

**The Collections of  
Sir Aurel Stein and Alexander Csoma de Kőrös  
in the Oriental Collection  
- State of Catalogues -**

**Workshop**

**29 October, 2004**

Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vasarely Hall  
1051 Budapest, Arany János u.1.

Organized by  
the Oriental Collection, Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

**Abstracts of Papers**

Our Sponsors:

Ministry of Cultural Heritage  
National Cultural Fund

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for  
International Scholarly Exchange

**The Collections of Sir Aurel Stein and Alexander Csoma de Kőrös  
in the Oriental Collection: State of Catalogues  
29 October, 2004**

Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vasarely Hall  
1051 Budapest, Arany János u.1.

- 9.30 MAROSI Ernő, Vice-President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences:  
Opening Address
- 9.40 WHITFIELD, Susan (British Library, IDP): Tibetan MSS in the Stein Collection and  
their Cataloguing and Digitisation
- 10.00 TAKEUCHI Tsuguhito (Kobe): Classification, Cataloguing and Dating the  
Stein Tibetan Texts – Problems and  
Progress
- 10.20 USPENSKIY, Vladimir (St.Petersburg) Tibetan MSS and Blockprints in  
St.Petersburg
- 10.40 OROSZ Gergely (Oriental Collection): Tibetan MSS and Blockprints in the  
Oriental Collection
- 11.00 coffee break
- 11.30 WANG, Helen (British Museum): Money on the Silk Road
- 11.50 WOJTILLA Gyula (Szeged University): Notes on a Medieval Sanskrit Itinerary of  
Kashmir used by Aurel Stein
- 12.10 BETHLENFALVY Géza (Budapest): Csoma and the Tibetan Buddhist Canon
- 12.30 lunch break
- 14.00 RUSSELL-SMITH, Lilla (London): The Importance of Aurel Stein's  
Photographs in the collections of the  
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 14.20 FALCONER, John (British Library): Aurel Stein: A Life in Photographs
- 14.40 KELECSÉNYI Ágnes (Oriental Collection): Second phase of Cataloguing the Stein  
Material
- 15.00 APOR Éva (Oriental Collection): The Oriental Collection of the Library  
of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 15.20 Closing Remarks

**Our Sponsors:**

Ministry of Cultural Heritage  
National Cultural Fund

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for  
International Scholarly Exchange

**Tibetan MSS in the Stein Collection  
and their Cataloguing and Digitisation**

Susan WHITFIELD  
International Dunhuang Project

Abstract

The British Library collection of Tibetan manuscripts from Dunhuang and other sites in Chinese Central Asia is the second largest after Chinese. In her paper Dr Whitfield will review the collection, its past conservation and cataloguing history before looking at what is being done at the present, the digitisation programme and plans for future work under the auspices of the International Dunhuang Project.

# **Classification, Cataloguing and Dating the Stein Tibetan Texts: Problems and Progress**

Tsuguhito TAKEUCHI  
(Kobe University, Kobe)

## Abstract

Recent developments in Old Tibetan textual studies include: a) cataloguing previously uncatalogued or only partly published collections, and making previously unnoticed texts known and available (e.g., Stein mss and woodslips from East Turkestan, Kara-khoto, Etsin-gol, etc.), b) photographing and/or digitizing mss and materials, and making their images accessible through publications or internet (e.g., IDP and BN project), and c) databasing texts, and making 'key word index' of them (e.g., Old Tibetan Documents Online project). Thanks to these developments, many of which are still in progress, we are in a better position to have an overall view of not only the Stein Tibetan texts but also of those in other collections, and we can classify and date the texts from new points of view. In this paper I will first go through several ongoing cataloguing and databasing projects, pointing out problems we are facing in the process, and then discuss the possible methods of classification and dating of Old Tibetan texts.

## **Tibetan Manuscripts and Blockprints in St. Petersburg**

Vladimir USPENSKIY  
(Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg)

### Abstract

Old books in the Tibetan language are located in St. Petersburg in two major libraries.

