Tibetan Literature Studies In Genre

Tibetan Literature—Jose Ignacio Cabezón 1996-01-01 Tibetan Literature addresses the immense variety of Tibet's literary heritage. An introductory essay by the editors attempts to assess the overall nature of literature in Tibet and to understand some of the ways in which it may be analyzed into genres. The remainder of the book contains articles by nearly thirty scholars from America, Europe, and Asia—each of whom addresses an important genre of Tibetan literature. These articles are distributed among eight major rubrics: two on history and biography, six on canonical and quasi-canonical texts, four on philosophical literature, four on literature on the paths, four on ritual, four on literary arts, four on non-literary arts and sciences, and two on guidebooks and reference works.

Tibetan Literature—Leslie Lhundrup Sopa 1996

Tibetan Literary Genres, Texts, and Text Types- 2015-09-14 The papers in Tibetan Literary Genres, Texts, and Text Types investigate specific Tibetan genres and texts as well as genre classification, transformation, and reception. The text types examined range from oral trickster narratives to songs, offering-rituals, biographies, and modern literature. Modern Tibetan Literature and Social Change—Lauran R. Hartley 2008-06-25 Modern Tibetan Literature and Social Change is the first systematic and detailed overview of modern Tibetan literature, which has burgeoned only in the last thirty years. This comprehensive collection brings together fourteen pioneering scholars in the nascent field of Tibetan literary studies, including authors who are active in the Tibetan literary world itself. These scholars examine the literary output of Tibetan authors writing in Tibetan, Chinese, and English, both in Tibet and in the Tibetan diaspora. The contributors explore the circumstances that led to the development of modern Tibetan literature, its continuities and breaks with classical Tibetan literary forms, and the ways that writers use forms such as magical realism, satire, and humor to negotiate literary freedom within the People’s Republic of China. They provide crucial information about Tibetan writers’ lives in China and abroad, the social and political contexts in which they write, and the literary merits of their oeuvre. Along with deep social, cultural, and political analysis, this wealth of information clarifies the complex circumstances that Tibetan writers face in the PRC and the diaspora. The contributors consider not only poetry, short stories, and novels but also other forms of cultural production—such as literary magazines, films, and Web sites—that provide a public forum in the Tibetan areas of the PRC, where censorship and restrictions on public gatherings remain the norm. Modern Tibetan Literature and Social Change includes a previously unavailable list of modern Tibetan works translated into Western languages and a comprehensive English-language index of names, subjects, and terms. Contributors: Pema Bhum, Howard Y. F. Choy, Yangdon Dondup, Lauran R. Hartley, Hortsang Jigme, Matthew T. Kapstein, Nancy G. Lin, Lara Maconi, François Robin, Patricia Schiaffini-Vedani, Ronald D. Schwartz, Tsering Shakya, Sangye Gyatso (aka Gangzhin), Steven J. Venturino, Riika Virtanen

Oral and Literary Continuities in Modern Tibetan Literature—Lama Jabb 2015-06-10 This book reveals that the roots of modern Tibetan literature grow in the rich and fertile soil of Tibet’s oral and literary traditions, rather than in the 1980s as current scholarship presents. The Hidden History of the Tibetan Book of the Dead—Bryan J. Cuevas Assistant Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies 2003-03-27 In 1927, Oxford University Press published the first western-language translation of a collection of Tibetan funerary texts (the Great Liberation upon Hearing in the Bardo) under the title The Tibetan Book of the Dead. Since that time, the work has established a powerful hold on the western popular imagination, and is now considered a classic of spiritual literature. Over the years, the Tibetan Book of the Dead has inspired numerous commentaries, an illustrated edition, a play, a video series, and even an opera. Translators, scholars, and popular devotees of the book have claimed to explain its esoteric ideas and reveal its hidden meaning. Few, however, have uttered a word about its history. Bryan J. Cuevas seeks to fill this gap in our knowledge by offering the first comprehensive historical study of the Great Liberation upon Hearing in the Bardo, and by grounding it firmly in the context of Tibetan history and culture. He begins by discussing the many ways the text has been understood (and misunderstood) by westerners, beginning with its first editor, the Oxford-educated anthropologist Walter Y. Evans-Wentz, and continuing through the present day. The remarkable fame of the book in the west, Cuevas argues, is strikingly disproportionate to how the original Tibetan texts were perceived in their own country. Cuevas tells the story of how The Tibetan Book of the Dead was compiled in Tibet, of the lives of those who preserved and transmitted it, and explores the history of the rituals through which the life of the dead is imagined in Tibetan society. This book provides not only a fascinating look at a popular and enduring spiritual work, but also a much-needed corrective to the proliferation of ahistorical scholarly tradition surrounding The Tibetan Book of the Dead.


