The Society's Annual Members Meeting and Conference will be hosted by the Center for Governance and Markets at the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Call for Papers for the Society’s 2023 Annual Meeting

The Mongolia Society is pleased to announce that its 2023 Annual Members Meeting and Conference will be held in conjunction with the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), on the weekend of October 19-22, 2023, at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

We invite scholarly submissions in all fields of the humanities and social sciences relating to Mongolia and the Mongols. Abstracts from individuals and fully formed panels should be submitted to The Mongolia Society office, no later than July 1, 2023. Each abstract must contain the paper title, be no more than 300 words, and include your contact information (email address and telephone number). If your abstract is accepted, you will have 20 minutes to present your paper.

Please send your abstract to Susie Drost at monsoc@indiana.edu.
Call for Papers for the Society’s Annual Meeting (Continued)

Please note that presenters at the conference must be members of the The Mongolia Society. Those who wish to present may join the Society online at the Society website (https://www.mongoliasociety.org/membership-types) or by contacting Executive Director Susie Drost. Those who attend the conference will also be asked to make an attendance donation.

The meeting and conference will be held in a hybrid format, so we welcome both in-person and virtual participation.

The Mongolia Society Announces it Naadam Fundraiser 2023

The Mongolia Society will once again organize a fundraiser set to coincide with the Mongolian Naadam Festival. The Naadam Fundraiser 2023 will be a silent auction, held between July 11-15, 2023, in which visitors will be able to place online bids for items or services that have been donated to the Society.

We will continue to welcome donations from anyone willing to donate. While we prefer items or services related to Mongolia or Mongolian culture, we will consider anything of value for this event. Donations can be in the form of physical objects, such as books, artwork, furniture, musical instruments, and so on, or services, such as offers of a dinner at a local restaurant or for language translation work up to a certain amount of dollars. Donations will be accepted until June 15th, 2023.

Those interested in making a donation are asked to email our Executive Director Susie Drost (monsoc@indiana.edu). Please include your name, phone number, a description of your donation and its estimated value and she will contact you. Those who donate physical items will need to send them directly to the Society and to cover the shipping costs (which will then be added to the overall value of their donation). Please note we may require legal documentation for donations of antique or historical items.

All donations made to The Mongolia Society are tax-deductible, and the Executive Director will provide a letter of affidavit that can be filed with your IRS income tax return.

All proceeds for this year’s fundraiser will go towards important medium- and long-term goals, including office expenses (supporting our office staff and offsetting the rising costs of office expenditures), outreach (developing our website and social media outreach to new and diverse audiences, including Mongolian students and scholars, and publications (supporting the work of our journal editor, facilitating much-needed changes to the ways in which our publications are produced, disseminated, and marketed.

The Mongolia Society greatly appreciates the financial support of its members and everyone else who contributes to its success. It is your collective support that makes the work of The Mongolia Society possible.
Winners of the Best of the Next Generation American Mongolists Research Paper Prize Competition Announced

The Mongolia Society, with generous funding from the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States, this year organized the Best of the Next Generation American Mongolists Research Paper Prize competition, which recognizes the top papers on a topic of Mongolian Studies by masters- and doctoral-level students and new PhDs.

Papers were judged on the originality of the thesis advanced, thoroughness and quality of research, knowledge and use of primary sources in original languages, importance of the topic for Mongolia and the Mongols, and the scholarly promise the author demonstrates in advancing the field of Mongolian Studies.

Those who submitted papers needed to be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who is currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral program or who has received a PhD degree in the last three years, who is proficient in the Mongolian language, and whose scholarly record demonstrates a long-term commitment to teaching and researching in a field of Mongolian Studies.

The Society received many submissions for this competition, all of which were carefully reviewed by a panel of scholarly judges.

