

BUILDING A MINORITY LANGUAGE COLLECTION

THE CASE OF THE UYGHUR COLLECTION AT PRINCETON

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- Original Situation and the Trigger for Collection Building
- Stages and Challenges of Acquisition
- The Problem of Cataloging
- Sources of the Princeton Collection
- Dissemination and Reaction of the Field
- Possibilities for Development

Background

- Uyghur language and its speakers, distribution of the population, political situation
- Collections of Uyghur language materials in North America and at Princeton
- Role of Uyghur materials in library collections generally, in East Asian Libraries, and at Princeton
- Related collections at Princeton
- Development of academic Interest

Acquisition Development

- Evolving from Chinese language source 中共组织史料汇编 (Compilations of Historical Materials on the Organizational History of the Chinese Communist Party)
- Positive reactions and reinforcement
- Limited acquisition of Uyghur language materials on scholar's requests (mostly reprints of China published books) via Istanbul based book dealers (with the help of Near Eastern Studies Librarian)
- Cooperative acquisition of selected antiquarian items between Slavic Studies, Near Eastern Studies, Chinese Studies
- Introduction by Joshua Freeman to Aziz Isa Elkun, a London-based Uyghur poet and scholar and president of the independent Uyghur PEN Centre

The Aziz Isa Elkun Collection of Uyghur Literature

- Strong literary and historical focus
- China, Central Asia (esp. Kazakhstan), Uyghur diaspora
- 1940-2020, including rare journals and newspapers of the 1950s-1970s
- 500+ titles Uyghur only, Arabic script, Latinized script, and Cyrillic script (150+ titles published in Kazakhstan)





شەرقىي قىتئە

سان 6 — 7 (9 — 10) №

1363 - يىل، شەعبان -- رەمەزان 1344 - يىل،

سېنتەبىر — ئۆكتەبىر

بۇ ساندا:

1. سوۋېت خەلقىنىڭ تارىخى غەلىبىسى.
2. مىرعەلى — لىيىتىنانت خىلەمنىڭ مەردلىكى (ھىكايە).
3. غۇسمان — فازىلخان ئالىم بولۇدۇ.
4. سابىر ئابدوللا — دىلبىرىم (شەيخىز).
5. ئاكادىمىك س. مالوف — ئۇيغۇرلار ۋە ئۇلارنىڭ تىلى.
6. ئۆزبېكىستان س. س. ر. ئالىي سوۋېتىنىڭ VI نەچچىسىنىڭ يىغىنى.
7. ئ. ھ. — ئىلى ئۇيغۇرلىرىنىڭ كېلىپ چىقىشى.