Historical Dictionary of Tibet-John Powers 2020-10-22 Historical Dictionary of Tibet, Second Edition is a comprehensive resource for Tibetan history, politics, religion, major figures, prehistory and paleontology, with a primary emphasis on the modern period. It also covers the surrounding areas influenced by Tibetan religion and culture, including India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Central Asia, and Russia. It contains a chronology, a glossary, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 500 cross-referenced entries on important personalities as well as aspects of the country’s politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, and culture. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Tibet.


Tibetan Renaissance-Ronald M. Davidson 2008 How did a society on the edge of collapse and dominated by wandering bands of armed men give way to a vibrant Buddhist culture, led by yogins and scholars? Ronald M. Davidson explores how the translation and spread of esoteric Buddhist texts dramatically shaped Tibetan society and led to its rise as the center of Buddhist culture throughout Asia, replacing India as the perceived source of religious ideology and tradition. During the Tibetan Renaissance (950-1200 C.E.), monks and yogins translated an enormous number of Indian Buddhist texts. They employed the evolving literature and practices of tantric Buddhism as the basis to reconstruct Tibetan religious, cultural, and political institutions. Many translators achieved the de facto status of feudal lords and while not always loyal to their Buddhist vows, these figures helped solidify political power in the hands of religious authorities and began a process that led to the Dalai Lama’s theocracy. Davidson’s vivid portraits of the monks, priests, popular preachers, yogins, and aristocratic clans who changed Tibetan society and culture further enhance his perspectives on the tensions and transformations that characterized medieval Tibet.

Apparitions of the Self-Jigs-med-gling-pa Rang-byung-rdo-rje 1999-11-21 Apparitions of the Self is a groundbreaking investigation into what is known in Tibet as “secret autobiography,” an exceptional, rarely studied literary genre that presents a personal exploration of intimate religious experiences. In this volume, Janet Gyatso translates and studies the outstanding pair of secret autobiographies by the famed Tibetan Buddhist visionary, Jigme Lingpa (1730-1798), whose poetic and self-conscious writings are as much about the nature of his own identity, memory, and the undecidabilities of autobiographical truth as they are narrations of the actual content of his experiences. Their translation in this book marks the first time that works of this sort have been translated in a Western language. Gyatso is among the first to consider Tibetan literature from a comparative perspective, examining the surprising fit—as well as the misfit—of Western literary theory with Tibetan autobiography. She examines the intriguing questions of why Tibetan Buddhists produced so many autobiographies (far more than other Asian Buddhists) and how autobiographical self-assertion is possible even while Buddhists believe that the self is ultimately an illusion. Also explored are Jigme Lingpa’s historical milieu, his revelatory visions of the ancient Tibetan dynasty, and his meditative practices of personal cultivation. The book concludes with a study of the subsersive female figure of the “Dakini” in Jigme Lingpa’s writings, and the implications of her self-portrayal of gender and sexuality, and self-portraying acts for the autonomy and the subject in Tibetan Buddhism.

Learning Classical Tibetan-Paul Hackett 2019-04-30 A modern and accessible reader of Classical Tibetan Buddhist texts based on the traditional monastic educational system, designed for both classroom use and independent study. The reader includes all the necessary language, grammar, vocabulary, and stylistic tools of Classical Tibetan, as well as contextual introductions to each reading. The reader provides a practical and complete manual that will surely benefit all students of Classical Tibetan.

Manual of Standard Tibetan-Nicolas Tournadre 2003 The Manual of Standard Tibetan presents the everyday speech of Lhasa as it is currently used in Tibet and among the Tibetan diaspora. It not only places the language in its natural context but also highlights along the way key aspects of Tibetan civilization and Vajrayana Buddhism. The Manual, which consists of forty-one lessons, is illustrated with many drawings and photographs and also includes two informative political and linguistic maps of Tibet. Two CDs provide an essential oral complement to the Manual. A detailed introduction presents a linguistic overview of spoken and written Tibetan.

Resistant Hybridities-Shelly Bhoi 2020-11-12 With its analytic focus on the cultural production by Tibetans-in-exile, this volume examines contemporary Tibetan fiction, poetry, music, art, cinema, pamphlets, testimony, and memoir. The twelve case studies highlight the themes of Tibetans’ self-representation, politicized national consciousness, religious and cultural heritages, and resistance to the forces of colonization. This book demonstrates how Tibetan cultural narratives adjust to intercultural influences and ongoing social and political struggles in exile.

