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ONOMASTICON TURCICUM
(L. Rásonyi's Collection of Turkic Personal Names and the Method of its Publication)

It was in 1932 that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences announced a competition for a project to compile an onomasticon of Turkic anthroponyms and ethnonyms. The Feridun Prize the sum of 1,000 pengő[1] was awarded to László Rásonyi (1899-1984) for his paper entitled *A draft for the "Dictionary of Turkic Anthroponyms and Ethnonyms" with samples.*

This outstanding turkologist had studied at Budapest University from 1917 to 1921, and obtained his PhD in Turkology, Hungarian linguistics and Hungarian history. It was no coincidence that during his university career Turkic names aroused his curiosity since among his professors there were such eminent scholars as Zoltán Gombocz (1877-1935), the famous Hungarian linguist whose article "Árpád-kori török személyneveink" [= Hungarian Anthroponyms of Turkic Origin from the Age of the Arpads] had been published[2] by that time. And there was also Gyula Németh (1890-1976), the turkologist, still young but already famous. Presumably inspired by his professors, László Rásonyi began to study the Hungarian personal and place names of Turkic (mostly Coman) origin. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on anthroponyms of Coman origin preserved in mediaeval Hungarian documents (1921). This thesis was soon published with the title "Adalékok török tulajdonneveinkhez" [= Developments in Turkic Onomatology].[3]

During his research in Berlin (1924-25) he attended lectures by W. Bang and F. W. K. Müller and also enriched his collection of Turkic proper names. In 1929 he applied for a scholarship to Helsinki with the aim of studying the vast collection of Russian publications available in Finnish libraries and collecting many more thousands of Turkic (mainly Kazakh) anthroponyms.

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[1] An outdated Hungarian currency.

[2] *A Magyar Nyelvtudományi Társaság Kiadványai* [= Publications of the Hungarian Linguistic Society], No. 16. Budapest, 1915.

[3] See footnote 4.

Thus by the time this competition was announced in 1932, he already had a large collection, a fair number of publications on the subject[4] and a considerable reputation as an onomatologist.

The highly respected committee of the Academy, in its evaluation of Rásonyi's submission, made this conclusion: " ... not only has the candidate laid the foundations of Turkic onomatology – a field as yet barely explored – but he has also managed to put it [i.e. his work] all into an almost final form ... he has gone through the Arabic and Persian historical literature with special diligence, pored over all the available official Russian publications in which Turkic names could be found ... we propose that the Academy should award the prize for this project and entrust the author with placing the completed manuscript at the disposal of the Academy as soon as possible."

The project was presented under the catchword ονομα (on 366 lists[5] each 17cmx21cm in size) and included an eight-page foreword. It contained 250 Turkic anthroponyms and 100 ethnic names and their variants from different peoples and languages arranged under headwords. The collection which at that time had presumably already consisted of several thousand items continued to grow over the following decades until it reached its present volume. Based on our estimate, there are approximately 60,000 10cmx7cm cards. The preliminary index of headwords, compiled on the basis of this collection and published in 1986 contains approximately 25,000 items.[6]

Although the collection was considered unique and it was well-received at the Academy, it was not published for more than half a century. This can be explained first of all with the unfavourable turns in László Rásonyi's life: long-term university posts in Kolozsvár and Ankara, failing eyesight etc. He

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[4] "Török eredetű magyar tulajdonnevek [= Hungarian Proper Names of Turkic Origin]" *Kőrösi Csoma Archivum* I (1921):157-161; Adalékok török tulajdonneveinkhez [= New Data to our Turkic Proper Names]" *NyK (=Nyelvtudományi Közlemények, Linguistic Publications)* 46 (1923):124-138; "Borcsol és Csertán [Coman ethnic names]" *MNy. (= Magyar Nyelv, Hungarian Language)* 22 (1926):132-133; "Kulán és Szoltán [Hungarian personal names of Turkic origin]" *MNy.* 23 (1926):348; "Török eredetű helynevek [= Place names of Turkic Origin]" *NyK* 44 (1927):464-469; "A honfoglaló magyarsággal kapcsolatos török tulajdonnevekhez [= On the Turkic Proper Names Related with the Old Hungarians]" *MNy.* 28 (1932):100-105 etc.