1. The St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences possesses one of the world's largest collections of Tibetan blockprints and manuscripts. This collection dates back to the eighteenth century, when the first books written in Tibetan arrived from Eastern Siberia to St. Petersburg — at that time the newly-built capital of Russia. With the foundation in 1818 of the Imperial Asiatic Museum — to which the present St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies is the legal successor — the work of compiling the Tibetan collection received a new impetus. Until the middle of the twentieth century Tibetan books continued to arrive at the Institute in large quantities, almost without interruption.

In 1913 the Asiatic Museum received a bundle of Tibetan scrolls from Dunhuang. At present 214 such scrolls are kept at the Institute, most of them being copies of the Aparamitayurjnana-sutra.

At present the Tibetan collection of the Institute numbers approximately 20,000 volumes: the number of separate works contained within them has never been counted. Almost the entire collection is made up of Buddhist works: one can find there different editions of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon, numerous woodblock editions of the collected works by Tibetan authors as well as a great number of separate Buddhist works.

2. St. Petersburg University Library possesses a large collection of Tibetan books which date back to the nineteenth century. Originally, the Oriental Department of St. Petersburg University belonged to Kazan University in Central Russia, from which it was moved together with its library in 1855. The Tibetan books hosted by this library mostly originate from Beijing, Mongolia and Eastern Siberia.

At present the computer cataloguing of the Institute's Tibetan collection is under way: a group consisting of Tibetan monks and Russian scholars had already input more than 100,000 titles. The University Library electronic Catalogue has already been available for scholars for several years.

# **Tibetan Blockprints and Manuscripts in the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

Gergely OROSZ

(Oriental Collection, Budapest)

## Abstract

Besides the small library of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös many other Tibetan texts can be found in the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This collection was founded by Louis Ligeti when he brought fifty Tibetan books for the Academy. Between the '50-'80 this relatively small collection grew to a significant amount of appr. 6000 titles thanks to the donations and purchase of manuscripts and blockprints in Tibetan language of Mongolian origin. Among the blockprints one can find some volumes of the Urga Bka'-'gyur and Bstan-'gyur, other canonical works of separate printing, complete or fragmentary gsung-'bums of eminent dge-lugs-pa authors, treatises on Buddhist logic, medical and grammatical works. The manuscripts consist mostly of liturgical texts concerning both the traditional Tantric and the so-called folk religion rituals.

A cataloguing project was started in 2000. The first result of it is a bulky, 1600 pages material, the draft of the future catalogue. According to our purpose the catalogue shall be published in CD-ROM format.

# **Money on the Silk Road**

Helen WANG

(British Museum, London)

## **Abstract**

Sir Aurel Stein collected over 4,000 coins during his first three expeditions in Chinese Central Asia. These fall into three main groups: Chinese coins (the majority); Western coins; and local coins modelled on Chinese and/or Western coins. But coins were not the only form of money in this region: textiles, grain and other things were also used as money. By looking at the contemporary documentary evidence (Chinese, Kharoshthi, Tocharian, Khotanese, Tibetan) from the sites we can begin to create a good framework for understanding the different forms of money and how they were used.

**Notes on a Medieval Sanskrit Itinerary of Kashmir**  
**Used by Aurel Stein**

Gyula WOJTILLA  
(Szeged University)

Summary

Some geographical data of Ksemendra's Samayamatrika composed A.D. 1050 have been used by Aurel Stein to explain certain passages of Kalhana's Rajatarangini. He said that a philologically reliable translation of the Samayamatrka would yield a great deal. The present study aims at a close examination of the stations of an itinery described in frame of adventures of an old courtesan in Kashmir. It offers more satisfactory solutions of some difficult passages than those given by A. Stein, J.J. Meyer and others and according to Stein's wishes makes the first steps towards a modern English translation of the text.

## **Csoma and the Tibetan Buddhist Canon**

Géza BETHLENFALVY

(Research Group of Altaic Studies, Budapest)

### Abstract

Alexander Csoma de Kőrös is mostly remembered as the creator of the first scholarly Tibetan Dictionary and Grammar. But in his 4 volume collected writings more pages are occupied by works on Buddhism. His edition and translation of the Mahāvīyūtpatti is an important tool for understanding Buddhist philosophy, and he also prepared a so called “catalogue raisonné” of the Tibetan works Mr. Hodgson had forwarded from Nepal to the library of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The manuscript of this work has not been preserved (or can not be found).

