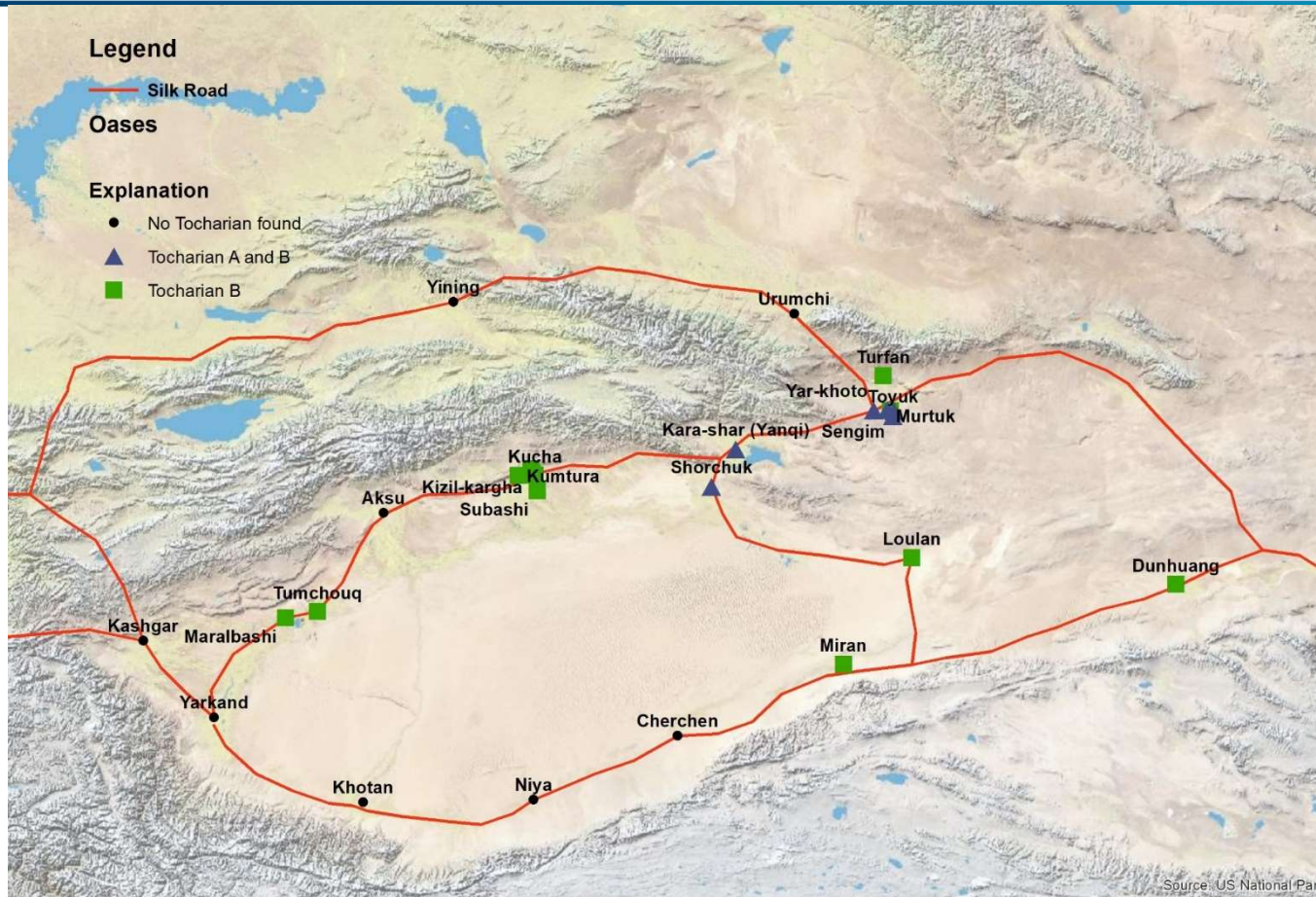


GERD CARLING

Tocharian

Introduction – Part 3









The writing system:




- Variant of the Indic Brāhmī script.
- Gupta script.
- Tocharian addition: "Fremdzeichen", in transcription marked as *ä*.
- A number of graphemes are used only for Sanskrit loans.