[5] For sample lists see Appendix 1.

[6] I. Baski (Ed.), *A Preliminary Index to Rásonyi's Onomasticon Turcicum*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1986. (Debter 6).

had hoped to finish and publish his Onomasticon after having retired. He had just begun to sum up his investigations, when he lost his sight in 1969 and, so too, the opportunity to realise his plans independently.

It was István Mándoky-Kongur who at that time aided Professor Rásonyi with the completion and arrangement of the collection. As of 1976 the author of this paper assisted in the work of the Onomasticon Turcicum for eight years, until the last days of the professor's life. During this period I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the material and with Professor Rásonyi's vision regarding the treatment and publication of the collection. In accordance with my mentor's wishes, here and now it became my duty to ready the collection for publication and write the introduction.[7]

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences has supported my efforts from the very beginning, enabling me to devote the major part of my time to working on the collection.[8]

The structure of the Onomasticon Turcicum and the manner in which it was to be published was essentially conceived by László Rásonyi. Some details, however, were developed during our work together. The idea of processing the collection on a computer, the data entry method and the development of the relevant sub-tasks are the results of my experiments (see Appendix 2).

Before turning to questions related to the editing work, I would like to describe the main features of the collection. Due to the many decades spent on collecting and the great variety of sources[9] the data are not homogeneous. There are many incomplete entries whith insufficient information on the person who bore the name in question and the age he lived in. In such cases, even an approximate estimate of the time in which the bearer of the name lived would require time-consuming research. In some cases the task of completing the unfinished cards and correcting the defective data is inevitable,

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[7] It was a great honour for me that in 1983 Professor Rásonyi in order to assure the completion and publication of the Onomasticon in the future, concluded an agreement with me to be his co-author.

[8] From 1983 to 1988 by the Research Group for Oriental Studies (directed by Prof. F. Tőkei), Hungarian Academy of Sciences, from 1993 to the present by the Research Group for Altaic Studies (directed by Prof. G. Kara), Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

[9] L. Rásonyi drew his data from more than 500 sources of rather different kind among which we can find Arabic and Persian sources and simple articles from different periodicals as well.

but it seems impossible to add all the missing details throughout the collection. Moreover, since we do not have access to all the sources used by László Rásonyi, the publication of the collection will be delayed for several more years.

Each card in the collection comprises a name (a personal and/or family name) of one or more people, the time (year or century) in question, the ethnic or language affiliation, the title (if any) or some other feature (or deed) of the person and a short reference to the source. The data concerning the same person are included under two different headwords if the person's names – both personal and second (paternal, family or nick-) names – are of Turkic origin. It should be noted that the collection predominantly contains original Turkic names.

Professor Rásonyi and I arranged the names into entries (articles) on the basis of their etymology. The entries will follow one another according to a special alphabet. The name variants considered to be secondary are found in the entries under primary headwords. Reference headwords will make it easy to find them.

Within entries, the single names are arranged according to the following principles:

1. after the headword, first the names taken from historical sources are put in chronological order (this mainly concerns the data from the Old and Middle Turkic periods);

2. the names taken from later sources are arranged by ethnic group (e.g. Oghuz, Kipchak, Altaic etc.), while names belonging to the same language are put in chronological order (within the language group).

The order in which individual names are presented (within the articles) as well as related pieces of information is as follows:

1. *ethnic (or language) abbreviation* referring to the nationality of the person or the ethnic surroundings the source emerged from;

2. *year or century* in which the bearer of the name lived or in which the source was created;

3. *name* which has been abstracted or reconstructed from the *source data*; names fully identical with the *headword* are replaced by "~";

4. *source data* in "[ ]" (square brackets) which, in most cases, indicates the name found in the source in letter-perfect form;

5. *denotatum*, a more precise determination of the bearer of the name if he (she) is known; here we always indicate if the name was borne by a woman (*fem.*), or used in folklore (*folkl.*);

6. *source* (abbreviated), see Appendix 2.

The components of compound names are separated by a hyphen. Anthropo-lexeme which are unorganic parts of names since they only refer to sex (e.g. *-bay, -gül, -χatun* and *-biče*), age (e.g. *-aγa, -oγlu, -ul* and *-ulu*) and title (e.g. *-mulla, -χan, -qan* and *-sultan*), will also be separated from the essential component in the same way. These forms are provided in the entry of their essential component. Secondary components of this kind (mainly titles) also have their headwords with a distinctive hyphen in front of them (e.g. *-AΓA, -BAY, -BEK, -QATUN, -UL* and *-ULU*).

