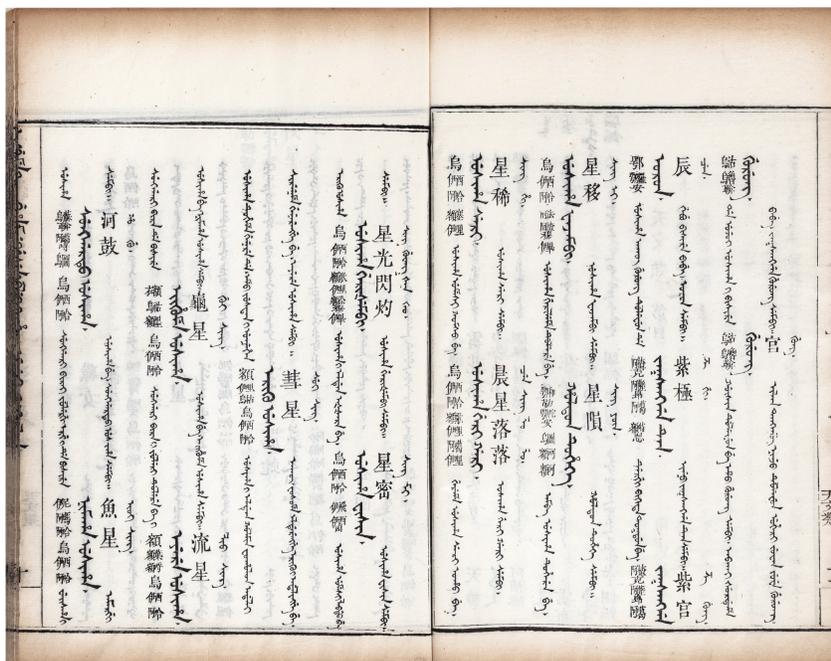




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Manchu Dictionaries



A "Friendly" Imperial Manchu–Chinese Dictionary

1. QIANLONG, Emperor, sponsor, FUHENG (or FU-HENG), comp. [Chinese]: *Yu zhi zeng ding Qing wen jian*; [Manchu]: *Han I araha nonggime toktobuha manju gisun I buleku bithe*; [Augmented Imperial Manchurian and Chinese Dictionary]. 49 vols. Large 8vo, orig. wrappers, block-printed title labels in Chinese & Manchu on upper covers, new stitching. [Beijing: Wu ying dian, 1771]. \$22,500.00

An important edition, this is the revised and enlarged version of the Manchu–Chinese

dictionary first published by Emperor Kangxi in 1708. Our edition was compiled under the supervision of Fuheng (1720-70), a younger brother of the Empress and trusted brother-in-law of Emperor Qianlong.

For Kangxi's grandson, Emperor Qianlong, "the most crucial element of Manchu identity was language...Hong Taiji's warning of the dire consequences that would follow if the Manchus' native tongue were allowed to decline is another sign that the Manchu elite had long recognized the importance of language. This concern was shared by emperors after 1644, but few rivaled Qianlong in their attention to this issue...

"In 1771 he published a revised and enlarged version of a Manchu-Chinese dictionary, first published by Kangxi in 1708, explaining in the preface his hope that 'by disseminating this to my descendants, the officials, and the people, [Manchu] writing will be standardized and passed on generation to generation, and thereby made everlasting'."—Mark C. Elliott, *Emperor Qianlong. Son of Heaven, Man of the World*, p. 57.

This encyclopedic dictionary "had thirty-five classificatory categories, subdivided into 292 sections and covering 18,000 entry words, including over 1,600 archaic and rare words. Each entry word was defined in both the Manchurian and Chinese languages. The uniqueness of this dictionary lay in its adoption of *fanqie* to indicate the pronunciation of Manchurian defining words, and the Chinese defining words were notated with Manchurian pronunciation, making the dictionary friendly to both Manchurian and Chinese users."—Yong & Peng, *Chinese Lexicography. A History from 1046 BC to AD 1911* (Oxford), p. 397.

Our set of 49 volumes contains:

1. One volume of the 1708 Prefaces;
2. One volume of the 1771 Prefaces;
3. One volume of *San he Han zi shi er xi tou*;
4. 32 volumes of the main bilingual dictionary;
5. Four volumes of *Bu bian*;
6. Eight volumes of *Zong gang*;
7. One volume of *Bu zong gang*;
8. One volume of *Xu ru xin yu* (two parts in one vol.).

Very good set with a few minor stains or other unimportant defects. Minor browning.

2. LI, Yanji (or Yen-chi). [Chinese]: *Qing wen hui shu*; [Manchu]: *Manju isabuha bithe* [*The Complete Collection of the Manchurian Language*]. 12 vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers, manuscript title labels on upper covers in Chinese & Manchu, new stitching. [China: 1815?].

\$2950.00

A reissue of the 1750 edition of this important and popular bilingual Manchu–Chinese dictionary. We can tell this is a reprint because the first owner’s name, carved on the woodblocks, has been removed (but the latter owner/publisher forgot to scrape away the original owner’s name, “Ying hua dang,” from the blocks of volumes 3, 10, and 11!).

