



Coins, Languages and Cultures from the Steppes

3rd June 2016, Friday, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum
Second Floor (by the Japanese Gallery)

2:00 Dr Jerome Mairat, *Curator, Ashmolean Museum* – ‘Welcome’

2:15 Prof. Jugder Luvsandorj, *Professor of Mongolian studies, Charles University, Prague*
‘The Secret History of the Mongols: Translation and Betrayal’

3:00 Fresco Sam-Sin, *lecturer of Manchu and Manchu studies at Leiden University*
‘Khans, Coins and Calques’

3:45 Dr Lyce Jankowski, *Research fellow, Worcester College*
‘Mongol Empire: issuing Coins and forging a written Language’

followed by a guided visit to the exhibition in the Money Gallery
Pax Mongolica – Coins of the Mongol Empire

All Welcome!

Please RSVP to jerome.mairat@ashmus.ox.ac.uk

Coins, Languages and Cultures from the Steppes

3rd June 2016, Friday, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



Prof. Jugder Luvsandorj is a professor of Mongolian studies and linguistics. He has been professor of Mongolian studies at the National University of Mongolia, a lecturer at the State University of St. Petersburg, and a professor of Mongolian studies at South and Central Asia Studies Institute of Philosophy Faculty at Charles University in Prague. His research focuses on how the first mistranslation of the original "Secret History of Mongols" has affected the modern understanding of the text. He has travelled approximately 15,000 km across Mongolia visiting all historic and battlefields mentioned in the "Secret History of Mongolia". He is combining a linguistic point of view with an anthropological approach.

'The Secret History of the Mongols: Translation and Betrayal'

The only original source providing us with a detail account of the life of Chingis Khan is the *Secret History of the Mongols*, which was acknowledged by the UNESCO as a crucial part of the heritage of mankind in 1990. It has been translated into 26 languages, and is considered to be one of the most important medieval historical-literary monuments. The first ten chapters were composed in 1228—the year following Chingis Khan's death—while the last two chapters were written in 1240, during the reign of Ögedei Khan. Both sections were written in the so-called Uyghur-Mongol script. The first translation (a Chinese interlinear translation) was written during the Ming Dynasty in 1382. This talk will approach the many mistranslated words glossed from the first translation and how modern translators have heavily relied on this mistranslated Chinese version.



Fresco Sam-Sin 京以歲 is lecturer of Manchu and Manchu studies at Leiden University, and a doctoral candidate at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen. His research focuses on earliest Manchu sources. He is the initiator of the digital research and learning platform manc.hu. In its collaborative online classroom, he currently guides students from the UK, US, Holland, Germany and Switzerland.

'Khans, Coins and Calques'

Casting cash is a statement of power, but an often forgotten piece of primary historical evidence. Manchus started to cast coins during the reign of Nurhaci (1593-1626). These coins have been studied within a sinological framework. However, considering the ethnic and socio-political complexity of these earliest times of the Manchus, a full understanding of the text and context of Nurhaci coinage would not be complete without looking towards other (and arguably more important) actors. This talk will place the first Manchu coins within the then adays Manchu-Mongol relations. How should we read these coins and does this change our view of Nurhaci's time?



Dr Lyce Jankowski is a specialist of Chinese numismatics currently in charge of the East Asian coin collection of the Ashmolean Museum. She studied Chinese Art History in Paris (Sorbonne University) and in Beijing (Beijing Shifan Daxue). Her research explores Chinese coin imitations and late forgeries, building of knowledge through scholar's networks and literary genres in Chinese numismatics. She recently curated the exhibition 'Pax Mongolica (1210-1350) - Coins of the Mongol Empire' at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

'Mongol Empire: issuing Coins and forging a written Language'

During the 13th century, the Mongol empire expanded from the Korean peninsula to Central Europe covering a large part of Eurasia. At the start of their great expansion, the Mongol nomads had neither a coinage nor writing. The building of their empire required them to issue coins but also to invent writing for Mongol and potentially for all languages under their authority. The coins issued at that period illustrate this great challenge