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I feel that, to date, this small volume is the most comprehensive treatment of Shingon theory and practice available in any Western language. It is a welcome addition to the literature on Buddhism and is likely to be the standard work on Shingon doctrine for some time. Its many-sided information is certain to help formulate some tentative judgments about the Sino-Japanese Buddhist tradition.

Aaron K. Koseki

Mission Paul Pelliot: Choix de Documents tibétains conservés à la Bibliothèque Nationale, complété par quelques manuscrits de l'India Office et du British Museum; Présentés par Ariane Macdonald et Yoshiro Imaeda; Tome Ier; Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale; 1978.

A stiff, protective box contains photographic reproductions of the documents chosen and a brief introductory and explanatory fascicle. The documents are reproduced on the recto only of separate sheets, numbered successively from 1-304. The choice of documents was operated by Madame D.A. Macdonald, Madame A.-M. Blondeau and Professor R.A. Stein. In the first instance the choice was guided by the desire to make available for study those texts concerned with unknown or little known aspects of Tibetan civilisation. However the importance of the Chinese Ch'an dossier was also taken into account; and Buddhologists will be grateful for the entries under Buddhism in the brief summary of the contents of the manuscripts on p. 17-18 of the fascicle.

In a short preface, Professor Stein situates the general importance of these manuscripts and stresses the light they cast on the dim beginnings of Tibetan history and society. He sketches out the story of their dispersion and their conservation; he renders homage to the previous labours of Louis de La Vallée Poussin, J. Bacot, F.W. Thomas and Marcelle Lalou; he also tells us of his hope that the vocabulary of rare words constituted by Marcelle Lalou will one day be published, completed by more recent research.

A list of the inventory numbers of the manuscripts reproduced in this first volume is to be found on p. 16. Mademoiselle Marie-Rose Séguy, Conservateur en chef à la Bibliothèque Nationale, Département des manuscrits, Section orientale, gives a general description of the Tibetan collection from Tun-huang in Paris which includes over 2500 manuscripts of which 254 are bilingual or trilingual. She provides a table of the Tibetan manuscripts containing texts, fragments or notes in Chinese characters as catalogued in the *Inventaire* of Marcelle Lalou: some of these were previously inventoried under two numbers, one Pelliot Tibetan, one Pelliot Chinese, so this table will be of service to

those who wish to refer to these manuscripts. She further provides a provisional list of the Chinese manuscripts containing texts, fragments, or notes in Tibetan which did not find place in the same *Inventaire*. She gives the inventory numbers of trilingual manuscripts containing texts, fragments or annotations in Tibetan, Chinese and Khotanese. She lists the bilingual or trilingual manuscripts containing texts, fragments or annotations in Tibetan, Chinese and Yugur; and she draws attention to 55 manuscripts of the Tibetan collection which include paintings, drawings or sketches.

Y. Imaeda and A. Macdonald explain (p. 15) how the documents have been classified in the numerical order of M. Lalou's *Inventaire* and make explicit their system of numbering folios, pages, note-books, scrolls, etc. These two researchers have added brief but extremely useful notes (p. 19-27), written in 1972, relative to fifty manuscripts of the Pelliot Tibetan collection in Paris and two manuscripts of the India Office, London, and providing references to publications and research in progress.

As one would expect from the Imprimerie Nationale, the general get-up of this very important publication is impeccable. There can be no question of criticism in this short notice. We must express our gratitude for the enormous, sustained effort to which this publication bears testimony and congratulate all concerned in making more easily accessible this priceless collection of materials. A difficult road for future research has been opened. Surely some of the readers of this *Journal* will negotiate it. Let us hope that Tibetans will be among them.

Alexander W. Macdonald

