

A newly rediscovered manuscript edition of the *Mañjuśrīnāmasaṅgī*

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During the restoration works of the 'Khor chags (Kho char / Kha char) monastery, undertaken in 2000 by the Italian Ngo A.S.I.A, a large number of manuscript texts of great interest were discovered in a hollow space, between two walls of the XIII cent bKra shis brtsegs pa'i *gtsug lag khang*.

The buried volumes, most of them fragmentary copies, might represent an exceptional find for the history of the second phase of propagation of the Buddhist doctrines in Western Tibet, as well as for the history of the formation of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. Among the volumes, I have identified a manuscript, annotated edition of the *Mañjuśrīnāmasaṅgī* (MNS), a text that, as is well known, has been of crucial importance in the religious history of Tibet since the VIII century. Moreover, the cult of the Bodhisattva Manjusri holds a particular significance in the history of the 'Khor chags monastic settlement, if we consider that, according to the legend recorded in the *Kho char dkar chags*, the adjoining temple, the Yid bzhin lhun grub *gtsug lag khang*, was purposely built by the Gu ge dynasty in 996 to house the famous silver "talking" statue of the Bodhisattva Mañjuśrī.

Through the paleographical and philological analysis of this manuscript edition of the MNS I hope to contribute to the study of the development of the religious and philosophical thought in the Tibetan middle ages.