



DEBTELIN | Issue 02 | January 2018

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Manchu Archery

P.62 [d2559#1]

P.63 [d2559#2]

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From Peter
to my friend and mother, Bea

Contents

A word from the editors 6

Reading conventions 8

1 Peter Dekker, The Manchu archery tradition 10

2 Khan Hong Taiji, Dress well and shoot 40

3 Khan Elhe Taifin, Aphorisms for the Whole Family 45

4 Khan Hvvaliyasun Tob, Book of Instructions 53

5 Khan Abkai Wehiyeh et al., Verses for heroes 58

6 Mårten Söderblom Saarela, A look in the 1708 *Mirror* 67

7 Qanggiyvn, Targets in Shooting 72

8 Archery in primers 109

9 Donjina, My friend Ferguwene 116

10 Sungyvn, Old men's tales 119

11 Three times Nurhaci 126

12 Two accounts of Sarhv 132

Sources 173

Accounts of contributors 175

Call for translations 180

A word from the editors

The second issue of DEBTELIN, journal for Manchu in translation, is dedicated to one of the historical pillars of Manchu identity: archery. It has been a true pleasure to have Peter Dekker as our guest editor for this issue. We believe that the content of this issue is the best proof of our inspiring collaboration.

I am confident that I speak for many, when I say that in the last couple of years Peter has proven to be a true expert on traditional Manchu archery, from its history to its practice. I know for a fact that Peter is idolized by many. A bit more than a year ago, he decided to trade in a corporate career for collecting antique Asian weapons full time. We are grateful that he did.

Peter's work proves something important, especially for those students who aspire to a future scholarly career at a time where there are so few positions, and so few long-term perspectives within the walls of the university. Peter proves that academia is something that can flourish far away from the royal route of academic titles, and far away from brick and mortar universities. His academic accomplishments are built on his passion, his obsession, his dedication, and his inquisitiveness. It is because of the combination of these qualities that I have witnessed weapon haters turn into sponges when listening to this "self-acclaimed professor".

For DEBTELIN 2 we are grateful that we could learn from his (way too) many insights into Manchu archery. He helped us throughout the whole process: from conceptualizing and organizing the content to adding commas where they were missing.

We are also very grateful for the support coming from the Manchu Foundation, its donors, and the Rombouts Foundation for Chinese Studies. Another big thank you goes out to all people who preordered this second issue of DEBTELIN. In return for your trust in us, we have tested your patience! We sincerely hope that the result was worth the wait. We would also like to thank the reviewer for Chapter 6, Justin Ma, and our copy editors Hugo Kolstee and Patrick Jered. Also, we are grateful to have an editorial board that stands behind us.

Finally, a major *baniha* to our more than twenty translators and essayists. You have an open invitation to contribute to the many DEBTELINs to come. We have tried to do your hard work justice, and with this publication all remaining mistakes are our sole responsibility. Now you can sit back, relax and enjoy your and others' work. Also on behalf of Pieter van den Broek, I hope that reading this issue will prove to be a meaningful way to spend your time.

Fresco Sam-Sin
Amsterdam / Leiden / The Hague

Accounts of contributors

Aldijana Bajrektarevic (Tübingen University)

BA student. Her main fields of interest are Northeast Asian economy, intercultural relations, society, and languages (mainly Chinese, Korean and Manchu). She has been working as a student assistant for several semesters.

Lotte Bijloo (Leiden University)

Holds a BA in China Studies and a BA in Interpreting Sign Language of the Netherlands. She is currently enrolled in the Linguistics Research Master. Her interests are sign languages, Mandarin Chinese, and Manchu.

Pieter van den Broek (editor)

Editor of DEBTELIN and secretary of the Manchu Foundation. He combines teaching classics at a secondary school with writing a PhD dissertation on the Latin poet Silius Italicus at the University of Amsterdam. Pieter has lectured in classical languages and cultures at Peking University, Tsinghua, and BLCU.

