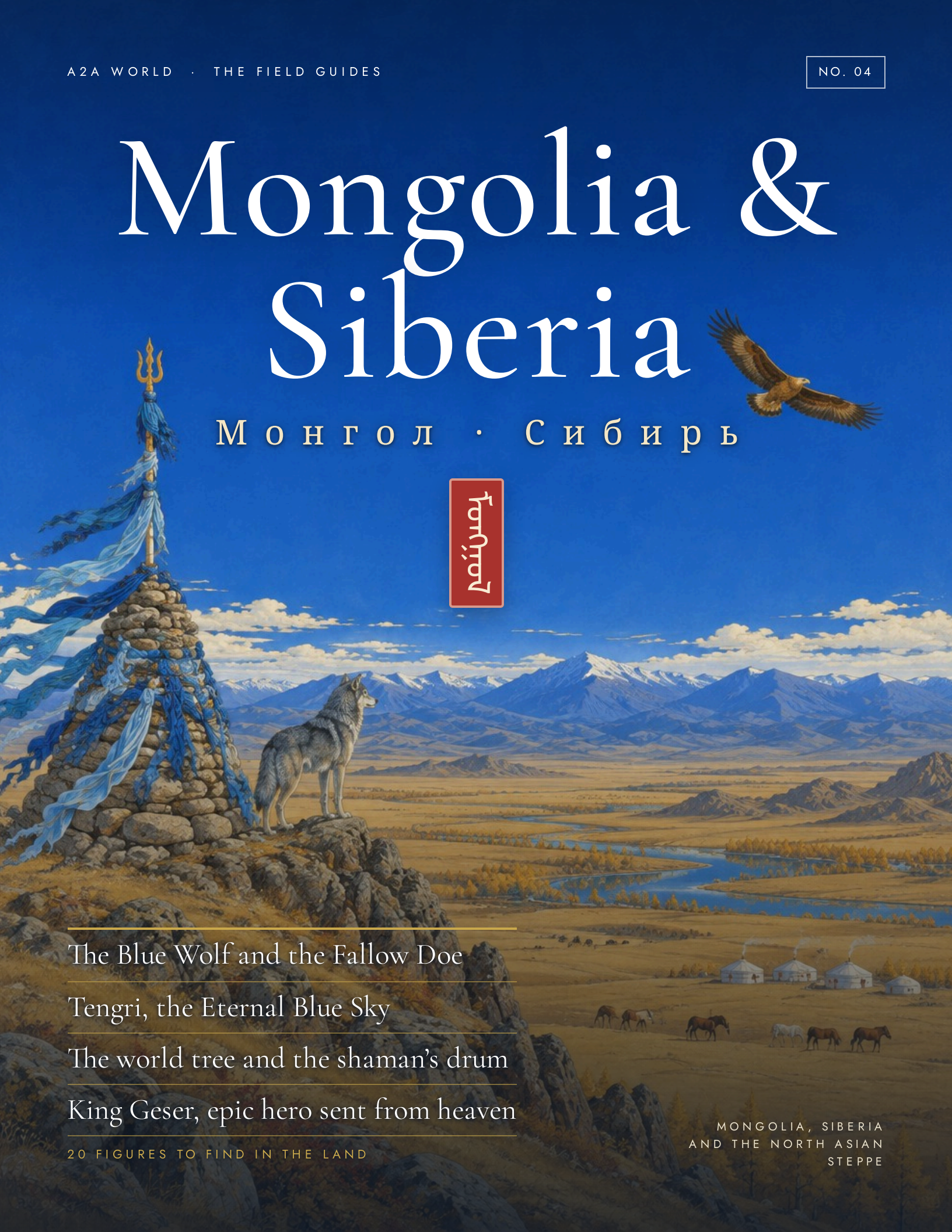
A2A WORLD · THE FIELD GUIDES

NO. 04

Mongolia & Siberia

Монгол · Сибирь



The Blue Wolf and the Fallow Doe

Tengri, the Eternal Blue Sky

The world tree and the shaman's drum

King Geser, epic hero sent from heaven

20 FIGURES TO FIND IN THE LAND

MONGOLIA, SIBERIA AND THE NORTH ASIAN STEPPE

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The eagle, first shaman in Buryat legend, wings outstretched

INTRODUCTION

Mongolian and Siberian Mythology Field Guide

Names, attributes, and narratives from the steppe and the northern forests — sky father and earth mother, ancestral animals, epic heroes and shamanic journeys — organised so each entry can be used as a search target in deliberate pareidolia practice.

