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Turfan manuscripts in the State Hermitage —
a rediscovery

Abstract: The article presents the results of a close cooperation of colleagues from the State Hermitage and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences (Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts). 23 fragments of manuscripts and block prints in five different languages (Chinese, Old Uighur, Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Syriac) are described in detail. Almost all of them could be identified. They stem from the four German Turfan expeditions (1902–1914) and were housed in the Museum für Völkerkunde (Berlin) for exhibition reasons, i.e., they belong to the most important findings of these expeditions. Nevertheless some of these fragments have never been published before. For a long time it was thought that they belong to the losses during World War II. Now they have been re-discovered in the depot of the State Hermitage. In the appendix an Old Uighur fragment of the Sākiz Yūkmāk Yaruk is edited. It belongs to the re-discovered texts and was known up-to-now only from some quotations in an early edition.

Key words: State Hermitage, German Turfan expeditions, Museum für Völkerkunde (Berlin), manuscript, block print, scroll, folded book, amulet, illumination, Chinese, Old Uighur, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Syriac, Sākiz Yūkmāk Yaruk.

The impressive exhibition “The Caves of One Thousand Buddhas. Russian Expeditions on the Silk Road”, organized in close co-operation in 2008–2009 by the Hermitage Museum and the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts on the occasion of the 190 anniversary of the foundation of the Asiatic Museum deeply enhanced the long lasting cooperation between the German and Russian scholars working in the field of Central Asian studies, and Turfan studies in particular, and consequentially in 2012 an agreement of cooperation in the field of Turfan studies between the Director-General of the State Hermitage, the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the President of the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities was signed in March 2013. The long tradition goes back even to that time,
when Russia and Germany were organizing and undertaking their archaeological expeditions to East Turkestan (today’s Xinjiang Autonomous Region in the PR of China) at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th cc. When the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde started its efforts to join the exploration of the ruined sites of East Turkestan they highly benefited from the already earned experiences by their Russian colleagues and even were offered manifold support in organizing and completing the German Turfan expeditions. Although the plans for joined Russian-German campaigns failed, we have knowledge of a broad exchange of information concerning the results of their respective campaigns, the on-going research on the findings, which was in certain fields even conducted in close cooperation and the exchange of publications in this particular field.

When the above mentioned exhibition was opened to the public in December 2008, it presented not only the results of the Russian archaeological activities in Central Asia, but the State Hermitage for the first time also put on display wall paintings which were brought from Turfan and the surrounding areas to Berlin by the four German Turfan expeditions (1902–1914) and which have been kept in the archives of the State Hermitage since the end of WW II.¹

It was already in autumn 2002 when Marianne Yaldiz, the at-that-time Director of the Berlin Museum of Indian Art (today’s Museum für Asiatische Kunst and former Museum für Völkerkunde) together with the Museum’s conservator were invited by the Director-General of the State Hermitage Mikhail Piotrovsky to have a look at the Berlin collections of Indo-Asian art in the Hermitage stores.² Back in Berlin she immediately gave an oral report to the Berlin Turfan research group at the Academy and let them know that there are also several precious Turfan manuscripts in different languages and scripts from the Berlin collection preserved amongst the objects from Berlin. The announcement of the surviving of all these objects was applauded by the community of Central Asian scholars worldwide, although the details of the single objects were not clear at this moment.

In the course of the exhibition and during visits to St. Petersburg in order to take part at several international conferences like that of “Dunhuang Studies: prospects and problems for the coming second century of research” (September 2009), the 53. Permanent International Altaistic Conference (July 2010) and “Sergei Fedorovich Oldenburg: Scholar and Academic Research Organizer” (September 2013) the members of the Berlin Turfan study

² See the report of this visit, written by Marianne Yaldiz, cf. YALDIZ 2005, 2–3.
groups of the Berlin and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences were offered not only the chance to view the whole collection of wall paintings from the German Turfan expeditions preserved in the depot of the State Hermitage, but also a number of fragments which belonged to the Berlin Turfan text collection in former times. In cooperation with Peter Zieme we were able to make a provisional inventory list of these fragments and collected as much data as possible from every item. Back in Berlin we were able to identify the up to this time thought to be lost during WW II Turfan fragments. They all belong to this limited part of Turfan fragments which used to stay in the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde mostly for exhibition reasons, when in 1926 the vast majority of the Turfan texts was handed over to the newly founded “Orientalische Kommission” of the Prussian Academy of Sciences for philological research and publication. These circumstances already make clear that the rediscovered Turfan texts in the State Hermitage belong to the most important findings of the German Turfan expeditions and it is no wonder that most of them were already published or at least quoted by the so-called first generation of Turfan researchers shortly after their discovery in the first decades of the 20th c.

In the following we will give a detailed overview of the manuscripts and block prints from the Berlin Turfan collection in the depot of the State Hermitage, which, as seen in the photos, are very poorly preserved.