We are pleased to announce the following results:

First Prize, with a cash prize of $2,500:
Dr. Dotno Dashdorj Pount (2023 PhD, University of Pennsylvania)
- “Visual and aural translation of Buddhist culture from Tibet to Mongolia: Dating two texts from the Cult of Chinggis Khan textual corpus”;

Second Prize, with a cash prize of $1,500:
Dr. Samuel H. Bass (Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University, Bloomington)
- “On Kitad (Chinese) as a Pejorative and in Mongolian Slavery Terminology”;

Third Prize, with a cash prize of $1,000:
Dr. Kenneth E. Linden (Visiting Scholar, University of Tartu, Estonia)
- “Veterinarians, Vaccines, and Hybrids: Veterinary Science in the Mongolian People's Republic”;

Honorable Mention (in alphabetical order):
- Anton D. Ermakov (Masters Candidate, Indiana University/Bloomington)
- Stephen Garrett (PhD Candidate, University of Pennsylvania)
- Kristen R. Pearson (PhD Candidate, Harvard University)
- Dr. Jessica Madison Piskatá (Visiting Assistant Professor, Oberlin College)

Both the Society and the Embassy of Mongolia in the United States congratulate the winners and thank all who participated in this competition.

The Mongolia Society would like to thank the Embassy for its generous support of this competition and its commitment to the field of Mongolian Studies.

All papers submitted will be considered for publication in coming issues of Mongolian Studies: The Journal of The Mongolia Society.
The Mongolia Society Welcomes Two New Senior Advisory Board Members

The Mongolia Society is delighted to introduce two new members to its Senior Advisory Board.

**Ambassador Michael Klecheski** is a former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia and also a new member of the Senior Advisory Board of the Mongolia Society. Amb. Klecheski served as U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia from 2019 to 2022. He previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Philippines and, prior to that, in Kazakhstan.

He had numerous other State Department assignments overseas, including several in Russia, and in Washington D.C., where he also served as Director for Russia at the National Security Council. He received his Master’s and M.Phil degrees from Columbia University and his Bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University. He is married and has three children.

**Mr. Tony M. Ettinger** is Managing Director and Head of Financial Services Investing for KCK Group and a longtime supporter of the Mongolian people. He founded the Mongolian Children’s Aid and Development Fund along with Secretary of State James A. Baker III and serves as its chair.

Over the past 25 years, the Fund has donated cash and goods worth in excess of $350,000 and touched the lives of over 25,000 children. Mr. Ettinger has also been a Board Member of Mongolian American Cultural Association (MACA) since 1995 and received MACA’s highest honor, the Humanitarian Award, in 2001.

Further, Mr. Ettinger served as the Head of the Zud Relief Fund in 2000-2001. Mr. Ettinger provides ongoing financial support to the Morin-Khuur Organization and their Annual Festival and the American Center for Mongolian Studies in Ulaanbaatar. He received his MBA degree from Dartmouth College and M.A. and B.A. degrees from Tufts University, where he has sponsored the George Marcopoulos Lecture Series on Mongolian History since 2010.
The Mongolia Society Celebrates Tsagaan Sar 2023

The Bloomington Mongolian community in collaboration with the Mongolian Student Association at IU resumed the traditional Mongolian lunar New Year or Tsagaan Sar celebration this year, the first since the end of the COVID Pandemic.

The event was held on February 18, 2023 in the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Relations in the campus of Indiana University, and included a Mongolian fashion show, performances of Mongolian music and dance, and, of course, wonderful food.

The Lunar New Year celebration was sponsored by the Bloomington Mongolian Community, the Mongolian Student Association, The Mongolia Society, and the Department of Central Eurasian Studies.
More than 5,600 people had gathered for a March 2023 ceremony in Dharamsala, India, when the Dalai Lama indicated toward a young child beside him. According to the Dalai Lama’s website, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism identified the boy as the latest reincarnation of the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoché, the faith’s leader in Mongolia. The previous Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa, the ninth to hold the title, died in 2012. Due to the tense relations between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, however, recognizing someone as the reincarnation of a Buddhist figure is not only religiously significant but politically fraught. After annexing Tibet in the 1950s, China has sought control over the spiritual lineages of Buddhist leaders, particularly the Dalai Lama himself. In 2011, the Chinese foreign ministry declared that only the government in Beijing can appoint the next Dalai Lama and that no recognition should be given to any other candidate.

The current and 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, will be 88 in July 2023, and the Khalkha Jetsun Dhampa in Mongolia is traditionally one of the Buddhist leaders who recognizes the Dalai Lama’s successor.