Across North Asia, the bear, the wolf, the eagle and the sacred tree are not only story figures but ancestors and guides. These are among the oldest shared images of the northern world.

These are among the oldest shared images of the northern world.

CONTEXT

How North Asia Holds Its Myths

The peoples of Mongolia and Siberia — among them Mongols, Buryats, Yakuts (Sakha), Evenks, Khanty and Altai peoples — share a broad tradition in which the Eternal Blue Sky and the Earth are honoured together, and shamans travel between upper, middle and lower worlds along a world tree. Buddhism later became central in Mongolia and Buryatia, blending with older belief.

The landscape is read as inhabited and storied.

SOURCES

The Secret History of the Mongols (13th century) opens with the origin of Chinggis Khan's line from the Blue Wolf and the Fallow Doe. The Geser epic exists in many oral and written versions across Tibet, Mongolia and Buryatia. The Olonkho heroic epics of the Sakha are recognised by UNESCO. Much else survives in oral tradition and ethnographic records.



An ovoo of stones and blue silk scarves, circled clockwise by a traveller

A NORTH ASIAN PRECEDENT

Steppe peoples have long named hills, rocks and mountains for the animals and ancestors they resemble, and honour high places with ovoo — cairns of stones and blue silk scarves — where the spirits of the land are greeted. The landscape is read as inhabited and storied.



Börte Chino and Qo'ai Maral — the Blue-Grey Wolf and the Fallow Doe beside the lake, Burkhan Khaldun beyond

THE FEATURE

Börte Chino and Qo'ai Maral

Бөртэ Чоно · Гоо Марал

The Blue-Grey Wolf and the Fallow Doe; ancestors of the Mongols.

According to the Secret History, they cross a great lake and settle at the source of the Onon River near Mount Burkhan Khaldun, beginning the line of Chinggis Khan.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A wolf and a deer side by side near a lake and mountain.

The Bear Ancestor Siberian bear tradition

The bear as kin and ancestor.

Among many Siberian peoples the bear is addressed with respectful names such as 'grandfather' rather than its own, and honoured in bear ceremonies.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A seated or walking bear.



The bear, honoured across Siberia as 'grandfather'

THE TWO BEST FIRST TARGETS

1. The Blue Wolf (Börte Chino) — ancestral wolf of the Mongols. 2. The bear — honoured across Siberia as an ancestor and kin to humans. Strong alternates: the world tree, the eagle, and the shaman's drum.



I · CREATION & FOUNDING

I Sky, Earth and Ancestors

The making of the world and the animal ancestors of peoples.

Above: The Earth-Diver brings up a little mud from the bottom of the primeval sea

The Earth-Diver

Siberian creation

A widespread northern creation story.

Before land existed, a bird or a helper dives to the bottom of the primeval sea and brings up a little mud, which the creator spreads to form the earth.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A diving bird; a small island growing in open water.

Alan Qo'a

Алан гоо

Ancestral mother of the Mongols.

She gives her five sons five arrows: each arrow alone breaks easily, but bound together they cannot be broken — a lesson in unity.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A bundle of arrows; a woman with five figures.



The swan maiden recovers her robe and flies away through the smoke hole of the yurt

The Swan Ancestress

Buryat

Swan maiden, mother of Buryat clans.

A hunter hides the feather robe of a swan maiden bathing in a lake; she becomes his wife and bears eleven sons, then recovers her robe and flies away through the smoke hole of the yurt.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A swan rising from a lake.



II · GODS & SPIRITS

II Sky Father, Earth Mother

The powers above, below and in the land.

Above: Tengri, the Eternal Blue Sky, over the steppe

Tengri (Möngke Köke Tengri)

Мөнх Хөх Тэнгэр

The Eternal Blue Sky; supreme sky deity.