Mario Cams (University of Macau)

Assistant Professor at the Department of History. He specializes in the history of early Sino-European contacts, Qing studies, and the history of cartography. Together with Fresco Sam-Sin, Mario is founder of the online research platform QingMaps that aims to place cartography related knowledge directly onto contemporary imperial atlases.

Alice Craciun (Tübingen University)

Bachelor student of China studies. Her main fields of interest are translation, Northeast Asian film & TV, and Northeast Asian languages (mainly Chinese, Korean, and Manchu). She works part-time as a translator of Chinese literature. In her free time she blogs about Chinese TV series at cdramabase.com.

Peter Dekker (guest editor)

Researcher of, and dealer in, antique Asian weapons. He is the founder of *Fe Doro* where he shares his knowledge of Manchu archery. His knowledge of Manchu archery comes not only from primary and secondary sources, but also from his own practice and teaching of Manchu archery.

Juul Eijk (Leiden University)

After finishing his BA in China Studies with a thesis on the transmission of Elhe Taifin palace memorials into main sequence historiography, he is now a Research Master student of Asian Studies, specializing in Qing and Manchu history and historiography. He is interested in anything that has to do with Manchu language, ethnicity, history, and the challenges presented by the management of the multi-ethnic Daiqing empire.

Henriette Hofman (Leiden University)

Holds a bachelor degree in China Studies, graduating on the concept of filial piety in *Emu tanggv orin sakda i gisun sarkiyan* (120 Tales of Old Men). She is currently enrolled in the Asian Studies Research Master. Her focus is on Manchu and Daiqing cultural and philosophical history.

Sander Huls (Leiden University)

Completed his BA in China Studies, and is currently working on a BA in Egyptology, both at Leiden University. He is especially interested in extinct languages of all sorts and in archery both modern and ancient, which have come together perfectly in this issue of DEBTELIN.

Martijn Knapen (Leiden University)

Bachelor student of Linguistics in the Descriptive Linguistics and Comparative Indo-European Linguistics tracks at Leiden University. His main academic interests are typology, philology, phonology, and language change, especially with regard to the proposed Altaic language family.

Emily Koenders (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Emily Koenders finished her BA as a Hebraist and Sinologist. She is currently enrolled in an MA program in Chinese Linguistics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her special interest goes out to Poirot's Manchu translation of the Old Testament.

Guillaume Lescuyer (University of Liège)

Although a PhD candidate in Egyptology, Guillaume Lescuyer has also had a long time interest in all things connected with Chinese history in general, and the Daqing dynasty in particular. A few years ago, he became acquainted with the Manchu language and has since become an avid reader of Manchu texts.

Justin Ma (chapter reviewer)

A software engineer who received his PhD in Computer Science from UC San Diego. Practitioner of traditional Chinese archery, specializing in the study and revival of Chinese military archery technique. He is co-author of *The Way of Archery: A 1637 Chinese Military Training Manual*, a translation and commentary of Gao Ying's Ming dynasty archery treatise. His archery activities include organizing training programs, hosting tournaments, competing in flight archery, and teaching.

Victor Molenaar (Leiden University)

Master student of Asian Studies at Leiden University. He is fascinated by Chinese paper money, most notably that of the Qing dynasty, on which topic he wrote his bachelor thesis. During his master's he will continue his research on Xianfeng banknotes (1853-1859). Besides that, he is particularly interested in translating, Qing art history, and cultural heritage.

David Porter (Harvard University)

PhD candidate in History and East Asian Languages. His dissertation focuses on ethnic and status identity in the Qing banners, in particular on how the place of ethnically Han bannermen changed over the course of the dynasty. David reads as much new Manchu sources as he can.

Jeroen van Ravenhorst (Leiden University)

Bachelor student of Linguistics in the Descriptive Linguistics track at Leiden University. His main academic interests are typology, phonology, and historical linguistics of Northeast Asian languages.

Léon Rodenburg (Xebia)

China Studies BA graduate at Leiden University with a thesis on definiteness in Mandarin. He is the lead developer of Debtelin.nl, QingMaps and Manc.hu. Léon co-founded the last one with Fresco Sam-Sin. Since the summer of 2017, Léon works as a consultant at Xebia, while still reserving time to maintain and develop the abovementioned platforms.