Li (fl. 1693-1724), an honorary licentiate and local magistrate in Sichuan and Fujian, first published his Manchu–Chinese dictionary in a private edition. The first commercial edition appeared in 1750 and it enjoyed great success, reaching many readers. There were reprints in 1806 and 1815. It was based on Emperor’s Kangxi’s great *The Imperial Dictionary of the Manchurian Language* of 1673-1708. “Li replaced the Manchu definitions with Chinese translations and changed the arrangement by topic into a graphological arrangement.”—Marten Soderblom Saarela, *The Early Modern Travels of Manchu: A Script and its Study in East Asia and Europe*, p. 108.



Fine set, preserved in a *chitsu*.

• Yong & Peng, *Chinese Lexicography. A History from 1046 BC to AD 1911* (Oxford), p. 398.



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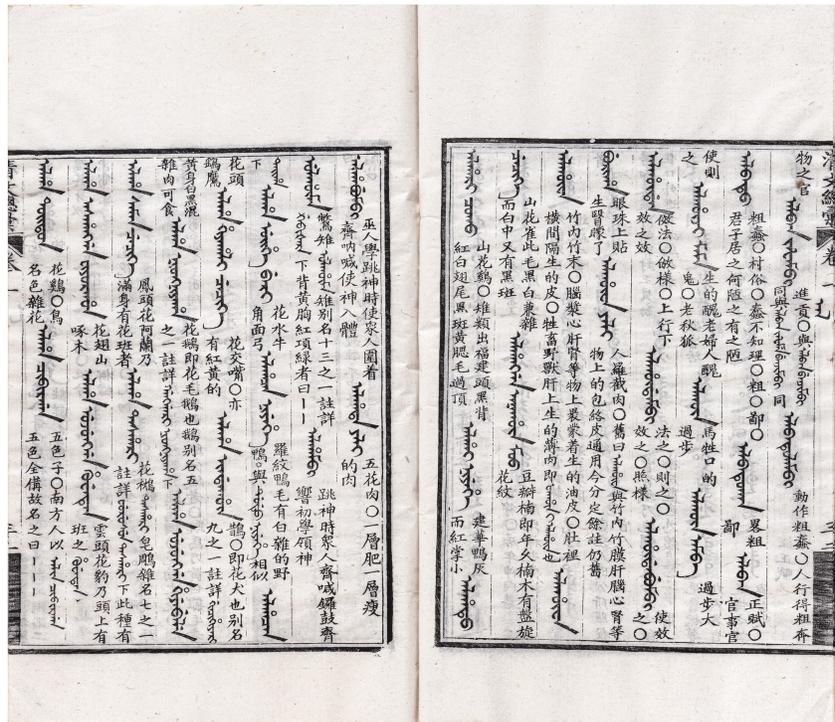
3. YIXING (or IHING). [Chinese]: *Qing wen bu hui*; [Manchu]: *Manju gisun be niyeceme isabuha bithe* [*The Supplements of the Manchurian Language*]. Eight vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers, early stitching (a little loose). China: Preface dated 1786 & Afterword dated 1802.

\$4750.00

Second edition, revised and privately published, of Yixing's supplement to Yanji Li's *The Complete Collection of the Manchurian Language* (1750). Yixing's supplement, which was first published in 1786, contained an additional 7900 new words in the Manchurian language. Our privately published edition was revised by Yixing's nephew at the compiler's request.

Very good set, preserved in a *chitsu*. Minor browning. Vol. IV with some dampstaining.

• Marten Soderblom Saarela, *The Early Modern Travels of Manchu: A Script and its Study in East Asia and Europe*, p. 109 & footnote 47. Yong & Peng, *Chinese Lexicography. A History from 1046 BC to AD 1911* (Oxford), p. 398.



“Indispensable...Even Today”

4. LI, Yanji & YIXING, orig. compilers. [Chinese]: *Qing wen zong hui*; [Manchu]: *Manju gisun I uheri isabuha bithe*; [*The Compendium of the Manchurian Language*]. 12 vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels in both Manchu & Chinese on upper covers (one label missing), new stitching. [From the title-page]: Jingzhou: Jingzhou zhu fang fan yi zong xue, 1897; Afterwords in final volume dated 1897 & 1911. \$4250.00

An early reprint (1st ed.: 1897) of “this indispensable reference work for scholars of Manchurian studies even today” –Yong & Peng, *Chinese Lexicography. A History from 1046 BC to AD 1911* (Oxford), p. 398. This work combines two of the leading Manchu–Chinese dictionaries of the 18th century: Yanji Li’s *The Compendium of the Manchurian Language* (1750) and Yixing’s *The Supplements of the Manchurian Language* (1786). Our edition was edited by the Manchurian scholars Xiangxiang, Zhikuan, and Zhipei.

Fine set, preserved in a *chitsu*. Rare.



5. MANCHU & CHINESE DICTIONARY. [Manchu]: *Tuktan tacire urse urunaku hulaci acara bithe*; [Chinese]: *Chu xue bi du* [*Terms & Phrases in Manchu & Chinese*]. 33; 29; 30; 31; 30; 28 folding leaves. Six vols. 8vo, orig. pale brown wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers (in Manchu & Chinese), new stitching. Jingdu: Long fu si Ju zheng tang, 1890. \$3500.00

First edition of this Manchu–Chinese dictionary of terms and phrases, arranged by subject, starting with astronomy and continuing through geography, architecture, medicine, anatomy, rituals, religion, music and musical instruments, literature, education, bibliography, military words, livestock, veterinary medicine, agriculture, natural history, gastronomy, measurements, numbers, transportation, etc., etc. At this time, Manchu was the imperial language of the Qing dynasty.

Fine set.

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