

IN MEMORIAM

V. G. JEGOROV

1880–1974

Vasilij Georgievič Jegorov, nestor of the Chuvash studies has departed at the age of 93. He was born of a Chuvash family in a small village, Andreevskij Bazar (today in the *Urmarskij rajon* of the Chuvash ASSR) on the 11th of February, 1880.

He was educated in Simbirsk, and in Kazan, where one of his teachers was Je. A. Malov, father of S. Je. Malov, both well-known Turkologists. In Kazan he studied Greek, Latin, Old Church Slavic, European languages, Arabic and Persian. After having finished his studies in Kazan he worked as a teacher, and later he spent one year in Syria as the headmaster of the Russian school there. In 1912 he enrolled in the University of St. Petersburg. Here he had the opportunity to attend the lectures of the greatest Russian linguists of those times, A. A. Šachmatov, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, and L. V. Ščerba. He made the acquaintance of A. N. Samojlovič, the same age as himself, who, following his master, P. M. Melioranskij, had already read lectures on Turcology. V. G. Jegorov finished the university as a Slavist, and wrote his first paper on Russian grammar.¹ After the October Revolution Jegorov took part in the reorganization of the Chuvash school system, taught first in Kazan and later in Cheboksary. His first study in Chuvash linguistics was published in 1928 on the problem of vowel harmony in the Chuvash language.² The first book to bring him international renown was his *Introduction to Chuvash Studies* (1930),³ which was written with a profound knowledge of the European literature.⁴ In this book he outlined a new programme for the historical approach to the Chuvash language surveying the old and new sources of Chuvash linguistic history. In comparison with Ašmarin's basic work⁵ Jegorov's book showed a keen interest in the historical developments and early linguistic contacts of Chuvash. It can only be regretted that Marr's unscientific views hampered for a long time the fulfilment of the programme given in the book. In the following years he directed the publication of a Chuvash-Russian dictionary,⁶ taught Chuvash and Russian in Kazan and Cheboksary. From 1948 he worked in the Pedagogical Institute of Cheboksary and began to raise a new school of young Chuvash linguists. In the fifties his interest was concentrated on the earliest works of the

¹ *Soglasovanie čislitel'nyh suščestvitel'nyh v velikorusskich juridičeskich pamjatnikach XV–XVII vv.: Filologičeskie Zapiski* 1916, vyp. II–III, pp. 189–236, vyp. IV–V, 474–523.

² *Zakon garmonii glasnyh v čuvašskom jazyke: Naučno-pedagogičeskij sbornik Vostočno-pedagogičeskogo Instituta* IV, Kazanj 1928, pp. 33–63.

³ *Vvedenie v izučenie čuvašskogo jazyka*, Moscow 1930, 200 p.

⁴ See his *Bibliografičeskij ukazatel' literatury po čuvašskomu jazyku*, Čeboksary 1931, 76 p.

⁵ N. I. Ašmarin, *Materialy dlja izsledovanija čuvašskogo jazyka*, Kazanj 1898.

⁶ *Čuvašsko-russkij slovarj*, Čeboksary 1935, 734. 2nd ed. in 1954. See also his *Russko-čuvašskij slovarj*, Čeboksary 1960, 2nd ed. in 1972.

Chuvash language.⁷ In 1954 he published the first part of his dissertation «Modern Chuvash Literary Language in Comparative-Historical Interpretation»,⁸ which is basically an enlarged and revised form of his Introduction, containing much new material and ideas. Jegorov was aware of the fact that a history of the Chuvash language can be written only after a thorough etymological investigation of the Chuvash word stock. Towards this objective a great step forward was his Etymological Dictionary of the Chuvash language,⁹ the first of this type in any Turkic language.

Vasilij Georgievič Jegorov had good contacts with Hungarian scholars as early as the twenties of this century. He followed with great interest the contemporary Chuvash studies in Hungary and from 1963 when Hungarian scholars had opportunity to visit Chuvashia he constantly helped them by placing at their disposal his inexhaustible knowledge. I met him for the last time in September, 1973. Weak from age and ill he gave it as his last will that we should continue the investigation of the historical contacts of the Chuvash language.

The memory of his charming, unpretentious personality will live long among those who knew him, and his life-work is assured to survive us all.

A. Róna-Tas

ÉVA DOBOS

1946–1973

La turcologie hongroise a subi une perte douloureuse en la personne d'Éva Dobos, un des membres remarquables de la plus jeune génération des turcologues, morte à Noël 1973, à l'âge de 27 ans. Son nom était à peine connu dans la turcologie internationale, mais qui avons eu l'occasion pendant des années de l'avoir comme élève, puis pendant un court laps de temps comme collaboratrice, nous sommes à même de mesurer ce que signifie la disparition de ce jeune chercheur plein de promesses.

Éva Dobos a commencé ses études en 1965. S'intéressant à la philologie classique, elle suivit d'abord des cours de latin et de grec, puis elle se mit à étudier la langue et la littérature arabes. Dès 1967, elle fréquenta régulièrement les cours de philologie turque et s'initia toujours davantage à la turcologie. Comme étudiante de troisième année, elle profita d'une bourse pour aller poursuivre ses études pendant 8 mois à l'Université Lénine de Tachkent, où elle s'occupa de linguistique, de littérature et de dialectologie ouzbek. Rentrée à Budapest, elle obtint son diplôme de latin et d'arabe et continua ses études de turcologie.

Ayant bénéficié d'une seconde bourse, elle retourna chez les Ouzbegs en automne 1970, et y passa encore cinq mois à effectuer des recherches approfondies concernant la dialectologie ouzbek, complétées d'enquêtes sur place dans la région de Tachkent, de Samarkand et du Khvarezm, ainsi que sur le territoire de Leninabad en Tadjikistan. Elle s'occupa en premier lieu des dialectes kiptchaks de l'ouzbegs et enregistra ou nota nombre de contes, de récits, de passages d'épopées et des chansons populaires.

Son travail de diplôme était consacré aux dialectes kiptchaks de la langue ouzbek, sur la base du dialecte kourama. Une partie de cette étude a été publiée sous le titre

⁷ *Čuvašskie slovari XVIII veka: Učenyje Zapiski ČNII II* (1949), pp. 111–142. *Pervaja pečatnaja grammatika čuvaškogo jazyka 1769 g.: Tjurkologičeskij sbornik I* (1951), pp. 85–92.

⁸ *Sovremennij čuvaškij literaturnyj jazyk v sravnitel'no-istoričeskom osveščeni* I, Čeboksary 1954, 240 p. The 2nd revised edition has been published in 1971.

⁹ *Étimologičeskij slovarj čuvaškogo jazyka*, Čeboksary 1964, 355 p.