**The rediscovered manuscripts and block prints**

Altogether up to now 23 fragments of manuscripts and block prints are registered in the provisional inventory list. Among them ten fragments of Chinese manuscripts, one fragment with Sanskrit text on one side and Chinese on the opposite side, seven fragments of Old Uighur manuscripts and four fragments of Old Uighur block prints, one Syriac fragment and one Tibetan fragment. Some of the fragments are illustrated.

What follows is a description of the single items with known references and catalogue entries. Some of the fragments have been unpublished yet. A detailed study and edition of these fragments (Chinese, Syriac and Tibetan) we put aside for the specialists in these fields.

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4 We have to thank our colleagues Peter Zieme, Klaus Wille and Tsuneki Nishiwaki for their friendly support. Thanks to them some preliminary information concerning the Chinese, Sanskrit and Syriac fragments could be added here.
(1) Chinese manuscript of the 佛説仁王護國般若波羅蜜多經卷上
Foshuo renwang huguo banruoboluomiduo jing (juan shang): Taishō vol. 8, 
no. 244, 829a 11 – 829c 22 (identified by Tsuneki Nishiwaki).

Fragment of a scroll.

Pl. 1. BΦ-4198, beginning of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Pl. 2. BΦ-4198, final part of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number (in the State Hermitage): BΦ-4198.
Old finding number (given in the course of the four German Turfan expeditions):
Yarchoto No. 6
Size: 129.1 cm×26.0 cm.\(^5\)
Number of lines: 59 text lines + 1 title lines + 8 lines colophon (script of smaller 
size).

---

\(^5\) This fragment consists of four sheets of paper which were glued together. The size of 
each sheet of paper is: approximately 41.5 cm×26.0 cm.
(2) Chinese manuscript of the 现在十方千五百佛名一卷 Xianzai shifang qianwubai foming (juan yi): Taishō vol. 14, no. 442, 317b 1 – 318a 7 (identified by Tsuneki Nishiwaki).

Fragment of a scroll.

Pl. 3. ВФ-4199, beginning of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Pl. 4. ВФ-4199, final part of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ-4199.
Old finding number: T II Y 16
Size: 158.8 cm×26.5 cm.6
Number of lines: 52 text lines + 1 final title line + 5 colophon lines (smaller size script).

6 This fragment consists of four sheets of paper which were glued together. The size of each sheet of paper is: approximately 44.5 cm×26.5 cm.
(3) Amulet (vu) with text lines in Chinese and Old Uighur.
Fragment of a scroll.⁷

Pl. 5. ВФ-4203, middle part of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage
Inventory number: ВФ-4203.
Old finding number: T II Y 51
Additional note: Koje 7.⁸
Size: 192.6 cm×29.8 cm.⁹
Note: Old photographs of the text are preserved in the Museum für Asiatische Kunst:
B 2288–2291.


⁷ The back side of this fragment is covered, but it can be safely reported that there was another text written on the verso of this scroll.

⁸ This note was added in order to remember the location where the fragment was exhibited in the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde before WW II. These notes were most probably added during the packaging of the Museum’s objects in order to prepare their transport to places for safekeeping during the war.

⁹ Cf. RACHIMI 1937, 73. He also added some notes concerning the format and the quality of the paper: “Die Rolle ist aus groben und zum Teil kleinen Papierfetzen zusammengeklebt worden”.

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(4) The Old Uighur Sākiz Yūkmāk Yaruk.
Manuscript. Fragment of a scroll.

Pl. 7. ВФ-4201, beginning of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: BФ-4201.
Old finding number: T III TV 61 / T III 84 (**U9232).
Number of lines: 131 lines.
Size: 176.5 cm×28.7 cm.

10 This signature marks that this fragment was preserved in the Berlin Turfan collection before WW II according to previous publications and was thought to be lost during the war. At the time of the compilation of the catalogue volume in question it’s surviving and present day safe custody in the State Hermitage was not known to the compiler of the catalogue volume. Now a second asterisk* is added (**U9232) in the registers to signify this special circumstance.
(5) The 妙法蓮華經 Miao fa lian hua jing: Taishō vol. 9, no. 262, p. 10c 26 – 11c 2 (identified by Tsuneki Nishiwaki).

Manuscript. Fragment of a scroll.

Pl. 8. ВФ-4195. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ-4195.
Old finding number: [ ] Yarchoto No. 6.
Former inventory number: (IB 6288).\textsuperscript{11}
Additional note: ящ 835, акт 111 ор 27/X n. 20.\textsuperscript{12}
Number of lines: 43 lines.
Size: 78.8 cm×28.5 cm.


Block print. Fragment of a folded book.

Pl. 9. ВФ-4193. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

\textsuperscript{11} This old German inventory number was added to the manuscript during the process of the inventory in the State Hermitage. It was possibly a mistake, because another item bears this number, too. It is still clearly visible that this label is the original German one.

\textsuperscript{12} These data report details concerning the transport of the fragments from Berlin to St. Peterburg.
Inventory number: ВФ-4193.
Old finding number: T III M 207 / T II S 92 (**U9365).
Number of lines: 5 folios with 6 lines each, i.e. in total 30 lines.
Size: 56 cm x 15.7 cm.
Length of the lines: 11.8 cm.
Reference: MÜLLER 1911, 47–50.

