

みんなくりポジトリ

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

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Preface

This is a tentative catalogue of the “Tibetan Bonpo Tenjur (WT bstan ’gyur)” which was published by Rev. Tempai Nyima from Lhasa in 1998. The ‘organized Bon’, which is the later non-Buddhist religion in Tibet and seems to have been well established by the fifteenth century, boasts a huge scriptural canon equal in size to the Tibetan Buddhist Kanjur (WT bka’ ’gyur) and Tenjur. Unfortunately, however, we do not have any complete set of Bonpo Tenjur because of severe social and political situation that the Bonpo people experienced.

Tempai Nyima’s attempt is a trial for reconstructing the Bonpo Tenjur. In that sense, his strong will must be highly evaluated. The actuality is that it is a huge collection of Bonpo Katen texts (as is described in Dr. Samten G. Karmay’s Introduction), and it is almost impossible to utilize them without an extensive catalogue. At first, the collection consisted of 300 volumes, but, as far as I know, there seem to exist, under the same publication project, a few different kinds of Tenjur in terms of the number of volumes involved. Looking into the contents, on the other hand, we found that the collection contains, besides traditional Tenjur texts, some Kanjur texts, a lot of rare texts and, at the same time, non-authentic texts. In addition to that, a rumor says that the publisher is planning to add more texts to the same series. Therefore, we do not have a single definite edition of Bonpo Tenjur. This is why the editors of this catalogue decided that the title of it should be A Catalogue of Bonpo *Katen Texts*, instead of A Catalogue of the Bonpo *Tenjur*.

Despite its inconsistent philosophy of editing and/or compiling, it is true that the collection involves a lot of precious materials of Bon religion as well as a basic stratum of Tibetan religion, and the editors believe that even a tentative catalogue of it will definitely be meaningful as to accelerate Bon studies.

Unlike Per Kvaerne's catalogue of the Bonpo Kanjur, which is expected to appear soon, our catalogue does not contain any reference, partly because of time-constraint but mainly because of the characteristics of this collection. The editors hope that the younger generation will complete a perfect catalogue of Bonpo Katen and/or Tenjur, along with a thorough reference, in the future.

In response to the eager prompt of Rev. Tenzin Namdak and Lopön Tenpa Yungdrung, we brought three computers equipped with a Tibetan wordprocessing software to Tritan Norbutse Bonpo Manastic Center, Kathmandu, in March, 2000 and one of our staff, Mrs. Yūko Matsumoto, trained four monks to using the strange machines. Their curiosity and interest were so great that they could successfully handle the machine and data in a week. It should also be noted that their enthusiasm

and patience for the work enabled them to complete inputting the voluminous data in ten months.

After several rounds of proof reading, formatting started. Mrs. Kaoruko Miyaji, Ms. Hanako Murata (research assistants of this Bonpo studies project) and Mr. Masashi Sakaguchi of Nihon Altmark Co. struggled against a lot of technical problems that occurred on the way. Thanks to their efforts, almost all of the problems were cleared.

Let me repeat that this catalogue is quite tentative. I wish the readers would point out errors, mistakes and so on, when they find any, at bon@idc.minpaku.ac.jp. Any kind of comments are highly appreciated.

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