

# Identifying the Last Three Fragments of Nepalese Sanskrit Manuscript in the Collection of Toyo Bunko Brought by Ven. Ekai Kawaguchi

Shanker THAPA, SASAKI Kazunori and SHOJI Fumio

## Foreword

Toyo Bunko has some Nepalese Sanskrit manuscripts in its vast possession of classical works written in various pre-modern languages. KANEKO, MATSUNAMI and SAITO [1979] serves as the comprehensive catalogue of this collection of priceless heritage of Nepal which was brought to Japan by Ven. Ekai Kawaguchi. This catalogue gives us titles of contents along with other bibliographical descriptions for almost all possessions in the collection, while 6 fragmentary manuscripts remained un-identified in it. KANO [2009] and HORI [2012] have served supplemental works respectively, thus, for now, only three manuscripts are to be identified yet<sup>(1)</sup>.

Those remaining fragments are so small without a bibliographical part like colophon that mere philologists would not even hit upon titles in them. It, however, would be provable that a expert / practitioner of Nepalese religious literature, who are familiar with various works that are used in daily ritual they perform of participate in, can come across hints of titles at a glance over lines in fragments however small they are<sup>(2)</sup>. So, our team of four, Dr. Shanker THAPA and Ms. Nirmala K. C. from Tribhuvan University, Nepal along with Dr. SHOJI Fumio and SASAKI Kazunori from Rissho University in Tokyo, observed Toyo Bunko collection<sup>(3)</sup>. We worked on manuscripts nos. 9, 22 and 23 as listed in the catalogue published by the Toyo Bunko refered above. We tried to identify exact titles of those fragments with discussion

among a practicing *Vajracarya* priest, a Professor of Sanskrit literature and a Buddhist historian in Nepal. The result is described below.

All these three fragments are tiny pieces of three manuscripts. The titles of those manuscripts nos. 9, 22 and 23 are identified respectively as *Tārā Stuti*, *Sanṅkaṭā Stotra* and *Bhairava Stotra*. Thus the Catalogue of the collection is finally completed.

### 1. Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 9

Ms. no. 9 has only one folio written in Pracalit Newārī script on both sides. It contains folio 3 recto and folio 4 verso sides. It has verse 56 of the Stuti supplemented with only a half line of verse 57 appearing there. Pagination appears on the top left. This was done later by the owner as pagination normally appears on the right edge of the folio. Its particulars are -

Title:	Tārā Stuti
Subject:	Buddhist Stotra
Folios:	1
Size:	30.7 X 8.8 cms
Material:	Paper
Margin:	Four sides Right/left margins separated from the text with twin parallel lines
Script:	Pracalit Newārī
Language:	Sanskrit
Writings:	Six lines
Ink:	Black organic
Provenance:	Newār Buddhist Ms[Nepal]
Writing:	Fine
Date:	Not known

The first line of the extant folio thus goes -

... liye huṃ svāhā . Vajra lāsyā huṃ svāhā. Vajra vīra huṃ svāhā. Vajra gīta huṃ svāhā. Vajra nṛtya huṃ svāhā. Sugandhāyā svāhā. Supuṣpāya svāhā. Khundhupāya Svāhā...

And it ends with -

Huṃkāra purame deva huṃkāra siddhi bhānjanāḥ. Huṃkāraṃ caruve śunyaṃ Huṃkāraṃ tu namāmyahaṃ

## 2 . Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 22

Ms. no. 22 and 23 are kept together inside the same wooden book cover. This folio has folio 1 recto and verso and folio 2 verso. It has bold writing. Its details are -

Title:	Saṅkaṭā Stotra
Subject:	Stuti of Goddess Durgā
Folios:	2
Size:	17.6 X 6 cms
Material:	Paper
Margin:	Four sides;
Script:	Pracalit Newārī
Language:	Sanskrit
Writings:	Five lines
Ink:	Black organic
Provenance:	Newār Hindu Ms [Nepal]
Writing:	Bold writing
Date:	Not known

The beginning line thus goes:

Om śrī Saṅkṛtāye namaḥ. Śrī Nārada uvāca. Jaigīṣavya mūnī  
śreṣṭha sarvajña sukha dāyaka.

