

May 2014

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This is a monthly listing of selected academic activities and resources related to Mongolia. This list is based on information the ACMS has received and is presented as a service to its members. If you would like to submit information to be included in nextmonth's issue please contact the ACMS at [info@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:info@mongoliacenter.org) and/or the editor, Marissa Smith, at [msmith@mongoliacenter.org](mailto:msmith@mongoliacenter.org).

ACMS News

Upcoming ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events

## Speaker Series

The Speaker Series are formal presentations given by leading academics, experts and community leaders on a wide variety of topics related to Mongolia. Each session has a 30-45 minute formal lecture followed by a 30 minute Q&A session. All presentations are held in the American Corner presentation room of the Natsagdorj Library in Ulaanbaatar. We invite all researchers visiting Mongolia and who are interested in presenting to contact us at their earliest convenience.

***ACMS Speaker Series***

*Efficacy of a savings-led microfinance intervention to reduce sexual risk for HIV among women engaged in sex work: A randomized clinical trial*

### **Speakers: Susan Witte**

**Susan Witte has a PhD in social work from Columbia University and 25 years of practice and research experience.**

### **Marion Riedel**

**Marion Riedel received a Ph.D. in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work in 1998 and an MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work in 1985.**

**5:30 PM, Tuesday- May 6th, 2014, American Corner,**

**ULAANBAATAR**

***Main entrance of Natsagdorj Library.***

*Poverty, gender inequity and partner violence are major structural risks that limit the effectiveness of HIV prevention for women. Women engaged in sex work, who must rely on sexual behavior as a means of economic support, face multiple structural barriers that prevent them from engaging prevention behaviors and contribute to a compromised ability to be concerned with the long term health consequences associated with risk-taking. Interventions that address structural risk environments of HIV are needed especially for women engaged in sex work. Drs. Witte and Riedel will present the findings from a randomized clinical trial testing the efficacy of a structural intervention combining savings-led microfinance and HIV prevention components on sexual risk reduction among women engaging in street-based sex work in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Findings advance the gender-specific HIV prevention repertoire for women, demonstrating risk reduction achieved through a structural intervention that relies on asset building and alternative income to sex work*

## **Scholar's Corner**

The Scholars Corner is an informal gathering aimed at providing an opportunity for visiting academics, resident scholars and interested individuals to meet, discuss their research and exchange ideas.

Calls for Papers, Conferences, and Workshops

Call for Articles

**The Center for Asian Literature and Translation (ALT)** is an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal established by the Centre for the History of Religion in Asia (CHRA), Cardiff University. The main objective of the journal is to publish research papers, translations, and reviews in the field of Asian religious literature (construed in the widest sense) in a form that makes them quickly and easily accessible to the international academic community, to professionals in related fields, such as theatre and storytelling, and to the general public. The scope of the journal covers the cultural, historical, and religious literature of South, Southeast, East and Central Asia in the relevant languages (e.g. Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, Tibetan, Japanese, et al.). We particularly welcome literary translations, including extracts from longer works in progress, manuscript reports and commentarial material, new adaptations of classic texts, archive stories and debate pieces, and the discussion of new approaches to translation. Book and performance reviews, including visual material, and letters to the editor, including responses to published material, are also solicited. Contributions are welcome on a wide range of topics in the research area as defined above. For further information see: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/research/centres/chra/whatwedo/journal-asian-lit-and-translation.html>.

## Call for Papers

**The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)** invites panel and paper proposals for the Fifteenth Annual CESS Conference, **October 23-26, 2014**, in New York City. The event will be held at Columbia University, hosted by the [Harriman Institute](#). Registration starts Thursday evening, October 23. Panels begin Friday morning, October 24, and continue through mid-day on Sunday, October 26. Panel and paper topics relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship on Central Eurasia are welcome. The geographic domain of Central Eurasia extends from the Black Sea and Iranian Plateau to **Mongolia** and Siberia, including the Caucasus, Crimea, Middle Volga, Afghanistan, Tibet, Xinjiang, and Central and Inner Asia. Practitioners and scholars in all humanities and social science disciplines with an interest in Central Eurasia are encouraged to participate. The program will feature approximately 70 panels. There will also be supplementary events and a keynote speaker. **To submit a pre-organized panel or individual paper proposal, please login to the CESS Website** [atwww.centraleurasia.org](http://www.centraleurasia.org).

**The Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen** (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) will be hosting a conference titled "East Asia and the European Union: strong Economics, weak Politics?" on May 8-9 2014. Participants from around the world are welcome. Among the themes included in this free conference will be the Political and security complex, Trade and investment, Trade and investment partnership (TTIP), Culture and people-to-people. For full information on the call for papers see [here](#), otherwise for visit the conference website at <http://www.rug.nl/research/east-asian-studies/news/call-for-papers-east-asia-and-the-european-union-strong-economics-weak-politics>

## Call for Film Review

**The Journal of the Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central**

**Eurasia (ACME)** welcomes film reviews for the third issue of his journal. Should you like to review a particular documentary or send us one to review please email the film review editor Dr Michael Abecassis directly: ([michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)) For general inquiries and Instructions for Authors, please visit: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/anthropologyiran/acme>

## Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

**Council for International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Programs** (East Asia and the Pacific--Mongolia--All Disciplines) CIES will provide up to three Teaching, Teaching/Research, or Research awards in any discipline tenable at any appropriate institution in Mongolia. The grants are four or ten months in duration. A PhD (or other terminal degree) is not required. Applicants should have at least two years of university teaching experience or the professional equivalent. Those holding associate or full professor rank are preferred, but assistant professors will also be considered. Professionals should have university teaching experience. The award is open to academics and appropriately qualified professionals outside of academia. All teaching will be in English; proficiency in Mongolian or Russian is not required. Some knowledge of Mongolian or Russian is advantageous and would be useful for everyday living. Higher education courses taught in English are particularly needed because many current professors were educated during the socialist era and have only studied Russian. **Deadline: 08/01/2014** See post online at the [CIES catalog](#).