ئىتتىپاق مىقياسىدا ئويۇلغان

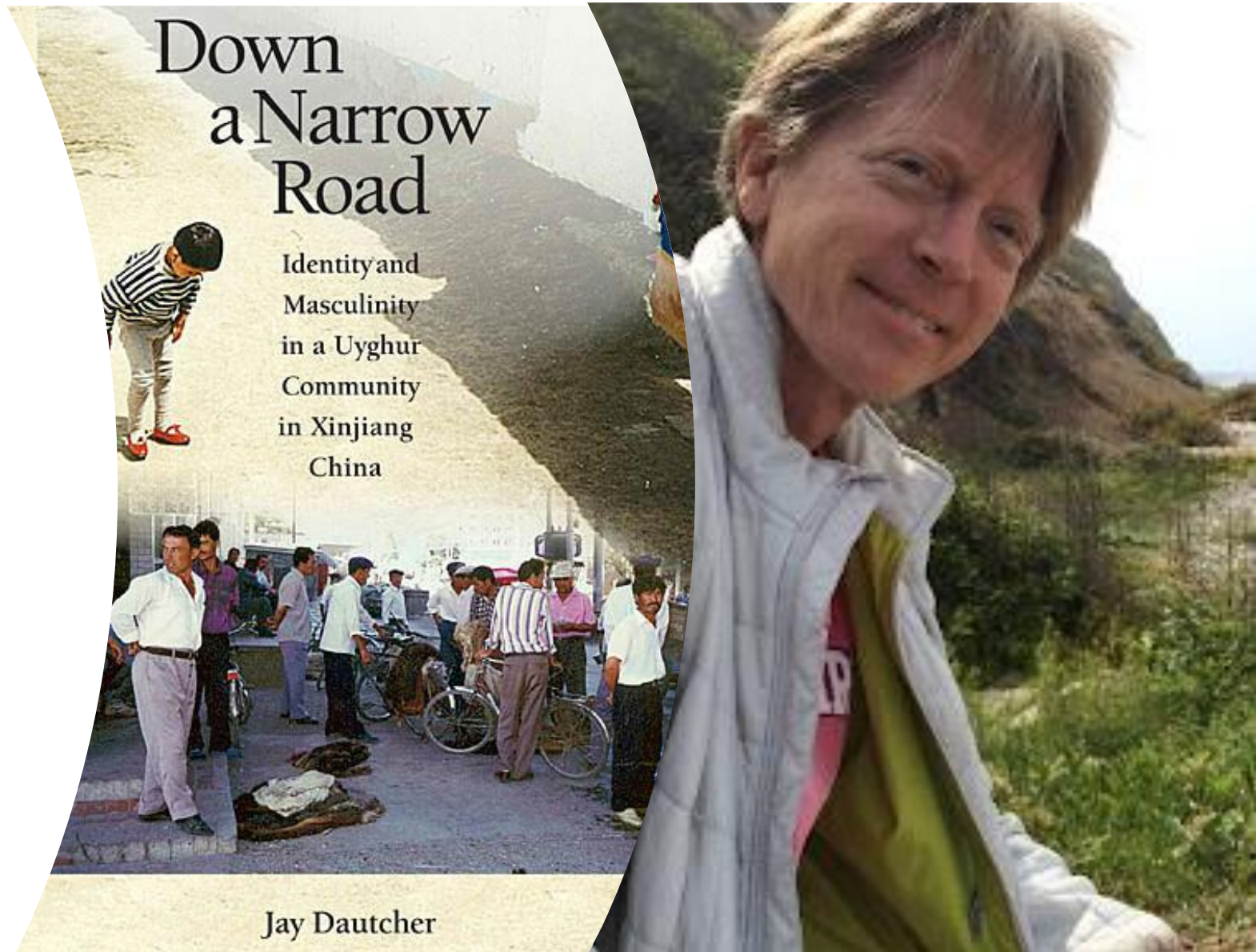
اتفا

1 (4)

1949 - غىنوا

The Jay Dautcher Collection of Uyghur Studies

- Focus on Social and Cultural Anthropology
- China
- 1980-2010s, broad range (Music, Arts Crafts,
- 400+ titles Uyghur, 800+ titles in Chinese





Other Donations

- Erika Gilson, donation to Department of Near Eastern Studies (focus on linguistics and language acquisition)
- Joshua Freeman, donation of 1970s party sponsored magazine
- Donations by individual authors



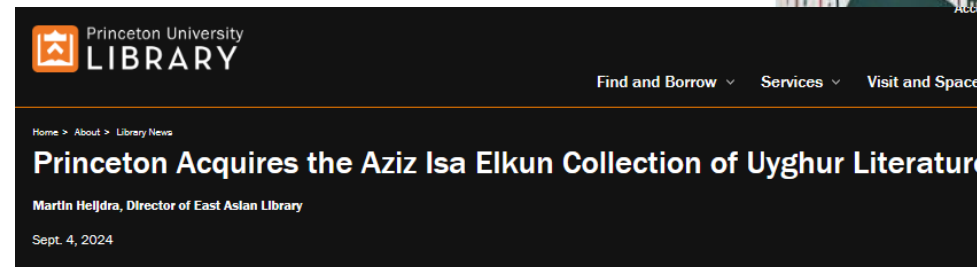
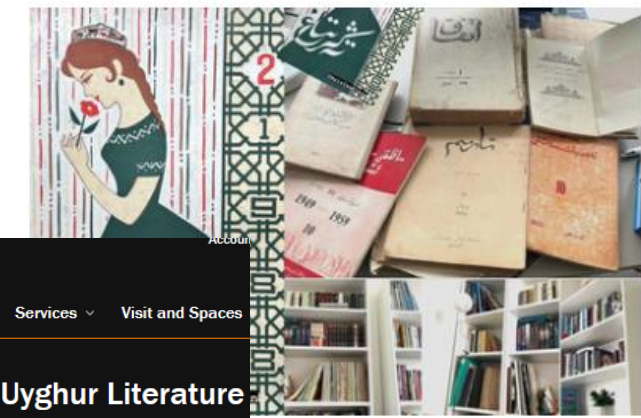
Different collection sources