Fresco Sam-Sin (editor in chief)

Lecturer of Manchu language and culture at Leiden University and research associate at the Research Centre for Material Culture. Fresco is founder and curator of Manc.hu, DEBTELIN and Qing Maps. He is writing his PhD on where Manchu material culture meets text.

Mårten Söderblom Saarela (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Postdoctoral fellow. Mårten is a historian of late imperial China, interested in the cultural and intellectual history of language. In addition to his current project on Manchu, a continuation of his dissertation work, Mårten is working on a few other projects of varying scope on linguistic matters in China and beyond.

Brian Tawney (Harvard University)

Software consultant and a member of a small Manchu reading group in the Pacific Northwest. He received an A.M. in East Asian Studies from Harvard, where he first encountered Jakdan's poetry. His current research interests include the history and evolution of Manchu rhetorical and poetic form.

[**Yves Trachsel \(University of Zurich\)**](#)

Holds an MA degree of Chinese studies and Linguistics. Apart from his main focus on Altaic Studies, especially Manchu and the Mongolic languages, he is particularly interested in southern Chinese dialects such as Cantonese and Min. Apart from holding a BA degree in multilingual translation from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, he also brings with him several years of experience in language teaching, translation and interpreting.

[**Carel Wesselius \(Accademia Vivarium Novum\)**](#)

Obtained his BA degree in China Studies at Leiden University. His main interest lies in history. This year, he received a grant to study Classical Languages, Literature, and Philosophy at the Accademia Vivarium Novum in Rome for a year, using methods based on those used by humanistic scholars such as Desiderius Erasmus

[**Alex Zhao \(Leiden University\)**](#)

Graduate student in East Asian Studies who completed his BA in English Language and Culture. He is interested in the history and the way of life of the Manchus due to his Manchu heritage. He is an avid practitioner of Chinese martial arts and has taken an interest in Manchu archery.

Call for translations

DEBTELIN was born in 2016 as an initiative to provide Manchu students at Leiden University with a solid and attractive publishing platform. For DEBTELIN 2 we have broadened our reach, resulting in a wide diversity of contributors. We encourage all readers of Manchu out there to get in touch, regardless of your skill level. We will guide you through the process, resulting in a solid translation that varies in length from one small section (see Chapter 3 of this issue) to a whole book (see below).

DEBTELIN 3 revolves around the *shaman*. We want to focus on some longer narratives, as well as on the ethnopoetics of prayers and rituals, with room for parallels with this genre in other languages. For this issue we are also interested in exploring the materiality of Manchu shamanism.

DEBTELIN 4 will be themed *Homelands*. Together with guest editor Mario Cams, we are on the lookout for court and off-court narratives with the Manchu homelands as our stage. Parts of it will be an English rendition of DEBTELIN 1 (which has been published in Dutch). Apart from translations from Manchu, we also want to include sources translated from Korean, Latin, Qing Chinese, French, and Dutch.

Call for longer translations

We are interested in publishing longer works, together with the original text and an additional, living commentary online at Manc.hu. Already confirmed are:

BANNER TALK Complete translations by Yves Trachsel (University of Zurich) of the handwritten Manchu primers (ca. 10) sitting in the collection of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Chapter 8 of this issue shows some examples. Expected date of publication mid 2018.

FOR MY FAMILY Complete translation by Guillaume Lescuyer (University of Liège) of the *Aphorisms for the Whole Family* (Booi taqhiyan i ten i gisun). Chapter 3 of this issue shows some examples. Expected date of publication mid 2019.

Interested? We welcome all your ideas and initiatives. For more information on translating and on practical issues regarding deadlines, agreements, and remuneration, do not hesitate to get in touch with Fresco Sam-Sin, series editor for MF Publishing (fresco@manc.hu).

Colophon

DEBTELIN is a journal for Manchu in translation

Guest editor Peter Dekker

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