



Tibet und Himalaya-Colloquium

Friday, 31.10.2025, 14:15 Berlin time

University of Bonn, IOA, Room 4.006

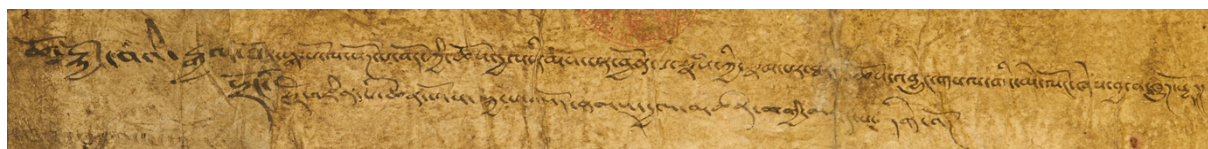
Brühler Strasse 7, 53119 Bonn

Attendance is also possible via the following Zoom link:

<https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/66002983371>

Law & the Tibetan Empire

**as seen in a manuscript in the British Library,
shelfmark reference Or.5351**



*Charles Manson, University of Oxford,
Tibetan Subject Librarian, Bodleian Libraries and British Library*

A manuscript in Tibetan cursive writing has lain largely unnoticed in the British Library for 100 years. The manuscript was purchased from Lt-Col Austin Waddell, in the late 19th century, a few years before he participated in the Younghusband Expedition into Tibet in 1904.

The text is a copy of the *Rgyal rabs gsal ba'i me long*, which contains an account of Emperor Songtsen Gampo's reign, including his negotiation of marriages to Chinese and Nepalese princesses, and the establishment of Tibetan script and laws during his reign. This presentation will then give some consideration of the early laws during Songtsen Gampo's reign, and some details of the recent AHRC project (Oxford) on Tibetan Law texts.

Charles Manson is a librarian at both The Bodleian Library (Oxford) and the British Library (London). He is the author of *'The Second Karmapa, Karma Pakshi: Tibetan Mahasiddha'*, a 13th-century historical figure credited with being very influential in the development of the reincarnate lama ('Living Buddhas') tradition of Tibet.

ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED ARE WELCOME!

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