Tibet, Past and Present: Religion and secular culture in Tibet-International Association for Tibetan Studies. Seminar 2002-01-01 The proceedings of the seminars of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) have developed into the most representative worldwide cross-section of Tibetan Studies. They are an indispensable reference-work for anyone interested in Tibet and capture the cutting edge of Tibet-related research. This volume is the second of three volumes of general proceedings of the Ninth Seminar of the IATS. It presents a careful selection of scholarly, historical, and contemporary articles on Tibetan Buddhism and Bon religion, including a sizeable section of anthropological contributions. The complete series covers ten volumes. The other seven volumes are the outcome of expert panels. Of special interest to readers of this book are the included volumes by Katia Buffetrille & Hildegard Diermecker (anthropology: presentation of self & identity), Helmut Eimer & David Germano (Buddhist canon), Toni Huber (anthropology: Amdo cultural revival), Christiaan Kieper (anthropology: presentation of self & identity), and Debiqer Klimburg-Salter and Eva Allinger (art history).

Chinese Influences on Modern Tibetan Literature-Sonam Dolkar 2019-01-01 This publication critically evaluates the political and ideological impacts of Chinese influences on the development of modern Tibetan writing. By examining three significant themes in separate chapters and focussing on selected writings of Dhondup Gyal and Yidam Tsering, this work explores the defining features of the new Tibetan literature. The author's analysis answers questions about the implications of this era's poetry and short stories; the historical significance of the emergence of Dhondup Gyal and Yidam Tsering; the relevance of the Cultural Revolution to modern Tibetan poetry and short stories; the reason why poetry became a dominant literary form in modern Tibetan literature; and the role of language used by the two authors in their writings. This work is an invaluable reference for scholars interested in modern Tibetan literary studies.

Conflict and Social Order in Tibet and Inner Asia-Fernanda Pirie 2008-07-25 Assessing the legacies of revolution, social upheaval and reform among minorities in communist Asia, the case studies in this volume analyse
the experience of conflict and social disruption, while providing an original comparative perspective on Tibetan and Inner Asia.

Buddhist Studies—Richard Francis Gombrich 2008 The impressive growth of Buddhist Studies in recent years is the result of several factors. Important collections of manuscripts have been found, and monuments unearthed, in nearly all parts of Asia where Buddhism existed; political and social events bringing East and West together have increased interest in both scholarly research and Buddhist religious practices. The spread of Buddhism outside its birthplace, Madhyadeva, first in India and soon throughout Asia, prompted its followers constantly to invent new discursive strategies and to adjust the rules to local customs and administrations. The essays presented here illustrate how why Buddhist literature adapted to a new and specific context, particularly in North-West India. They also discuss hermeneutical and exegetical practices of Indian Buddhism, the complex interrelation between the Brahmanical and the Buddhist milieu, as well as the role of the social and political context in determining the rules of the monastic code (vinaya).

Literary Cultures in History—Sheldon I. Pollock 2003 "A superb collection. This pathbreaking book is sure to have wide and lasting interest not only for students of South Asian literature, but for anyone interested in the role of literature in cultural self-definition, conflict and change."—David Damrosch, President, American Comparative Literature Association and editor of The Longman Anthology British Literature "This tour-de-force might be not only a landmark in Indian cultural history, but a major accomplishment in the scholarship of global cultures, inviting us to think critically about forms of history and communities of literature."—Walter D. Mignolo, author of Local Histories/Global Designs: Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges and Border Thinking

Echoes of Enlightenment—Suzanne M. Bessenger 2016-08-01 Echoes of Enlightenment explores the issues of gender and saithood raised by the recently discovered “liberation story” of the fourteenth-century Tibetan female Buddhist practitioner Sönam Peldren. Born in 1328, Sönam Peldren spent most of her adult life as a nomad in eastern Tibet until her death in 1372. She is believed to have been illiterate, lacking religious education, and unconnected to established religious institutions. For that reason, and because as a woman her claims of religious authority would have been constantly questioned, Sönam Peldren’s success in hermeneutics, her ability to reveal the deeper meaning of texts to local residents. Suzanne Besseract is drawn on the new-found biography of the saint to understand how the written record of the saint’s life is shaped both by the biographical agendas of its multiple authors and by the dictates of the genre of Tibetan religious literature, including biography and poetry. She considers Sönam Peldren’s enduring historical legacy as a fascinating piece of Tibetan history that reveals much about the social and textual machinations of saint production. Finally, she identifies Sönam Peldren as one of the earliest recorded instances of a historical Tibetan woman successfully using the uniquely Tibetan hermeneutic of deity emanation to achieve religious authority.