## Resources

**Dissertation Reviews** now includes a section on Inner and Central Asia: <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/category/review/innercentralasia>

**Asian Highlands Research Network [AH-RN]** is a scholarly discussion group associated with the journal Asian Highlands Perspectives. This group focuses on the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding regions, including the Southeast Asian Massif, Himalayan Massif, the Extended Eastern Himalayas, the Mongolian Plateau, and other contiguous areas. We aim to promote exploration of cross-regional commonalities in history, culture, language, and socio-political context not served by current academic forums. AH-RN will be of interest to Sinologists, Tibetologists, Mongolists, and South and Southeast Asianists. We welcome group members to share information about events and publications related to the study of the Asian Highlands.

Services: timely and exclusive reviews of new books in the field; semi-regular roundup of new open access publications; announcements of new publications from Asian Highlands Perspectives.

AH-RN is a private group. To join, please contact: [Gerald.Roche\[at\]ymail.com](mailto:Gerald.Roche[at]ymail.com).

For more on Asian Highlands Perspectives:

<http://www.platauculture.org/asian-highlands-perspectives>

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/asianhighlandsperspectives>

**TheDukha Ethnoarchaeological Project.** The primary goal of the DukhaEthnoarchaeological Project is the development of spatial theory of human behavior for application to archaeological problems. Visit the website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/dukhaethnoarch/> .

**Asian Politics and History Association.** Asian Politics and History Association is a non-political, non-profit academic society organized by scholars of Asian studies. Established in 2011 in Hong Kong, APHA currently has members from Asian-Pacific, European and North American countries. APHA supports the Journal of Asian Politics & History, an academic journal published twice a year beginning in October 2012. Visit the website at: <http://www.aphahk.org>.

**Juniper: Online Database for Mongolian and Siberian Studies.** This new French scientific tool is created at the initiative of the Centre for Mongolian and Siberian EPHE. It aims to bring together texts (native), images and multimedia on the peoples of Mongoliaand Siberia. Several galleries of images are presented, including collections of old prints and a new series of old photographs of the Tuvan National Museum. Sheets populations gather essential information and links to documents relating to the peoples of Northern Asia. Subject files (kinship, Personalia, shamanism and soon others) allow you to browse the data according to thematic itineraries. The bibliography contains references to books and articles, some of which have been digitized and can be downloaded for researchers. Visit: [www.base-juniper.org](http://www.base-juniper.org).

**Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA).** Recently the University of New Mexico Library officially announced the launch of the new, upgraded Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA). The ornithological community is once again indebted to the UNM library for investing in the open access distribution of our historical ornithological literature. SORA has been moved to a new platform that will allow the resource to grow and expand over time. Many of the SORA journal titles have been updated with additional articles, and a new ornithological title has been added to the site. SORA now offers a number of new features for users and provides tools for journal publishers to update the SORA repository directly, with little or no technical support. All of these improvements have been needed for some time, and the UNM Libraries SORA team appreciates your collective patience; it has taken over a year to convert the entire SORA article holdings and prepare the new site for production. A number of ongoing improvements are still in the works for 2014, and as with any major system upgrade, there are a countless number of small details that still require attention. The new URL to the site is <http://sora.unm.edu>.

**The Mongolist** is a website dedicated to sharing knowledge about Mongolian politics, business, and society. The website is an ever growing resource built on data and information collected on the Internet and in Mongolia. The aim of this website is to make understanding the complexity of the rapid social and economic change occurring inMongolia not only accessible but also rewarding. The underlying principle guiding the

development of all content on this website is evidence based investigation. Whenever possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are replaced with facts, data, and extrapolation. And, when this is not possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are advertised as such. Visit: <http://www.themongolist.com/>

**Education About Asia (EAA)** has become an essential resource for teachers dealing with Asian themes or topics; both in the broad trans-continental and regional contexts. Conceived as a publication for K-12 faculty, it has in fact proved to be extremely helpful for higher education faculty seeking insights on many subjects. The Asian Studies outreach activities of many colleges and universities have greatly benefited from EAA materials. Register (for free) to access approximately 900 articles from all thirty-seven back issues from 1996-2008: <http://www.asian-studies.org/EAA/index.htm> and subscribe to the Print Edition at <https://www.asian-studies.org/EAA-Subscriptions.htm>.

**Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center:** Indiana University's IAUNRC has updated its website to include not only its regular newsletters but podcasts, lecture videos, teaching resources and more: <http://www.iu.edu/~iaunrc/>.

**Mongolia Focus (formerly "Mongolia Today"):** "This blog is an attempt by three avid Mongolia watchers to share their observations about current developments in Mongolia." By Julian Dierkes and Dalaibulanii Byambajav, social scientists at the University of British Columbia, this blog mostly follows Mongolian politics and the mining sector. Visit: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mongolia/>.

## Other News and Events

**Monthly Biobeers Talk:** First Thursday of the month, Sweet Cafe (located behind the Information and Technological National Park and next to the Admon Printing Company, west of Internom Bookstore Building). People are requested to arrive after 6pm, in time for the talk to start at 6.30. Biobeers is a monthly gathering of government and NGO staff, biologists, researchers, and other professionals interested in conservation. Each month, Biobeers sponsors a half-hour presentation on a topic relevant to Mongolian conservation, followed by an informal gathering to discuss activities and issues of interest. Biobeers is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the field of conservation in Mongolia, talk informally to other researchers and peers in your field, and share information about issues critical to the environment and people of Mongolia. Biobeers is organised by the Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme and sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Join the Yahoo! Group Mongolbioweb for announcements

### **Buddhist Summer Meditation, Teachings and Retreat in Mongolia,**

14 July – 30 July, 2014. The 30-hour summer retreat is the first occasion when foreigners can have a look in the authentic life of Mongolian Buddhist monasteries. The participants will live in monasteries having morning meditation sessions and common meals with local monks, and studying Buddhist philosophy from eminent Mongolian and Tibetan masters including Gavj Shunlaiv Gundsambuu who studied in Dharamsala, Gavj Nyamsambuu who

studied in Gomang Datsan for ten years, and also in Oxford, and Lharampa Geshe Agvaanchultum from Gomang Datsan, India. The summer retreat will start after the State Naadam Festival held on 11-12 July, and end before the Kālacakra Initiation planned to be given by His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama in Ulaanbaatar on 1 August. This is an auspicious year for Mongolian devotees as His Holiness will visit and bless their country.

