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## **Nestorian remains of Inner Mongolia : discovery, reconstruction and appropriation**

Halbertsma, T.H.F.

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## STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift

“Nestorian Remains of Inner Mongolia:  
Discovery, Reconstruction and Appropriation”

door Tjalling Halbertsma

1. The Nestorian faith was prominent among the Öngüt elite.
2. Inscriptions on gravestones of the Nestorian Öngüt indicate that the Öngüt were of Turkic rather than of Chinese or Mongol descent.
3. The Nestorian Öngüt were religious polyglots, progressively incorporating foreign symbols into their religious iconography.
4. Changes in land use in Inner Mongolia played a major role in the disappearance of Nestorian heritage from the field.
5. The term ‘Nestorian’ is a contentious but also indispensable term, when discussing the Church of the East in the Far East during the Mongol period.
6. The replicating of Christian material by at least one Chinese museum has complicated the study of Nestorian heritage in China.
7. The Chinese traditional practice of making rubbings of steles is a much more scholarly method of documenting inscriptions than photography.
8. It is an irony that the undisputed achievements of Rabban Sauma have never really entered collective memory, whereas the controversial travels of Marco Polo are common knowledge.
9. The recent discoveries of new mammal species, especially in the Amazon region, prove that cryptozoologists like Bernard Heuvelmans have a case.
10. The use of fossils, or so called ‘dragon bones’, in Chinese traditional pharmacies is ongoing and may well result in the discovery of new species.
11. The main election promises of the Motherland Democracy Coalition during the 2004 general election in Mongolia were in essence more communist than those of the opposing party it accused of being communist.
12. Het Leidse gebruik om een ludieke stelling bij een proefschrift op te nemen wekt de indruk dat er in dit proefschrift maar bar weinig te lachen valt.