

みんなのポジトリ

国立民族学博物館学術情報リポジトリ National Museum of Ethnology

SER no.040; Foreword

メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: 公開日: 2009-04-28 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: Kvoerne, Per メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10502/1577

Foreword

Per Kværne

In the academic year 1995-96 I had the privilege of organising a unique project involving collaboration between Tibetan scholars from Tibet and from the Tibetan diaspora as well as Western scholars, hosted by the Center for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo. Our team, which worked together daily during this period, consisted (in alphabetic order) of Tseyang Changngoba, Namgyal Nyima Dagkar, Dondrup Lhagyal, Dan Martin, Donatella Rossi, Tsering Thar, and myself. The aim of the project was simple but formidable: to provide a detailed catalogue — volume by volume, text by text, chapter by chapter — of the almost 200 volumes of the Bon Kanjur, of which the Oslo University Library possesses a reprint edition.

The result of our joint efforts is the present catalogue.

My interest in the Bon Kanjur goes back to the early 1970s, when I published a survey of the Bon Kanjur catalogue written in 1842 by the Bonpo scholar Nyima Tenzin (1813-75). A serious limitation at the time was that no set of the Kanjur was available in the West, nor indeed was it known whether any such set had survived the ravages of the Cultural Revolution in Tibet. Only with the later emergence and eventual publication of the Bon Kanjur in Tibet was it possible to envisage the preparation of a proper catalogue.

Each member of our group provided significant contributions to the catalogue, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to each of them for their dedication and enthusiasm. Thanks are also due to Samten Gyaltsen Karmay, Jean-Luc Achard, and Enrico Dell'Angelo, who all visited Oslo, and in various ways contributed to our work. Nevertheless, it is first and foremost Dan Martin who must be thanked, not only for preparing a substantial part of the catalogue, but also — and especially — for undertaking to edit the entire compilation, thus making its publication possible. The gratitude which Tibetologists for very many years to come must feel towards Dan Martin will, I am confident, have rendered his task, while arduous, far from thankless.

It is also a pleasant duty to thank the Oslo University Library which generously allowed the entire Bon Kanjur to be deposited in the Academy of Science and Letters for the duration of our project, and the Centre of Advanced Study which funded the project and provided office space and infrastructure. The head of the Center secretariat, Unn Hagen, is to be thanked for the countless ways in which she solved all our practical problems.

Professor Yasuhiko Nagano has graciously included this work in the prestigious Senri Ethnological Reports of the National Museum of Ethnology. Its series "Bon Studies" has become the most important series of academic publications on the Bon religion of Tibet.

With the publication of this volume, I would like to especially honour the memory of a young and gifted Tibetan scholar, Chaphur Namkha Gyaltsen, who was to be a member of our research group, but who sadly passed away in India only a short while before he was due to leave for Oslo. Had he lived, he would have made a significant contribution to the work of our group of which he so much looked forward to being a member.

The Bon Kanjur is a vast literary, religious and cultural treasure. To fully exploit its contents will require the efforts of generations of scholars. Its gradual compilation over many centuries — and equally, its recent publication in several editions — is a testimony to the vitality of Tibetan culture and the faith and devotion of the Tibetan people.