

Special Issue

Old Texts, New Insights: Exploring Buddhist Manuscripts

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue seeks to amplify the dialogue on how the intangible and material aspects of Buddhist manuscript culture amalgamated to shape religious practices, pedagogical paradigms, and cultural exchanges in ancient Buddhist communities.

The research scope extends beyond manuscripts in ancient Indic languages, including Sanskrit, Gāndhārī, and Pāli, to those written in Tibetan, Classical Chinese, and other Asian languages. Regarding research methodologies, we embrace a wide array of topics, such as rigorous philological work on newly discovered manuscript materials, including tasks such as creating transliterations, diplomatic or critical editions, and translations. We also welcome novel interpretations of texts derived from manuscript readings, studies related to manuscript production, as well as paleographic, codicological, and iconographic analyses of manuscripts, among others.

Research areas may encompass (but are not limited to) Buddhist Manuscripts in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, and various Central Asian languages; Philological Research; Codicology; Paleography; Manuscript Preservation; and Digitalization of Manuscripts.

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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