

## Poetical prefaces of manuscript texts from Western Tibet

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On two occasions I have had the opportunity to point out the value of the contents of the preface folios found at the beginning of some manuscripts. First, in *Tabo Studies II* (edited by C.A. Sherrer-Schaub and E.Steinkellner, SOR LXXXVII, Roma 1999, pp.191–204), I related a description of the frontispiece of a complete manuscript of the “Sutra of the Golden light” indicating its peculiarity. So, too, in a paper in honour of Prof. Raniero Gnoli, ( “Due fogli manoscritti da Tabo conservati nel Fondo Tucci” in *Le Parole e i Marmi*, SOR XCII, 1, Roma 2001, pp. 237–247) where I studied two manuscript folios containing a preface to a lost manuscript. In addition to these two folios, there is a small similar group of sheets kept in the Tucci Fund, whose contents I catalogued as: “introductory praise or preface folio to lost manuscripts” in my forthcoming “The Catalogue of the Tucci Tibetan Fund vol.II. ” In order to complete the examination of this kind of folios, including those found at the beginning to other complete manuscript texts, which are all from Western Tibet, my paper will deal with the contents, the formal aspect and the historical information of them.