- Pre-existing collections (some minimally cataloged or cataloged in Chinese with note (in Uyghur language (维文 or 维吾尔文) almost entirely without original script)
- Uncatalogued backlog (also in some other parts of the library)
- Recent acquisitions with a focus on Newspapers, Reference works, Archaeology and History of Medicine
- Some original archives (mixed Chinese and Uyghur) relating to a 1957 National Minority Survey in Xinjiang



ئۇيغۇرشۇناسلار: پرىنستون ئۇنىۋېرسىتېتىدا
«ئەزىز ئەيسا ئەلكۈن ئۇيغۇر ئەدەبىياتى
ئەسەرلىرى توپلامىسى» نىڭ بولۇشى تارىخىي
ئەھمىيەتكە ئىگە

ۋىكىتېننىز مۇھىرىز قىيغۇر تەييارلىغۇچى
 2024.09.13



Dissemination

- Announcement on the website, H-Asia, Eastlib, EASL, reposted by scholars in the field into Social Media channels
- Quickly reached the academic Uyghur and Xinjiang Studies community and the Uyghur diaspora community
- Media reports by Radio Free Asia (Uyghur)

⌚ This news is more than one year old.

With wide-ranging support from campus partners, Princeton University Library (PUL) has acquired the Aziz Isa Elkun collection of Uyghur literature, culture, language, and history, thereby preserving an important part of the Uyghur people's written cultural heritage for future generations. The acquisition makes PUL home to one of the largest collections of Uyghur materials outside of East and Central Asia, which features a unique focus on literary cultural heritage from the 1930s to the early 21st century, especially the 1950s-70s.

The material in this collection was published in different scripts (Arabic Uyghur, Cyrillic Uyghur, and Latinized Uyghur), and was collected over 35 years by Elkun, Uyghur scholar, poet, and Director of the Uyghur PEN Centre Online Revitalization Project. It includes Uyghur books, magazines, newspapers, and posters from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in north-western China, from several post-Soviet Central Asian countries (especially Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan), and from the Uyghur diaspora in Turkey and the West. It also includes material from the Eastern Turkistan Republic of the 1940s. Much of the material is very rare and does not exist in any Western library collection, and is often unavailable to scholars inside China as well.

The Elkun collection nicely complements the already rich collections in Chinese that PUL holds on Xinjiang, which have already attracted numerous researchers of the region. "The study of Chinese history has been dominated by Han-centric perspectives and Chinese-language sources, especially those generated by the state," said **Janet Y. Chen**, Professor of History and East Asian Studies (EAS). "We need more collections like this one, to enhance our understanding of the histories and cultural heritage of ethnic minority groups living in today's PRC."

In 2023, Elkun edited, and translated with others, the widely acclaimed unprecedented one-volume book "Uyghur Poems"



خەلقئارا ئۇيغۇرلارغا بولغان خىزىقىش، بولۇپمۇ ئۇيغۇرلارنىڭ مەدەنىيەت سىياسىي مەسلىھەتلىرىگە ئائىت تەتقىقاتلارنىڭ كۆپىنچىسىگە ئەگىشىپ ئۇي ئويلاش ئارقىلىق ئوقۇرمەنلەر ۋە تەتقىقاتچىلارنىڭ پايدىلىنىشىغا سۈنۈپ ئايلىماقتا. مانا مۇشۇنداق ئىپتىخارنى ھەل قىلىش ئۈچۈن ئامېرىكادىكى قېتىم مەخسۇس ئۇيغۇر ئىلىمىدىكى ھەر خىل ئەسەرلەرنىڭ توپلامىغا ئايلىماقتا. باشلىدىغان ئۇيغۇر شائىرى ئەزىز ئەيسا ئەلكۈن ئەپەندىنىڭ ئۆزى ھازىر كىتاب، گېزىت-ژۇرنال ۋە باشقىلارنى ئىلگىرى قىلىش ئارقىسىدا پرىنستون ئەيسا ئەلكۈن ئۇيغۇر ئەدەبىياتى ئەسەرلىرى توپلامىسى» نامىدىكى ئۇي

The question of cataloging

- Outsourcing or In-house
- Investment for cataloging
- Decision to aim for a three year in-house cataloging project covering the Elkun collection, updating existing records, and cataloging newly acquired material.
- Problem of finding an Uyghur cataloger

Rallying campus partners

- Department of Comparative Literature
- Department of Near Eastern Studies
- East Asian Studies Program
- Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia (TRI)
- Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China
- Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS)
- Program in Near Eastern Studies
- Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (REEES)
- Princeton University Library

خەنزۇچە-ئۇيغۇرچە دىن ئۇغىتى = 汉维宗教词典 / تۈزگۈچىلەر، شەمشىدىن ھاجى ؛ تەكشۈرۈپ بېكىتكۈچى،
خوجا ئابدۇللا ئوسمان.