Geshe Dashdemberel, abbot of Pethub Monastery will open the summer retreat. He studied in Gomang Datsan and in Dharamsala, and will introduce the history of Pethub Monastery as well as the history of Mongolian Buddhism in his talk on 14 July. During the two-week period the participants will acquire not only theoretic and practical education but will be familiar with Mongolian Buddhism and Mongolian culture. A multi-language certificate will be given to all participants who achieve the summer retreat that will end by the blessing given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during an audience of the study group. Application opens from 1 April, 2014. For further information please contact the organizer B. Tsolmon, Buddhist teacher as soon as possible via e-mail: [vtsolmon@freemail.hu](mailto:vtsolmon@freemail.hu); [krisztinateleki@yahoo.com](mailto:krisztinateleki@yahoo.com). Accommodation needs (dormitory or hotel) should be indicated and the participation fee should be transferred until 31 May, 2014 (bank account number will be given later). Participants should have arrived before 13 July. For further information regarding the venues see: [www.gandan.mn](http://www.gandan.mn), [www.buddha.mn](http://www.buddha.mn).

## Recent Publications

*Nomadismes d'Asie centrale et septentrionale* (Nomadism in Central and North Asia) by Charles Stépanoff, Carole Ferret, Gaëlle Lacaze, Julien Thorez. For more information in French about this publication visit [the website of the publisher](#), or find a table of contents pdf [here](#).

*Tragic Spirits: Shamanism, Memory and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia*, (Manduhai Buyandelger). The collapse of socialism at the end of the twentieth century brought devastating changes to Mongolia. Economic shock therapy—an immediate liberalization of trade and privatization of publicly owned assets—quickly led to impoverishment, especially in rural parts of the country, where *Tragic Spirits* takes place. Following the travels of the nomadic Buryats, Manduhai Buyandelger tells a story not only of economic devastation but also a remarkable Buryat response to it—the revival of shamanic practices after decades of socialist suppression. Attributing their current misfortunes to returning ancestral spirits who are vengeful over being abandoned under socialism, the Buryats are now at once trying to appease their ancestors and recover the history of their people through shamanic practice. Thoroughly documenting this process, Buyandelger situates it as part of a global phenomenon, comparing the rise of shamanism in liberalized Mongolia to its similar rise in Africa and Indonesia. In doing so, she offers a sophisticated analysis of the way economics, politics, gender, and other factors influence the spirit world and the crucial workings of cultural memory.

*In Pursuit of Early Mammals (Life of the Past)*, (Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska). *In Pursuit of Early Mammals* presents the history of the mammals that lived during the Mesozoic era, the time

when dinosaurs ruled the Earth, and describes their origins, anatomy, systematics, paleobiology, and distribution. It also tells the story of the author, a world-renowned specialist on these animals, and the other prominent paleontologists who have studied them. Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska was the first woman to lead large-scale paleontological expeditions, including eight to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, which brought back important collections of dinosaur, early mammal, and other fossils. She shares the difficulties and pleasures encountered in finding rare fossils and describes the changing views on early mammals made possible by these discoveries. Between 1963 and 1971, Kielan-Jaworowska organized eight paleontological expeditions to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. These expeditions assembled an impressive collection of dinosaurs and Cretaceous mammals. Her research has focused on the study of the detailed structure of the brain and musculature of early mammals and their evolutionary relationships.

*A Monastery in Time: The Making of Mongolian Buddhism*, by Caroline Humphrey and Hurelbaatar Ujeed. (University of Chicago Press). *A Monastery in Time* is the first book to describe the life of a Mongolian Buddhist monastery—the Mergen Monastery in Inner Mongolia—from inside its walls. From the Qing occupation of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through the Cultural Revolution, Caroline Humphrey and Hurelbaatar Ujeed tell a story of religious formation, suppression, and survival over a history that spans three centuries. Often overlooked in Buddhist studies, Mongolian Buddhism is an impressively self-sustaining tradition whose founding lama, the Third Mergen Gegen, transformed Tibetan Buddhism into an authentic counterpart using the Mongolian language. Drawing on fifteen years of fieldwork, Humphrey and Ujeed show how lamas have struggled to keep Mergen Gegen's vision alive through tremendous political upheaval, and how such upheaval has inextricably fastened politics to religion for many of today's practicing monks. Exploring the various ways Mongolian Buddhists have attempted to link the past, present, and future, Humphrey and Ujeed offer a compelling study of the interplay between the individual and the state, tradition and history.

*Fossil Mammals of Asia: Neogene Biostratigraphy and Chronology*, by Xiaoming Wang, Lawrence J. Flynn, Mikael Fortelius. (Columbia University Press). *Fossil Mammals of Asia*, edited by and with contributions from world-renowned scholars, is the first major work devoted to the late Cenozoic (Neogene) mammalian biostratigraphy and geochronology of Asia. This volume employs cutting-edge biostratigraphic and geochemical dating methods to map the emergence of mammals across the continent. Written by specialists working in a variety of Asian regions, it uses data from many basins with spectacular fossil records to establish a groundbreaking geochronological framework for the evolution of land mammals. Asia's violent tectonic history has resulted in some of the world's most varied topography, and its high mountain ranges and intense monsoon climates have spawned widely diverse environments over time. These geologic conditions profoundly influenced the evolution of Asian mammals and their migration into Europe, Africa, and North America. Focusing on amazing new fossil finds that have redefined Asia's role in mammalian evolution, this volume synthesizes information from a range of field studies on Asian mammals and biostratigraphy, helping to trace the histories and movements of extinct and extant mammals from various major groups and all northern continents, and providing



geologists with a richer understanding of a variety of Asian terrains.