At the end of the entry we provide the etymology if it is known and supply the related data from dictionaries. In the case of compound names we only refer to the entries of the components so as to avoid duplication of vocabulary data. Here we list the name-synonyms and the headwords in which the given headword is present as a second component. Thus the reader can also study the further combinations in which the name in question is represented.

In the following paragraphs I would like to briefly describe earlier (traditional) and newer methods of processing these data as well as my latest plans for publication.[10]

At the beginning of the 1980s when we began to compile the manuscript of the Onomasticon, computer technology nowreadily affordable was not widely used. Given our financial circumstances we began compiling the manuscript using *the traditional method*.

Before we began the compiling we arranged the approx. 60,000 cards into entries under headwords which we put into alphabetical order. Within the entry it was necessary to arrange the cards according to the system (order of different languages and chronology) shown above. I used a typewriter somewhat modified whith the essential characters for linguistic transcription (e.g. ï, γ, η, ñ, ğ, ǰ and č), but the source-data written in Arabic, Greek and Cyrillic letters could only be transcribed (or transliterated), or written by

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[10] For the details and different aspects of the question see my former articles in Hungarian: "Onomasticon Turcicum. Mutatvány Rásonyi László török személynév-gyűjteményéből [= A Sample of László Rásonyi's Collection of Turkic Anthroponyms]" *Keletkutatás* [= Oriental Researches] 1993/Ősz:12-32.; the same in *Magyar Múlt* [= Hungarian History], Sydney, 1993/1-2 (20):53-70.

hand. Yet unavoidably further names belonging to the entry in question would turn up after these pages had been typed. Then that page of the manuscript could only be corrected or changed with such crude methods as erasing, pasting, writing between the lines, attaching additional pages etc. Luckily, only a small number of entries under the letter *a* were compiled in this way in the presence and under the supervision of Professor Rásonyi.

In the early 1990s my personal finances enabled me to turn to a more up-to-date method, word processing. First I attempted to use a simple but excellent kind of word processor called ChiWriter, running on DOS. Since I need to use many kinds of characters, and fonts, ChiWriter had a great advantage over earlier word processors running on DOS. Namely, ChiWriter could use 20 different fonts at the same time and switching among them could be done with two keystrokes. Moreover, I myself could change the characters or create new ones. Thus it was not difficult to make the specific characters of different transcriptions and national fonts.

Later I purchased a faster computer and a better and more widely used word processor. Using Word for Windows 2.0 and 6.0 together with a laser printer enabled me to produce a manuscript of almost print quality. Among the numerous fonts supplied, however, I could not find one with all the phonetic symbols needed for linguistic transcription. Therefore by using Fontographer, the excellent fontmaker application, I was able to create the missing characters out of elements available in other fonts. The dictionary form of the sample page with two columns is the result of lengthy experimenting and some help from professional developers.

I went on processing the material in this way and have done nearly sixty pages. Meanwhile I realised that the printed form will not allow for the multi-faceted use of this abundant collection of names. Thus prospective users will be able to access the names only via headwords, and it would be impossible for them selecting the data according to sources and to chronological or ethnic features. The drawback of publishing the collection in a dictionary-like printed form is that usually only one systematizing principle (mainly the alphabetical order of the headwords) can be realised. The published material cannot be arranged by different points of view. Gathering and using names matching other search criteria is difficult and without reading the whole book through, and writing the necessary data out is practically impossible. For example, we want to study Kazakh female names from the 18th century in the Onomasticon Turcicum. Out of the nearly 60,000 data in a collection with

prospectively many hundreds of pages, it would take rather a long time to find and write out all of them with the aim of further researches.

In a well-planned computerized database, however, the users (researchers from different fields) can select data according to several search criteria simultaneously. Then the names matching the given criteria can be printed on the screen, written into a separate file or printed in the required form. Thus each time we can study another and yet another relationship, statistical features of the same mass of data. This is a great advantage over a book!