Khānzuchă-Uyghurchă din lughiti = Han Wei zong jiao ci dian / tüzgüchilär,
Shāmshidin Haji ; täkshürüp bekitküchi, Khoja Abudulla Osman.

Author

Haji, Shāmshidin [Browse]

شەمشىدىن, ھاجى [Browse]

Жилларға жавап : талланған әсәрләр, топлиғучи Қадир Һасанов / Лутпулла
Мутәллип.

Zhillargha javap : tallanghan äsärklär, toplighuchi Qadir Hasanov / Lutpulla
Mutällip.

Author

Mutalifu, Li, 1922-1945 [Browse]

Муталифу, Ли, 1922-1945 [Browse]

Xinjiang budui jengchilliri sizgan resimlerdin tallanma= 新疆部队战士画选

Shinjiang budui jāngchilliri sizghan räsimplärdin tallanma = Xinjiang bu dui zhan
shi hua xuan

Cataloging

- Cataloging into OCLC Worldcat in original script, updating existing records or creating new records
- Enhancing existing record improves discoverability beyond Princeton
- Contribution to Scrip Shifter by the Library of Congress
<https://bibframe.org/scriptshifter/>
- Authority work

Related name

Shinjang Uighur Aptonom Rayonluq Millätlär Tilidiki Atalghulami Qeliplashturush-Bekitish
Komiteti [Browse]

شىنجاڭ ئۇيغۇر ئاپتونوم رايونلۇق مىللەتلەر تىلىدىكى ئاتالغۇلارنى قەيلاشتۇرۇش-بېكىتىش كومىتېتى [Browse]

Jay Dautcher Collection of Uighur Studies [Browse]

ScripShifter

- <https://bibframe.org/scriptshifter/>

S|2 Script2hifter

ABOUT

Input text

كېچىدە تۇتقۇن قىلىنىشنى كۈتۈش

Language

Uighur (Arabic)

General Options

Direction

Script to Roman ☒

Roman to script ☐

Capitalize

No change ☒

First word ☐

All words ☐

TRANSLITERATE!

Supportive Colleagues

Alim Alp, Language Cataloging Specialist

Lia Contursi, Head of Non-Roman Cataloging

Martin Heijdra, Director East Asian Library

Thomas Keenan, Slavic Studies Librarian

Will Noel, Head of Special Collections

Deborah Schlein, Near Eastern Studies Librarian

Jon Stroop, Deputy Dean of Princeton University Library

Current Situation

- Currently 900 titles of which 160+ are unique according to Worldcat
- Second largest collection of Uyghur language materials in North America
- Material mostly going into the ReCAP shared collection (immediately available for delivery to ReCAP partners Columbia, Harvard, New York Public, Yale) and available via Borrow Direct network, and national and international inter-library loan
- Looking for exchange partners for duplicates (esp. interested in journal issues)

Possibilities in the future

- Possibilities to contribute to existing digitization efforts

Hoover: <https://guides.hoover.org/Turkic>

Harvard Yenching Library
Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Xinjiang Minority-Language
Newspapers 新疆少数民族语报纸

- ToC scanning for journals & On demand scanning



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Turkic publications from Xinjiang: Home

Home

Turkic publications from Xinjiang at the Hoover Institution Library & Archives

This guide provides assistance in researching materials related to the publications from the Uyghur region of China, now known as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, held in the Hoover Institution Library & Archives. It constitutes a rare and valuable compilation of materials, printed in Turkic languages which makes this collection unique.

Preservation Process

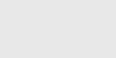
Newspapers

Books

Periodicals

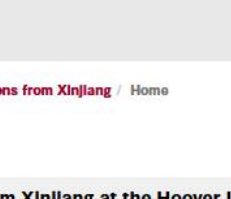
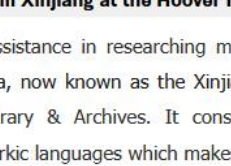
Accessing Collections

Librarian



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Q&A

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