ക	ക	ക	ഗ	ഗ	ന
ka	<u>ka</u>	kha	ga	gha	na
ച	ച	ച	ജ	ജ	ന
ca		cha	ja	jha	ña
ട	ട	ട	ഢ	ഢ	
ṭa		ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa
ത	ത	ത	ദ	ദ	ന
ta	<u>ta</u>	tha	da	dha	na
പ	പ	പ	ബ	ബ	മ
pa	<u>pa</u>	pha	ba	bha	ma
യ	യ	യ	ല	ല	വ
ya	<u>ya</u>	ra	<u>ra</u>	la	<u>la</u>
വ	വ	വ	ശ	ശ	സ
śa	<u>śa</u>	ṣa	<u>ṣa</u>	sa	<u>śa</u>
ഹ					
ha					
ട	ട				
ṭsa	<u>ṭsa</u>				
ṣ	ṣ				
ṣ	ḥ				
ṣ	ḥ				



അ	ഈ	ഏ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ
a	<u>ā</u>	ä	i	(i)	ī	ī	u
ഊ	ഋ	ൠ	ഌ	഍	ഞ	ഞ	ഞ
ū	ṛ	e	ai	o	au	au	
ഈ	ഏ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ	ഈ
ā	ä	i	ī	e	ai	o	au
ഊ	ഋ	ൠ	ഌ	഍	ഞ	ഞ	ഞ
u	ū	ṛ	ṝ	u/ṽ	ṽ	ṽ	ṽ

