

Foreword

The Soka Gakkai has commissioned the Institute of Oriental Philosophy to carry out studies of Lotus Sutra texts in Sanskrit, Xixia (Tangut), and other languages. Through the cooperation of academic institutions and experts in Japan and other countries of the world, we have since 1997 been publishing the highly valuable results of these researches under the title Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series.

The publications issued so far are as follows:

1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lüshun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text.*
- 2-1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Facsimile Edition.*
- 2-2. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 1.*
3. *Fragments of a Manuscript of the Saddharmapuṇḍarīkasūtra from Khādaliq (presently the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China).*
4. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1682 and Add. 1683), Facsimile Edition.*

The publication presented here, Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series 5, entitled *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from University of Tokyo General Library (No. 414), Romanized Text*, is one of the results of these researches and constitutes the sixth volume in the series.

Mr. Haruaki Kotsuki, researcher in charge of manuscript studies of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, in this volume's Acknowledgments, Introduction and Memorandum, entitled "A Brief History of Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript Studies," describes in detail the process by which the romanized text of this Sanskrit manuscript was prepared and discussed the characteristics of the manuscript.

This manuscript of the Lotus Sutra (referred to in the present publication as T8), which is of great importance, was brought from Nepal to Japan in 1903 by Ekai Kawaguchi and served as one of the bases of the Kern-Nanjio edition of the Lotus Sutra published in the years 1908-12.

According to Mr. Kotsuki, this T8 manuscript is estimated to date from around the seventeenth or eighteenth century. But in content it bears a very close resemblance to the palm-leaf manuscript (no. 5-144) in the National Archives of Nepal, which is estimated to date from around the thirteenth or fourteenth century. For this reason, the publication of this T8 manuscript is an event of particular importance to the scholarly world.

Mr. Kotsuki is a graduate of the Indian and Pakistani Languages Department of

Osaka University of Foreign Studies. Following his graduation, he spent two periods in India, living there for a total of five years, devoting himself to the study of Hindi and Sanskrit. In 1991 he went to India as a member of a Soka Gakkai International (SGI) group, where he attended an India-Japan symposium sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the SGI and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy. At that time he met Dr. Lokesh Chandra, director of the International Academy of Indian Culture, an encounter that led to his becoming engaged in intensive study of Lotus Sutra manuscripts. While operating a private school, he continued to pursue these studies on his own. Later, having come under the guidance of Dr. Hirofumi Toda, then professor, and now professor emeritus, of the University of Tokushima, he set about romanizing the T8 manuscript. After more than six years of labor, he completed the romanization of the text. I would like here to express my sincere admiration for Mr. Kotsuki's exertions and gratitude for the results they have produced.

The purpose of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series is to provide high quality facsimile reproductions of materials of unquestionable importance in the study of the Lotus Sutra, along with meticulously prepared romanized versions of the text where these are appropriate. The results are to be made available to scholars, experts in the field, and academic organizations throughout the world so that they may contribute to a deeper understanding of the sutra and of Buddhism in general. I am happy to observe that the five volumes so far published in the series have been greeted with acclaim by scholars and academic organizations both in Japan and abroad. I thank them most sincerely for their expressions of esteem. It is my hope that the future volumes in the series will prove of similar value to researchers in the field.

Future volumes in this series that we hope to publish include "Xixia Lotus Sutra Manuscript from St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Facsimile Edition," and "Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (No. 4-21), Romanized Text 2."

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Hirofumi Toda, a worldly acclaimed authority in studies of Sanskrit Lotus Sutra manuscripts, for the careful and attentive guidance he gave to Mr. Kotsuki in the preparation of the romanized text. I also wish to thank all those associated with University of Tokyo General Library for their invaluable assistance in the publication of this important facsimile edition.

Einosuke Akiya
President, Soka Gakkai
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