(7) Fragment of an Old Uighur Buddhist text concerning the confession of sins commissioned by a lay woman Üträt by name.

Manuscript.

Pl. 10. ВФ-4192. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ 4192.
Old finding number: T II Y 48 (**U9090).
Number of lines: 58 lines + 14 lines colophon (script in smaller size).
Size: 115 cm x 33.2 cm.

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13 This number is cancelled.

14 The text is published under the old finding number T III M 207b. The visible part of the fragment in the wooden frame shows only the lines 1–30 of this edition. But, on the right margin it is possible to see that the fragment was folded. The second part is not visible because the verso is covered.
(8) Chinese manuscript of the *Buddhanama-sūtra* without illustrations.
Fragment of a scroll.

15 Concerning the signature **U9090 see the explanation given for **U9232 in fn. 10.
16 For an explanation see fn. 12.
(9) Chinese manuscript of the 佛説大辯邪正經 Foshuo dabian xiezheng jing: Taishō vol. 85, no. 2893, p. 1412c 22 – 1413a 28 (identified by Tsuneki Nishiwaki; cf. Pelliot 2263).

Fragment of the 1st scroll.

Pl. 13. ВФ-4196. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ 4196.
Number of lines: 33 lines + 1 headline (title). Each line has 17 characters.
Size: 77.8 cm×27.7 cm.
Length of the lines: 19.5 cm.

(10) Old Uighur version of the Sitāpatrā- dhāranī with Brāhmī glosses.

Block print. Fragment of a folded book.

Pl. 14. ВФ-4191 а.д. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

It is visible that the fragment consists of two sheets of paper glued together overlapping each other, as usual.
Inventory number: ВФ 4191 а.д.
Old finding number: T III M 225.
Number of lines: 25 lines in total (5 pages with 5 lines each).
Size: 55.8 cm×27.5 cm.
Note: According to MÜLLER (1911) the preserved manuscript consists of three fragments:
**U9203: T III M 225 (6.–7.), Chinese pagination 八
**U9204: T III M 225 (8.–9.)
**U9205: T III M 225 (10.), Chinese pagination 九.18
Catalogue entry: YAKUP/KNÖPPEL 2007, 51 (catalogue No. 29: *T III M 225 (6)
*T III M 225(7)), 52 (catalogue No. 31: *T III M 225(8) *T III M 225(9)), 53
(catalogue No. 33: *T III M 225(10).

(11) Unpublished Syriac text. Handwritten manuscript in scroll(?) format.

Pl. 15. ВД-524, detail. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВД 524.
Old finding number: [T] D 134 / D II 134
Number of lines: 78 lines.
Size: 89.5 cm×7.0 cm.
Note: Photos of this manuscript are preserved in the Archives of the Museum für

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18 Concerning the signatures **U9203–**U9205 see the explanation given for **U9232 in
fn. 10.
(12) The Old Uighur version of the 佛頂心大陀羅尼 *Fo ding xin da tuo luo ni*.

Block print. Fragment of a folded book.

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Inventory number: ВД 527.
Old finding number: [T II] S 92.
Number of lines: 58 lines + 2 lines of Chinese pagination.
Size: 93.8 cm × 20.8 cm.

Note: A handwritten transcript of the fragment (**U9202)** is preserved in the archive of the Berlin Turfan collection (BBAW).

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19 Concerning the signature **U9202 see the explanation given for **U9232 in fn. 10. The transcript presents the text of the lines 138–185 in the edition of KARA/ZIEME 1986. The final part of the handwritten transcript (lines 186–195) is missing.
Pl. 22. **U9202 (1.–3.)

1. Begin your description here:
   a. Begin your description here:
   b. Begin your description here:
   c. Begin your description here:

Pl. 23. **U9202 (4.–6.)

1. Continue your description here:
   a. Continue your description here:
   b. Continue your description here:
   c. Continue your description here:


Fragment of the 18th scroll.22

Pl. 25. ВД-523. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВД-523.
Old finding number: T II Y 20.
Additional note (on the back): Koje 2.23

20 By reading the original text some minor corrections are possible: (139) k(a)ltı nātāg burhan-lar; (177) ordo-lardın; (179) kıyın-çı-lardın.
21 Concerning the signature *U9202 see the explanation given for **U9232 in fn. 10.
22 The fragment consists of three sheets of paper glued together. The size of each sheet is: 51.5×25.5 cm.
23 For an explanation of this note see fn. 8.
Number of lines: 69 lines, 17 characters per line.  
Size: 125.0 cm × 25.5 cm.

Pl. 26. Вд-523, final part of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

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24 Between the last Chinese lines at the end of the fragment Old Uighur text lines from the back are clearly visible. Unfortunately the back is covered.

25 For additional notes concerning this part of the fragment see fn. 22.
The Old Uighur *Xāstvānīft*.

Fragment of a manuscript in scroll(?) format.

Pl. 27. ВД-525. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВД-525

Old finding number: T II Y 60a, T II Y 60b (**U9120, **U9121).