 
ta la



 
na ṇa

     
śa ṣa ṣa ṣa sa ṣa

 
pa pa

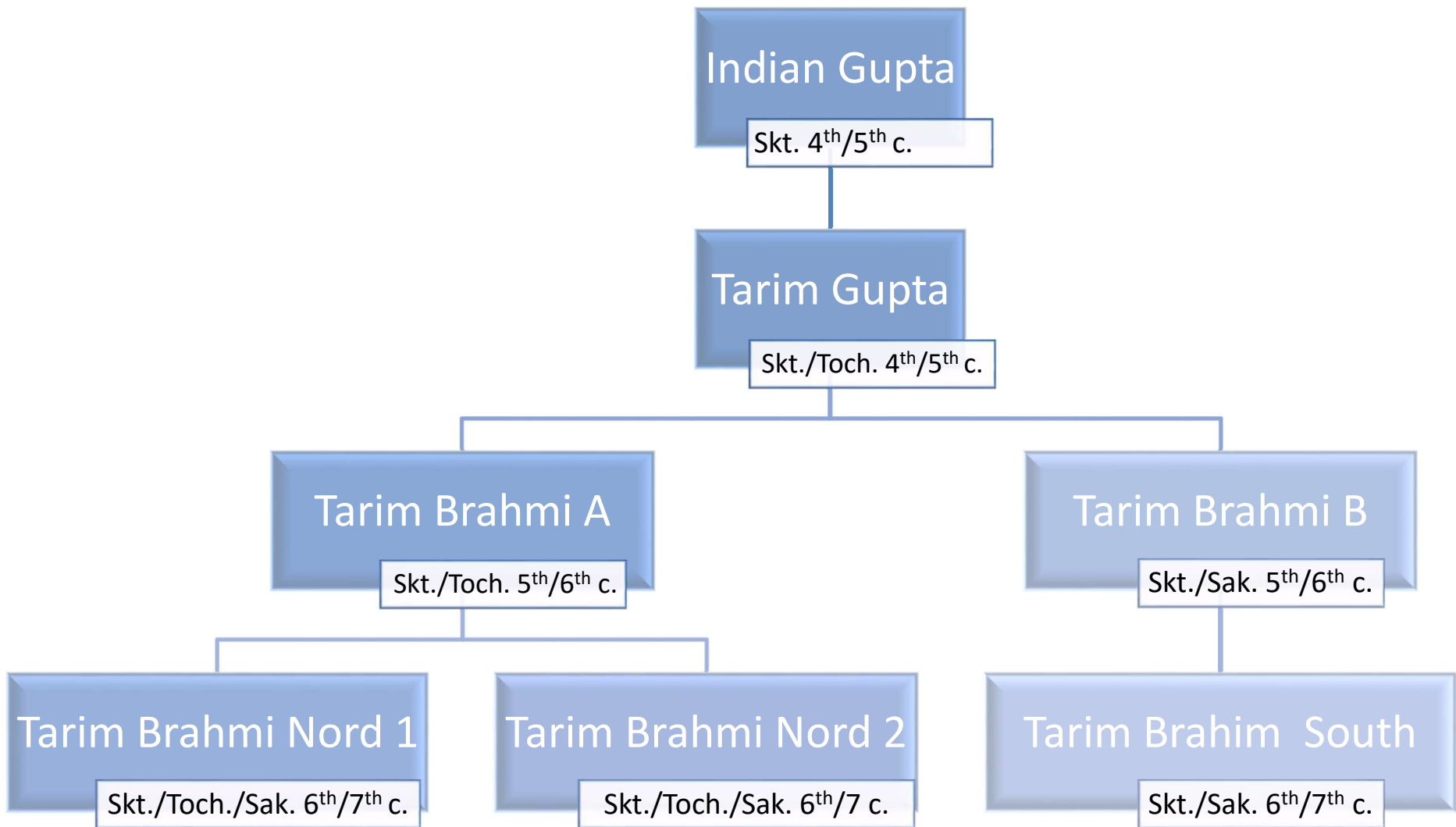
 
ma ṃa

 
tsa ṭsa

 
ra ṛa

 
la ḷa

Based on Sander&Malzahn	<i>a</i>	<i>tha</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>ra</i>	<i>la</i>
Tarim Gupta	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤
Tarim Brahmi A	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤
Tarim Brahmi B	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤
Tarim Brahmi North 1	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤
Tarim Brahmi North 2	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤
Tarim Brahmi South	𑀓	𑀣	𑀡	𑀢	𑀤



Dating of Tocharian texts

- Precise dating in texts from the first half of 7th century CE.
- C14 dating.
- Chronological dating: MQ-writing.

DATING OF TOCHARIAN TEXTS: PRECISE DATING

Tocharian B text from the King Swarnatepe (Pinault 1987)

PK Bois B 25

- a1** [ika]ṃ ṣe kṣuṃntsa piṅkce [meṃ]ne • [i] /// during the 21st year, in the 5th month ...
- a2** oroccepi lānte swarnatepi kṣ(u)ṃ[n](e) /// in the year of the great king
- a3** [r]e [ā]k(ṣ)a • /// Swarnatepe

