

This Month in Mongolian Studies – May 2009

This is a monthly compendium of important and interesting events taking place in Mongolian Studies in Ulaanbaatar and around the world. This list is based on information the center has received and is presented as a service to ACMS members. If you would like to renew your membership, have information you would like to submit to future e-mails or have received this message in error, please contact the ACMS at info@mongoliacenter.org

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Fellowship Program Recipients Announcement

ACMS Research Fellowship, US-Mongolia Field Fellowship, and ACMS Language Fellowship programs ...

ACMS Library Acquisitions

Each month the ACMS library publishes a list of materials acquired and processed into the ACMS library collection. This list can be viewed on the ACMS library website at www.mongoliacenter.org/library/bibliography.

ACMS Speaker Series

Call for Speakers for Fall 2009

The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) invites researchers and scholars to present public lectures during the ACMS Fall 2009 Speaker Series. If you are planning to visit Mongolia between September and December 2009 to conduct research or study, please contact info@mongoliacenter.org to schedule a date to participate in this public lecture series. The lectures must be conducted in English, and all academic disciplines are welcome. The Speaker Series is a great opportunity for scholars to present their work and for the general public to learn about academic research in Mongolia. Please notify the ACMS at least two weeks prior to your proposed date to speak in order to allow enough time to advertise the lecture.

“An Introduction to the Environmental History of Qing Mongolia: the View from the Archives”

Jonathan Schlesinger, ACMS Fellow, Harvard University

MAY 14TH, 2009, 5PM ROOM 305, BUILDING NO.5 NUM

In the year 1800, why were sables and wild boars disappearing so rapidly from Mongolia's protected areas? And why, for that matter, had the ruling Manchus even established such areas? Under what circumstances would officials ever consider the natural environment to be damaged or polluted? This lecture will attempt to answer such questions in light of new research on Qing-period archival records, with a focus on the years 1796-1850. For the Manchus, Jonathan will argue, maintaining the ethnic integrity of Inner Asian homelands – such as Khalkha Mongolia – was central to their imperial project, and this extended to the protection of the frontiers' flora, fauna, and natural landscapes. In practice, though, in an era of unprecedented commercial expansion, frontier ecology came to embody negotiations between multi-ethnic empire and marketplace, as local actors – many impoverished – sought to profit from a surging urban demand for natural resources. This lecture will introduce the relevant archival materials for studying Qing Mongolia's environmental history and discuss what they tell us about the maintenance of state-protected wilderness, poaching industries, and the shifting meanings of pollution and cleanliness.

“Host - Parasite Biodiversity: A global perspective”

Dr. Scott Lyell Gardner Ph.D, Curator and Professor, Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology

MAY 28TH, 2009, 5PM ROOM 305, BUILDING NO. 5 NUM

Biological diversity is the foundation of life on earth. Without the diverse and interconnected communities and assemblages of living organisms on our earth, we would have no food webs to sustain extant species of plants and animals. Dr. Gardner studies these interconnected systems from the viewpoint of a systematist and parasitologist. At first glance, these two fields of study, systematics and parasitology, seem to be very specific, but they are actually very broad in scope. While systematics seeks to understand the evolutionary relationships among species of organisms, Parasitology is the study of parasites and of parasitism. All species of animals harbor their own specific parasites ranging from macro- (like tapeworms, ticks, lice, or nematodes) to micro-parasites like viruses and protozoans.

Our work world-wide over the past 20 years has shown how predictions of areas of high biodiversity can be made based on the presence of a single species of tapeworm in marsupials. We have argued, too, how the presence and absence of parasites in humans in both the Old World and the New World can shed light on large scale geographic movements of people in prehistoric times. More recently my students, colleagues, and I have been describing the diversity of parasites from mammals of Mongolia and relating this diversity to the ecology of the host mammals. Our current project in Mongolia, the Mongolian Vertebrate Parasite Project is a multi-national collaborative effort funded by the US National Science Foundation. We are bringing together research scientists and students from the National University of Mongolia, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Hokkaido University, the University of New Mexico, Portland State University in Oregon, and the University of Kansas to study the diversity, relationships, and ecology of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and their parasites in Mongolia.

