

## NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION OF TIBETAN

Transliteration of Tibetan in this work conforms to the internationally widely used system often referred to as Wylie Conventions,<sup>1</sup> although we do not use the single contribution which Wylie proposed, that is, the capitalisation of the first letter of a word where appropriate. Instead, if necessary in the case of names or titles,<sup>2</sup> we capitalise the root Tibetan letter (or the first Roman letter representing the root letter), since this conforms more closely to Tibetan conceptions, and has a well-established usage in Western scholarly writings, from Nebesky-Wojkowitz 1956.<sup>3</sup> For Tibetan representations of Sanskrit letters, we use the generally accepted appropriate Roman letters with diacritical marks. Following the Tibetan & Himalayan Digital Library's "Extended Wylie Transliteration Scheme,"<sup>4</sup> we have used the colon to represent the Tibetan *gter shad* found in *gter ma* texts, but we use the colon differently in transcribing the Old Tibetan manuscripts (see below).

### *Conventions used in transcribing the Dunhuang documents*

In presenting transcriptions of the Dunhuang manuscripts, we have conformed to the usages established by Tsuguhito Takeuchi in a number of publications on Old Tibetan documents, made in accordance with the suggestions of A. Delatte and A. Severyns (1938: *Emploi des signes critiques, disposition de l'apparat dans les éditions savantes de textes grecs et latins / conseils et recommandations par J. Bidez et A. B. Drachmann*, Bruxelles : Union académique internationale).

We have not needed to use Takeuchi's complete list but have used the following.

From Tsuguhito Takeuchi 1995 *Old Tibetan Contracts from Central Asia*, Tokyo pp.137-138:

I	reversed <i>gi gu</i>
(abc)	editor's note
[a(b)]	ambiguous readings
[abc]	our conjectural restorations of letters partly illegible or lost in the original
[abc?]	uncertain readings
[...]	illegible letters, number unknown
[---]	illegible letters, number known, indicated by broken line
[±3]	illegible letters, approximate numbers known, indicated by numeral with ±
] abc	beginning of line lost through damage
abc [	end of line lost through damage
***	blank spaces left by copyist

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<sup>1</sup> Following Turrell Wylie 1959. Wylie adopted in its entirety the system earlier used by René de Nebesky-Wojkowitz (1956: xv) and David Snellgrove (1957: 299-300). See the discussion in David Snellgrove 1987a: xxiv, and our own comments in Cantwell, Mayer and Fischer 2002: Note on Transliteration: "Not Wylie" Conventions

(<http://ngb.csac.anthropology.ac.uk/csac/NGB/Doc/NoteTransliteration.xml>). In line with Tibetan understanding and the most common contemporary scholarly usage, we modify the system by using "w" rather than "v" for the subjoined Tibetan letter, "wa" (*wa zur*).

<sup>2</sup> We do not capitalise words at all in representing our Tibetan source documents, but do so within the English language discussion where necessary.

<sup>3</sup> The root letter (*ming gzhi*) is the main letter of a syllable and that under which words are ordered in Tibetan dictionaries, so it is the letter of the syllable to which attention is drawn.

<sup>4</sup> This system is useful for automated font conversions between Roman and Tibetan script, using programs such as WylieWord (developed by David Chapman and distributed free on the THDL website). For presentational reasons, we have not otherwise adopted its conventions here, such as for Tibetan representations of Sanskrit letters.

From Tsuguhito Takeuchi 1997-1998 *Old Tibetan Manuscripts from East Turkestan in The Stein Collection of the British Library*, Tokyo and London Vol. 2: *Descriptive Catalogue* 1998, p.xxxii.

\$ page initial sign (*mgo yig, siddham*)  
~~abe~~ text deleted in the original manuscript<sup>5</sup>

We have also added one further convention:

: ornamental punctuation mark, generally marking a section ending and new opening, and varying in design from two large vertically arranged circles to two dots.

***Conventions used in translation, also following Takeuchi 1995: 138***

(abc) translator's note  
 [abc] translator's supplements  
 [...] illegible or missing letters, number unknown  
 [---] illegible or missing letters, number known, indicated by broken line

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<sup>5</sup> Tsuguhito Takeuchi's preferred usage is now not to include deleted words within the main text, but rather in the Critical Apparatus, marked as, "cancellavit" (this convention is given in his 1995 list). However, we have modified that list in this case, since it seems helpful in the case of our texts with only short deleted passages, for the reader immediately to see a transcription which as closely as possible resembles the original.