*LIVE FROM UB: A Documentary on Modern Mongolian Rock*, by Lauren Knapp (Fulbright-mtvU Fellow 2012). post-production is currently underway Lauren Knapp's documentary film LIVE FROM UB. She spent ten months in Mongolia researching the rock music scene, its history, and how the new generation of musicians is fusing traditional music and themes with modern styles to create something that is unique to both their generation and Mongolia. Lauren was first interested to learn how the first generation of Mongolians to grow up in a democracy was expressing themselves through music. She found that the trajectory of Mongolian rock through, emulates the path Mongolia has taken as a nation over the past three decades. You can read more about the film, her research, and watch exclusive videos on the film website ([www.livefromub.com](http://www.livefromub.com)).

*Does Everyone Want Democracy? : Insights from Mongolia*, by Paula Sabloff. (Left Coast Press). Do all people desire democracy? For at least a century, the idea that democracy is a universal good has been an article of faith for American policy makers. Paula Sabloff challenges this conventional wisdom about who wants democracy and why. Arguing that certain universal human aspirations exist, she shows how local realities are highly particularistic and explains that culture, history, and values are critical to the study of political systems. Her fascinating study of Mongolia—feudal until it became the first country to follow Russia into communism and now struggling with post-socialist democratization—is a model for investigating how everyday people around the world actually think about and implement democracy on their own terms.

*A History of Land Use in Mongolia: The Thirteenth Century to the Present*, by Elizabeth Endicott (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). A History of Land Use in Mongolia examines conceptual and practical issues of land use during eight centuries of Mongolian history. The book analyzes how Mongolia's pastoral nomadic herding population historically has dealt with secular and religious forms of authority in the ongoing struggle for control over pastureland and water resources. The author's findings derive from a number of field trips to the Mongolian countryside as well as a diverse array of written sources including Russian geographic treatises, historical texts, Mongolian press accounts, and Western economic analyses of the present day herding sector.

*A Kazakh Teacher's Story: Surviving the Silent Steppe*, by Mukhamet Shayakhmetov. (Stacey International, 2013). This book begins where 'The Silent Steppe' left off. It is early 1945, and the author, Mukhamet, still recuperating from serious war injuries, has traveled thousands of kilometers back to his home village in the eastern Kazakh steppe. As he encounters scenes of desperate poverty, he quickly realizes the immense sacrifices made by local people, and particularly women, while the able-bodied men were away fighting. Mukhamet endeavors to pick up the pieces of his pre-war life, working hard to support his extended family, marrying, continuing his education, and eventually embarking on a life in teaching dedicated to giving young people the best education possible. Through his insightful portraits of local party bosses, district officials and bureaucrats, and tales of the vicissitudes of daily life, a broader, more personal picture emerges of life under Stalin, and

of his pervading shadow decades on. The author's moral integrity, stoicism and profound respect for the struggles of the common people stand out in this memoir of a life of self-effacing dedication.

*Energy Access, Poverty, and Development: The Governance of Small-Scale Renewable Energy in Developing Asia* (Ashgate Studies in Environmental Policy and Practice) by Benjamin K. Sovacool and Ira Martina Drupady. (Ashgate Pub Co, 2012). This book showcases how small-scale renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, cook stoves, biogas digesters, microhydro units, and wind turbines are helping Asia respond to a daunting set of energy governance challenges. Using extensive original research this book offers a compendium of the most interesting renewable energy case studies over the last ten years from one of the most diverse regions in the world. Through an in-depth exploration of case studies in Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka, the authors highlight the applicability of different approaches and technologies and illuminates how household and commercial innovations occur (or fail to occur) within particular energy governance regimes. It also, uniquely, explores successful case studies alongside failures or "worst practice" examples that are often just as revealing as those that met their targets. Based on these successes and failures, the book presents twelve salient lessons for policymakers and practitioners wishing to expand energy access and raise standards of living in some of the world's poorest communities. It also develops an innovative framework consisting of 42 distinct factors that explain why some energy development interventions accomplish all of their goals while others languish to achieve any.

*The History of Central Asia: The Age of the Steppe Warriors (Complete Illustrated History 1)* by Christoph Baumer. (I. B. Tauris, 2012). The epic plains and arid deserts of Central Asia have witnessed some of the greatest migrations, as well as many of the most transformative developments, in the history of civilization. Christoph Baumer's ambitious four-volume treatment of the region charts the 3000-year drama of Scythians and Sarmatians; Soviets and transcontinental Silk Roads; trade routes and the transmission of ideas across the steppes; and the breathless and brutal conquests of Alexander the Great and Chinghis Khan. Masterfully interweaving the stories of individuals and peoples, the author's engaging prose is richly augmented throughout by color photographs taken on his own travels. For all the complexity of the history, Dr. Baumer, a noted authority on Central Asia, never loses sight of the sweeping grandeur of its overall setting. Volume 1 focuses on the geography of the area now occupied by present-day Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, northern Afghanistan, western and central Mongolia and parts of southern Russia and northern China. Discussing the changing climates of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the author explores subjects as diverse as glacial retreat; the invention of the wheel; the legendary Cimmerians and Amazons; Hellenism and Zoroastrianism; and the Oxus Treasure. Future volumes will explore the later historical periods of the region.

*The Short Essays of the Ming and Qing Dynasties*, by Wang Hong and Zhang Shunsheng. (Paths International Ltd., 2013). The late Ming Dynasty (1572-1644) and the early Qing

Dynasty (1644-1722) saw the true splendour of short essays in China. No other period in the history of short essays in ancient China can match them in the quality and number of works, literary schools, or the variety of styles. Compared with those written before or after, the short essays in these periods were richer in the choice of topics, and freer in form, focusing not only on real social life, but also on worldly experience and life's little delights. They are a rich and vital part of China's literary and cultural heritage. The 127 short essays in this wonderful book are considered to be the very best examples from an era of China's history that's synonymous with beautifully crafted short essays. 82 essays are from the Ming Dynasty and 45 essays are from the Qing Dynasty, written by more than a hundred different Chinese authors from both dynasties. These are arranged in the order of the authors' birth dates and tenderly translated into English by leading Chinese translators Wang Hong and Zhang Shunsheng, who have faithfully represented the styles and literary achievements made by the featured essayists. It's a wonderful book that will delight fans of classic Chinese short essays, as well as providing the perfect introduction to readers new to the genre.