Number of lines: 52 lines.

Punctuation: a black colon with red frame.

Size: 91.3 cm×34.0 cm.

(15) The Old Uighur *Kuan-ši-im Pusar* (*Saddharmapuṇḍarīka-Sūtra*).

Fragment of a manuscript in scroll format.

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26 Concerning the signatures **U9120 and **U9121 see the explanation given for **U9232 in fn. 10.
Inventory number: ВД-526.
Old finding number: T II Y 10 / T II Y 18 / T II Y 18 / T II Y 10 (**U9039).
Additional note (on the back): Koje 4. ²⁷
Number of lines: recto: 66 lines in total; verso: 3 lines. ²⁹
Size: 117.5 cm × 31.0 cm.
Note: A black-and-white photograph showing the lines 1–13 of the fragment with the old finding signature T II Y 10 is preserved in the Archives of the Berlin Turfan collection (BBAW). On the back the following note is to be read: “T II Y 10.17.18. quanšɨ im pusar. Original im Museum Raum X. Koje 4. Originalgröße.”

Pl. 31. T II Y 10.

By courtesy of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Turfan-sammlung)

Note: In the edition of MÜLLER 1911 (17–18, lines 35–37) the following text can be added according to ВД-526:
35 hormuz t(â)ŋri körkin [körťgürű nomlayur kutgarur : birôk] maheşvar ulug
36 [ä]rkliq t(â)ŋri körkin kur[tulgu tnlg]lar ärsâr konši im) pusar ol tnl(t)ig
37 -larka ulug ärkliq t(â)ŋri körk[in körťgürű nomlayur kutagal]ur : bo birôk
38 ärkliq t(â)ŋri körkin kurtulgu [ ]//[/
39 -lär ärsâr : konši im pusar [ol tnl(t)]g]lar-ka ärkliq t(â)ŋri körkin [körťgürű]

²⁷ For an explanation of this additional note see fn. 8.
²⁸ The lines or part of the following lines are written in red ink (sometimes almost faded out): 3, 8–10, 14–15, 20–23, 28, 29, 31, 32–33, 33, 34, 35, 37–38, 40, 43, 44–45, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54–55, 56, 58–59, 61–62, 64. In the quoted text lines (35–41) the text passage in question is underlined.
²⁹ In the edition the following note is added: „Auf der Rückseite Bemerkung von anderer Hand in Pinselschrift“. 
(16) The Old Uighur *Sitātapatrā-dhāraṇī* with occasional added Brāhmī glosses.

Block print. Three Fragments of a folded book mounted in a wooden frame.

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30 The text is almost faded out.

31 Concerning the signature *U* 9039 see the explanation given for **U9232 in fn. 10.
Pl. 33. ВД-531, the final part of the joined fragments. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВД-531.
Old finding number: T III M 182 / T III M 231.5 / T III M 231.
Additional note (on the wooden frame): Raum X, Koje 5 r.32
Number of lines: 70 lines and Chinese pagination.
Size: 170 cm×30.5 cm.

Note: According to MÜLLER (1911) the preserved manuscript consists of three fragments:
(1)33 T III M 182 (**U9206), Chinese paginations 二(?).十四 “24(?),二十五 “25”
(2)34 T III M 231.5 (**U9207), Chinese pagination 十四 “14”
(3)35 T III M 231 (**U9208), Chinese pagination 二十二 “22”.

References: MÜLLER 1911, 57–59; LE COQ 1919, 105–107 + pl. 5 (T III M 23136);

32 For an explanation of this additional note see fn. 8.
33 Size: 100.5×29.5 cm.
34 Size: 44.8×30.5 cm.
35 Size: 30.5×11 cm. As an exception, all the five text lines preserved on this fragment are completely annotated with Brāhmī glosses.
36 Le Coq described the fragment as follows: „Vier noch zusammenhängende Blätter eines Faltbuchs (jedes Blatt 30.4×11.2 cm) weißes rauhes Papier. Anfang fehlt“. 
(17) Tibetan manuscript of the *Irk bitig*. Fragment of a scroll.

![Image](image-url)

Pl. 34. ВФ-4724. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ-4724.
Old finding number: T. 7.
Number of lines: 31 (recto).
Size: 57.3 cm × 26.7 cm.

Note: There is a stick attached to the frame with a note: “Rückseite Chinesisch”.
Nowadays the verso(?) side of the manuscript is not accessible, because it is covered.

A report on this fragment is present in “the report of the Oriental Commission” (“Bericht der Orientalischen Kommission”) dated January 1929, cf. TAUBE 1980, 85 fn. 1. According to this reference the fragment in question belongs to the series of Tibetan fragments TibHT 31 – TibHT 35 which are preserved in the Berlin Turfan collection, cf. idp.bbaw.de/database/.
Chinese manuscript of the *妙法蓮華經* *Miao fa lian hua jing* (*Saddharmapuṇḍarīka-Sūtra*) on the recto (Taishō vol. 9, no. 262). In addition, 3 lines in Brāhmī script are written on the upper margin of the Chinese manuscript. Different texts in Brāhmī script on the verso: ll. 6–32: *Prasādapratiḥodhava* (= *Ṣatapañcāśatka*) of Mātṛceṭa (verse 1–13c, identified by Klaus Wille).