The Dalai Lamas in Tibetan Buddhism

All Dalai Lamas are thought to be manifestations of the bodhisattva of compassion, Avalokitesvara. Bodhisattvas are beings who work solely for the benefit of others. For Buddhists, the ultimate goal is enlightenment, or “nirvana” – a liberation from the cycle of birth and death. East Asian and Tibetan Buddhists, as part of the Mahayana sect, believe bodhisattvas have reached this highest realization. Furthermore, Mahayana Buddhists believe bodhisattvas choose to be reborn, to experience the pain and suffering of the world, in order to help other beings attain enlightenment.

Tibetan Buddhism has developed this idea of the bodhisattva further into identified lineages of rebirths called “tulkus.” Any person who is believed to be a reborn teacher, master, or leader is considered a tulku. Tibetan Buddhism has hundreds if not thousands of such lineages, but the most respected and well-known is the Dalai Lama. The 14 generations of Dalai Lamas, spanning six centuries, are linked through their acts of compassion and their wish to benefit all living beings.

Locating the 14th Dalai Lama

The current Dalai Lama was enthroned when he was about 4 years old and was renamed Tenzin Gyatso. The search for him began soon after the 13th Dalai Lama died. Disciples closest to the Dalai Lama set about to identify signs indicating the location of his rebirth. There are usually predictions about where and when a Dalai Lama will be reborn, but further tests and signs are required to ensure the proper child is found.

In the case of the 13th Dalai Lama, after his death, his body lay facing south. However, after a few days his head had tilted to the east and a fungus, viewed as unusual, appeared on the northeastern side of the shrine, where his body was kept. This was interpreted to mean that the next Dalai Lama could have been born somewhere in the northeastern part of Tibet. Disciples also checked Lhamo Latso, a lake that is traditionally used to see visions of the location of the Dalai Lama’s rebirth. The district of Dokham, which is in the northeast of Tibet, matched all of these signs. A 2-year-old boy named Lhamo Dhondup was just the right age for a reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, based on the time of his death.

When the search party consisting of the 13th Dalai Lama’s closest monastic attendants arrived at his house, they believed they recognized signs that confirmed that they had reached the right place.
Teach for Mongolia to Build Collective Leadership in the Mongolian Education System

Teach for Mongolia, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality education for all children in Mongolia, has announced its mission to empower every child in the country, regardless of their social status, family income, or geographic location. Founded in April 2022, Teach for Mongolia is focused on creating a system to support change makers who have the desire, knowledge, and skills much needed in the Mongolian education system. The organization recruits and trains the nation's top talents and young leaders who are willing to devote two years of their life to teaching various subjects in remote parts of the country.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the net enrollment rate in primary education is almost 100%, with little or no gender disparity in Mongolia. However, significant obstacles still remain, especially in closing the urban-rural gap, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 174,000 students, which is 27% of the total student body, have fallen behind due to inadequate access to the internet and other resources.

“The conventional way of preparing and recruiting teachers will not be enough to close the education gap in the country,” said Gantushig Gankhuyag, a co-founder and CEO of Teach for Mongolia. As such, the organization has set up a system for purpose-driven recent graduates and young professionals to contribute to the communities through the education system.

Teach for Mongolia is committed to building a collective leadership to bring about change in the Mongolian education system. “Education system consists of so many different stakeholders, and our dream is to build a collaborative effort,” added Gantushig Gankhuyag. These stakeholders include the Ministry of Education and Science, local school leaders, changemakers, civil societies, and business communities.

In 2022, Teach for Mongolia selected its very first cohort of 16 fellows and placed them in nine primary schools in eight different provinces. The first cohort fellows are teaching Math, English, Mongolian, Social Science, Information Technology, and other subjects to over 3,200 students. On top of teaching classes to their students, fellows are also working closely with parents and their respective communities.

