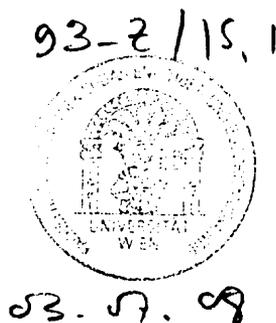


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CONTENTS

I. ARTICLES

1. The Violence of Non-Violence: A Study of Some Jain Responses to Non-Jain Religious Practices, *by Phyllis Granoff* 1
2. Is the *Dharma-kāya* the Real “Phantom Body” of the Buddha?, *by Paul Harrison* 44
3. Lost in China, Found in Tibet: How Wonch’uk Became the Author of the *Great Chinese Commentary*, *by John Powers* 95

II. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- Some Observations on the Present and Future of Buddhist Studies, *by D. Seyfort Ruegg* 104

III. AN EXCHANGE

- The Theatre of Objectivity: Comments on José Cabezón’s Interpretations of mKhas grub rje’s and C.W. Huntington, Jr.’s Interpretations of the Tibetan Translation of a Seventh Century Indian Buddhist Text,
by C. W. Huntington, Jr. 118
- On Retreating to Method and Other Postmodern Turns: A Response to C. W. Huntington, Jr.,
by José Ignacio Cabezón 134

IV. BOOK REVIEWS

1. *Choix de Documents tibétains conservés à la Bibliothèque Nationale complété par quelques manuscrits de l'India Office et du British Museum*, by Yoshiro Imaeda and Tsugohito Takeuchi
(Alexander W. Macdonald) 144
2. *A Concordance of Buddhist Birth Stories*,
by Leslie Grey (Barend A. van Nooten) 145

V. NOTES AND NEWS

- Report on the 10th IABS Conference
(A. W. Macdonald) 148

CONTRIBUTORS 151

IV. REVIEWS

Choix de Documents tibétains conservés à la Bibliothèque Nationale complété par quelques manuscrits de l'India Office et du British Museum, by Yoshiro Imaeda and Tsugohito Takeuchi, tome III: Corpus syllabique; Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale; 1990; XIV + 1009 pages. Price: 550 ff.

In the first two volumes of the *Choix des Documents tibétains conservés à la Bibliothèque ...* presented by Ariane Macdonald and Yoshiro Imaeda in 1978 and 1979, 168 manuscripts were reproduced in facsimile on 640 plates. In the preface to the first volume, Professeur R. A. Stein expressed his hope to see published "the voluminous index of rare words," compiled by Marcelle Lalou before her death in 1967, along with notes and remarks by other researchers. However, such an ambitious project could not be carried out rapidly. Since 1979, two important studies have appeared: *A Corpus of Early Tibetan Inscriptions*, London, Royal Asiatic Society, 1985, by Hugh Richardson, and *A Study of the Old Tibetan Inscriptions*, Taipei, Institute of History and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Special Publications no. 91, 1987, by Li Fang Kuei and W. S. Coblin. And, since 1977, the Seminar on Tibet of the Tōyō Bunkō has pursued, at a regular rhythm, under the direction of Zuihō Yamaguchi, its re-examination of the Tibetan manuscripts today in the British Library, many of which were previously inventoried by L. de la Vallée Poussin in his *Catalogue...* dating from 1962.

What is offered here is not an exhaustive list of rare words with their meanings and suggested meanings but a research tool which will undoubtedly prove extremely helpful to those engaged in the arduous task of translating these early Tibetan literary remains. The volume corresponds to the complete transcription of eleven of the manuscripts already published in the *Choix...* These are: Pelliot-Tibetain 16, 1038, 1067, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1290, India Office 750, 751 and Ch. XVII, 2, and British Museum Or. 8212 (187). All are concerned with history. From September 1981 to January 1982, thanks to an invitation of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Y. Imaeda was able to work with H. Kitamura, who was then the Director of the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Languages. A program for the treatment of Tibetan by computer was elaborated, which made possible the input and printing of a Tibetan text in Tibetan characters—and not just in transliteration—and to sort out the syllables in the order of the Tibetan alphabet. The total number of syllables examined in this

choice of documents is approximately 30,000. Each is accompanied by the few syllables which precede it and follow it and by a precise reference to the document in which it figures. So a syllable in its context occupies one complete line of the *Corpus*: the presentation enables the reader to know the context of a syllable's use without having to refer each time to the photographic reproduction. The texts indexed in this manner are edited, in full, as Y. Imaeda and T. Takeuchi read them, on p. 1-59, before the *Corpus*. Gaps and unreadable passages are signalled as are uncertain readings and alternative or corrected readings.

The General Administrator of the Bibliothèque Nationale who is himself a distinguished European historian has contributed a short preface in French (p. VII-VIII).

This massive, ingenious and beautifully produced volume will be of great utility to the growing number of scholars throughout the world who study these rare historical sources. The volume is a fine example of Franco-Japanese scientific cooperation.

On p. XIII, penultimate line, for *dgung rab* read: *gdung rab*.

Alexander W. Macdonald

A Concordance of Buddhist Birth Stories, by Leslie Grey.
Oxford: Pali Text Society, 1990. 268 pp.

This book presents a concordance of printed books and articles that are concerned with the stories of Buddha's former births, both *Jātakas* and *Avadānas*. It is organized on the model of a union list, where the main body of the work consists of an index of the titles of *Jātakas* (pp. 1-172) and *Avadānas* (pp. 173-251) in the order of the Roman alphabet. In addition there are shorter indexes. One lists the names of the *Jātakas* and *Avadānas* discussed in the book (pp. v-xxviii) and another, called "Codes" (pp. xxx-xliii), lists abbreviations of almost 200 bibliographical sources that have been utilized in the preparation of the concordance. The index of "Codes" is not confined to editions and translations of *Jātakas*, but also includes all manner of publications in which *Jātakas* are discussed and/or described in both English and a number of other modern European languages. Every major work in which sculptures and paintings of *Jātakas* are represented also find a place here. Titles like Benfey's *Pantchatantra*, Jaini's *Paññāsa-jātaka*, as well as catalogs from various museums throughout the world are listed here in abbreviated form.

The main list of *Jātakas* has the title of each Birth Story along with the number assigned to it in the Pali *Jātakaṭṭhavaṇṇanā*, the Sanskrit *Jātakamālā*, and a number of other works of the Buddhist Sanskrit tradition. The title is followed by a brief summary of the story, the moral of the story and then an exhaustive