Two fragments of a scroll.

Inventory number: *BФ-4190*.
Old finding number: T II Y 4 / T II Y 7.
Number of lines: recto (Chinese): 38+1 headline, recto (Brāhmī): 3, verso (Brāhmī): 3+2+27.
Size: 71.5 cm×26.6 cm; 13.1 cm×26.1 cm.

Identified by Tsuneki Nishiwaki.
Manuscript. Scroll format.

(20) The Old Uighur version of the *Lalitavistara Sūtra* ("Buddha Biography").

Manuscript. Scroll format.

![Image](image_url)

Pl. 38. ВД-528. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВД-528.
Old finding number: Т II Y 32 + Т II Y 21 (**U9371**).
Number of lines: 36.
Size: 57 cm×29 cm.
Reference: MÜLLER 1911, 4–7 (text 1).


Manuscript with prints of small, non-coloured Buddha images. Scroll format. *38*

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*37* Concerning the signature **U9371** see the explanation given for **U9232** in fn. 10.

*38* The fragment of this scroll consists of 5 sheets of paper glued together, as usual for these scrolls. The size of each (complete) paper sheet is: 43 cm×29.7 cm.
Pl. 39. ВΦ-4200, the final part of the fragment. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВΦ-4200.
Old finding number: [ ] Y 66.
Additional note: ящ 102, акт 99 от 27/χ п. 71. 39
Number of lines: 37. 40
Size: 159.5 cm×29.7 cm.

(22) Two fragments are framed together. Only one side of each fragment is visible. The back sides of both fragments are covered by the paperboard which is put in between them.

Pl. 40. ВΦ-4194, beginning of fragment A. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

39 For an explanation concerning the data of this additional note see fn. 12.
40 A note on the back of the frame reads as follows: „Rückseite Schrift“. Remains of this script is clearly visible on the recto side of the fragment between the Chinese text lines, but the back of the fragment is unfortunately covered.
Fragment A: 妙法莲华经度量天地品第二十九 Miaofa lianhua jing du liang tian di pin (~BD 03917, 14-8–14-11).
Manuscript. Scroll fragment.

Fragment B: 妙法莲华经度量天地品第二十九 Miaofa lianhua jing du liang tian di pin di er shi jiu (~BD 03917, 14-12–14-14).
Manuscript. Scroll fragment. Title at the end: 妙法莲华经卷第八.

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41 This scroll fragment consists of 4 sheets of paper. There are 24 text lines on each (complete) sheet of paper. Each line has 16–19 characters. The length of each text line is 19.8 cm.
The complete manuscript of the 妙法蓮華經量度天地品第二十九 Miaofa lianhua jing du liang tian di pin di er shi jiu from Dunhuang is preserved in the National Library of China, Beijing under the shelf number BD 03917. For the incomplete Stein manuscript 1298 from Dunhuang see Taishō vol. 85, no. 2872, 1355c–1356a.

Identified and annotated by Tsuneki Nishiwaki.

Inventory number: ВФ 4194.

Old finding number: Fragment A: none; Fragment B: T II Y 27.

Number of lines: Fragment A: 61 lines; Fragment B: 66 + 1 head line.

Size: Fragment A: 108.2 cm×26.4 cm; Fragment B: 121.2 cm×26.3 cm.

(23) The 佛説佛名經 Foshuo foming jing (Buddhanama-sūtra).

Manuscript with prints of small, partly coloured Buddha images in scroll format.

Pl. 43. ВФ-4725. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Inventory number: ВФ-4725.

Old finding number: T II T.

Former inventory number: IB 6288.

Number of lines: 20.

Size: 63.2 cm×30.0 cm.

Appendix

Edition of the Säkiz Yükmäk Yaruk fragment ВФ-4201 (**U9232, T III TV 61/T III 84)

The preserved fragment is framed. The wooden frame makes it clear that this manuscript must have been on display in the exhibition’s Turfan department of the Museum für Völkerkunde. On the top of the upper bottom line in red color there are added some line numbers in small pencil script. Probably it happened in the course of the work on this manuscript. The first number marked the tenth line. According to this numbering the first visible text line in the framed manuscript is line four. Probably the lines in front of this fourth line are covered by the frame.

It is because the full text of this fragment had been never edited before that in the following the text of this fragment is published here. Some quotations are present in the edition of W. Bang, A. von Gabain and G.R. Rachmati in Türkische Turfantexte VI (TT VI), which is the first edition of the full text of the Säkiz Yükmäk Yaruk (SYY).