Envisioning a Tibetan Luminary—William M. Gomrvne 2018-11-23 Envisioning a Tibetan Luminary examines the religious biography of Shardza Tashi Gyaltse (1859-1934), the most significant modern figure representing the Tibetan Bön religion—a vital minority tradition that is underrepresented in Tibetan studies. The work is based on fieldwork conducted in eastern Tibet and in the Bön exile community in India, where traditional Tibetan scholars collaborated closely on the project. Utilizing close readings of two versions of Shardza’s life-story, along with oral history collected in Bön communities, this book presents and interprets the biographical image of this major figure, culminating with an English translation of his life story. William M. Gomrvne argues that the disciple-biographer’s literary portrait not only enacts and shapes religious ideals to foster faith among its readership, but also attempts to quell tensions that had developed among his original audience. Among the Bön community today, Shardza Tashi Gyaltse has come to be unequivocally revered for an impressive textual legacy and a saintly death. During his lifetime, however, he faced prominent critical voices within his own lineage who went so far as to issue polemical attacks against him. As Gomrvne shows, the biographical texts that inform us about Shardza’s life are best understood when read on multiple registers, with attention given to the ways in which the religious ideals on display reflect the broader literary, cultural, and historical contexts in which they were envisioned and transmitted.

Building a Religious Empire—Brenton Sullivan 2020-11-10 The third comprehensive overview of the life and writings of the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje, a revolutionary figure in the Kagyu tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. Known for his mastery of teachings across sectarian lines, his treatises on medicine and astrology, and his work as spiritual advisor to the last Yuan emperor of China, Rangjung Dorje (1284-1339) is considered one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhist history. First recognized as a tulku, or reincarnated Buddhist master, at the age of five, Rangjung Dorje became the Karma Kagyu lineage holder and instituted the reincarnation-based inheritance structure within Tibetan Buddhism that led to the formation of important lineages of tulku such as the Dalai Lamas. In this groundbreaking work, Ruth Gamble synthesizes his extensive research on Rangjung Dorje into a sweeping biography covering his life, legacy, and important selected writings. Included in her discussions are Rangjung Dorje’s influence on Dzogchen and Mahamudra in his writings, his devotion to spreading the teachings of Buddha nature, and several works never before translated into English. As the most comprehensive work available on Rangjung Dorje, this book is an indispensable resource for scholars and Buddhist practitioners alike.

Proceedings of the Tenth Seminar of the IATS, 2003. Volume 6: Contemporary Tibetan Literary Studies-International Association for Tibetan Studies. Seminar 2007 This volume provides essential readings in the emerging interdisciplinary field of Tibetan literary studies. Chapters range from discussions of individual monographic texts to theological investigations in literary and Tibetan studies. They also discuss how monastic institutions in literary and Tibetan studies are connected to one another.}

The Archaeology of Tibetan Books—Agnieszka Helman-Ważny 2014-07-04 Agnieszka Helman-Ważny’s Archaeology of Tibetan Books provides a comprehensive guide to the making of Tibetan books. Concerned with the technical aspects of book production, the author examines which materials were commonly used in the production of Tibetan books, how they were produced, and the context in which these books were produced. Her analysis of the bookmaking process is informed by her own ethnographic research in monasteries and print shops in India, Nepal, and Tibet. The book is divided into three parts: the first part provides an overview of the materials used in Tibetan book production, the second part discusses the techniques used in producing Tibetan books, and the third part examines the social and historical context in which Tibetan books were produced. The book is illustrated with numerous photographs and diagrams that help the reader understand the technical aspects of book production. It is an essential resource for anyone interested in Tibetan bookmaking and the history of book production in Tibet.

Religious Empire, Brenton Sullivan examines the school’s expansion and consolidation of power along the frontier with China and Mongolia from the mid-seventeenth through the mid-eighteenth centuries to chart how its rise to dominance took shape. In contrast to the practice in other schools of Tibetan Buddhism, Geluk lamas devoted a significant amount of effort to establishing the institutional frameworks within which everyday aspects of monastic life, such as philosophizing, meditating, or conducting rituals, took place. In doing so, the lamas drew on administrative techniques usually associated with state-making—standardization, record-keeping, the conscription of young males, and the concentration of manpower in central cores, among others—thereby earning the moniker “lama official,” or “Buddhist bureaucrat.” The deployment of these bureaucratic techniques to extend the Geluk “liberating umbrella” over increasing numbers of lands and peoples leads Sullivan to describe the result of this Geluk project as a “religious empire.” The Geluk lamas’ privileging of the monastic institution, Sullivan argues, fostered a common religious identity that insulated it from factionalism and provided legitimacy to the Geluk project of conversion, conquest, and expansion. Ultimately, this system succeeded in establishing a relatively uniform and resilient network of thousands of monasteries stretching from Nepal to Lake Baikal, from Beijing to the Caspian Sea.

