

CITATIONS FROM LETTERS FROM MR G M Gest

June 26, 1933.

" Sometime ago I told you that I was discussing connections in Russia with the view of extending our facilities in that direction, and of obtaining books or articles that would have a relation to Tibet and China. There is an immense amount of material to be obtained that would be helpful in future research work that we will do. My friend sails for Russia within the next ten days. I reviewed with him some of my wishes.

" If you refer to your notes by Mr. Pelliot on the Mongol and Manchu** Kanjurs, you will note that a report was made in Russia on the Mongol Kanjur deposited in Paris. While a Russian scholar was sent to report on same, his report was never published. I have asked my friend to try to obtain this.

" --- I am anxious to get any works that deal on the Buddhist Religion either of China or India as well as any translation they have on medical works, scientific discussions, or research work on any of the subjects of this sort that were referred to by them or translated by them from Chinese into Russian.

" I know that this covers a very large field, but we must help*** this man so when anything is brought to his attention he will have as many references as possible for guidance"

June 27, 1933.

" It is rather difficult to get those who have lived in the West to give any credence to the usefulness of Buddhistic thoughts, and I find this is equally pronounced amongst some of our later day scholars. One does not have to lose faith in Christianity to be appreciative of what Buddhism has to offer."

July 6, 1933.

" Relative to the Russian matter, I have read with much interest *** your report, and the copy sent to me will be given to my friend to carry with him."

" Regarding the books to be suggested by you for Dr. Lomer to acquire, I will handle matters so they will be added to my own collection."

" I am firmly convinced that there is very much hidden material in Russia which would be great help to our knowledge of matters pertaining to China in the various fields which the Russians have put in their own language for future scholars to take advantage of. These additions by me primarily are made to build up my own Library, and at the same time they will broaden the field for students who are doing work of this kind at McGill.

" I am sure that Sir Arthur would be glad to know this."

** Mr. Gest has a copy of the Mongol Kanjur here in Montreal; and the copy of the Manchu Kanjur has recently been put into the possession of Commander Gillis.

*** A suggested bibliography, and point of contact, made here by NLS.