On the other hand, we cannot forsake the idea of publishing Rásonyi's collection in printed form either. But if I completed it with a word processor the collection would be practically lost for the database-managing. (Transferring the pages having already been prepared into the database requires rather a time consuming human work which cannot be automated.) Consequently I have to enter the data through a database management program, then aided by a conversion program arrange them into entries and transfer them with a suitable word processor (e.g. Word for Windows, WordPerfect for Windows etc.) for final editing and scrutinizing. This idea is illustrated in Appendix 3.

At present, I am entering the data of Rásonyi's collection according to this scheme with a suitable database management program called FileMaker Pro. It is simple, but probably the most widespread database management program written for Apple Macintosh, the version of which for Windows was issued not long ago. The great advantage of FileMakerPro is that its data format can be used on both Windows and Macintosh platforms where further processing will be done.[11]

As the fieldnames of the blanks (layouts) show (Appendix 4), the database in preparation, unlike the printed version, will provide more extras. It will also be possible to search on motives, types of names, lexical and grammatical categories.

I believe I have found a solution with the help of which the double entry of this plentiful collection can be avoided, in other words, by entering the data once we will have two different products: 1. the Onomasticon Turcicum itself, containing the personal names; 2. the Database of Turkic Proper

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[11] The necessary Apple Macintosh hardware, software the BASISplus program, developing of the programs and the consultation possibilities will be provided by MTI Informatika Kft. (Ltd.), Hungary.

Names on CD-ROM and/or diskette, enlarged with further personal names, toponyms and ethnonyms.[12] The database in question will provide up-to-date access to all data in the collection and the possibility for enriching the collection in the future.

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[12] I have my plans related to the Database of Turkic Proper Names outlined in a competition and won a financial subsidy from OTKA [= National Foundation for Scientific Researches], (the number of the topic: T 014777). During the four-year period of research, with the help of program developers I will lay the groundwork for the database.

Ilγāzi نجم الدين ايلغازى بن ارتق *māridini ortokida 1106-*

1122. Abulfidā III, 280-81 ; JQ. XXV, 199 - ۲۰۲ ; 16. | *Qutbeddin*

II. Ilγāzi ibn Alpbäj , uppancsak māridini ortokida 1179-84.

Süssheim : Enz. d. Isl. II, 496 98. < *el~il + (ar. > seldž)* γazi [com. Redh.]

, one who goes forth to attack the enemy ; especially, a Muslim

who fights ~~the~~ [any] *enemy of Islam.*

Il ičkämiš. *uig. Il ičkämiš inal Ufahlinschr.*

23 | *Il ičkämiš tigin uo 23.* < *el~il + ? Vö. uig. R.*

ičkäri , „innerhalb, hinein", tel. R. ičkärlä- , ein... ; 2)

čag. R. ičküš- ~ alt. osm. ičit- , „zu trinken geben, tränken"

Ilinaq. علیناق (var. علىناق) *Hülägü ilyan*

esredparancsnoka, РЭ.- Бер. Перевод I, 106 ; talán azonos

vele الیناق *emir 1268-ból . Wassaf 139, 127* | *Ilinak*

Ikadochi Mengütimür (†1282) appása , Krmmes, G d.Ilch. I, 84.

< *tör. mong. el~il + tör. mong. inaq. Vö. Inaq.*

Appendix I Sample entries from L. Rásonyi's competition work (1932) with his own handwriting

AQA Maml. 1399 ~-*bay* [الاقا بی السلطان دی] (Ibn Taghrīb. VI, 25); Turk. ~, from Isparta (Ün 1938, 645); Bashk. 1724 ~-*mulla* [Акамулла Курмакаев] (МІВ III, 222), 1728 ~, [Ака Кумакаев] (МІВ III, 252); Kzk. ~-*bek* (SODž. 138); Hak. ~ [Лка], fem. (HRS 353). 'Elder brother; prime minister, treasurer of state (Chag.); princess or the khan's relative (adding to female names)' cf. OT *aqa* 'старший брат' (DTS), Chag., Crm. *aqa* 'älterer Bruder' (Radl. I, 96), Chag. (in Khiva) *aqa* [لـا] 'первый министръ, казначей государственный; поставленное после женскаго имени, означаетъ принцессу или родственницу хана' (Budagov 60), Chuv. *akka* 'ältere Schwester' (Paas.), Trk. *āka / Mo. *aqa* 'älterer Bruder' (Räs.). Cf. also -АГА.

