This work is of considerable importance for a correct understanding of the history of Bon from a Bon po perspective. Accounts of Bon in Buddhist literature often give an altered and partisan vision of what Bon has been and is now since the 10th or 11th century, mostly in their approach of Bon as classified under the *dur bon*, *bsgyur bon* and *'khyar bon* headings which are not the traditional way in which Bon pos present their own history. This *Legs bshad mdzod* covers the ancient history of Bon down to the early 20th century. It is based on a number of important sources which have been discussed by S.G. Karmay in *The Treasury of Good Sayings*, pp. xvii et seq. One of Shardza Rinpoche’s main source for a part of the last chapter on Treasures (*gter ma*) is sGa ston Tshul khrims rgyal mtshan’s *gTer gyi kha byang*, an early work describing the history of Treasures in the Bon tradition.  

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14. *Legs bshad rin po che’i mdzod* dpyod ldan dga’ ba’i char zhes bya ba

a. 1-549.

b. *Ja (r) / legs bshad mdzod (v).*

c. /de ltar g.yung drung bon gyi bstan pa’i ‘byung khungs legs pa bshad pa skabs bdun gyi bdag nyid can ‘di ni/ (p. 545) rig pa’i gnas lnga dang mdo sngags kun la mkhyen rab kyi spyan ras yangs pa khod spungs ngag dbang skal bzang bstan pa’i rgyal mtshan dang/ lung dang rtogs pa’i nor gyis phyug pa’i dbal khyung mchog sprul drung mu’i mtshan gnyis nas ‘di ltar dgos zhes nan tan chen pos bskul pa lhur blangs te/ rang

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31 I refer to a xerox copy of an original manuscript from the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, accessible under the no. 17765. I thank here Donatella Rossi for providing me with a photocopy of the document in Oslo in 1994.

32 He has left several important works such as his *gZhi lam ‘bras bu gsum gyi don rab tu gsal bar byed pa’i rnam bshad thar lam gsal byed, Bon gyi brten ‘gyur chen mo* (3rd edition), vol. 80, pp. 45-395 and his *Theg rim gyi rnam bshad gsal ba’i me long, ibid.*, vol. 159 pp. 1-324.
PART TWO

The last important section of this text — dealing with the history of gter ma revelations — was edited and translated by S.G. Karmay in The Treasury of Good Sayings. The text itself contains a more or less complete history of Bon from its origins down to the early 20th century and is divided into seven chapters (rab byed), as follows:

1. a brief description of the way in which the universe and beings arose, including the explanation on the nature of the pure realms (zung khams), the world in general, the specific production of the continent of 'Dzam bu gling (Jambudvīpa), together with its surrounding islands, etc., and a history of the kings of 'Dzam bu gling coming as the offspring of the cosmic couple Sangs po 'bum khri and Chu Icam rgyal mo;

2. the explanation of the coming of the Buddhas, with the description of the basic two kinds of cosmic