By 2030, the TFM plans to recruit and place 200 high-quality young professionals in all 21 providences across Mongolia. “Imagine what 200 Teach for Mongolia alumni who understand the key challenges on the ground can accomplish together even after they complete the program,” said Gantushig Gankhuyag. You can contact the organization at contact@teachformongolia.mn and www.teachformongolia.mn.
**Why 2023 is the Year to Visit Mongolia**  
By Breanna Wilson

*This article first appeared on CNN Travel series on March 31, 2023. All copyrights belong to CNN and the author. You can find the author on Instagram @breannajwilson.*

Due to its remoteness and short summer season, Mongolia has long been a destination overlooked by travelers. But as the country moves to further open up to tourism by easing its entry conditions for international visitors and upgrading its infrastructure, 2023 might just be the best time yet to get there.

Here are 10 reasons travelers should start planning their long-dreamed-of Mongolia visit now.

**A growing visa-free list**

With the government of Mongolia declaring 2023 through 2025 the “Years to Visit Mongolia,” citizens from an additional 34 countries can now visit the country visa-free through the end of 2025. The addition of several European countries, including Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the UK, as well as Australia and New Zealand, now brings the total number of countries and territories on the visa-exempt list to 61.

**A new $650 million airport opens its doors**

After years of delays, a pandemic and several controversies, the newly built Chinggis Khaan International Airport finally opened in the summer of 2021.

With the ability to handle approximately 3 million passengers a year (double that of the old airport), the addition of 500 new aircraft parking spaces and the infrastructure to support an increase in domestic as well as budget flights, the airport is a welcome addition to the country’s efforts to grow tourism.

Budget flights to Hong Kong from EZNIS Airways have been relaunched since the airport’s opening, and talks to resume direct flights to the United States are reportedly underway.

**A modern new museum**

The recently opened Chinggis Khaan Museum offers a beautiful, fresh look at Mongolia’s tumultuous history. With more than 10,000 artifacts spanning over 2,000 years, the museum explores the history of the Mongols and the empire they created – and eventually lost. The museum’s artifacts are presented over eight floors, with six permanent and two temporary exhibition halls. Guided tours are offered in English every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. free of charge.

**Mongolia’s answer to Coachella**

When most people think of Mongolia, music festivals and conservation-focused art installations in the heart of one of the world’s largest deserts are the last things to come to mind. But that’s all changing thanks to festivals like Playtime, Spirit of Gobi, INTRO Electronic Music Festival and the Kharkhorum 360 Visual Art & Music Experience.

Placing international bands, DJs, and musicians from around the world alongside Mongolia’s eclectic mix of rappers, bands and folk singers, the country just might be one of the world’s most underrated places for festival lovers.
Celebrate Naadam as it turns the century

The annual Naadam event has always been a great reason to visit Mongolia, but now that the festival has just celebrated its 100 year anniversary, 2023 is as good a time as ever to attend. While the festival’s origins are rooted in the days of Genghis Khan, when he used horse racing, wrestling and archery competitions to keep his warriors in shape between battles, Naadam only officially became a national holiday 100 years ago. Today, the festival, held in Ulaanbaatar at the National Sports Stadium, has a few more bells and whistles than it did during the days of the Great Khan. A seat at July 11’s opening ceremony is always one of the hardest tickets to score in town.

Try your hand at archery the Mongolian way

Mounted archery is seeing a resurgence in Mongolia thanks to guys like Altankhuyag Nergui, one of the most accomplished archers in the sport and his archery academy, Namnaa. Here, locals learn the fundamentals of Mongolian archery before mounting a horse and taking their new found skills to another level. In the summer months, students and academy members put on weekly shows for interested spectators. The academy also offers day-long training sessions for those wanting to try this intense sport.

Learn about Mongolian calligraphy from a master

Speaking of giving life to Mongolia’s most ancient traditions, the resurrection of Mongol bichig, or the traditional Mongolian script written from top to bottom and read from left to right, has also seen a major resurgence in recent years. Visit the Erdenesiin Khuree Mongolian Calligraphy Center in Karakorum to learn from master calligraphist Tamir Samandradraa Purev about this important cultural heritage. And, while you’re there, browse the yurts filled with Tamir’s works.