AQABĪL Yak. ~ and *Aqayar*, nicknames (Pek.).

AQAČ Bulg. 13/14th c. ~ [الـغ / الـقا], fem., Jusupov reads the name as *Afaḥ* (EpigrBulg. 96, 97, Jusupov 32). – 'Little sister'. Cf. AQA + dim. -*č*.

AQ-AY Alt., Hak., Shor ~, folkl., the name of a hero (Radl. I, 5, 89). – 'White Moon' (Ibid.), cf. AQ + AY.

AQAY Kmk. ~-*molla* (Ksz. XIII, 140); Karch. ~ [Акай] (Sysojcv 128); Cherkess (<? Kmk. / Karch.) 1684 ~ [Акайка Ямамбаев] (DopAI XI, 140); Tat. ~ [Акай] (Magn. 25); Bashk. 1664 ~ [Акайко Кармышев] (МІВ I, 192), 1713 ~, *Aqey* [Акей] Berdymetev (МІВ III, 92), 1730 ~ [Акай Кучюмов] (МІВ III, 273), 1735, 1736, 1737 ~, a principal (RRorT I, 72, PSZRI IX, 742, X, 243, МІВ III, 366), 1740 ~ [Акай Кусюмов] (МІВ I, 418),

18th c. ~ [Акай Кусюмовъ] (Nepljujev 143, 146, 151, 168 ff.), 1740 ~ [Акай Камакаев] (МІВ I, 439-41); Kzk. ~ [Акай Ибрагимов] (GrodPril. 174), ~ (AOK 94). – 'Goggle-eyed' cf. Tat. *aqay: aqay kiz* 'пучеглазый, лупоглазый' (TatRS).

-AQAY Title and/or component of personal names. Cf. *aqay* 'Anrede an einen fremden Mann, dessen Namen man nicht kennt' (Radl. I, 97). Cf. also AQA + dim. -*y* and АГAY.
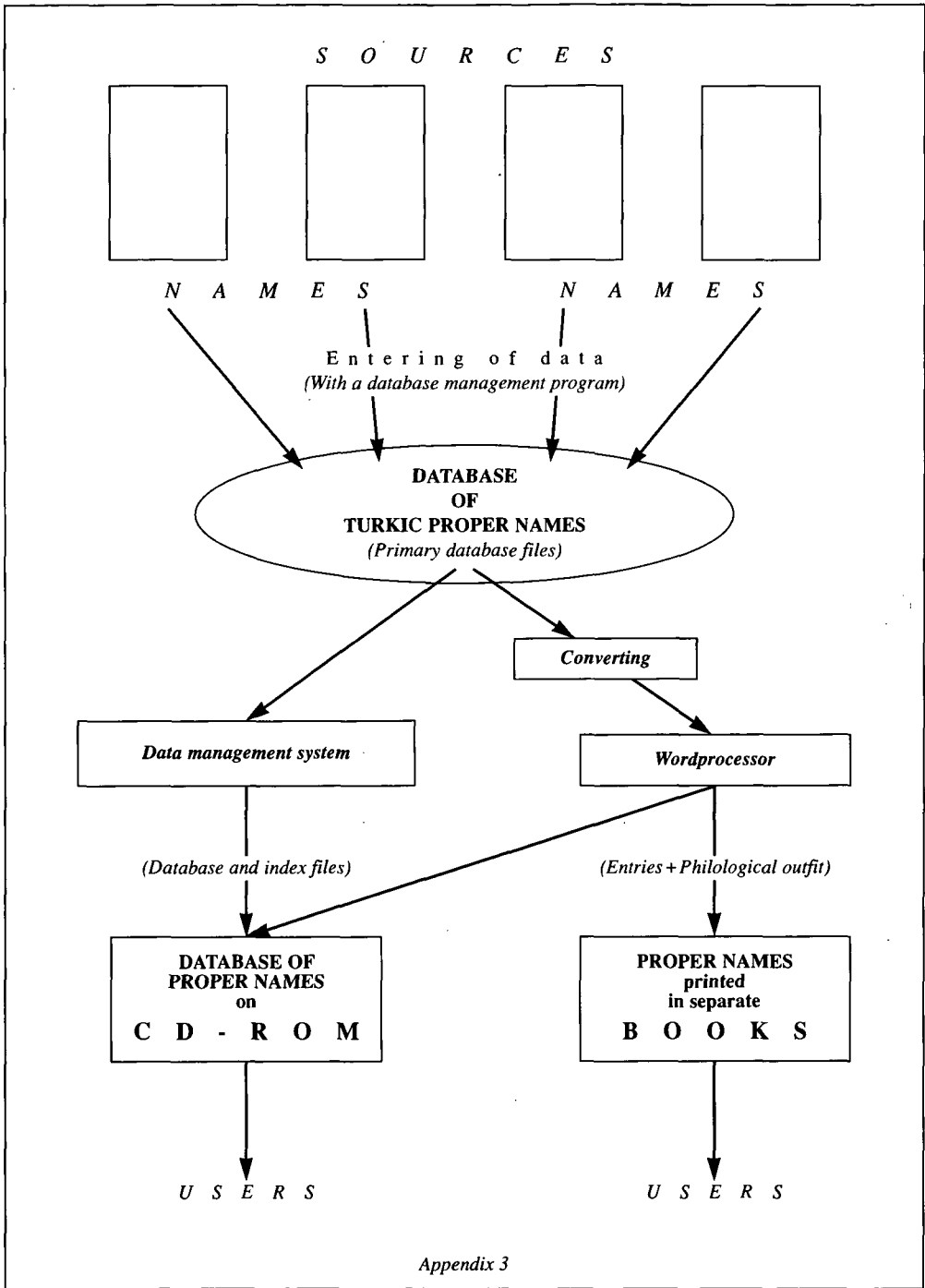
AQĀQĬY Yak. ~ (<R. Акакій), a male name (Pek.). – Akakij (R. < Gr. *akakos*).

