
This was originally Pelliot’s compte rendu of John F. Baddeley’s monumental Russia Mongolia China, which appeared in 1919. Pelliot began work on his article shortly thereafter and expanded it to include various translations from Chinese sources as well as copious notes, but he did not live to complete it. As the title implies, the work is not a systematic treatment of Kalmuk history but a collection of translations, notes, and genealogical tables dealing with the Kalmuks and Kazakhs. There are 100 pages of text, including fifty-six pages of notes with much valuable philological and bibliographical information. A long index makes the book still more useful, although there are some omissions.

The translations include the Ch’ien-lung Emperor’s historical account of the Zungars and selections from the Wai-fan Meng-ku Hui-pu wang kung piao chuan 外藩蒙古回部王公表傳, Hsi-yü wen-chien lu 西域聞見錄, and Hsin-chiang chih-liieh 新疆誌略. There are sections on names given to the Kalmuks, on the Zungars down to the beginning of the seventeenth century, on the connection between the Kereyid and the Tur-yüd, on the return of the Tur-yüd from the Volga, on the Kazakhs as treated in Chinese texts, and on Kazakh genealogy. Note 5 provides over four pages of comments and corrections to Russia Mongolia China which anyone using that work should consult. The second volume contains genealogical tables for the Kalmuk tribes as well as three Kazakh genealogies.

The book is too sketchy and detailed to serve the needs of the average reader interested in Mongolian history, and nonspecialists should beware of the out-dated transcriptions used. But, although much of the book’s contents are by now known and there are many things Pelliot would have changed had he lived to complete it, Notes critiques d’histoire kalmouke is an important contribution to Mongolian studies.

JOSEPH F. FLETCHER
Harvard University