Another, much more important reason is that Juten Oda, who recently published an excellent and detailed study on this popular Old Uighur text, was not able to take this manuscript into consideration because it’s surviving was still unknown at this date. In his investigation of the different Old Uighur manuscripts he was able to detect two main versions of the text which he subdivided into two subgroups each, i.e. text versions Ia and Ib, as well as IIC and IId. By studying the text of the rediscovered manuscript, labelled as B 25 in TT VI, we are now able to note that Oda’s text version IIC is the closest, but not completely identical one to the SYY text of the manuscript on hand. For the parallel text cf. BANG/GABAIN/RACHMATI 1934 (B 25) and ODA 2010, 117–140: ll. 151–289 (Text volume). The most striking text variants are marked and a short comment is added in footnotes.

Transcription

(1)–(3) [lines not more visible]
(4) körklä . ön körk körür . ol ön körk tözi yıltızı yänä
(5) yok kurug tetir. ol yokug bilir bilgä bilig ugrayu burhanlar
(6) biligi tetir : ani üçün tnm(İ)g-lar ädgü köni yolçi yerçi bulup

BANG/GABAIN/RACHMATI 1934.


(7) alku törög bälğüg yok kösür : ol tınl(ı)g köånli biligi burhan
(8) -lär-nıŋ köånli biligi tetir. k(a)ltı inça kösür öŋkörk
(9) ulat alta türfüg yagı-ta kuturul burhan kutın bulur. ol kim
(10) öŋ körk tetir. yok kurug yıma ol ok ärür. ol kim yok kurug
(11) tetir. öŋ körk yıma ol ok ärür öŋdä öŋi yok kurug bultukmaz
(12) yok kurug-ta öŋi yıma öŋ körk bultukmaz : ulatı așamak sakınč
(13) kilınč bilig alku inça ök bilmiš ükmis kırgak : inça ötgürü usar
(14) ötö ol öŋ körk yänän tözün öŋlög atl(ı)g burhan tetir
(15) yım kulga türtkaru adrok adrok alkinčısz ün așidür. ol kim ün
(16) tep tetir : yok kurug yıma ol ok ärür. ol kim yok kurug tetir ün
(17) yım ol ok ärür : üntä öŋi yok kurug bultukmaz. yok kurug-ta öŋi
(18) yım ün bultukmaz : inça ötgürü usar ötö ol ok ün yänän sukançığ
(19) ünlög atlı(ı)g burhan tetir : yım buruni türtkaru adrok adrok alkinčısz
(20) ydıypar ydılayur : ol kim ydıypar tetir : yok kurug yıma ol ok ün :
(21) ol kim yok kurug tetir ydıypar yıma ol ok ärür. ydıypar
(22) -ta öngi yok kurug bultukmaz yok kurug-ta öngi yım ydıypar
(23) bultukmaz : inça ötgürü usar ötö ol ok ydıypar yänän yıpar
(24) yümkmak atlı(ı)g burhan tetir. yım tılin türtkaru adrok adrok alkinčı
(25) -siz tatlıgik tatığ tatar ol kim tatlıgik tatığ tep tetir yok kurug
(26) yım ol ok ärür : ol kim yok kurug tetir : tatlıgık tatığ yım ol
(27) ok ärür : tatığ-ta öngi yok kurug bultukmaz. yok kurug-ta öngi
(28) yım tatlıgık tatığ bultukmaz : inça ötgürü usar ötö ol ok
(29) tatlıgık tatığ yänän nom öğrünkči atlı(ı)g burhan tetir. yım atöz
(30) -i türtkaru adrok adrok alkinčısz süyğik burtmak burtar : ol
(31) kim burtmak tetir : yok kurug yım ol ok ärür : ol kim yok kurug
(32) tetir : burtmak yım ol ok ärür : burtmakdä öngi yok kurug

