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TIBETAN LITERARY TEXTS
AND DOCUMENTS CONCERNING
CHINESE TURKESTAN

SELECTED AND TRANSLATED BY

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PART I: LITERARY TEXTS

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*Dedicated to
Professor Sten Konow
in token of old friendship*

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PREFACE

DURING a period of over three centuries, commencing about A.D. 665, the Tibetans must have been well acquainted with Chinese Turkestan. It was visited by troops from all parts of their country, and some of its districts were continuously under their administration. Even in earlier times, anterior to the unification of the "Eighteen Tribes" in a powerful state, some intimations may have penetrated to them through the kindred "Jo Kiang" tribes on their north, the oldest continuous neighbours of Turkestan. But such enlightenment has long ago disappeared; in the known Tibetan literature it is unrepresented, except by the texts and extracts translated in this volume and by references in a fragmentary, still unpublished, Chronicle, covering about a century (ending c. A.D. 746); the recognized dynastic history (*Rgyal-rabs-gsal-ba'hi-me-loñ*) makes only the slightest allusions to Khotan; Bu-ston's *History of Buddhism* is equally uninformative; and from the literature of the Bon sect, even if further texts should come to light, we have, apparently, no reason to expect anything more than a few casual geographical notices. The work composed by Min-tshul Khutuktu in A.D. 1820-39 and translated into Russian by V. Vasiliev under the title *Geografia Tibeta* (St. Petersburg, 1895), is scarcely aware of the existence of Chinese Turkestan.

The Tibetan documents excavated by Sir Aurel Stein in Chinese Turkestan itself or procured by him, along with a mass of literary texts, from the hidden library of Ch'ien-fotung (near Tun-huang, in western Kan-su) have been rather fully discussed in the second part of the present publication. Not much further information is to be expected from them or from the literary texts, mainly versions of Buddhist Sanskrit works and devoid of local references; but some new light will surely be obtained from the large collection acquired by

Professor Paul Pelliot from the same hidden library and now undergoing examination by Monsieur Jean Bacot and Mademoiselle Lalou in the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris. To M. Bacot's kind consideration I am indebted for permission to use the MS. described and translated in the Appendix.

Severally the translations here given are introduced by statements concerning the provenance, nature, and prior study of the texts. Hence it remains only to note that in the year 1921 there was published at Kyoto (publisher, Teishiya-Shoten) under the title *Yu-t'ien-kuo-shi* (on the cover also in Tibetan, *Li-yul-gyi-lo-rgyus*), "History of the Kingdom of Khotan," by Enga Teramoto, a Japanese translation of Nos. 2-3 followed by discussions of the subject matter. I regret to have been unable to accomplish more than a superficial inspection of this work, which appears to have made good use of the sources of information available at that date. Help received from Professor Chungshee H. Liu in connection with a Chinese version of *The Prophecy of the Li Country*, No. 3a, is recorded on p. 50 *infra*.

An Introduction, and also an Index, to the present work will accompany the second part, "Documents," which is almost complete in type.

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