Preface

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC) was held at the premises of Friedensau Adventist University from August 18 to 23, 2019. In the tranquil and hospitable atmosphere of this unique place, more than 40 participants from 15 countries conducted a Meeting which very much paid tribute to the beginnings of the PIAC when all PIAC members joined in the same room to share information on their own work (aptly called “Confessions”) before individual papers were presented, frequently followed by lively discussions.

The annual theme of this Meeting, “Religion and State in the Altaic World” served as the center of gravity for a wide range of contributions, covering tradition, state, philosophy, society, language, history, and, of course, religion in the Altaic world. In this realm, the scope of religion is exceptionally broad as it covers Buddhism, Tengrism, and Shamanism. This diversity in research subjects was accompanied by a wide range of scientific disciplines and methods, which in itself is a hallmark of the PIAC.

About a half of the papers presented at the Meeting were submitted by their authors for publication in the Proceedings volume which is presented here. For the editor, the task of compiling a Proceedings volume is both challenging and rewarding. It is challenging because the aforementioned diversity of subjects and methods requires frequent communication with the contributors in order to assure that everything is presented as intended by the author; rewarding because it is the editor’s unique privilege to learn more about the fascinating aspects of Altaic studies long before the volume is finally published. However, there is also one difficulty. Different traditions in Academia exist for things as fundamental as reference lists and bibliographies, and there is no truly universal understanding of the form of a correct citation. The editor has attempted to, but failed to achieve a truly uniform formal appearance across all contributed papers.

The editor wishes to thank all the authors who contributed their papers and who endured lengthy exchanges of drafts, always due to the editor’s obsessive attention to detail. Furthermore, the editor wishes to thank Barbara Kellner-Heinkele for her critical and insightful comments during the whole editing process of this volume. Finally, the editor wishes to thank the publisher Walter de Gruyter for the continuing support of the series Studien zur Sprache, Geschichte und Kultur der Türkvolker where this volume appears. In particular, Eva Frantz and Gabriela Rus displayed infinite patience with the editor and were most gracious and helpful throughout, making it a most pleasant collaboration experience. This being said, it is the editor’s sole responsibility for all errors which may have made their way into this collection of articles.

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