Ditch the horse for horsepower

Pair the release of Husqvarna’s new Norden 901 Expedition motorbike with Nomadic Off-Road’s newly announced Eagle Hunter Tour, and you have one of the fastest adventures in Mongolia. The tour takes six riders 1,700 kilometers from Ulaanbaatar to Bayan-Ulgii, where riders eventually meet their hosts, Mongolia’s famous eagle hunters. The only thing faster than this adventure is the rate at which Nomadic Off-Road’s tours sell out.

Winter tours offer new insights

Professional musher Joel Rauzy has been leading dogsledding tours across the frozen Lake Khuvsgul for 18 years. With fewer crowds, lower hotel rates and the chance to see one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world completely frozen over, winter in Mongolia is something else to see and experience. Rauzy’s company, Wind of Mongolia, offers tours of the lake, where each person is assigned their own sled and dogs for the journey. Following Rauzy’s lead, mushers will make a loop of the lake. Activities include ice fishing, while travelers stay in winterized yurts and spend time with nomadic families along the journey.

Scandinavian design hits Mongolia at Yeruu Lodge

Nestled in the heart of Selenge province on the Yeruu River, Yeruu Lodge is the brainchild of Norwegian founder Eirik Gulsrud Johnsen, who first visited Mongolia in 2017. With a minimal Scandinavian-style restaurant and dining area, a handful of fully kitted out yurts for guests to stay in, two pétanque courts, kayaks, a driving range, mountain bikes and a yoga area, the lodge is a destination for nature lovers. Completely off-grid, the lodge runs off solar panels, uses of thermal heating, and all of the property’s water comes from an on-property well and is recycled after use. Additionally, all glass, metal and plastic used at the lodge is also recycled, and food waste is turned into compost used to grow vegetables, berries and herbs onsite. The lodge is set to open by summer 2023.
In Memorium Prof. Choimaa Sharav  
5 May 1951 - 14 November 2022  
By Michael Knüppel (Liáochéng)

After a long and serious illness, the esteemed Mongolian philologist, linguist and historian Prof. Dr Choimaa Sharav passed away on 14 November, 2022. With his passing, Mongolian studies have lost one of its most important representatives.

The deceased was born on 20 May, 1951, in the Gobi-Altai region into an old civil servant family that had produced dignitaries for generations. His father, Sharav Donoi, was a cattle farmer and had received extensive theological training over an extended period: first in the Usan Zuiliin Khuree monastery, where he was a disciple of Khuvilgaan Erdeni Khamba, then in the Gandantegechenlin monastery in Da Khuree [today: Ulaanbaatar], then in the monasteries of Bla-brang and sKu-'bum in A-mdo, and finally in Tibetan Lhasa. It was not until 1944 that he returned to Mongolia and married. The marriage eventually produced his son Choimaa (meaning “source of the teaching”). The son received an early education from his father, who taught him arithmetic as well as reading and writing (in various scripts) even before he started school. In addition, of course, there was a completely different learning material when the future exceptional scholar was already attending school: an introduction to the Tibetan language (a textbook in three booklets) had been printed in Ulaanbaatar. His father, who was fluent in Tibetan, had received the first part of this introduction from an acquaintance and began to teach his son this language as well. For the young Choimaa, this opened the door to a whole new world – not only did he learn another language, but he also gained access to Tibetan literature.

However, his school years – he first attended a primary school, then secondary schools in Tugrug Sum, and finally in the centre of the Aimag – were also marked by family tragedies: while he was attending the fourth grade, his mother died. He assisted his father with the daily chores for some time after his mother’s death (from the fifth grade onwards, he spent his school years primarily in boarding schools, with interruptions only during holidays). For the later scholar, it was a unique situation to have been introduced to Mongolian and Tibetan literature by his father on the one hand, and at
In Memorium Prof. Choimaa Sharav (Continued)

the same time to have gone through a school system that was modern by the standards of the time – the path to university seemed to be marked out early on, perhaps also the choice of studies.

At the Mongolian State University in Ulaanbaatar, his studies included Mongolian language and literature, linguistics and Tibetan. Linguistics was taught by Luvsanvandan Shadav and Tibetan by Gaadan Kharkhovuun. Choimaa Sharav graduated in 1976 with a diploma in Mongolian language and literature. His thesis was on idioms in the context of folk customs. As in school, he was also among the best in his final year at the university, and he therefore received a Sukhbaatar scholarship and an offer from the university to work as a lecturer in Mongolian language and literature.