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## ACMS News

### Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

Thank you to all who came out to make the ACMS Annual Meeting a success--and a lot of fun! Special thanks go out to our friends at the **Mongolian Cultural Center**, who organized a stunning cultural program. More images can be found on our [Facebook page](#). It was great

to see many old friends, and I personally made a lot of great new local connections and new friends. I look forward to working with you in the future to promote [Mongolianstudies!](#) - David, ACMS

## Upcoming ACMS Sponsored Programs and Events

### Speaker Series

The Speaker Series are formal presentations given by leading academics, experts and community leaders on a wide variety of topics related to [Mongolia](#). Each session has a 30-45 minute formal lecture followed by a 30 minute Q&A session. All presentations are held in the American Corner presentation room of the Natsagdorj Library in Ulaanbaatar. We invite all researchers visiting [Mongolia](#) and who are interested in presenting to contact us at their earliest convenience.

#### April 8th Speaker Series – Emma Hite

PhD. Candidate Emma Hite is a 2013-2014 Fulbright IIE Research Fellow and doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. She will be presenting her ongoing research on the Baruun Mukhdagiin Am (BMA) Archaeological Project. She will be discussing the preliminary results and future directions for research on the Xiongnu Empire.

#### April 22nd Speaker Series – Dr. Amgalan Sukhbaatar

April 22nd Speaker Series – Dr. Amgalan Sukhbaatar

Lecturer at the School of Civil Engineering and Architecture at the [Mongolian](#) University of Science and Technology, Dr. Amgalan will be discussing the Relationship between Pedestrian Perception and Characteristics of Sidewalk Environment in case of the central area of Ulaanbaatar city.

### Scholar's Corner –Women and Power in [Mongolia](#)

The Scholars Corner is an informal gathering aimed at providing an opportunity for visiting academics, resident scholars and interested individuals to meet, discuss their research and exchange ideas.

#### April 20th Scholars Corner – Minister Mary Collins

Wrapping up her final session with the [Mongolia](#) Women's Parliamentary Caucus our guest host, former Canadian Minister of National Health and Welfare, will lead a discussion on the

position of women and power within Mongolia.

## Calls for Papers, Conferences, and Workshops

### Call for Articles

**The Center for Asian Literature and Translation (ALT)** is an open access, peer-reviewed, online journal established by the Centre for the History of Religion in Asia (CHRA), Cardiff University. The main objective of the journal is to publish research papers, translations, and reviews in the field of Asian religious literature (construed in the widest sense) in a form that makes them quickly and easily accessible to the international academic community, to professionals in related fields, such as theatre and storytelling, and to the general public. The scope of the journal covers the cultural, historical, and religious literature of South, Southeast, East and Central Asia in the relevant languages (e.g. Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese, Tibetan, Japanese, et al.). We particularly welcome literary translations, including extracts from longer works in progress, manuscript reports and commentarial material, new adaptations of classic texts, archive stories and debate pieces, and the discussion of new approaches to translation. Book and performance reviews, including visual material, and letters to the editor, including responses to published material, are also solicited. Contributions are welcome on a wide range of topics in the research area as defined above. For further information see: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/share/research/centres/chra/whatwedo/journal-asian-lit-and-translation.html>.

### Call for Papers

**8th Annual Mongolian Studies Conference** Co-hosted by the Mongolian Cultural Center and the Embassy of Mongolia in Washington, D.C. Friday-Sunday, **May 2-4, 2014**. The papers can be of any research topic related to Mongolian Studies and must bear novelty in idea, sound research, clarity of language and proper documentation of references. It is required that the papers be original work of the author(s) and not be published in English prior to the conference. Papers can be written and presented in either language, Mongolian or English, within the length of 5,000-6,000 words. Submission deadline for paper abstracts is **April 10, 2014**. The abstracts must contain the title of the paper, be no more than 300 words and have contact information, including email address. If selected, the participant must be(come) a member of the Mongolian Cultural Center. Up to 15 papers will be selected and the organizing committee will announce the selection on or before April 15, 2014.

For more information please contact us at [\(703\) 966-4437](tel:(703)966-4437) or email at [info@mongolcc.org](mailto:info@mongolcc.org)

**The Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)** invites panel and paper proposals for the Fifteenth Annual CESS Conference, **October 23-26, 2014**, in New York City. The event will be held at Columbia University, hosted by the [Harriman Institute](#). Registration starts Thursday evening, October 23. Panels begin Friday morning, October 24, and continue through mid-day on Sunday, October 26. Panel and paper topics relating to all aspects of humanities and social science scholarship on Central Eurasia are welcome. The geographic domain of Central Eurasia extends from the Black Sea and Iranian Plateau to Mongolia and Siberia, including the Caucasus, Crimea, Middle Volga, Afghanistan, Tibet, Xinjiang, and

Central and Inner Asia. Practitioners and scholars in all humanities and social science disciplines with an interest in Central Eurasia are encouraged to participate. The program will feature approximately 70 panels. There will also be supplementary events and a keynote speaker. **To submit a pre-organized panel or individual paper proposal, please login to the CESS Website [atwww.centraleurasia.org](http://www.centraleurasia.org).**

**The Centre for East Asian Studies Groningen** (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) will be hosting a conference titled "East Asia and the European Union: strong Economics, weak Politics?" on May 8-9 2014. Participants from around the world are welcome. Among the themes included in this free conference will be the Political and security complex, Trade and investment, Trade and investment partnership (TTIP), Culture and people-to-people. For full information on the call for papers see [here](#), otherwise for visit the conference website at <http://www.rug.nl/research/east-asian-studies/news/call-for-papers-east-asia-and-the-european-union-strong-economics-weak-politics>

### Call for Film Review

**The Journal of the Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (ACME)** welcomes film reviews for the third issue of his journal. Should you like to review a particular documentary or send us one to review please email the film review editor Dr Michael Abecassis directly: ([michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.abecassis@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)) For general inquiries and Instructions for Authors, please visit: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/anthropologyiran/acme>

