

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)

cordially invites you to a lecture on

Maitrisimit and Daśakarmapathāvadānamālā: Indian Buddhist Texts in the guise of Old Turkic manuscripts

Professor Jens Peter Laut (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)

**Thursday, 16 January 2020
6 pm**

Most of the Old Uighur texts are Buddhist, and almost all are translations from Indian languages, Chinese, Tocharian, Tibetan or Middle Iranian. Two particularly important and extensive texts from the pre-Classical period are Maitrisimit and Daśakarmapathāvadānamālā. The first deals with the life and work of the future Buddha Maitreya, the other – unique in Buddhist literary history – is ordered according to the "Ten Acts". Both texts have been translated from Tocharian, but go back to (unknown) Sanskrit works or concepts. The lecture will explain the structure and content of both works and will consider translation strategies of the Ancient Uighurs. Besides this, it will discuss the outer form of the manuscripts, which, like many early Old Uighur texts, are imitations of the Indian Pustaka manuscripts. Both manuscripts feature the well readable so-called Sūtra script of the Uighurs, which is a development of the Middle-Iranian Sogdian script.

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