45 törög bälğüg is only attested here, cf. ODA 2010, 117 l. 154 (Text volume).
46 burhanlarnıŋ : only present in T-24, cf. ODA 2010, 117 footnote to line 155 (Text volume).
47 yagıta : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 118 l. 159 (Text volume). Add –ta/-da here in l. 159:
yog quruγ[tai/da]
48 yok kuruga : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 118 l. 159 (Text volume). Add –ta/-da here in l. 159:
yok quruγ[tai/da]
50 atlı(ı)g : only attested here, cf. ODA 2010, 119 l. 162 (Text volume).
51 kurog tetir : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 175 (Text volume).
52 tatlıgık : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 175 (Text volume).
53 tat-Trump : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 175 (Text volume).
54 kuruγ : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 176 (Text volume).
55 tatlıgık : IIb, Ic (tattığ), cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 176 (Text volume).
56 ötö ol ok tatlıgık tatığ yänän : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 121 l. 177 (Text volume). ötö is additional added here.
57 yok kurug : Ia, IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 122 l. 179 (Text volume).
(33) bultukmaz : yok kurug-ta⁵⁹ öğü ymä bürtmäk bultukmaz : inčä ötgürü⁶⁰
(34) usar ötrü ol ok bürtmäk ymä⁶⁰ bilgä bilig yaltılık g alt(ı)g
(35) burhan⁶¹ tetir : ymä köngüli bilig⁶² turkaru⁶³ adrok adrok alıncı sız
(36) törö sakınur adıra⁶⁴ : ol kim törö tep tetir⁶⁵ : yok kurug ymä ol
(37) ok arırd : ol kim yok kurug tetir : törö ymä ol ok arırd : törö-ta⁶⁶
(38) ötgürü yok kurug bultukmaz yok kurug-ta⁶⁷ öğü ymä törö bultuk
(39) -maz : inčä ötgürü usar ötrü ol ok törö ymä⁶⁸ nom yaltılık
(40) alt(ı)g burhan tetir : tözünlar oğlı-y-a iländişi arısdıdići
(41) alt(ı)g altı kaçığ-lar-nıŋ iši küdıki altı törlüg adııkang
(42) -lar bırlıkleri⁶⁹ otıgrak bälğiși bo arırd : birık⁷⁰ kim kayu tnl(ı)g-lar bolar
(43) -ni² ötgürü usar : yaşılınmadın köni oruكا nomlasar turkaru
(44) üzüküz işlässar yımlamasar ötrü⁷² ol tnl(ı)g burhan-lar yol
(45) -na kirmiş-kä sanur : birık muni bilmäcin ukmadın⁷³ adınsıgra
(46) adıra tursar : azu t(двига)rtırtırtı oruıldı yanlıš nomlasar ötrü⁷⁴
(47) ol tnl(ı)g-lar bo yertinçüdi tätzınüri⁷⁵ azu üc y(двига)vıla yol-ta tüşar :
(48) sansız tümän ažunta tugar olılır taloy ügüz tág tårıŋ⁷⁶ ámbak ámban
(49) -ür : tözün-larımlı ámbığ ayıggı kertgünşsi k(двига)rgäk {kğağ}: kim ken ökünma
(50) -sır⁷⁷ : taki ymä tözün-larımlı kamuq tnl(ı)g-lar-nıŋ köngülti alızo
(51) burhan-lar-nıŋ nom idişi tetir : kim üc agılıg iki y(e)ğişi

⁵⁹ yok kurugta : Ia, IIc (kurugda), cf. ODA 2010, 122 l. 181 (Text volume).
⁶⁰ ötrü ol ok bürtmäk ymã : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 122 l. 182 (Text volume).
⁶¹ bultukmaz : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 122 l. 182 (Text volume).
⁶² ymã köngüli biligï : Ia, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 183 (Text volume).
⁶³ turkaru : Ia, Ib, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 183 (Text volume).
⁶⁴ törö sakınur adıra : Ib, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 184 (Text volume).
⁶⁵ tep tetir : only attested here.
⁶⁶ törö-ta : only attested here.
⁶⁷ kurug-ta : only attested here.
⁶⁸ ymä köngüli biligï : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 183 (Text volume).
⁶⁹ turkaru : Ia, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 183 (Text volume).
⁷⁰ törö sakınur adıra : Ib, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 184 (Text volume).
⁷¹ tep tetir : only attested here.
⁷² kurug-ta : only attested here.
⁷⁴ törö ymã : IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 123 l. 188 (Text volume).
⁷⁵ alt(ı)g burhan tetir : tözünlar oğlı-y-a iländişi arısdıdići alt(ı)g altı kaçığ-lar-nıŋ iši küdıki altı törlüg adııkang-lar birläki
⁷⁸ -iŋa kirmış-kä sanur : birık muni bilmäcin ukmadın adınsıgrak
⁷⁹ -lärim adıra tutsar : azu t(двига)rtırtırtı oruıldı tágla nomlasar ötrü

Text volume.


(54) barça: this additional text is attested only here.

(55) tözi: exclusively added here.

(56) tözi: exclusively added here.

(57) tözi: exclusively added here.

(58) tözi: exclusively added here.

(59) tözi: exclusively added here.

(60) tözi: exclusively added here.

(61) tözi: exclusively added here.

(62) tözi: exclusively added here.

(63) tözi: exclusively added here.

(64) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(67) tözi: exclusively added here.

(68) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(70) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(73) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(77) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(80) tözi: exclusively added here.

(81) tözi: exclusively added here.

(82) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(85) tözi: exclusively added here.

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(90) tözi: exclusively added here.

(91) tözi: exclusively added here.

(92) tözi: exclusively added here.

(93) tözi: exclusively added here.

(94) tözi: exclusively added here.