Source of order and fortune. Chinggis Khan invoked the Eternal Blue Sky as the source of his authority.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A vast dome; a figure with raised arms beneath the sky.*

Etügen (Itügen)

Этүгэн эх

Mother Earth.

Honoured alongside Tengri as the feminine earth that sustains life.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A reclining female figure across the steppe.*



Umai, protector of infants, with golden tresses like rays of the sun

Umai

Умай

Goddess of fertility, children and the hearth among Turkic peoples.

Protects women in childbirth and infants; she is said to have sixty golden tresses like rays of the sun.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A woman with radiating hair.*

Erlik Khan

Эрлэг хан

Ruler of the underworld.

In Altai tradition the first being made by the creator Ülgen; he grows proud, is cast down, and rules the dead below.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A heavy figure beneath the ground; a cave mouth.*

Ülgen

Үлгөн

Creator and benevolent sky god of the Altai.

Lives in the upper heavens; the shaman's highest journey climbs the notches of a birch tree to reach him.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A tree with notches climbing toward a figure above.*



III · CREATURES & GUARDIANS

III Animals, Trees and Spirit Helpers

Strong silhouettes that recur across the northern world.

Above: The world tree joins the upper, middle and lower worlds; souls rest as birds in its branches

The World Tree

Siberian world tree

Axis joining the upper, middle and lower worlds.

Roots in the underworld, branches in the heavens; souls are said to rest in its branches as birds before birth.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A single great tree; birds in its crown.*

The Eagle

Бүргэд

First shaman in Buryat legend.

Sent by the gods to help humans against sickness, the eagle gives shamanic power to the first human shaman.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A bird with outstretched wings.*

The Mammoth

Siberian lore

Giant creature living beneath the earth.

In some Siberian traditions, mammoth remains found in riverbanks belong to a great beast that burrows under the ground and dies if it sees daylight.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A huge tusked beast emerging from a riverbank.*



The shaman's drum, its skin painted with a map of the cosmos

The Shaman's Drum

Хэц

The shaman's mount and boat.

The drum carries the shaman between worlds; its skin often bears painted maps of the cosmos.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A round or oval frame; a figure riding it.*

The Ovoo

Овоо

Sacred cairn on passes and summits.

Travellers circle it clockwise three times and add a stone to greet the spirits of the place.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A conical mound on a high point.*



IV · HEROES AND ODD TALES

IV Epic and Stranger Narratives

Heroes of the great oral epics and memorable tales.

Above: Lake Baikal, the Angara flowing out, and the Shaman Rock at the river's source



King Geser on a winged horse

King Geser

Гэсэр

Epic hero sent from heaven.

Born on earth in humble form, he grows into a king who defeats demons and restores order; his epic is sung across Tibet, Mongolia and Buryatia.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A mounted warrior; a figure on a winged horse.*

Nyurgun Bootur

Ньургун Боотур

Hero of the Sakha Olonkho epic.

Sent down from the upper world to protect the middle world's people from the monsters of the lower world.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A striding warrior between two realms.*

The Morin Khuur

Морин хуур

The horsehead fiddle.

A herdsman's beloved winged horse dies; from its bones and hair he makes the first fiddle, and its music carries the horse's spirit.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A horse's head atop a long neck.*

Baikal and Angara

Lake Baikal lore

The lake and his runaway daughter.

Old Baikal has 336 rivers flowing into him but one daughter, Angara, who flees to her beloved Yenisei. Baikal hurls a rock after her — the Shaman Rock at the river's source.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A long lake with a single river running out; a lone rock at its mouth.*

The Cosmic Elk Hunt

Evenk tradition

A chase across the night sky.

Among Evenk and Khanty peoples, a great hunter chases a cosmic elk across the sky — a story told of the stars of the Big Dipper.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *An elk with a pursuing figure.*

A NOTE ON RESPECT

These are living traditions of many distinct peoples. Spellings vary by language; shamanic practice is sacred to its communities. Confirm the version and appropriate context with a member of the relevant community before public use.

The plates in this issue are interpretive illustrations, not historical artefacts.



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Earth Heritage and Perceptual Resilience

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