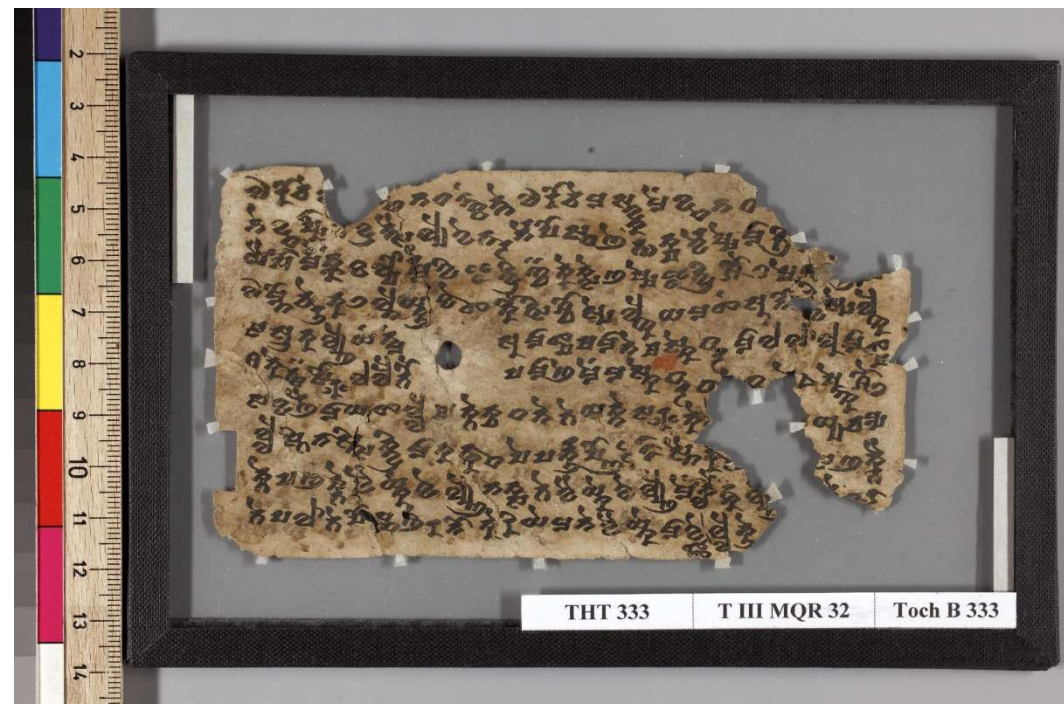
DATING OF TOCHARIAN TEXTS: C14

C14 dating dates texts:

- Tocharian B 400-900
- Tocharian A 700-1000

(Tamai 2005)

THT 333 (=TB, Vinayavibhaṅga), by C14
dated between 394-473
(Malzahn 2011-2018)(Tamai 2005)
Image source: idp.bl.uk

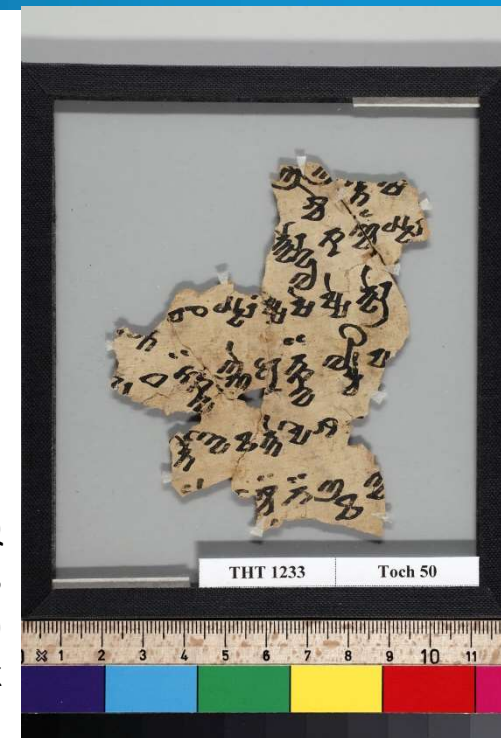


DATING OF TOCHARIAN TEXTS: MQ-WRITING

Most archaic texts in Tocharian B are much less uniform with respect to language and ductus.

MQ-writing (Malzahn 2007).

THT 1233, containing MQ features
(Malzahn 2011-2018)
Image source: idp.bl.uk



The Tocharian Corpus

- Manuscripts and wallpaintings, from 4-1100 AD, with Buddhist content.
- Found in cave monasteries and in the desert sand in Eastern Turkestan.
- Tocharian A: basically literary texts.
- Tocharian B: all kinds of texts.
- Total number of fragments: around 7600.
- Many very fragmentary!

Locations of documents

1. Berlin collection (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): Prussian expeditions, edited by Emil Sieg and Wilhelm Siegling 1921.
2. Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale): Pelliot expeditions, edited by Sylvain Lévi, Jean Filliozat, Walter Couvreur, Georges-Jean Pinault.
3. London (British Library): Aurel Stein, around 1500 texts, published by Broomhead 1964, photos at International Dunhuang Project.
4. St. Petersburg: few publications, e.g., Pinault 1998.
5. Tokyo: Otani Collection.
6. Qizil.
7. Urumchi (Regional Museum of the province of Xinjiang): Yanqi manuscripts of MSN.

