

The dictionary contains rather more than twenty-six thousand main entries and an uncounted number of subsidiary entries.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the School of Oriental and African Studies which provided me with a congenial academic home during the time when the earlier stages of this work were being prepared, to Rebecca Harper of Poole Typesetting (Wessex) Ltd for her careful processing of my disks, and above all to my dear wife for her never-failing help and support.

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HINTS FOR USE

The dictionary is intended to be self-explanatory as far as possible in use. It is assumed that users will already have a basic knowledge of both English and Mongolian, so that a description of word-formation in either language should be unnecessary.

Mongolian key-words are arranged in alphabetical order, whether consisting of one or of more elements. Roman numerals are used to distinguish homonyms such as **унах** 'to ride' and **унах** 'to fall'. Distinguishable ranges of meaning of an individual word are denoted by Arabic numerals and where necessary the small numerals **i.**, **ii.**, etc., are used to subdivide an entry further. Synonymous compounds are added in parentheses after the entry concerned.

Within an entry, compound expressions in which the key-word does not occupy first place precede those where the key-word does occupy first place. Alphabetic order within entries is maintained as far as possible, but for this purpose suffixes and any changes in spelling have been disregarded. To economize on space, wherever the unaltered key-word is repeated it is replaced by a swung dash. If the spelling of the key-word has been altered it is given in full. No other substitutions have been made. A feature of the dictionary which I hope will be useful is the provision, on occasion, of examples of usage taken from texts. Such quotations are separated from the more regular equivalents by the sign §. An element which, at least in the sources available to me, appears only as the first element of more than one compound, is followed by a colon, unless a Roman numeral follows, then by the compound expressions.

This dictionary makes no pretence at providing etymologies. Foreign borrowings have been dealt with as follows. As far as possible the originals of Tibetan loan-words have been supplied. Some such words still play a vital part in Mongolian culture and more information concerning them can often be found in Tibetan dictionaries. With Chinese and Manchu words, on the other hand, referring as they often do to material culture or to a now obsolete administration, it is much less helpful to know the precise original, and accordingly I have in most cases not supplied it. Words of Sanskrit origin have been indicated as such to the best of my ability, but for reasons of lack of expert knowledge I have not supplied the Sanskrit originals. Where, as in the case of proper names, it has proved necessary to use a Sanskrit word, I have employed a simplified spelling, and I trust that specialists will find this less offensive than the errors which might otherwise have occurred. Russian words are a fourth case. Being recent borrowings, the originals are nearly always recognizable, and apart from a few exceptions I did not think it necessary to supply them. Modern Mongolian, especially technical language, is full of Russian loans, to the extent that it would be unreasonable to include every Russian word one found in a Mongolian text. To admit or reject Russian words is thus to a great extent a subjective choice, and I have tried to circumvent this intractable problem by admitting Russian words when I thought that it might be useful to do so. If my selection is not wholly acceptable I can only apologize. Now and again it seemed helpful to suggest the original of a loan-translation.

Wherever possible, the scientific names of flora and fauna have been supplied, but only where the original source itself gave the equivalent. Such names present many problems, especially in the case of plants, where the nomenclature has been altered and standardized since the mid-1960's. In general I have followed the following Mongolian authorities: for plants, nos. 129–133 of the Reports of the State Terminological Commission, *Бүгд Найрамдах Монгол Ард Улсын Гуурст Ургамлын Латин-Монгол-Орос Нэрийн Толь* compiled by Н. Өлзийхутаг, 1983, and *Ургамал Таних Бичиг* compiled by Ч. Санчир and others, 1985; for birds, nos. 78–79–80 of the same series of reports, *Шувууны Нэр Томъо*, 1969; for animals, *БНМАУ-ын Амьтны Аймаг Хөхтөн Амьтан* compiled by С. Дуламцэрэн and others, 1989; for insects *Бүгд Найрамдах Монгол Ард Улсын Амьтны Аймаг Шавьжийн Анги* edited by А. Цэндсүрэн, 1987. Sources are at times at variance with each other

and also offer names which have not been adopted in the Commission's Reports. Regrettably, it has been found necessary to omit names for which no reliable translation could be found. Nor could I always be sure that names appearing in my sources were used in accordance with the official lists.

