

On the Mongolian Versions of *the Ratna-guṇa-samcaya-gāthā*

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This paper aims to show that the Mongolian versions of the *Rgs* or *Quriyangyui silüg* are of linguistic as well as philological interest and importance.

There are three versions of the Mongolian *Rgs*, which we will call version A1, A2 and B respectively. To version A1 belong No. 767 of the Mongolian Kanjur and a text contained in No. 34 of *Heissig's PLB*. To version A2 belong the texts contained in a series of dhāraṇi collections, No. 13, 49, 67, 72 included in the *PLB*. Version B is the 84th chapter of *the Prajñā-pāramitā of 18.000 verses*, No. 764 of the Mongolian Kanjur.

Each of the texts has an extremely brief colophon explaining when, where and by whom it was translated into Mongolian. The colophons of A1 and A2 record that they are the 84th chapter of *the prajñā-pāramitā of 18.000 verses*, but the lines are so different from each other that A1, A2 and B cannot be variants of the same original. Besides we find in the former two many archaic forms not to be found in B. Though lines in the former two coincide in many stanzas, they differ from each other in the names of the authors of the Tibetan translations, in number of the lines and in divisions into chapters.

All the texts available at present are publications of the 18th century and indeed the lines of version B show linguistic features of that period, but we can safely believe that version A1 and A2 are based upon the original(s) of the pre-classical period, since we find many archaic forms peculiar to that period : a remnant of pre-classical orthography *qi*, plural forms with *-n*, a number of verbal forms with *-run/-rūn*, three instances of *būgsen*, which has been attested so far only in six instances in works of the pre-classical period, and so forth, all of which offer strong evidence for the ancient origin of the Mongolian *Rgs*.