and Material Culture in the Medieval Islamic World.* London; New York: I.B. Tauris, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2014; rev. paperback ed., 2016. xxii + 242 pp. + 25 color plates.

This volume, by one of the leading experts on the arts of the Mamluks, may well already be familiar to some readers of this journal. If not, it certainly will merit attention, since the subject of gift giving is so important for any study of the patterns of international exchange across Eurasia in the era of the Silk Roads. Egypt sometimes is off the radar screen of those who focus our attention more on East and Central Asia, though that certainly should not be the case; many of the objects gifted to the Mamluk rulers were the exotica which had traveled from far in the east.

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**Jonathan M. Bloom,** *The Minaret.* Edinburgh Studies in Islamic Art. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. xxiv + 392 pp. ISBN 978-1-4744-3722-6 (paperback; hardback Edinburgh ed. published in 2013)

One of the most prolific scholars of Islamic art, Jonathan Bloom published the first version of this valuable book in the *Oxford Studies in Islamic Art* series in 1989. In it he advanced some controversial views about the origins of the minaret, which most would view as an essential religious marker of Islamic places of worship, but, as he argued, did not originate with that intent. The new edition incorporates a lot of further reflection and engages the more recent literature. We can be thankful that Robert Hillenbrand decided to include it in the admirable Edinburgh series and that it is now available in a well illustrated paperback.

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**Erika Monahan.** *The Merchants of Siberia: Trade in Early Modern Eurasia.* Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2016. xiv + 410 pp. ISBN 978-0-8014-5407-3.

While this prize-winning revised Stanford Ph.D. dissertation has already been out some years and is known to Russian history specialists, it may not yet

have come to the attention of those who think of the Silk Roads as trade routes involving in the first instance more southerly parts of Eurasia down only to the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As Monahan's substantial book demonstrates, a more expansive geographical and chronological range merits consideration if we are to understand the larger history of the Silk Roads. While there is a rich array of published primary sources relating to the subject, she also has mined new material from the Russian archives.

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**Sergei Vasil'evich Bereznitskii. *Karavannaia trgovlia Rossii s Kitaem i otechestvennaia nauka XVIII veka* [The Caravan Trade of Russia with China and Russian Science in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century] Sankt-Peterburg: Kunstkamera, 2017. 266 pp. ISBN 978-5-88431-325-5.**

The Russian caravan trade with China, established following the Treaty of Nerchinsk in 1689 between Muscovy and the Qing state, brought more than Chinese tea and rhubarb to Europe via the long overland route through Inner Asia. The establishment of a Russian Orthodox mission in Beijing made possible regular contacts with the Jesuits there, contacts which then contributed in important ways to the beginnings of Russian scientific study of China and places along the way to the Far East. Bereznitskii's book focuses on the impact of this exchange in the building of the important collections in the Kunstkamera, the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography in St. Petersburg. Of particular interest are some of the descriptive travel narratives recorded by those who traveled the route and cartographic material. The book has a brief summary in English and an extensive bibliography that includes a large section of archival references. It will serve as a good introduction for those who would wish to explore this rich collection.

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**Rossiiskie gimalaiskie issledovaniia: vchera, segodnia, zavtra** [Russian Studies of the Himalaya: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow]. Ed. by L. Ia. Borkin. Sankt-Peterburg: "Evropeiskii dom", 2017. 242 pp. ISBN 978-5-8015-0387-5.

Volumes such as this one which publish but short summaries of conference papers can be tantalizing but may disappoint in not providing much detail. This book is something of an exception to the rule, since many of the essays (from a conference held in 2017) include useful bibliographic references, and the subject matter ranges so broadly over many topics that should be of interest to anyone working on the region. The essays are grouped under several rubrics: History of Travels and Studies, Oriental Studies, Geography and Geology, and Botany, Zoology, Hydrobiology and Physiology. All in all, an excellent cross-section and introduction to current Russian scholarship, with, inter alia, reviews of material in some of the important museum collections. While the text is all in Russian, English translations of the individual essay titles are included.