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The Tibetan Book of the Dead-Bryan Jaré Cuevas 1997

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Dreaming the Great Brahmin-Kurtis R. Schaeffer 2005-06-02 Dreaming the Great Brahmin explores the creation and recreation of Buddhist saints through narratives, poetry, art, ritual, and even dream visions. The first comprehensive cultural and literary history of the well-known Indian Buddhist poet saint Saraha, known as the Great Brahmin, this book argues that we should view Saraha not as the founder of a tradition, but rather as its product. Kurtis Schaeffer shows how images, tales, and teachings of Saraha were transmitted, transformed, and created by members of diverse Buddhist traditions in Tibet, India, Nepal, and Mongolia. The result is that there is not one Great Brahmin, but many. More broadly, Schaeffer argues that the immense importance of saints for Buddhism is best understood by looking at the creative adaptations of such figures that perpetuated their fame, for it is there that these saints come to life.

Unearthing Himalayan Treasures-Volker Caumanns 2019-04-08 The Festschrift celebrates Franz-Karl Ehrhard, Professor of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich from 2003 to 2019. Offered on the occasion of his 65th birthday, it comprises 26 papers by friends and colleagues to honour his outstanding and far-reaching contributions to the field of Tibetan Studies. Mirroring Franz-Karl Ehrhard’s research interests, the papers centre on the religious and literary traditions of Tibet and the Himalayas, including sacred geography, religious history, philosophy, and studies in textual production and transmission.

Tibetan Buddhism in Diaspora-Ana Cristina O. Lopes 2014-12-17 The imperialist ambitions of China – which invaded Tibet in the late 1940s – have sparked the spectacular spread of Tibetan Buddhism worldwide, and especially in western countries. This work is a study on the malleability of a particular Buddhist tradition; on its adaptability in new contexts. The book analyses the nature of the Tibetan Buddhism in the Diaspora. It examines how the re-signification of Tibetan Buddhist practices and organizational structures in the present refers back to the dismantlement of the Tibetan state headed by the Dalai Lama and the fragmentation of Tibetan Buddhist religious organizations in general. It includes extensive multi-sited fieldwork conducted in the United States, Brazil, Europe, and Asia and a detailed analysis of contemporary documents relating to the global spread of Tibetan Buddhism. The author demonstrates that there is a “de-institutionalized” and “de-territorialized” project of political power and religious organization, which, among several other consequences, engenders the gradual “autonomization” of lamas and lineages inside the religious field of Tibetan Buddhism. Thus, a spectre of these previous institutions continues to exist outside their original contexts, and they are continually activated in ever-new settings. Using a combination of two different academic traditions – namely, the Brazilian anthropological tradition and the American Buddhist studies tradition – it investigates the “process of cultural re-signification” of Tibetan Buddhism in the context of its Diaspora. Thus, it will be a valuable resource to students and scholars of Asian Religion, Asian Studies and Buddhist.

Establishing Appearances as Divine-Heidi I. Koppl 2013-09-10 A highly esteemed Buddhist treatise on realizing your divine nature. This concise treatise by the eleventh-century Tibetan Buddhist philosopher Rongzom Chökyi Zangpo sets out to prove the provocative point that everything that appears is actually deity manifest. Many books on Tibetan Buddhism address the important themes of mind training, compassion, and proper conduct, but this book goes beyond that in its aim to bring the reader face to face with his or her divine and pure nature. Transformation not only of one's identity but also of one's environment is an important principle in Tantric Buddhist philosophy. In Tantric scriptures one is instructed to visualize oneself as a deity, a divine identity who resides in a perfect sphere. By repeatedly training in this visualization, one perfects the transmission.

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Social Regulation: Case Studies from Tibetan History- 2016-10-13 Social Regulation: Case Studies from Tibetan History examines the mechanisms that regulated Tibetan societies from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Focusing on processes rarely examined in historical studies of Tibet, this volume contributes to the emerging field of Tibetan social history.
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