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ЦЕНТРА
КОРЕЙСКОГО
ЯЗЫКА
И КУЛЬТУРЫ

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Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет

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Редколлегия: д-р ист. наук *С. О. Курбанов*, д-р филол. наук *А. Ф. Троцевич*,
канд. филол. наук *И. В. Цой*, канд. филол. наук *А. А. Гурьева*,
Чон Ян Ок

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«Вестник Центра корейского языка и культуры» включает научные статьи и материалы по различным аспектам корееведения: лингвистике, литературоведению, истории, культуре Кореи. Авторами статей «Вестника» являются как известные петербургские корееведы, так и их начинающие молодые коллеги, а также представители корееведческого сообщества России и Республики Корея.

The 21st issue of the “Proceedings of the Center for Korean Language and Culture” was prepared as part of the research activities of the Department of Korean Studies of the Faculty of Asian and African Studies, St. Petersburg State University. This issue of the Proceedings is dedicated to young scholars in the field of Korean Studies.

“Proceedings of the Center for Korean Language and Culture” includes scientific articles and materials on various aspects of Korean studies: linguistics, literary criticism, history, culture of Korea. The authors of the articles in the Proceedings are both well-known Korean studies scholars from St. Petersburg and their young colleagues, as well as representatives of the Korean studies community in Russia and the Republic of Korea.

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**HIDDEN TREASURE: NORTH KOREAN MATERIALS
OF 1945–1950 IN ST. PETERSBURG LIBRARIES***S. O. Kurbanov*

St. Petersburg State University

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In 1945–1950, North Korea began the path of socio-economic transformation from a traditional colonial society to a socialist society with national and cultural specifics. The process of this transformation can be traced through reference to various North Korean printed publications, as well as to archive materials. In Russia (the Soviet Union), pre-war printed materials have been preserved, representing a difficult time for North Korea, from the liberation of the country from Japanese colonial rule to the creation of the North Korean state and the subsequent Korean War of 1950–1953. The article presents some of the interesting and accessible North Korean editions of 1945/1947–1950, demonstrating those aspects that are most valuable from the point of view of a modern researcher.

Keywords. North Korea, primary sources, Korean war, 1945–1950, small and middle enterprises, traditions.

North Korea has come a long way of transformation, and it has not always been the way it has become nowadays. There are several distinct periods in its early history, when comparative freedom still existed. In 1945–1948, the North made its first steps to the path of socialist construction.

This short period was followed by a very special time in the history of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from September 1948 to June 1950. At that time, the country had freedom of religion. There were around 2000 protestant churches, 410 pastors, 518 Buddhist monasteries and 732 monks in 1949 [1, p. 367]. The DPRK also had a huge private sector in economy, which gave more than half of industrial production [1, p. 61].

The Korean language schools designed for illiterate were called as *Hangul hakkyo* (한글 학교) [1, p. 366]. This fact is very interesting, because in modern (21st century) North Korea, the word (phrase) *hangul* is not used at all, since it is associated with South Korea. Indeed, since the Republic of Korea call itself in Korean as *Hanguk* (한국), it is quite logical that the language of this country is called *hangugo* (한국어, the language of Hanguk), and its alphabet has the name of *hangul* (한글), that is “the letters of the Han country.” North