But his description of the Kanjur and Tenjur are really pioneering contributions to Buddhist studies, as they present the first detailed description of the various fields and works of Buddhist literature, based on original texts and sources. The later catalogues of the Tibetan holy scriptures are definitely more detailed, enumerate more titles, but Csoma’s work has a great advantage, he goes beyond listing the titles and pages and tries to provide some basic information about the contents of the scriptures as well. A few examples of the Tantra section will be quoted to demonstrate how far the Hungarian scholar run ahead of European research in this field.

# **The Importance of the Photographic Collection of Sir Aurel Stein in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

Lilla RUSSELL-SMITH

(London)

## **Abstract**

This paper will examine the importance of the photographic collection especially from the point of view of researching Chinese and Central Asian Buddhist art.

The first part of the paper will give an introduction to some of the sites well represented in the collection: Astana, Bezeklik and Dunhuang. The second part will draw attention to interesting newly identified photographs, which are being catalogued by John Falconer and the speaker as part of Phase Two of the British-Hungarian Stein project. The most intact find appears to be a group of 255 photographs which show the Dunhuang paintings in their original condition. These paintings are today in the British Museum in London, and the National Museum in New Delhi, and the newly identified photographs present a unique opportunity to identify missing fragments, headpieces and streamers. In addition, the paintings in New Delhi have not been published in their entirety, so the photos are primary research tools at present.

The last part will introduce a Dunhuang painting that was until recently in a very fragmented state and was restored at the British Museum as part of the Mellon digitisation project. The issue of old and new images in the day-to-day museum work and in research will be discussed.

## **Aurel Stein: A Life in Photographs**

John FALCONER  
(British Library, London)

### Abstract

This paper will present an overview of Aurel Stein's photographic work in Central Asia and will assess its importance in the fields of archaeology, exploration and topographical documentation. It will also present some account of the major existing collections of Stein's work in Budapest, London and elsewhere.

## **Second Phase of Cataloguing the Stein Material**

Ágnes KELECSÉNYI  
(Oriental Collection, Budapest)

### Abstract

Aurel Stein occupies an outstanding place among the benefactors of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Though he lived in India from 1887 and became famous as a British subject, he never forgot his homeland and had close ties with the Hungarian Academy. He enriched the library of the learned society many times in his lifetime and in his will he bequeathed his printed books to it. This bequest contained also part of Aurel Stein's extensive correspondence, his manuscripts and documents as well as a huge photographic collection.

This latter part of the bequest remained unstudied until 1999, when a British-Hungarian project started, resulting in a catalogue of the collections published in 2002.

However, recently in a store-room for duplicates long-forgotten manuscripts, hand-drawn maps and photographs were identified as belonging to the Stein Collection. The importance of this material prompted the starting of the second phase of the cataloguing project.

The paper presents the different types of documents and the importance of this new material, what it contains and how complements the first part.

## **The Oriental Collection : Past, Present and Future**

Éva APOR

(Oriental Collection, Budapest)

### Abstract

**Short sketch of the history:** Organised in 1950 in the frame of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences founded in 1826. It has been the library basis for Oriental Studies in Hungary and for training specialists in the field.

**Main fields of Hungarian Oriental studies** as reflected in the materials of the Oriental Collection: Turcology, Arabistics, Hebrew studies, Mongolian and Altaic studies, Central Asian studies, Sinology, Iranian studies, research of Caucasia, Tibetan and Buddhist studies, Japanese studies, etc.

**Holdings:** amount to some 110.000 volumes of books, appr. the same measure of periodicals (that is 1,400 different titles), Manuscripts in Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Mongolian and Manchu, special collection of MSS and photographs of Sir Aurel Stein, the Goldziher-correspondance, etc.

**Publications:** *Keleti Tanulmányok – Oriental Studies* (since 1976), *Budapest Oriental Reprints* (since 1977), 21 volumes published

**International research programs:** The *British-Hungarian Academic Research Program*, (ended with the *Catalogue of the collections of Sir Aurel Stein...*), the *Genizah-project* with the Library of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the *Turkish Manuscripts project* with the Türk Dil Kurumu in Ankara, etc.

**Future plans:** Digitisation of main manuscript corpora