## Research Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants

**Postdoctoral Fellowships: The Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem** offers post-doctoral fellowships for the year 2014-2015. The post-docs are open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences specializing in East Asia, especially China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. Fellowships are granted for one academic year or one term with the possibility of extension for an additional year. The starting date of the visit should not be later than four years after receipt of the Doctoral Degree; the fellow must hold a valid Doctoral Degree no later than September 2014. The fellowship consists of a monthly stipend (tax free) of \$1,500. Payments are made once in three months in Israeli Shekels and are linked to the "representative rate of exchange." Fellows are entitled to one airline ticket (economy class, up to 1500\$) for a direct flight from their home town to Israel and back. The fellows are expected to teach one or two courses in the Hebrew University (for additional payment, according to the Hebrew University regulations). The ability to teach a course in Hebrew is welcome, but is not a prerequisite for attaining the fellowship. The fellows are also expected to actively participate in the life and activities of the Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies. The fellows will present their research at the department seminar of the Asian Studies Department, and possibly at other relevant forums. Any work outside the Hebrew University would be allowed only after specific approval by the Frieberg Center. Applicants should submit one hard copy and one electronic copy (in one file) of their application to the address below, no later than **April 30, 2014**. Visit: <http://www.eacenter.huji.ac.il>.

**Council for International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Programs** (East Asia and the Pacific--Mongolia--All Disciplines) CIES will provide up to three Teaching, Teaching/Research, or Research awards in any discipline tenable at any appropriate institution in Mongolia. The grants are four or ten months in duration. A PhD (or other terminal degree) is not required. Applicants should have at least two years of university teaching experience or the professional equivalent. Those holding associate or full professor rank are preferred, but assistant professors will also be considered. Professionals should have university teaching experience. The award is open to academics and appropriately qualified professionals outside of academia. All teaching will be in English; proficiency in Mongolian or Russian is not required. Some knowledge of Mongolian or Russian is advantageous and would be useful for everyday living. Higher education courses taught in English are particularly needed because many current professors were educated during the socialist era and have only studied Russian. **Deadline: 08/01/2014** See post online at the [CIES catalog](#).

## Resources

**Dissertation Reviews** now includes a section on Inner and Central Asia: <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/category/review/innercentralasia>

**Asian Highlands Research Network [AH-RN]** is a scholarly discussion group associated with the journal Asian Highlands Perspectives. This group focuses on the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding regions, including the Southeast Asian Massif, Himalayan Massif, the Extended Eastern Himalayas, the Mongolian Plateau, and other contiguous areas. We aim to promote exploration of cross-regional commonalities in history, culture, language, and socio-political context not served by current academic forums. AH-RN will be of interest to Sinologists, Tibetologists, Mongolists, and South and Southeast Asianists. We welcome group members to share information about events and publications related to the study of the Asian Highlands.

Services: timely and exclusive reviews of new books in the field; semi-regular roundup of new open access publications; announcements

of new publications from Asian Highlands Perspectives.

AH-RN is a private group. To join, please contact: Gerald.Roche[at]ymail.com.

For more on Asian Highlands Perspectives:

<http://www.platauculture.org/asian-highlands-perspectives>

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/asianhighlandsperspectives>

**TheDukha Ethnoarchaeological Project.** The primary goal of the DukhaEthnoarchaeological Project is the development of spatial theory of human behavior for application to archaeological problems. Visit the website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/dukhaethnoarch/> .

**Asian Politics and History Association.** Asian Politics and History Association is a non-political, non-profit academic society organized by scholars of Asian studies. Established in

2011 in Hong Kong, APHA currently has members from Asian-Pacific, European and North American countries. APHA supports the Journal of Asian Politics & History, an academic journal published twice a year beginning in October 2012. Visit the website at: <http://www.aphahk.org>.

**Juniper: Online Database for Mongolian and Siberian Studies.** This new French scientific tool is created at the initiative of the Centre for Mongolian and Siberian EPHE. It aims to bring together texts (native), images and multimedia on the peoples of Mongolia and Siberia. Several galleries of images are presented, including collections of old prints and a new series of old photographs of the Tuvan National Museum. Sheets populations gather essential information and links to documents relating to the peoples of Northern Asia. Subject files (kinship, Personalia, shamanism and soon others) allow you to browse the data according to thematic itineraries. The bibliography contains references to books and articles, some of which have been digitized and can be downloaded for researchers. Visit: [www.base-juniper.org](http://www.base-juniper.org).

**Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA).** Recently the University of New Mexico Library officially announced the launch of the new, upgraded Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (SORA). The ornithological community is once again indebted to the UNM library for investing in the open access distribution of our historical ornithological literature. SORA has been moved to a new platform that will allow the resource to grow and expand over time. Many of the SORA journal titles have been updated with additional articles, and a new ornithological title has been added to the site. SORA now offers a number of new features for users and provides tools for journal publishers to update the SORA repository directly, with little or no technical support. All of these improvements have been needed for some time, and the UNM Libraries SORA team appreciates your collective patience; it has taken over a year to convert the entire SORA article holdings and prepare the new site for production. A number of ongoing improvements are still in the works for 2014, and as with any major system upgrade, there are a countless number of small details that still require attention. The new URL to the site is <http://sora.unm.edu>.

**The Mongolist** is a website dedicated to sharing knowledge about Mongolian politics, business, and society. The website is an ever growing resource built on data and information collected on the Internet and in Mongolia. The aim of this website is to make understanding the complexity of the rapid social and economic change occurring in Mongolia not only accessible but also rewarding. The underlying principle guiding the development of all content on this website is evidence based investigation. Whenever possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are replaced with facts, data, and extrapolation. And, when this is not possible, opinion, conjecture, and pure guesswork are advertised as such. Visit: <http://www.themongolist.com/>

**Education About Asia (EAA)** has become an essential resource for teachers dealing with Asian themes or topics; both in the broad trans-continental and regional contexts. Conceived as a publication for K-12 faculty, it has in fact proved to be extremely helpful for higher education faculty seeking insights on many subjects. The Asian Studies outreach activities



of many colleges and universities have greatly benefited from EAA materials. Register (for free) to access approximately 900 articles from all thirty-seven back issues from 1996-2008: <http://www.asian-studies.org/EAA/index.htm> and subscribe to the Print Edition at <https://www.asian-studies.org/EAA-Subscriptions.htm>.

**Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center:** Indiana University's IAUNRC has updated its website to include not only its regular newsletters but podcasts, lecture videos, teaching resources and more: <http://www.iu.edu/~iaunrc/>.

**Mongolia Focus (formerly "Mongolia Today"):** "This blog is an attempt by three avid Mongolia watchers to share their observations about current developments in Mongolia." By Julian Dierkes and Dalaibulanii Byambajav, social scientists at the University of British Columbia, this blog mostly follows Mongolian politics and the mining sector. Visit: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mongolia/>.

## Other News and Events

**Monthly Biobeers Talk:** First Thursday of the month, Sweet Cafe (located behind the Information and Technological National Park and next to the Admon Printing Company, west of Internom Bookstore Building). People are requested to arrive after 6pm, in time for the talk to start at 6.30. Biobeers is a monthly gathering of government and NGO staff, biologists, researchers, and other professionals interested in conservation. Each month, Biobeers sponsors a half-hour presentation on a topic relevant to Mongolian conservation, followed by an informal gathering to discuss activities and issues of interest. Biobeers is an opportunity to find out what is happening in the field of conservation in Mongolia, talk informally to other researchers and peers in your field, and share information about issues critical to the environment and people of Mongolia. Biobeers is organised by the Zoological Society of London's Steppe Forward Programme and sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Join the Yahoo! Group Mongolbioweb for announcements

## Recent Publications

*Nomadismes d'Asie centrale et septentrionale* (Nomadism in Central and North Asia) by Charles Stépanoff, Carole Ferret, Gaëlle Lacaze, Julien Thorez. For more information in French about this publication visit [the website of the publisher](#), or find a table of contents pdf [here](#).

*Tragic Spirits: Shamanism, Memory and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia*, (Manduhai Buyandelger). The collapse of socialism at the end of the twentieth century brought devastating changes to Mongolia. Economic shock therapy—an immediate liberalization of trade and privatization of publicly owned assets—quickly led to impoverishment, especially in rural parts of the country, where *Tragic Spirits* takes place. Following the travels of the nomadic Buryats, Manduhai Buyandelger tells a story not only of economic devastation but also a remarkable Buryat response to it—the revival of shamanic practices after decades of

socialist suppression. Attributing their current misfortunes to returning ancestral spirits who are vengeful over being abandoned under socialism, the Buryats are now at once trying to appease their ancestors and recover the history of their people through shamanic practice. Thoroughly documenting this process, Buyandelger situates it as part of a global phenomenon, comparing the rise of shamanism in liberalized Mongolia to its similar rise in Africa and Indonesia. In doing so, she offers a sophisticated analysis of the way economics, politics, gender, and other factors influence the spirit world and the crucial workings of cultural memory.

*In Pursuit of Early Mammals (Life of the Past)*, (Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska). *In Pursuit of Early Mammals* presents the history of the mammals that lived during the Mesozoic era, the time when dinosaurs ruled the Earth, and describes their origins, anatomy, systematics, paleobiology, and distribution. It also tells the story of the author, a world-renowned specialist on these animals, and the other prominent paleontologists who have studied them. Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska was the first woman to lead large-scale paleontological expeditions, including eight to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia, which brought back important collections of dinosaur, early mammal, and other fossils. She shares the difficulties and pleasures encountered in finding rare fossils and describes the changing views on early mammals made possible by these discoveries. Between 1963 and 1971, Kielan-Jaworowska organized eight paleontological expeditions to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. These expeditions assembled an impressive collection of dinosaurs and Cretaceous mammals. Her research has focused on the study of the detailed structure of the brain and musculature of early mammals and their evolutionary relationships.

*A Monastery in Time: The Making of Mongolian Buddhism*, by Caroline Humphrey and Hurelbaatar Ujeed. (University of Chicago Press). *A Monastery in Time* is the first book to describe the life of a Mongolian Buddhist monastery—the Mergen Monastery in Inner Mongolia—from inside its walls. From the Qing occupation of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through the Cultural Revolution, Caroline Humphrey and Hurelbaatar Ujeed tell a story of religious formation, suppression, and survival over a history that spans three centuries. Often overlooked in Buddhist studies, Mongolian Buddhism is an impressively self-sustaining tradition whose founding lama, the Third Mergen Gegen, transformed Tibetan Buddhism into an authentic counterpart using the Mongolian language. Drawing on fifteen years of fieldwork, Humphrey and Ujeed show how lamas have struggled to keep Mergen Gegen's vision alive through tremendous political upheaval, and how such upheaval has inextricably fastened politics to religion for many of today's practicing monks. Exploring the various ways Mongolian Buddhists have attempted to link the past, present, and future, Humphrey and Ujeed offer a compelling study of the interplay between the individual and the state, tradition and history.

*Fossil Mammals of Asia: Neogene Biostratigraphy and Chronology*, by Xiaoming Wang, Lawrence J. Flynn, Mikael Fortelius. (Columbia University Press). *Fossil Mammals of Asia*, edited by and with contributions from world-renowned scholars, is the first major work devoted to the late Cenozoic (Neogene) mammalian biostratigraphy and geochronology of Asia. This volume employs cutting-edge biostratigraphic and geochemical dating methods to

map the emergence of mammals across the continent. Written by specialists working in a variety of Asian regions, it uses data from many basins with spectacular fossil records to establish a groundbreaking geochronological framework for the evolution of land mammals. Asia's violent tectonic history has resulted in some of the world's most varied topography, and its high mountain ranges and intense monsoon climates have spawned widely diverse environments over time. These geologic conditions profoundly influenced the evolution of Asian mammals and their migration into Europe, Africa, and North America. Focusing on amazing new fossil finds that have redefined Asia's role in mammalian evolution, this volume synthesizes information from a range of field studies on Asian mammals and biostratigraphy, helping to trace the histories and movements of extinct and extant mammals from various major groups and all northern continents, and providing geologists with a richer understanding of a variety of Asian terrains.