He naturally accepted this offer and thus had the opportunity to get in touch with the most important representatives of Mongolian studies in the country (such as Damdinsüren Cend\(^1\) and Rinchin Byamb\(^2\)) in addition to the teachers mentioned above. This in particular played a major role for the young scholar and significantly shaped his career as the researcher he eventually became. In 1980, he was allowed to take up an assignment as a guest lecturer at the Chair of Mongolian Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin, then under the direction of Hans-Peter Vietze.\(^3\) He not only took on teaching duties here, but also worked on the project of the “Mongolian-German Dictionary”\(^4\) by H.-P. Vietze. The stay in East Berlin was also enriching for the young scholar in another respect – he found access to Western Mongolian studies through the holdings of the chair – and even more so those of the German State Library. In addition, the deceased also studied the Mongolica and Tibetica in German archives and libraries – decades later, he still consulted the holdings there in Göttingen,\(^5\) about which he was very well informed. After returning to Mongolia, he continued his work there at the State University and served as head of the Department of Mongolian Linguistics from 1989 to 1991.

The period in which he took over the leadership of the department was marked by the consequences of the upheavals that had gripped the Soviet Union and all of Eastern Europe. In Mongolia, this resulted, among other things, in dealing with the past that had been suppressed for decades. One of the consequences was the debate about the reintroduction of the Mongolian script and finally the implementation of this project. Choimaa Sharav was to play a very special role in

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4. The first of numerous editions of the “Mongolian-German Dictionary” was published in Leipzig in 1981.
5. These are the manuscripts in Mongolian and Oirat or Kalmyk language that Baron Georg Thomas v. Asch donated to the Göttingen collections. These had been acquired in the context of the mission of the Herrenhut Brüder-Unität in Serapta on the banks of the Volga. Various of the missionaries there (Zwick, Jährig etc.) had acquired knowledge of Oiratian and collected materials. However, the v. Asch collection also contains a handwritten notebook by Justus Friedrich Malsch with notes on the people and language of the Oirats, as well as notes by Johannes Jährig, who later conducted research trips to various Mongolian peoples (Meyer, Wilhelm (ed.): Verzeichnis der Handschriften im Preussischen Staate 1: Hannover. Part 1: Die Handschriften in Göttingen. Vol. 3: Universitäts-Bibliothek: Nachlässe von Gelehrten, Orientalische Handschriften. Handschriften im Besitz von Instituten und Behörden. Berlin 1894, pp. 22-75; Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland, vol. 1: Mongolische Handschriften, Blockdrucke, Landkarten. Mit 16 Lichtdrucktafeln / beschrieben von Walther Heissig. Stuttgart 1961).
In Memorium Prof. Choimaa Sharav (Continued)

this. On the one hand, introductions to the Mongolian script from his hand were published in magazines, on the other hand, he taught the Mongolian script on state television in the years 1989-1991 and finally even the president of the country, Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, 6 who pushed through this reintroduction (even against resistance). 7 In addition, he was also responsible for teaching the new old script to teachers in the country’s schools, mainly using the textbooks that the deceased had helped to create. Through his tireless efforts (and those of his colleagues), he soon gained some notoriety in the new Mongolia, whose Ministry of Culture sent him back to Germany a short time later to the Humboldt University in Berlin, this time for two years in 1992 to initiate academic cooperation. On the one hand, he now turned to source research on the beginnings of the spread of Northern Buddhism in Mongolia, on the other hand, “computational linguistics” (or more precisely, computer-assisted text recording) also became the focus of his work. For the latter, his collaboration with H.-P. Vietze, who was a pioneer in the use of data processing in Mongolian studies and had also created fonts for the Mongolian script, was decisive. However, in the course of German reunification, there were to be structural and personnel changes, which led to the partial dissolution of Berlin Mongolian Studies in its existing form, but also to Vietze’s dismissal.

