Appendix 4

Selected Items from the Tibetan Collection from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin—Preußischer Kulturbesitz (the Berlin State Library), Orientabteilung

‘Handwritten Kanjur of Berlin’ Acquired in 1889 by v. Brandt (Peking Kanjur) Handwritten with Black and Red Ink

1 Volume Peking Kanjur 1 (Preserved in 2 Boxes) ‘ka’

Raw material: Bamboo, straw, jute, and paper mulberry.

Type of paper: Laid paper (two or three layers): 33 laid lines in 3 cm; paper highly sized and polished; possibly also covered with other substances, such as starch glue, which make it whiter.

Find site: Beijing [Peking].

Dating: 1680.

Format: Loose leaves pothi.

Size (h × w): 26.8 × 73.2 cm.

Language/script: Tibetan (dbu can, block-print, ‘headed letters’).

Calligraphy: handwritten—very skilled calligraphy characterized by longitudinal proportions of letters (letters with ‘long legs’: ‘ka,’ ‘ta,’ and ‘na,’ etc. Perfectly balanced composition of the letters and the light between the letters).

Page layout: 4–8 lines / page. Folio 1: recto—4 lines of text, first and third lines in red (distance between upper lines is 4 cm), verso 5 lines of text, second and fourth lines in red (distance between upper lines is 3.2 cm).

Folio 1: missing.

Folio 2: recto—6 lines of text; first, third, and fifth lines in red (distance between upper lines of text is 2.6 cm), verso 7 lines of text with third and fifth written in red (distance between upper lines of text is 2.2–2.3 cm).

Folio 3 and the rest of the volume: 8 lines of text: third and sixth lines written in red (rubrics); distance between upper lines is 1.8–1.9 cm.

Distance between letterhead lines in the rest of the book: 1.8 cm (very fine), text-base lines are sketched with a lead stylus or other slightly sharp tool at the upper part of the text (just one line at the text head); A frame around the written area was traced with a 0.3 cm black line that surrounds a thin red slightly inside it (18.8 × 55 cm).

Content: Tibetan Buddhist Canon; Kanjur.

Decorations: Fore-edges are painted with lotus flowers and auspicious symbols against a yellow background, on the short edges—there is the lotus flower that features a precious pearl in flames and Tibetan text in the halo.
same text as in the volume from Pander Collection: 47 / 1108, Kanjur W, 30. sher phyin (Prajñāpāramitā), nya (8), 1108–25/47 NYA.

Raw material: Bamboo, straw, jute, and paper mulberry.

Type of paper: Laid paper (two- or three layers): 27–33 laid lines in 3 cm; the paper is highly sized and polished; possibly also covered with other substances, such as starch glue, which make it whiter; on the first folio, the writing area was covered with something and has remained white as compared to the margins, which are much darker (yellowish to brownish); this paper is very heavy with glue; traces of brush marks with glue or other substances are clearly visible on the paper surface.

Find site: Beijing [Peking].

Dating: 1680.

Format: Loose leaves pothi.

Size (h × w): 26.8–27 × 68.9–73.2 cm.

Language/script: Tibetan (dbu can, block-print, ‘headed letters’).

Calligraphy: Very skilled calligraphy characterized by longitudinal proportions of letters (letters with ‘long legs:’ ‘ka,’ ‘ta,’ and ‘na,’ etc. Text fits very well into the frame.

Page layout: 4–8 lines / page.

Folio 1: recto—4 lines of text, first and third lines in red (distance between upper lines is 3.8‒4 cm), verso 5 lines of text, second and fourth lines in red (distance between upper lines is 3‒3.2 cm).

Folio 2: recto—6 lines of text; second and fifth lines in red (distance between upper lines of text is 2.3‒2.7 cm), verso 7 lines of text with third and fifth written in red (distance between upper lines of text is 2.2‒2.3 cm).

Folio 3 and rest of the volume: 8 lines of text per page: third and sixth lines are written in red (rubrics); distance between upper lines is 1.9‒2 cm).

Distance between lines: 1.8–2 cm, text-base lines are sketched with lead stylus or other slightly sharp tool at the upper part of the text (just one line at the text head); this volume is slightly less carefully written than vol. 1. A frame around the written area was traced with a 0.3 cm black line that surrounds a thin red slightly inside it (18.8 × 55 cm).

Content: Tibetan Buddhist Canon; Kanjur.

Decorations: Fore-edges are painted with lotus flowers and auspicious symbols on the flowers against a yellow background, on the short edges—there is a precious pearl in flames and Tibetan text in the halo on the lotus flower. Damage in the area of the green paint is visible in the form of brownish fragments and paper damage.