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80 barça: this additional text is attested only here.
81 tözi: exclusively added here.
82 tözi: exclusively added here.
83 tözi: exclusively added here.
84 tözi: exclusively added here.
85 tözi: exclusively added here.
86 tözi: exclusively added here.
87 tözi: exclusively added here.
88 tözi: exclusively added here.
89 tözi: exclusively added here.
90 tözi: exclusively added here.
91 tözi: exclusively added here.
92 tözi: exclusively added here.
93 tözi: exclusively added here.
(76) yert[nč]üdäki kamag[tınlı]g-larta tugmak ülmük bo iki törlü
(77) töro artnçuq agr tegir : tugducka künl[tınlamaz] üdi káltükda
(78) ötrü tugar : öltükda ymä künl tularlaman : üdi t[tınlükta ötrü
(79) öltür : nä ùcün yänän ülök k(a)rgəksiz yirdig ätöz ùcün üldgü künl
(80) üldgü üd tularlayur95 : üldgü künkä üldgü üdük temin təşgarur-lar96 :
(81) ülッグ töru toku kulur-lar97 törü toku külmış-ta ken yänän sökr ol
(82) ok ävda barkда ada tuda bolmədän barmaz : ig agrig ülüm itim98
(83) [bolu]r : agi bärm søcüp tükülür taki antag bolur : ol kapig tunar
(84) nā tusu bolü99 ol üldgü künl üldgü üd körmisi : ämti t(ä)ngirim bo
(85) muttag [t[ärs]] bilülig100 ayig kılınç-lig t(ı)nlıg-larka köni yol oruk körgitü
(86) bir[g(a)y ärti ] : kim köni yolça kö[n]i orukça yorzung-lar ärti :
(87) tärş tätürü törö-sin kozun-lar ärti t(ä)ngirim : t(a)nri t(ä)ngiris surhan
(88) inçä tep təyrilikdə101 : sadu sadu tidigsiz bodis(a)t(a)v siz t(ı)nlıg-lar
(89) ücün artnçuq k(a)rğaglıq sav aytdınüz : ämti siz köduru102 təyän
(90) otguratt nomla[yu beräyin : ymä bo yerli t(ä)ngrilı arısr yetinçisiz
(91) [yetiz keŋ] alkı103 arig turug yazineçisiz ärtür : kün-li ay-li arısrä
(92) [artınjı yaruk yaşuk üldgü kılınçlıg alku-ka y(a)vlaksz şe tı104 üd
(93) -li kolu-lı yil-li taki artokraq üldgü artnçı yavaş {kim}105-käs arısrä106 näŋ
(94) y(a)vlaık yok adroq adroq təxšılmäki idı yok : tözün-lärin107 b[o]
(95) yertinşüddäki eligilär han-[l]a]r108 tegma bärča bodis(a)t(a)v-lar şe tı[tınlıg]
(96) -lar ücün ätöz təxšürüp kälir-lär109 : ol elig-lär han-lar ymä alkuka
(97) y(a)vıdankançuq köngü-lüp ücün kamag bodunug inçä iqdır kaltu ög

95 üldgü künl üldgü üd tularlayur: exclusively attested here.
97 kulurlar: attested only here.
98 ölüm itim: attested only here.
99 ol kapig tunar na tusu bolı: IIc, cf. ölüm itim
101 [t(a)]ngiri t(a)ngiris surhan inçä tep təyrilikdə: Ia, Ib, cf. Öda 2010, 131 ll. 238–239 (Text volume).
103 ymä bo yerli t(ä)ngrilı arısr yetinçisiz {yetiz keŋ} alkıg: Ic, cf. Öda 2010, 132 l. 241 (Text volume).
105 The place for this subsequent addition is marked with the sign “+”.
(98) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ [igidür]  [bird ky-ä känč amrak uri] [110] exclusively attested here.
(99) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [y(1a)vlak] sakınčı yok üstürdi [kodı inär-lär] [111] kodı inär-lär [kamag]
(100) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [112] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(101) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [113] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(102) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [114] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(103) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [115] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(104) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [116] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(105) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [117] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(106) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [118] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(107) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [119] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(108) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [120] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(109) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [121] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(110) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [122] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(111) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [123] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(112) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [124] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(113) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [125] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(114) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [126] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(115) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [127] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(116) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [128] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(117) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [129] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(118) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [130] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(119) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [131] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(120) -nüŋ kaŋ-nıŋ  [kodı inär-lär] [132] kodı inär-lär [kamag].
(121) oglum kim kayu tın(t)ıg tugsar [ ]
(122) -un ol ogul özgin ámbätma[d]ın [ ]
(123) bilgä ıgsız ámbäksız ada[sız [ ]
(124) kim kayu tın(t)ıg ılsär124 ymä [ ]
(125) keniŋä nän ada tuda bolm[agay] T/[ ]
(126) ay-lar takı ädgü yil-ka125 kältä[çı ]
(127) takı tözün ärın[i] tavaš : bitig okip [ ]
(128) tuda bolgusi yok : ılg-kä törö tok[ul ]
(129) -ig [u]ł kata okızun ärın[i] kutadur /[ ]
(130) bolur : ol äv126 kün kuniŋä yokara a[sılur [ ]
(131) kotsar burhan-ler yeriŋä bar[r]-lar127 : ta[1 ]

Pl. 44. ВΦ-4201, II. 4–37. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

124 kim kayu tın(t)ıg ılsär: attested only here, but very close to Oda’s version IIc, cf. ODA 2010, 139 l. 280 (Text volume).
126 äv: hardly readable. The ink is faded out. Ia, Ib, IIc: äv bark, cf. ODA 2010, 140 l. 287 (Text volume).
127 burhan-ler yeriŋä bar[r]-lar: attested only here.
Pl. 45. ВΦ-4201, ll. 36–66. By courtesy of the State Hermitage

Pl. 46. ВΦ-4201, ll. 58–87. By courtesy of the State Hermitage
References