After Choimaa Sharav returned to Mongolia, the extraordinary scholar unfolded remarkable, diverse and, above all, multifaceted activities that testify to his interests and abilities. First, he proposed the establishment of a chair for Mongolian textology and Altaic studies. A well-founded request that was quickly granted. He himself accepted this chair in 2000 and habilitated in 2004 with his thesis “Research on Mongolian Historical Sources.” The focus of his research was on historical sources and northern Buddhism, subjects he had already dealt with. These efforts eventually resulted in a two-volume encyclopaedia on Buddhist religion and culture, published in 1999. A little later, the deceased concentrated on the 800th anniversary celebration of the introduction of the Mongolian script by Čingis Chaan. This work eventually resulted in a presidential decree to establish a holiday on the occasion of the introduction of the Mongolian script. For the 800th anniversary of the founding of the later Mongolian Empire in 2006, Choimaa Sharav and his colleagues presented a critical and annotated edition of the most important Mongolian chronicles in 30 volumes – the most massive edition project in the history of Mongolian studies, perhaps even of Altaic studies at all! Another field of his activities during this period was in the field of school education. Textbooks for almost all classes were compiled in Mongolian script. In addition, from 2010 onwards he acted as co-editor and director of a project to edit qīng-period documents concerning the Mongols. This undertaking eventually resulted in twenty volumes.

In addition to all these scholarly efforts, Choimaa Sharav was also involved in “political activities.” Although the deceased was never active as a politician himself, he knew how to raise awareness about the importance of the Mongolian script and language, an issue for political actors and repeatedly participated in legislative procedures in an advisory capacity. For example, he was involved in the preparation of the 2010 decree on the protection and research of the material and intellectual/spiritual heritage and culture of the Mongolian people. This decree stipulated that all official government documents, as well as personal status certificates and documents, must be written in both Cyrillic and Mongolian script. The list of the deceased’s merits and activities could be continued almost indefinitely – and how much there would be to report on the countless works that resulted from his efforts alone.

Prof. Choimaa was totally committed to research and teaching, but also to the preservation of Mongolian cultural heritage, as he impressively demonstrated not only with his enormous body of work and his tireless efforts in so many

areas. The author of these lines himself can still recall an episode on the occasion of the deceased’s visit to Göttingen in which his attitude was impressively expressed. He met Prof. Choimaa, who had just undergone dental treatment and still appeared somewhat “worn out,” in front of the old building of the University Library (Altbau der Niedersächsischen Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek), and he did not even remotely think of resting first or getting antipains at a pharmacy. There was no time for that, as Göttingian Mongolica, which had been ordered for him, awaited consultation in the library’s reading room!

This attitude and the countless number of merits based on it have been rightly recognised time and again. In 2006, for example, President Nambar Enkhbayar presented him the State Prize of Mongolia for his work “Comparative Source Research on the ‘Secret History of the Mongols’ and the ‘Altan tovch’ of Luvsandanzan.” In 2002, President Nacagi Bagabandi had awarded him the title of “Meritorious Teacher of Mongolia” and in 2017 he received the honorary title of “Teacher of the Mongolian People” – and he undoubtedly was both. Without exaggeration or excess, one may truly say here (without exposing oneself to the accusation of exaggeration or even immoderation) that with Choimaa Sharav a truly great scholar has passed away – and the representatives of several fields of research at the same time will certainly honour his memory!

THE MONGOLIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES

*Thank you to those who paid their 2023 membership dues.*

*If you have not, please take the time to do so now.*

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mongolian Ethnic (non-US citizen living inside the US)</th>
<th>Mongolian Ethnic (non-US citizen living outside the US)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$35 for one year</td>
<td>$50 for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60 for two years</td>
<td>$90 for two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80 for three years</td>
<td>$125 for three years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Membership (US)</th>
<th>Library Membership (Foreign)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75 for one year</td>
<td>$90 for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$130 for two years</td>
<td>$160 for two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$180 for three years</td>
<td>$225 for three years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustaining Membership</th>
<th>Life Membership</th>
<th>Corporate Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$500 per year</td>
<td>$2500 or more</td>
<td>$125 for one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$230 for two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$325 for three years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Mongolia Society would like to thank the Embassy of Mongolia for its generous funding for The Best of the Next Generation American Mongolists Research Paper competition.