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School of English
University of Leeds
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A COLLECTION OF BOOKS IN THE NON-SLAVONIC LANGUAGES OF RUSSIA

In September, 1934, the University Library received a most generous gift from the Society for Cultural Relations. It consists of two collections of books, the first comprising some hundreds of books in Russian, White Russian and Little Russian and the second a number of books published in the USSR in recent years in non-Slavonic languages. So far it has only been possible to examine—and that for a check-list—the second collection. This consists of about five hundred books illustrative of the cultural and educational work in the USSR since the revolution, and in particular of the attempt to eradicate illiteracy. Most of the languages are written in new alphabets.

Below we give a list of the languages represented in the collection. Numbers in square brackets after the name of a language indicate the number of books in the language so far catalogued. The English forms and spellings of the names of various languages given here are those which we propose to accept as standard for use in LSE. Where the name is not well-attested in English the (post-revolution) Russian, German and French name is also given (for Finno-Ugrian languages also the Finnish and Hungarian name). Where there has been a change in the standard Russian terminology since the revolution, owing to the current practice of giving preference to the people's own name for their language (thus post-revolution Russ. *marijskij* from Mari-Cheremiss *mari* instead of pre-revolution Russ. *cheremisiskij* from Turkish *tšermeš*) the pre-revolution Russian name is given second. The German forms and spellings are taken from E. Kieckers, *Die Sprachstämme der Erde*, the French from A. Meillet and M. Cohen, *Les langues du monde*.

I. Indo-European:

- (a) Indo-Iranian: (i) Gipsy (Russian type) [4].
 (ii) Persian [1] and Tajik (Russ. *tadžhikskij*) [21].

(b) Armenian [3].¹

II.A. Finno-Ugrian:

(a) Volga group:

(i) Mari (Russ. *marijskij*, *cheremisiskij*; Germ. *tschere-missisch*; Fr. *tchérémissé*; Finn. *tsheremissiläinen*; Hung. *cseremisiz*) [22].

(ii) Mordvin (Russ. *mordovskij*; Germ. *mordwinisch*; Fr. *mordve*; Finn. *mordvalainen*; Hung. *mordvin*) [29].²

(b) Permian (Germ. *permisch*; Fr. *permien*; Finn. *per-malainen*; Hung. *permi*):

(i) Komi (Russ. *komi*, *zyrjanskij*; Germ. *syryänisch*; Fr. *zyriène*, *syriène*; Finn. *syryääniläinen*; Hung. *zürjén*) [5].

(ii) Udmurt (Russ. *udmurtiskij*, *votskij*; Germ. *wotjakisch*; Fr. *votiak*; Finn. *votjakkilainen*; Hung. *votják*) [11].

(c) Obi-Ugrian (Germ. *Ob-ugrisch*; Fr. *ob-ougrien*; Finn. *Ob-ugrilainen*; Hung. *obi-ugor*):

Ostyak (Russ. *khantyskij*, *ostjatskij*; Germ. *ostjakisch*; Fr. *ostiak*; Finn. *ostjakkilainen*; Hung. *osztják*) [1].³

II.B. Samoyede:

Yurak-Samoyede (post-revolution Russ. *nēnētskij*) [1].

III. Semitic:

Assyrian (i.e. Modern Syriac) [1].⁴

IV.A. Turkish—about 170 books (so far unsorted); further:

(a) Kirghiz [29] (also Kazak-Kirghiz [2] and Kara-Kirghiz [8]) and Bashkir [3].

(b) Uzbek [35] and Uigur [1].

(c) Turkmen, Azerbaijan Turkish [49] and Caucasian dialects—Karachai (Russ. *karachaevskij*; Fr. *karatchai*) [6], Kumik (Russ. *kumykskij*; Fr. *koumik*) [1] and Nogai (Russ. *nogaiskij*; Fr. *nogai*) [1].

¹ Also several books in English, German, Modern Greek, Lettish, Lithuanian, Polish, Spanish and Esperanto.

² An interesting feature is the presence, in a few cases, of the same book in both the Erza and the Moksha dialects.

³ Also several books in Estonian and Hungarian.

⁴ Also several books in Yiddish, which, for library purposes, is conveniently included here, since it is written in Hebrew characters and its vocabulary contains at least a certain number of Hebrew words.

(d) Yakut (Russ. *jakutskij*; Germ. *jakutisch*; Fr. *yakoute*) [14].

(e) Chuvash [25].

IV.B. Mongolian:

Kalmuk (Russ. *kalmjtskij*) [3] and other Western Mongolian dialects (Russ. *oiratskij*, *oirotskij*) [6].

IV.C. Tungus [1].

V. Miscellaneous Caucasian languages:

(a) Georgian [14].

(b) Ingush (Russ. *ingushskij*; Germ. *inguschisch*) [1].

VI. Chinese [1].⁵

Subjects represented (as far as catalogued): reading and spelling both elementary and advanced (for illiterates as well as children), arithmetic, biology, popular science, medical and veterinary science, education, folk-music, biography, law and economics.

This collection is quite without parallel in England and should prove of the greatest interest, especially to philologists. We should like to express the hope that the appropriate authorities in the USSR will be so kind as to send us further books of this nature—in particular books in languages in which we, in Leeds, have a special interest, *viz.* the Finno-Ugrian languages—in the USSR, Ingrian, Karelian, Lüd, Veps, Vatja, Lappish, Mari, Mordvin, Komi, Udmurt, Vogul and Ostyak—also Samoyede, Eskimo and Ossete. Donors may rest assured that any books presented will find a safe and permanent home in our great new library. It should also be borne in mind that, by reason of the new system of regional library co-operation and also of the interlending scheme, books placed in our library are readily available to serious students in any country who care to make use of the scheme.

⁵ Mr. Alan S. C. Ross wishes to take this opportunity of thanking the Institut Narodov Severa and Professor D. V. Bubrikh (of Leningrad University) for a kind gift of recently-published books in Ostyak-Samoyede (post-revolution Russ. *sel'kupskij*) [4], Yurak-Samoyede [9], Vogul (*mansijskij*) [4], Ostyak [2], and Russian Lappish (*saamskij*) [3]. The latter are particularly interesting in view of our scanty knowledge of this Lappish dialect.