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**John Falconer. *Under Indian Skies: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Photographs from a Private Collection*. Copenhagen: The David Collection, 2018. 47 pp + 83 plates. ISBN 978-87-93604-44-5.**

This lovely catalog for an exhibition that may be viewed at the David Collection in Copenhagen through 28 April 2019 is the work of John Falconer, long the Curator of Photographs in the British Library's Oriental and India Office Collections. He and the museum's curators, Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel selected and organized the exhibition from a large collection whose owner wishes to remain anonymous. Falconer's essays here provide an excellent overview of the development of early photography in India and an informative introduction to the main techniques the photographers employed (daguerreotype, calotype, and the wet collodion process and the albumen print). The catalog reproduces in high quality the photographs (preserving the original tones) and includes explanatory captions about what each depicts. A good many of the images are portraits, formally posed though with some scenes from daily life. A significant part of the collection is high-resolution images of architecture, which are so important for their record of buildings that may no longer exist or been significantly altered.

Over his long career, Falconer has done a great deal to organize and study historic photography of Asia.

His work forms an important component of the International Dunhuang Project at the British Library. Another of his contributions, in a book that may not be familiar to most readers of our journal, is his “Cameras at the Golden Foot: Nineteenth-Century Photography in Burma,” in *7 Days in Myanmar. 30 Photographers* (Singapore: Didier Millet, 2014): 13-35.

The exhibition in Copenhagen is the sixth which the museum has devoted to early photography, a subject that continues to be of great interest. Coincidentally, a new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York focuses on the pioneering daguerrotypes made by Joseph Philibert Girault de Prangey, when he traveled through Europe and the Middle East in 1842, only five years after Louis Daguerre had pioneered his process. For those who cannot make it to Copenhagen, the Met’s exhibit would be very rewarding and can be viewed there through May 12, 2019 (see Jason Farago, “An 1840s Road Trip, Captured in Lustrous Silver,” *The New York Times*, January 31, 2019, <<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/31/arts/design/photography-girault-de-prangey-met-museum.html?action=click&module=Features&pgtype=Homepage>>, last accessed 1 February 2019).

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**Nataliia V. Polos'mak and Evgenii S. Bogdanov. *Noin-ulinskaia kolleksiia. Rezul'taty raboty rossiisko-mongol'skoi ekspeditsii 2006-2012 gg. / The Collection of Noin-Ula. The Results of the Russian-Mongolian Expedition, 2006-2012.* Novosibirsk: “INFOLIO”, 2016. 176 pp. ISBN 978-5-905727-07-8.**

The Xiongnu-era cemeteries at Noyon uul in Mongolia keep giving us new information. The joint Mongolian-Russian expedition which excavated four of the tombs between 2006-2012 (Nataliia Polos'mak was co-director) yielded some spectacular finds, most of which are now well known (even if some aspects of their analysis are ongoing) from a number of publications issued with admirable speed. Some large-format, beautifully illustrated books about this material have been appearing from Infolio Press in Novosibirsk, one of them focusing on Barrow No. 20 already reviewed in *The Silk Road* (Vol. 10 [2012]: 151-154).

The volume here makes no pretense at presenting detailed new data, but its essays can introduce readers to the excavations and what has been learned from them about equestrian gear and chariots, lacquerware, and textiles. This is an illustrated catalog of the recent finds, of much higher technical quality than that published for the big Xiongnu exhibition in Ulaanbaatar in 2011 (see also the review cited above). Many of the photos have appeared in earlier publications, but the illustrations here include others, some of them closeups of detail, along with drawings. Of particular value are the detailed photos of the spectacular wool textile found in Barrow No. 20 (an analysis of which by Sergey Yatsenko appeared in *The Silk Road* 10 [2012]: 39-48). For each photo, there is a caption that includes references to the previous publications; there is a bibliography of publications about the Noyon uul barrows. Except for a second title page, the book is entirely in Russian.