Researchers from these institutions will spend the next 3 years exploring the 27,000 square kilometer Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, and its environs, in an effort to better

understand the diversity of species and their parasites that live in this area, and how they interact with each other and their environment. By understanding which parasites these animals may harbor researchers will garner a better idea of the habits and interactions of these animals as well as potential threats to wildlife or local human inhabitants. For example, in addition to basic work in biodiversity, we will examine wildlife populations for the presence of several potential zoonotic agents of disease, including hantavirus and the tapeworm of carnivores and rodents which is the causative agent of alveolar hydatid disease in humans.

Dr. Gardner is Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Curator and Director of the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology at UNL. He studies parasites in vertebrates world-wide focused primarily on macro- and micro-parasites of mammals. (See: <http://hwml.unl.edu> and <http://lamarck.unl.edu/mongolia>).

More information about speakers at: www.mongoliacenter.org/ss.

Attend

International Conference in Ulaanbaatar, May 29-30

The Academy of Korean Studies, ROK, and National University of Mongolia, the Mongolian-Korean Union of Professors and Scholars to attend the International Conference, to be held in Ulaanbaatar on May 29-30, 2009, to mark the discovery of the original text of the Mongolian Yuan Dynasty's Legal Code "Zhizheng tiaoge"(1338), and the significance "Yasa Code of Chingis Khaan". For more information about the conference, please contact at oyunsuren@yahoo.com and bayasaa_sfs@yahoo.com.

Summer School for Young Mongolists

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2009

National Association of Mongol Studies is organizing the 6th year of its Summer School for Young Mongolists June 23rd-July 14th, 2009. Those interested in participating in the program can download the application packet here: [Application Packet](#).

The Arts of China Consortium web pages contain the following new entries:

"Entlang der Grossen Mauer: Architektur und Identit?t in China und der Mongolei / Along the Great Wall: Architecture and Identity in China and Mongolia"

"War and Warriors: The Mongol Invasions in Japanese Art"

Please visit: <http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/fineart/html/chinese/>

Call for Papers

"Study of Mongolian Symbolism: Quest and Perspectives"

September 9-10, 2009, Centre for the Study of Nomadic Culture and Civilization, National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Center for the Study of Nomadic Culture and Civilization, National University of Mongolia, invites panel and paper proposals for its first Conference on Mongolian Symbolism scheduled for September 9-10, 2009. The Center welcomes panels and paper

topics related to all aspects of Symbolism in the Mongolian cultural area. The Mongolian cultural area including (but not limited to): The Republic of Mongolia, The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (PRC), Xingjian Autonomous Region (PRC), Buriyati (RF) and Kalmukya (RF). See full announcement at www.mongoliacenter.org/announcements.

“Global Supplementary Grant Program for Doctoral Studies”

Open Society Institute

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 8, 2009

The Open Society Institute's Network Scholarship Programs (NSP) is pleased to announce the Global Supplementary Grant Program (GSGP) for the 2009 - 2010 academic year. GSGP offers supplementary grants to students from select countries of Eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia. The purpose of the program is to enable qualified students to pursue doctoral studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at accredited universities in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle/Near East, and North America. For further details about the program please visit:

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/scholarship/focus_areas/global_supplementary/guidelines.

New Publications

”Following Marco Polo's Silk Road”

Brian Lawrenson

Brian Lawrenson and his wife Jill recently spent three months travelling the Silk Road and have written Following Marco Polo's Silk Road that describes their adventures. It is a book about their passion for travel. For more information or to request a free review copy, please contact the author at blawrens@bigpond.net.au.

”Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, Vol. 11, No. 6, 25 March 2009”

The 25 March issue of the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst (Volume 11, no. 6) is now online at <http://www.cacianalyst.org/>. The PDF version of the entire issue is available at: <http://www.cacianalyst.org/files/090325Analyst.pdf>