One question to be decided in determining the form in which key-words should be entered was that of whether to indicate the inherent presence of the unstable **н** and the latent **г** in words such as **мод/модон** or **сан/сангийн**. In the end I decided that, in view especially of the difficulty of deciding, in the case of the unstable **н**, whether this **н** represented a historic reality or a modern inconsistency, it would be better not to commit myself to indicating these two phenomena, whose occurrence is in any case observable from texts.

In Mongolian the categories of noun, adjective and adverb are not strictly comparable to the corresponding categories in English. In particular, adjectives are generally speaking not distinguished from adverbs, though an adverbial use can be indicated. Accordingly I have not, as a rule, provided English adverbial forms in *-ly*, in order to avoid overloading the English part of the dictionary. The "dictionary form" of a Mongolian verb unfailingly ends in **х** preceded by a vowel. Hence it is unnecessary to mark such words as belonging to the category of verb. The "dictionary form" of the verb can also be used in a nominal sense, but again I thought it unnecessary to note this possibility in every case.

Regular derivative processes produce a number of forms of the Mongolian verb such as the passive, the reciprocal, the causative, the cooperative and so on. In most cases the resultant meanings are produced automatically. For example, **алах** 'to kill', **алагдах** 'to be killed', **алалцах** 'to join in killing', **алалдах** 'to kill each other', **алуулах** 'to cause to kill', 'to get killed' and so on. There seemed no reason to include such forms, a procedure which would only have overloaded the dictionary for little advantage, and accordingly they have been admitted only where their derivation produced a divergent meaning or where the English language required a non-standard formulation. Thus words such as **автагдах** 'to be affected, to be overcome, to yield' from **авах** 'to take', or **байлгах** 'to let be, to keep, to leave' and also 'to dismiss', from **байх** 'to be', have been admitted.

It is now some fifty years and more since the Cyrillic script was adapted to the Mongolian language and a reorganization of the orthography of the language was undertaken. Nevertheless, variations in spelling can still be observed. It did not seem practicable to record all the variations which I noticed in the course of my reading, some of which may in any case have been mere mistakes. However, where I thought it might be useful to do so, I have entered some alternative spellings.

The following abbreviations, appearing in italics in the body of the dictionary, have been used:

abbr(eviation)	est(ablished)
adj(ective)	etc(etera)
adv(erb)	fig(urative)
agr(iculture)	fin(ance)
Amer(ican)	geog(raphy)
anat(omy)	geol(ogy)
arch(itecture)	geom(etry)
archae(ology)	gram(mar)
arith(metic)	gym(nastics)
astr(onomy)	hist(orical)
atom(ic)	hort(iculture)
auto(mobile)	ichth(yology)
bio(logy)	indust(ry)
bot(any)	intrans(itive)
Buddh(ism)	jur(idical)
Buryat)*	ling(uistics)
cart(ography)	lit(erally)
cf. (compare)	liter(ature)
chem(istry)	Man(chu)
com(merce)	math(ematics)
cul(inary)	mech(anical)
econ(omics)	med(ical)
elec(tricity)	metal(lurgy)
esp(pecially)	min(eralogy)

mount(aineering)
 mus(ic)
 n(oun)
 nat(ural) hist(ory)
 phil(ately)
 photo(graphy)
 p(lace) n(ame)
 poet(ry)
 polit(ics)
 prob(ably)
 pron(oun)
 psych(ology)
 q.v.

rail(way)
 resp(ectful)
 Russ(ian)
 Skr (Sanskrit)
 surg(ical)
 tech(nical)
 Tib(etan)
 traff(ic)
 trans(itive)
 vet(erinary)
 vulg(ar)
 xyl(ography)
 zool(ogy)

**The abbreviation Bur. indicates that the word concerned, found in a Mongolian text, was identified from a Buryat dictionary. It does not imply that the word is exclusively Buryat in origin or use.*

THE MONGOLIAN ALPHABET

**Аа Бб Вв Гг Дд Ее Ёё Жж Зз Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо Өө Пп
 Рр Сс Тт Уу Үү Фф Хх Цц Чч Шш Щщ Ъъ Ыы Ьь Ээ Юю Яя**