

On 4th March, we have a lecture "Studies of Armenian Sources on the Mongols" by Prof. Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan (National University of Mongolia) who received a DPhil in Oriental Studies at the University of Oxford (2008). Her long-term research resulted in a monograph, *The Mongols and the Armenians (1220-1335)* (Leiden: Brill, 2010: <http://www.brill.com/mongols-and-armenians-1220-1335>), which gives us a profound insight into the political relations of the Mongols and the Armenians.

In this lecture, she provided us with a throughout overview of Armenian sources related to the Mongols which range over several genres such as general histories, chronicles, hagiographies, poems, epitaphs, and colophons. As a premise, she explained that regions called "Armenia" under Mongol rule was divided into two parts; one is the Greater Armenia in Caucasus, and the other is Cilician Armenia along the Mediterranean coast. The Greater Armenians became subjects of the Mongol Empire, whereas the Cilician Armenians became allies and furthered the Mongol conquests. Then, she reviewed the history of historiography in Mongol Armenia, for which French Orientalists blazed a trail, and then Russian and Soviet scholars followed them. Up to now, the major Armenian sources have been translated into English by Robert Bedrosian, and we can easily access the result through his website (<http://rbedrosian.com/>). But, she affirmed that due to arbitrary deletion, some translations are occasionally not full as it appears online.

Although the Armenian sources have been criticized as the biased ones by many historians of the Mongol empire, she made use of the sources to find out a vibrant perception of the Mongols by the Armenians. In these sources, the Mongols are sometimes depicted as a token of divine wrath, and sometimes as judges or tyrannies in the present world. Among a wide range of sources she handled, her originality comes out of paying special attention toward the colophons of manuscripts by Armenian clerics, in which the copyists sometimes set forth their own views on their ruler, or on the circumstances. She showed an excellent way to transform "notoriously biased" sources to a veritable gold mine, from which a rich unearthed history is excavated!

(Abstracted by ISAHAYA Yoichi)