DOCUMENTS: LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS CONTENTS

Tocharian A and B:

- Monastic disciplines (Vinaya)
- Doctrinal texts (Sūtra)
- Law reflections (Abhidharma)
- Narrative texts
- Stories from the births and past lives of Buddha (Jātaka, Avadāna)
- Drama (Nāṭaka)
- Poetry, epic (Kāvya), Lyric (Stotra)
- Science and technique
- Grammar, astronomy, medicine, dream interpretation, writing exercises
- Manichaean literature

Parallel texts in:

- Sanskrit/Buddhist Sanskrit (Vinaya, Sūtra, Abhidharma, medical texts, Jātaka, Avadāna, Kāvya, Stotra, grammar, astronomy, medicine, dream interpretation)
- Uighur (MSN)
- Chinese
- Khotanese
- Tibetan

DOCUMENTS: PROFANE CONTENTS

- Historic documents
- Economic, administrative, juridical documents
- Monastery letters, bussiness letters, processes, caravan passports
- Graffiti and inscriptions
- Glosses (basically in Sanskrit texts)

TEXT SAMPLE 1: THE 'LOVE LETTER'

... (ya)-

a1 -ltse pikala watam̄ (·)e (–) ci(šš)e /// /// (–) (·)nts(·) p(o)
 ask(a)sk(au) (mā) ñ(i ci)sa noš sómo ñ(e)m

a2 (wno)lme (l)äre tāka mā ra postam̄ cisa läre mäsketar-ñ : cišše
 laraumñe cišše ärtañye pelke kaltta-

a3 -(r)r solämpa šše mā t(e) ställe sol wärñai : 2 taiysu pälskanoym
 sanai šaryo-

a4 -mpa šāyau karttse(š) šaulu-wärñai snai tserekwa snai tā – :

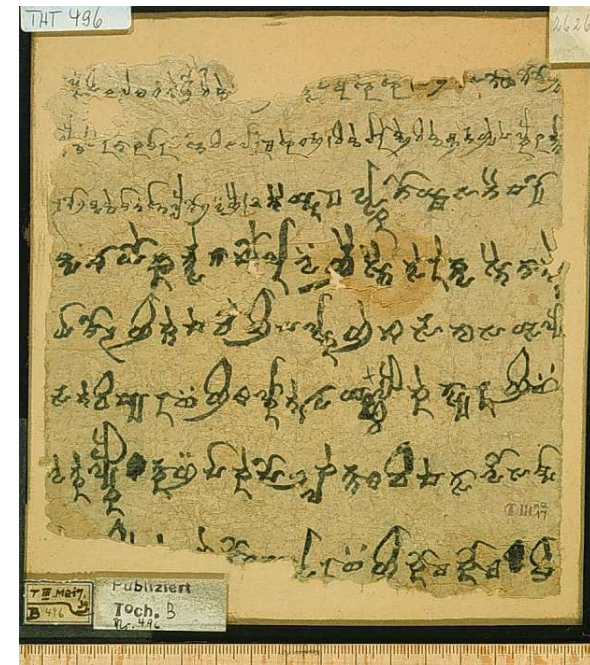
a5 yāmor-ñikte še cau ñi palskañe šarsa tusa ysaly= e-

a6 -rsate cišy= arás ñi sälkäte : wāya ci lauke tsyāra ñiś

a7 wetke «k»ly«†k»autka-ñ päke po läklenta«nt»s ciše tsärwo sampā-

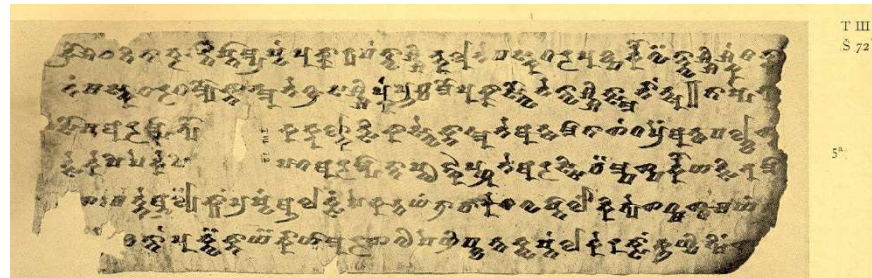
a8 -(te-ñ) – – – – – (–) ·e sol pals(k)= arás ñi kom-kom mī-

THT 496, Literary, Tocharian B, from Qizil Miñ-Öy.
 (Malzahn 2011-2018)
 Image source: idp.bl.uk



