



FACULTY OF ARTS Charles University

Institute of Asian Studies

Denis Barát, *sGra sbyor bom po gnyis pa, An Early Sanskrit-Tibetan Glossary of Buddhist Terms*. Bachelor Thesis. Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2022, 49 pp.

Supervisor's Statement

In addition to Tibetan studies, Denis Barát also studies Sanskrit and his interest focuses on Buddhism. In view of these circumstances, we decided together on a topic for his bachelor thesis concerning a rare surviving document from the early 9th century testifying to the means of translating Buddhist literature from Sanskrit into Tibetan. This document is entitled *sGra sbyor bam po gnyis pa* and is essentially a glossary of Sanskrit Buddhist terms containing Tibetan translations and brief explanations of them. At the end of the work, Denis provides translations of fourteen entries along with explanations that are various epithets of the Buddha. The preceding sections of the thesis outlines the historical context for the creation of similar documents that, from an external perspective, appear to resemble dictionaries but were binding lexical documents used for the purposes of Sanskrit-to-Tibetan translations. Very useful chapter 4 (Analyzing terms in *sGra sbyor bam po gnyis pa*, p. 28-29) sheds light on different approaches towards rendering the Sanskrit terms into Tibetan.

I mentioned to Denis at the outset several key secondary works touching on the topic of the thesis. However, the relatively rich bibliography therein is the result of his careful literature search, including the various existing editions of the Tibetan text. It should be noted that many of the secondary literature texts are very difficult in terms of content and proper understanding of them. This Denis managed without difficulty.

He proceeded entirely independently in his work and sent the final form to me for comment, where I suggested only minor technical changes. The thesis is very well



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structured and the individual chapters have a logical continuity. Denis shows that he can extract important information from the literature and further work with it.

The thesis is very good in terms of the quality of formal processing. The English is clear and fluent, the citations are formally correct, and the frequent transcriptions of Tibetan are adequate.

The translation of the fourteen entries and the commentaries presented at the end of the thesis was a difficult task. The Tibetan text is very often concise and fragmentary, and therefore requires painstaking work to translate. Denis' knowledge of Sanskrit certainly helped in this. I note that he handled this task with honour, although translating such texts carries risks and to avoid them requires presenting alternative readings.

In conclusion, I state that this bachelor's thesis is outstanding in terms of its processing and content. Denis is certainly a talented student with skills crucial to the field. It is a pleasure to work with him. I propose to grade the bachelor thesis "excellent".

Prague, June 15, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Berounský".

Daniel Berounský

supervisor
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