

THE CEUS MONTHLY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Indiana University Department of Central Eurasian Studies

December, 2007

NEWS

Chris Atwood and **Ron Sela** participated at the international workshop on Rashid al-Din, entitled “Rashid al-Din as an agent and mediator of crosspollinations in religion, medicine, science and art,” held in London at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL and at The Warburg Institute on November 8-9. Atwood spoke about “Mongols, Arabs, Kurds, and Franks: Rashid al-Din’s Comparative Anthropology of Tribal Society,” while Sela discussed “Rashid al-Din’s Historiographical Legacy in the Muslim World.”

Chris Beckwith, having been invited by Seoul National University, gave a lecture there on November 16, entitled “Koguryo and the other languages of early Korea in the light of historical linguistic theory and methodology.” He introduced the theory presented in his recent book *Koguryo, the Language of Japan’s Continental Relatives* [see CEUS Newsletter, October 2007] and attempted to explain the scientific approach to historical-comparative linguistics and the necessity of its use in the study of Korean, Japanese-Koguryoic, the ‘Altaic’ group of languages, and ‘Sino-Tibetan’. He also published a new book, *Phoronyms: Classifiers, Class Nouns, and the Pseudopartitive Construction* (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2007). This is the first book devoted to the phoronym, the previously overlooked grammatical category that includes measures such as *cup* in *a cup of tea*, classifiers such as *head* in *ten head of cattle*, *school* in *a school of fish*, and other forms, which occur in the pseudopartitive construction. Measures and noun classification (the defining feature of classifiers) are thought to occur in all languages, so the phoronym is a linguistic universal. The book is the first to combine both of the major theoretical approaches to the topic and includes the first detailed studies of classifiers in Finnish and Russian, group classifiers, and repeaters. It also reveals the existence of pseudopartitive case marking in English and gender-type concord in Thai classifier phrases, and covers class nouns and their components, which are connected grammatically and semantically to both classifiers and gender, and discusses the connections that have been proposed with sublinguistic cognition. The analysis primarily treats English, Finnish, Hungarian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Thai, Tibetan, and Uzbek.

On November 6th, **Erdem Cipa** gave a talk entitled “The Centrality of the Balkans in Social Rebellions and Succession Struggles during the Ottoman Classical Age” at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Koç University, Istanbul.

Lauran Hartley (Ph.D. CEUS 2003) has just completed her first year as Tibetan Studies Librarian for the C.V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University. Drawing on a recent book acquisition trip, she will speak on “Tibetan Publishing in the People’s Republic of China” on December 7 at UVA. She has also co-edited a book with Patricia Schiaffini, entitled *Modern Tibetan Literature and Social Change*, to be released by Duke University Press in the spring.

Lynn Hooker and the Hungarian Cultural Association hosted a two-day residency by the Kálmán Balogh Gipsy Cimbalom Band in early November. This Budapest-based ensemble re-envisioned Eastern and Central European folk music through musical styles ranging from “authentic folk” to Balkan wedding music, “Gypsy jazz” inspired by the great Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli to samba and boogie-woogie. Kálmán Balogh, one of the world’s foremost cimbalom players, did an informal workshop for about ten percussion students in the Jacobs School of Music and the whole band appeared in Prof. Judah Cohen’s World Music and Culture class (in the Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology; also attended by students in Prof. Hooker’s class on Béla Bartók). Band members also had dinner with members of the Hungarian Cultural Association on the evening of Nov. 7 - much Hungarian being spoken by all. The culmination of the residency was a well-received concert in the John Waldron Arts Center in downtown Bloomington.

Donny Smith’s (Turkish Studies) poem “Translation” appeared in *Lilliput Review*, issue 159. **Abbas Karakaya** and Donny Smith’s translation of the poem “Sizin Hiç Babanız Öldü Mü” by Cemal Süreya appeared in *Translation: A Translation Studies Journal*, volume 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS*

Sunday, December 2, 4 pm – 6 pm, Ballantine Hall 004

Mikulas Party for young and old.

Thursday, December 6, 5:30 pm, Indiana Memorial Union, University Club

Finish Independence Day.

*See an updated list of all CEUS events at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/eventsnew.shtml>

The CEUS Monthly will resume after the Winter Recess