*LIVE FROM UB: A Documentary on Modern Mongolian Rock*, by Lauren Knapp (Fulbright-mtvU Fellow 2012). post-production is currently underway Lauren Knapp's documentary film LIVE FROM UB. She spent ten months in Mongolia researching the rock music scene, its history, and how the new generation of musicians is fusing traditional music and themes with modern styles to create something that is unique to both their generation and Mongolia. Lauren was first interested to learn how the first generation of Mongolians to grow up in a democracy was expressing themselves through music. She found that the trajectory of Mongolian rock through, emulates the path Mongolia has taken as a nation over the past three decades. You can read more about the film, her research, and watch exclusive videos on the film website ([www.livefromub.com](http://www.livefromub.com)).

*Does Everyone Want Democracy? : Insights from Mongolia*, by Paula Sabloff. (Left Coast Press). Do all people desire democracy? For at least a century, the idea that democracy is a universal good has been an article of faith for American policy makers. Paula Sabloff challenges this conventional wisdom about who wants democracy and why. Arguing that certain universal human aspirations exist, she shows how local realities are highly particularistic and explains that culture, history, and values are critical to the study of political systems. Her fascinating study of Mongolia—feudal until it became the first country to follow Russia into communism and now struggling with post-socialist democratization—is a model for investigating how everyday people around the world actually think about and implement democracy on their own terms.

*A History of Land Use in Mongolia: The Thirteenth Century to the Present*, by Elizabeth Endicott (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). A History of Land Use in Mongolia examines conceptual and practical issues of land use during eight centuries of Mongolian history. The book analyzes how Mongolia's pastoral nomadic herding population historically has dealt with secular and religious forms of authority in the ongoing struggle for control over pastureland and water resources. The author's findings derive from a number of field trips to the Mongolian countryside as well as a diverse array of written sources including Russian geographic treatises, historical texts, Mongolian press accounts, and Western economic analyses of the present day herding sector.

*A Kazakh Teacher's Story: Surviving the Silent Steppe*, by Mukhamet Shayakhmetov. (Stacey International, 2013). This book begins where 'The Silent Steppe' left off. It is early 1945, and the author, Mukhamet, still recuperating from serious war injuries, has traveled thousands of kilometers back to his home village in the eastern Kazakh steppe. As he encounters scenes of desperate poverty, he quickly realizes the immense sacrifices made by local people, and particularly women, while the able-bodied men were away fighting. Mukhamet endeavors to pick up the pieces of his pre-war life, working hard to support his extended family, marrying, continuing his education, and eventually embarking on a life in teaching dedicated to giving young people the best education possible. Through his insightful portraits of local party bosses, district officials and bureaucrats, and tales of the vicissitudes of daily life, a broader, more personal picture emerges of life under Stalin, and of his pervading shadow decades on. The author's moral integrity, stoicism and profound respect for the struggles of the common people stand out in this memoir of a life of self-effacing dedication.

*Energy Access, Poverty, and Development: The Governance of Small-Scale Renewable Energy in Developing Asia* (Ashgate Studies in Environmental Policy and Practice) by Benjamin K. Sovacool and Ira Martina Drupady. (Ashgate Pub Co, 2012). This book showcases how small-scale renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, cook stoves, biogas digesters, microhydro units, and wind turbines are helping Asia respond to a daunting set of energy governance challenges. Using extensive original research this book offers a compendium of the most interesting renewable energy case studies over the last ten years from one of the most diverse regions in the world. Through an in-depth exploration of case studies in Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka, the authors highlight the applicability of different approaches and technologies and illuminates how household and commercial innovations occur (or fail to occur) within particular energy governance regimes. It also, uniquely, explores successful case studies alongside failures or "worst practice" examples that are often just as revealing as those that met their targets. Based on these successes and failures, the book presents twelve salient lessons for policymakers and practitioners wishing to expand energy access and raise standards of living in some of the world's poorest communities. It also develops an innovative framework consisting of 42 distinct factors that explain why some energy development interventions accomplish all of their goals while others languish to achieve any.

*The History of Central Asia: The Age of the Steppe Warriors (Complete Illustrated History 1)* by Christoph Baumer. (I. B. Tauris, 2012). The epic plains and arid deserts of Central Asia have witnessed some of the greatest migrations, as well as many of the most transformative developments, in the history of civilization. Christoph Baumer's ambitious four-volume treatment of the region charts the 3000-year drama of Scythians and Sarmatians; Soviets and transcontinental Silk Roads; trade routes and the transmission of ideas across the steppes; and the breathless and brutal conquests of Alexander the Great and Chinghis Khan. Masterfully interweaving the stories of individuals and peoples, the author's engaging prose is richly augmented throughout by color photographs taken on his own travels. For all the complexity of the history, Dr. Baumer, a noted authority on Central Asia, never loses

sight of the sweeping grandeur of its overall setting. Volume 1 focuses on the geography of the area now occupied by present-day Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, northern Afghanistan, western and central **Mongolia** and parts of southern Russia and northern China. Discussing the changing climates of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the author explores subjects as diverse as glacial retreat; the invention of the wheel; the legendary Cimmerians and Amazons; Hellenism and Zoroastrianism; and the Oxus Treasure. Future volumes will explore the later historical periods of the region.

The Short Essays of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, by Wang Hong and Zhang Shunsheng. (Paths International Ltd., 2013). The late Ming Dynasty (1572-1644) and the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1722) saw the true splendour of short essays in China. No other period in the history of short essays in ancient China can match them in the quality and number of works, literary schools, or the variety of styles. Compared with those written before or after, the short essays in these periods were richer in the choice of topics, and freer in form, focusing not only on real social life, but also on worldly experience and life's little delights. They are a rich and vital part of China's literary and cultural heritage. The 127 short essays in this wonderful book are considered to be the very best examples from an era of China's history that's synonymous with beautifully crafted short essays. 82 essays are from the Ming Dynasty and 45 essays are from the Qing Dynasty, written by more than a hundred different Chinese authors from both dynasties. These are arranged in the order of the authors' birth dates and tenderly translated into English by leading Chinese translators Wang Hong and Zhang Shunsheng, who have faithfully represented the styles and literary achievements made by the featured essayists. It's a wonderful book that will delight fans of classic Chinese short essays, as well as providing the perfect introduction to readers new to the genre.