

FOREWORD

This special issue of the *Revue d'Études Tibétaines* is devoted to Mi la ras pa's biographical compendia, a specific category of elaborated hagiographies gathering numerous episodes and spiritual songs prior to gTsang smyon He ru ka's famous *Life and Songs*. It consists of a twofold study elaborated in concert by the two authors.

The first article by Kristin Blancke, *Life and Songs of the Glorious Laughing Vajra, The "bZhad pa'i rDo rje Compendia,"* presents a general overview and analysis of the at present available compendia introducing a new classification of the various texts based on the comparison of their content.

The second article by Etienne Bock, *Groping in the Dark Treasury*, offers a detailed presentation of a manuscript hosted at the Tibet Museum – Fondation Alain Bordier. In a systematic comparison of the manuscript with the other available versions of the compendia, it explores the entire corpus and questions the present understanding on a variety of topics.

As this is a single work in two parts, the bibliographical references are available at the end of the volume along with the Appendixes.

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ABBREVIATIONS

RBC, *Ras pa bu chen bcu gnyis*. **The Twelve Great Ras pa Disciples**

- Ms-Newark, manuscript at Newark museum.
- Ms-Oxford, manuscript at Bodleian library, Oxford.
- RBC-Pt, modern edition, dPal brtsegs Publishing House.
- Ms-Drukpa, manuscript on BDRC.
- Ms-Gansu, facsimile in *In Bod kyi snga rabs dam pa rnams kyi gsung chos phyag bris ma rin chen gser phreng, kan su'u rig gnas dpe skrun khang*, Bam po 19 vols. 22-25.
- Ms-BDRC, untitled *dbu med* manuscript.
- Ms-Bordier, unpublished *dbu med* manuscript in the collection of the Tibet Museum – Fondation Alain Bordier.
- Ms-Lhasa, unpublished *dbu med* manuscript 'Bras spung dkar chag: phyi ra 42, 017082.

DNM-RD, *mDzod nag ma*. **The Dark/Black Treasury** In *Karma pa rang byung rdo rje'i gsung 'bum*.

- DNM-RD1: 2006. computerised *dbu can* edition, Zi ling version.
- DNM-RD2: 2011. In *rJe btsun mi la ras pa'i gsung 'bum* vol. 2 & 3, dPal brtsegs.
- DNM-RD3: 2013. In *dPal rgyal dbang karma pa sku phreng rim byon gyi gsung 'bum phyogs bsgrigs*. dPal brtsegs vol. 23 (pa).

BCG, *Byin rlabs kyi chu rgyun*. **A River of Blessings**

- Ms-Smith, unpublished *dbu med* manuscript in the collection of E. Gene Smith.
- Ms-India, *dbu med* manuscript published in Dalhousie: Damchoe Sangpo, 1978. 2 vols.
- Ms-Drepung, facsimile In *Bod kyi lo rgyus rnam thar phyogs bsgrigs* (91-120), Zi ling, 2015, vol. 111 & 112.
- BCG-Drikung, *dbu can* handwritten text In *'Bri gung bka' brgyud chos mdzod chen mo*. Lhasa: S.N., 2004, vol. 7 & 8.
- BCG-Si khron, Chengdu: Si khron mi rigs dpes krun khang, 2008, 2 vols.

Ms-BL, unpublished *dbu med* manuscript, British Library Or 16756.