Originally, this Stotra comes from one of the Purāṇas spoken by Vaisampāyana. Here it is recited in the Mahābhārata for mitigating crises. Folios numbered 1 and 2 do not seem to belong to the same book. If it does, folio 2 might have been wrongly numbered. If not, it could be a lost folio of another manuscript of the same title. This is because folio 1 and 2 have no textual connection.

### 3. Toyo Bunko Manuscript no. 23

Manuscript no. 23 contains only one folio no. 10 recto and folio 11 verso. The first section in the folio contains miniature painting of very popular Hindu deity Bhairava sitting on the body of a demon holding various attributes. This image is the wrathful emanation of Śiva (Fig. 1). It contains Ślokas 43 to 47 along with half a line from Śloka 48 at the end of folio 11 verso. Its details are -

Title:	Bhairava Stotra
Subject:	Hindu Stotra
Folios:	1
Size:	17.6 X 6 cms
Material:	Paper
Margin:	Four sides;
Script:	Pracalit Newārī
Language:	Sanskrit
Miniature:	Bhairava
Writings:	Five lines
Ink:	Black organic

Provenance: Newār Hindu Ms [Nepal]

Writing status: Bold writing

Date: Not known

The recto side of folio 11 thus goes -

Om̐ Bhailabhilaṃ lodaṃ ghora gambira rupinaṃ nirājanaṃ nibhaṃ  
dehaṃ mahākāya mahosarva.

There are explanatory notes written by Ekai Kawaguchi on wooden cover (Fig.2).

#### Notes

- (1) Cf. KANEKO, MATSUNAMI and SAITO [1979]. Those 6 unidentified manuscripts in this catalogue are namely nos. 3-B, 9, 22, 23, 27 and 28. Further researches have been carried out by KANO [2009] (for no.3-B) and HORI [2012] (for nos. 27 and 28). Prof. HORI informed us on personal instruction the existence of three unidentified manuscripts, which we work on here.
- (2) As to our stance for placing importance on ritual point of view with regard to studying Scripture Culture in Nepal Buddhism, See SASAKI and SHOJI [2019].
- (3) Cf. THAPA, Sasaki and SHOJI [2018]. On related topic, See also to THAPA and SASAKI [2018].

Figures



Fig.1

大聖歡喜天供法寫	
■ 世菩薩儀軌	二上
紺書金泥寫	二
梵文陀羅尼集	の
紺書金泥	ほへ

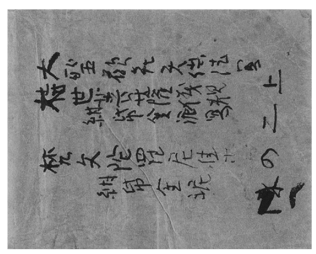


Fig.2

## References

- HORI Shin'ichirō, 2012, “Notes on Two Unidentified Sanskrit Manuscripts of the Toyo Bunko”, *Philological report from the Toyo Bunko* 44, pp.1-24.
- KANEKO Ryotai, MATSUNAMI Yoshihiro and SAITO Kojun, 1979 “Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Possession of the Toyo Bunko”, *Memoirs of the Research Department of the Toyo Bunko* 37, pp.159-191.
- KANO Kazuo, 2009, “Newly Identified Sanskrit Text Fragments in the Tucci Collection”, *Journal of Indian and Buddhist studies* 57(2), pp. (157)-(163), 2009
- SASAKI Kazunori and Shoji Fumio, 2019, “A Study on Scripture Worship in the Kathmandu Valley An Interim Review with a Prospect of a New Approach for the Philological Study of Sanskrit Buddhism”, *The Rissho International Journal of Academic Research in Culture and Society* 2, (to be Printed).
- Shanker THAPA and SASAKI Kazunori, 2018, “Books That Travelled from Kathmandu to Tokyo: Revisiting Kawaguchi Manuscripts in the Collections of Rissho University, U-Tokyo and the Toyo Bunko”, *Journal of Institute for the Comprehensive Study of Lotus Sutra* 44, pp.15-24.
- Shanker THAPA, SASAKI Kazunori and SHOJI Fumio, 2018, “Surveying Sanskrit Buddhist Manuscripts in Japan and Construction of Newār Book History”, *Abhilekha* 35, pp.176-186.

[This research was supported by: Rissho University Nepal Academic-research Project (RNAP)]

シャンカル・タパ（トリブヴァン大学教授）  
佐々木一憲（立正大学講師） 庄司史生（立正大学講師）