AQAL Kzk. ~-*bay* [Акалбай] (SOV 64). – Cf. KÜKÄL.

AQALDEK Kzk. ~ (<*Aqal-bek*?) [Акалдекъ] (SOK 78). Cf. AQAL.

AQ-AMAN Bashk. 1803 ~ [Рякъ Акамановъ] (PSZRI XXVII, 803). – Cf. AQ + AMAN.

AQAN Crm.(Tat.) ca. 1580 ~-*Čulan* [Аканъ Чуланъ] (KnPosLit. 320); Tat.(Miš.) Kadyrmet ~-(ov) [Кадырмет Аканов] (МІВ III, 25); Bashk. 1706 ~ [Акан] (МІВ III, 24), 1706 ~ [Алик Аканов] (МІВ III, 24, 26), 1713 ~ [Акан] (МІВ III, 96), 1726 ~ [Акан Акчювашев] (МІВ III, 237), 1745 Tavlu ~-(ov) [Тавлу Аканов] (МІВ III, 426); Kzk. 1805, ca.1820 ~-*biy* [Аканъ бий], the one of the chiefs of the tribe Argĭn of Kiši Žūz (МІК IV, 324, 512, SibVestn. IX, 104), ~ [Аканъ] (AOA 126, AOK 34, 62, 106, SODŽ. 156, SOK 180, GrodPril. 142),

Appendix 2 A Sample page of the Onomasticon Turcicum

S O U R C E S

N A M E S   N A M E S

Entering of data
(With a database management program)

DATABASE
OF
TURKIC PROPER NAMES
(Primary database files)

Converting

Data management system   Wordprocessor

(Database and index files)   *(Entries + Philological outfit)*

DATABASE OF
PROPER NAMES
on
C D - R O M

PROPER NAMES
printed
in separate
B O O K S

U S E R S   U S E R S

Appendix 3

ID: _____

Headword: _____

Folk, language: _____

Year, century: _____

Name: _____

Source data: _____

Denotatum: _____

Type of name: _____

Source: _____

Etym. reference: _____

Reference headword: _____

Meaning: _____

Categ. of motivation: _____

Lexical category: _____

Grammaticalcateg.: _____

Notes: _____

Folk, language: _____

Year, century: _____

Name: _____

Source data: _____

Denotatum: _____

Source: _____

Appendix 4
Blanks (different layouts) for entering data in FileMakerPro