

Liu Manqing: a Sino-Tibetan adventurer lady in the 1930s

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After a first trip from Nanking to Lhasa in 1929/1930, Liu Manqing (1906–1941), a Sino-Tibetan lady devoted her life to the safeguard of Tibet and Khams, having an avant-garde Sino-Tibetan point of view. The two trips that she did to Tibet (the first one in 1929, the second in 1938) demonstrated a real heroism at a time where travelling was not so safe and her commitment into the Khampas community located in Nanjing showed some sort of nationalism.

However, having the Chinese nationality although being born in Lhasa (from a Chinese father and a Tibetan mother), created many troubles in her mind as she had to manage at the same time her belief in the Chinese policies towards Tibet and her strong wishes to help Tibet. We will explain her own involvement during her first trip, and the reaction created by her heroic behaviour among her Tibetan and Chinese contemporaries from Republican China and, later, among people from the People Republic of China and from Western countries (no Tibetan testimony seems available today).

The welcome Liu Manqing received after her first trip to Lhasa encouraged her to get closer from the Nanjing Khampas community and to create Khampas associations. These associations were very active during the Mainland China resistance war against Japan and some of their members travelled to Lhasa in 1938. Liu Manqing, herself, went back to Tibet in 1938. We will assess if any shifts occurred in her behaviour, in term of heroism and nationalism, from her first trip to Tibet to the second one, given the context of the Tibetan national history.