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OCTOBER 22, 2021

Mark Bender Presents Keynote Lecture At Conference In Memory Of Boris L. Riftin



Prof. Mark Bender, DEALL chair, gave a keynote lecture at the II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MEMORY OF ACADEMICIAN BORIS L. RIFTIN, hosted on Zoom by HSE University, Moscow, October 22, 2021. Riftin (Li Fuqing; 1931-2012) was the foremost Russian scholar of Chinese folk literature. He is known for a massive volume called *Dungan Folktales and Legends*, published in 1977 in Russian, and just issued in 2021 in English translation by Kenneth J. Yin. The Dungan are a small group of ethnic Chinese in Central Asia who use Cyrillic to write the sounds of Chinese. Bender's talk was entitled "The Genealogy of Shyly Wote: Celestial Connections and Earthly Migrations," based on passages from the *Nuosu Book of Origins*, a folk epic from Southwest China. Bender was invited to speak by Prof. Alevtina Solovyeva, a specialist in Mongolian folklore and director of the Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, HSE University.



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