Might one hope that eventually all this could be made available on an open-access website? Otherwise, few people are likely to see what these Russian publications have to offer.

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***Materialy i issledovaniia Otdela numizmatiki. Po materialam Mezhdunarodnoi konferentsii “Dva veka musul'manskoi numismatiki v Rossii. Itogi i perspektivy” / Materials and Researches of the Numismatics Department. Based on the Proceedings of the International Conference “Two Centuries of Islamic Numismatics in Russia. General Results and Prospects”.* Trudy Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha, LXXXI. Sankt-Peterburg: Izd-vo. Gos. Ermitazha, 2017. 260 pp. ISBN 978-5-93572-657-2.**

***Materialy i issledovaniia Otdela numizmatiki. Po materialam konferentsii “Sfragistika, numismatika, geral'dika srednevekovogo Kryma” / Materials and Researches of the Numismatics Department. Proceedings of the Conference “Sphragistics, Numismatics, Heraldry in the Medieval Crimea”.* Trudy Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha, XCIV. Sankt-Peterburg: Izd-vo. Gos. Ermitazha, 2018. 260 pp. ISBN 978-5-93572-782-6.**

The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg issues on an admirably regular basis volumes of its *Works (Trudy)*, one subseries of which is the reports of its Numismatics Department. These are substantial volumes, well published and illustrated with many high-quality black-and-white illustrations. In cases such as the conference on Islamic numismatics, many of the contributions, by a pleiad of international specialists, are in English. Well-edited summaries are always provided—in English for the articles in Russian, in Russian for the articles in English. The volume on the Crimea is all in Russian but for the summaries.

Of course there are many other publications on numismatics which deserve the attention of readers of *The Silk Road*. The purpose of this note is not to offer a real review (or even highlight a few of the many articles which are of real interest and which have broad implications). It should be adequate incentive to readers to consider the comments by Marcus Phillips (Biggleswade) in his essay (*Trudy* LXXXI: 51) offering his personal overview of the “Seventh Century Syria Numismatic Roundtable” meetings from 1992 to 2011: “Leading historians often consult us when they discuss numismatic evidence... [Yet] there is still a tendency for historians and numismatists to talk *past* each other rather than *to* each other. Both sides trust the sources they are familiar with. The historians are content to leave the study of coins to the numismatists. The challenge for numismatists is to avoid focusing entirely on coins as objects in themselves and to show awareness of the historical questions involved.” Phillips then provides brief examples of how real dialogue and understanding across this apparent disciplinary crevasse could make a big difference in our understanding of the past. Fortunately, a good many of the essays in these volumes (and, of course, a range of other publications) are successful in bridging the gap. Would that more historians of the Silk Roads take notice.

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**Dmitrii Mikhailovich Timokhin and Vladimir Vladimirovich Tishin. *Ocherki istorii Khorezma i Vostochnogo Desht-i Kypchaka v XI- nachale XIII vv.* [Essays on the History of Khwarezm and the Eastern Kipchak Steppe in**

**the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Centuries]. Moskva: Institut vos-tokovedeniia Rossiikoi akademii nauk, 2018. 380 pp. ISBN 978-5-89282-833-8.**

This study of the political history of Khwarezm, with particular attention to the relations between its rulers and the nomads of the eastern Kipchak steppe promises to fill a gap in earlier studies of the region by V. V. Barthold and S. P. Tolstov. The bibliography includes a full listing of Persian, Arabic, Chinese, Armenian, Georgian and other sources which may have a bearing on the subject, and the secondary sources consulted include major non-Russian studies. Significant attention is given to the interpretation of ethnonyms in various sources. The study encompasses the destruction of the Khwarezm khanate by the Mongols and attempts to delve more deeply than have previous studies into the question of the responsibility of the Khwarezm Shah for the “Otrar catastrophe” and what followed upon it in provoking the Mongol invasion. Based as it is primarily on an analysis of the written sources, the book makes no attempt to incorporate archaeological material, nor does it explore some of the potentially interesting broader cultural and economic aspects of the region.