Dynamics in the History of Religions

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Buddhism in Central Asia II

Practices and Rituals, Visual and Material Transfer

Edited by

Yukiyo Kasai
Henrik H. Sørensen
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Foreword

*Dynamics in Buddhist Network in Eastern Central Asia 6th to 14th Centuries* (short: *BuddhistRoad*) aims to create a new framework to enable understanding of the complexities in the dynamics of cultural encounter and religious transfer in premodern Eastern Central Asia—a vast area extending from the Taklamakan Desert to north-east China. This region was the home of several neighbouring civilisations, something which to a large extent determined the complex dynamics of inter-religious and cultural exchanges that took place along the Silk Road. Buddhism was one of the major factors in this exchange; its consistent and extensive transfer of religious knowledge and artefacts took hold in virtually all the cultures existing along the Silk Road, thereby becoming a major civilising force. In many cases the spread of Buddhism overrode ethnic and linguistic boundaries in Eastern Central Asia creating a world shared by all, one which, despite its diversity, had Buddhism as its common point of reference. A primary aspect of this process was the rise of local forms of Buddhism.

The *BuddhistRoad* project intends was set up to investigate these forms of local Buddhism that flourished between the 6th and the 14th centuries. At the core of the research are the areas of ancient Khotan, Kuča, Turfan, Dunhuang, and Ganzhou, as well as the territory of the Tangut Empire. The analytical themes of the project are envisaged to revolves around thematic clusters pertaining to doctrines, rituals and practices, the impact of non-Buddhist influences, patronage and legitimation strategies, sacred spaces and pilgrimages, and visual and material transfers.

The PI of the project, Carmen Meinert, and the project coordinator, Henrik H. Sørensen, are pleased to announce the following expected outcome of the *BuddhistRoad* project in the series as follows:

Three conference proceedings


Moreover, two volumes to be co-authored by all *BuddhistRoad* team members featuring the core findings of the project, and a monograph by Carmen Meinert on the History of Central Asian Buddhism will be forthcoming upon the conclusion of the project in 2024.

*Carmen Meinert and Henrik H. Sørensen*
Acknowledgements

The present volume is based on the proceedings of the mid-project conference “Establishing of Buddhist Nodes in Eastern Central Asia 6th to 14th C. Part II: Visual and Material Transfer, Practices and Rituals” of the ERC project BuddhistRoad. The conference was organised by Henrik H. Sørensen on September 16th to 18th, 2019 at Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany).

The conference convenor and book editors are grateful to the twelve conference participants and one further scholar, who contributed their fine pieces of scholarship to the present volume, and for allowing a smooth editing process in the difficult situation we all have endured with the unexpected, worldwide pandemic. The editing of the volume was originally begun by Haoran Hou and Yukiyo Kasai. Later on, Henrik H. Sørensen took over after Dr. Hou left the editing team. The elaborate, yet swift editing process would not have been possible without many helping hands. We are particularly grateful to Ben Müller, Tanja Heilig, and Vivien Staps for their always thoughtful and diligent assistance in all stages of the editing process, and to Joseph Leach for proofreading the final manuscript. Last but not least, our sincere thanks go to the anonymous reviewers, who kindly offered numerous suggestions to improve the volume as a whole.

We hope that this collective volume will contribute to the understanding of how Buddhist visuals and aspects of material culture, as well as related ritual practices, were transferred through Eastern Central Asia, and how these gained a foothold in the local societies, and effected various changes to the concerned cultures.

Yukiyo Kasai and Henrik H. Sørensen
Bochum, September 6th, 2021
General Abbreviations

alt. alternative  
bce Before Common Era  
c. century  
ca. circa  
cat. no. catalogue number  
ce Common Era  
ceres Center for Religious Studies (Centrum für Religionswissenschaftliche Studien), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany  
cf. confer  
chap. chapter  
chin. Chinese  
d. died  
d.u. dates unknown  
e.g. exempli gratia  
erc European Research Council  
etc. et cetera  
fig(s). figure(s)  
fl. flourished  
fn. footnote  
fol. folio  
fwf Austrian Science Fund  
germ. German  
i.e. id est  
ibid. ibidem  
idp International Dunhuang Project at the British Library in London  
jap. Japanese  
kh. Khotanese  
khk Käte Hamburger Kolleg  
lat. Latin  
ms(s). manuscript(s)  
mt. Mount  
n./ns note/notes  
no(s). number(s)  
ou Old Uyghur  
repr. reprinted  
pi Principal Investigator
pl(s). plate(s)
r. reign
Skt. Sanskrit
tab. table
Taf. Tafel
Tang. Tangut
Tib. Tibetan
TID Transcendence-Immanence Distinction

Symbols

< borrowed from
<< indirectly borrowed from
> borrowed into
[] gaps in the fragments
(ä) unwritten vowels and consonants
{ä} deleted against the fragment
[...] omission
₂ hendiadys
* reconstructed titles or terminologies
□ illegible character
Bibliographic Abbreviations

A Chinese Manuscripts in the Karakhoto Collection of Koslov in The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.

B Chinese Manuscripts in the Karakhoto Collection of Koslov in The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.


BM British Museum in London.

BnF Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.


BIBLIOGRAPHIC ABBREVIATIONS


Ch/U Chinese/Uyghur Manuscripts preserved at the Turfan Collection in Berlin.

Derge Kangyur, Derge edition.


Tōhoku no. Chibetto daizōkyō sómokuroku 西藏大藏經總目錄 Complete Catalogue of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon (Bka-hgyur and Bstan-ḥbyur), edited by Ui Hakuju 宇井伯壽 et al. Sendai: Tōhoku Imperial University, 1934.

DO Nara National Museum.


HAR Himalayan Art Resources.

iOL Tib J Tibetan Dunhuang Manuscripts preserved at the British Library in London (formerly in the India Office Library (iOL)).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Krotkov</td>
<td>Krotkov Collection in the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Science in St. Petersburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACMA</td>
<td>Los Angeles County Museum of Art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Manuscripts in Manichaean script preserved at the Turfan Collection in Berlin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainz</td>
<td>Manuscripts in various languages preserved at the Turfan Collection in Berlin (formerly preserved in Mainz).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMOA</td>
<td>Metropolitan Museum of Art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or.</td>
<td>Stein Collection of Chinese Dunhuang Manuscripts preserved at the British Library in London (the old inventory nos. are referred to as Or. (Oriental) whereas they later changed to S.; identical to Or. xxx/S).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. T.</td>
<td>Pelliot Collection of Tibetan Dunhuang Manuscripts preserved at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peking</td>
<td>Tengyur, Peking edition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>Rubin Museum of Art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>Stein Collection of Chinese Dunhuang Manuscripts preserved at the British Library in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TK</td>
<td>Tangut and Chinese Manuscripts in the Karakhoto Collection of Koslov in The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.</td>
<td>Uyghur Manuscripts preserved at the Turfan Collection in Berlin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.</td>
<td>The Walters Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>Visual images in the Karakhoto Collection of Koslov in The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.</td>
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Zhenyuan xinding shijiao mulu 貞元新定釋教目錄 [Newly Revised Catalogue of Buddhist Scriptures Made during the Zhenyuan-Era, T. 2157], comp. 799 or 800 by Yuanzhao (d.u., 圓照).

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