



Scuola Italiana di Studi
sull'Asia Orientale
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International Research Center
Institute for Research in Humanities,
Kyoto University

KYOTO LECTURES

Friday, October 24th, 18:00h

SPEAKER | **Imre Galambos**

Manuscripts and Travellers 10th Century Travel Documents from Dunhuang

Among the manuscripts acquired at Dunhuang by M. Aurel Stein and deposited in the India Office Library, there is a small set of Tibetan and Chinese texts related to the pilgrimage of a Chinese monk in the second half of the 10th century. This material constitutes first-hand evidence for one among a large wave of pilgrims that travelled from China to India in search of the Dharma and Buddhist scriptures. Although originally pasted together into a single scroll, the documents were separated by modern conservators in three separate sheets of paper, revealing some of the content that had been hidden for centuries. These contents show the intersection between various spheres of activity, which is perhaps the most apparent feature of the material: the interaction between a Chinese traveller and the Tibetan inhabitants of the Hexi corridor; between the religious and political realms; and between the Tibetan and Chinese languages themselves. This talk will address the relationship between the heterogeneous and seemingly disconnected parts of the original manuscript. Such composite texts are by no means rare in the Dunhuang corpus, but there has been a tendency to regard them as a result of early conservation work, as one of the documents that was simply recycled as patch paper. While examples of early conservation no doubt exist, it is likely that in many cases the items joint together were interconnected, and their selection was by no means random. In the case of our monk travelling through the Hexi corridor, there are indications that each component had significance from the point of the pilgrimage.

Imre Galambos is the Overseas Project Manager of the International Dunhuang Project (IDP) at the British Library. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley where he did research on Chinese manuscripts from the Warring States period. His book *Orthography of Early Chinese Writing: Evidence from Newly Excavated Manuscripts* was published in 2006. Working at IDP in London, he gradually became involved in the study of the Dunhuang manuscripts, focusing on orthography and its implications for the dating of documents. During the year 2007-2008 he spent nearly a year at Ryukoku University researching the history of the Otani collection.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities,
Kyoto University (seminar room, 1st floor).

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