TEXT SAMPLE 2: THE STORY OF THE MECHANICAL DOLL


A5 (THT 638), Literary, Tocharian B,
 from Qizil Miñ-Öy.
 (Malzahn 2011-2018)
 Image source: idp.bl.uk



- a1 krošavati tātrā«sku»s tāš tām praṣtaṃ puk kāryapāmtwāśśi nkalune mäskatār puk pārkowāntwāśśi śkaṃ sātkā(lu)-
 a2 -ne mäskatār tämyo knānmune wrasaśśi pukamaṃ pruccamo puk kāswonen«t»wāśśi tsmār nāmṣtu || tāš penu (wra)-
 a3 -som arämpātyo kaknu lkātsi kāswe knānmune ats mā tāš-āṃ täpreṃ ats pälkāš (m)āṃ(t ne)
 a4 tsekeši pekeši pat arämpāt tāš tuñ= kāpñune arāssi cāmpāš pārko yatsi nu mā (cā-
 a5 -mpä)š : māmṣt ne ālyäkyāṃ praṣtaṃ ālak saṃ pekant yaṃtrācāres waṣtā lokit yeš tmāš sām yaṃtrā(cā-
 a6 -re) (pe)kāntāṃ puk wāknā yārka yāmurāš oṣeñi pkāntāk waṣtaṃ lake raksā-ṃ kuñci{t}šim šä(lyp-
 b1 -aśśäl) (orš)šāṃ yantāršināṃ sómināṃ śkaṃ la{p}š lyalymā-ṃ sām cami śla wāktasurñe oki kāwält(une yä-
 b2 -rkā) yāmäl yo tsaraṃ emṣsus paṃ ypā-ṃ tām nu mänt wāknā || šāmnernaṃ || proṣmiṃn oki sām tsru šāt lkā(mām)
 b3 śāri lyāk : mätsratsi oki mā plāc crānkās mā karyā : śla tuñk oki nu rāsñā poke (paṃ)
 b4 ypamāṃ : pontsāṃ kapsiññāš omlyi wikšā pekāntāp : 1 || tmāš sām pekant ākntsu(ne)-
 b5 -yo tām oršināṃ sóminānaṃ yneš sómiṃšim ime kälpo āñmaśl-ākk ats pältsāñkāš o(te tā)-
 b6 -preṃ kāwältune ote täpreṃ kuleñciṃ mäsratsuneyo proṣmune

SOURCES FOR STUDYING TOCHARIAN: ELECTRONIC CORPORA

A Comprehensive Edition of Tocharian Manuscripts




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Tocharian and the Tocharians


[English](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Français](#) | [Русский](#) | [中文](#) | [日本語](#)

The Silk Road, the famous network of trade routes connecting China to the West, was essential not only for the transfer of material goods, but also for the exchange of language and culture. Along with many other Central Asian civilizations, Tocharian A and Tocharian B could so come to flourish as literary languages in the wake of the spread of Buddhism in the middle of the first millennium CE.



Qizil grottoes, Kucha region

Although Tocharian was spoken in Kucha and Turfan along the northern edge of the Tarim Basin in North-West China (= present-day Xinjiang), it is not related to Chinese. Instead, Tocharian A and Tocharian B constitute a separate branch of the so-called Indo-European language family, which comprises ancient languages such as Latin, Greek and Sanskrit, as well as modern languages like English and Spanish.



Tocharian manuscript (IOL Toch 1)

Towards the end of the first millennium, Tocharian became extinct: it is now only known from documents that could be preserved over a period of more than 1000 years thanks to the arid climate of the Taklamakan Desert. The documents were discovered during a series of archaeological expeditions undertaken from the end of the nineteenth century onwards, and transferred to museums in China, Japan, and Europe.

Through the decipherment of these thousands of manuscripts precious insights into the civilization of the speakers of Tocharian can be gained: on the one hand, profane documents give information about every-day life, on the other hand, Buddhist religious and scientific texts are evidence of a highly developed literary culture.

It is the aim of our project to make all Tocharian texts available to everyone interested, by providing photographs, text transcriptions, and English translations with a commentary on the respective linguistic, philological, and cultural aspects. The text material is made accessible through a database with various search

Thesaurus Indogermanischer Text- und Sprachmaterialien

TITUS

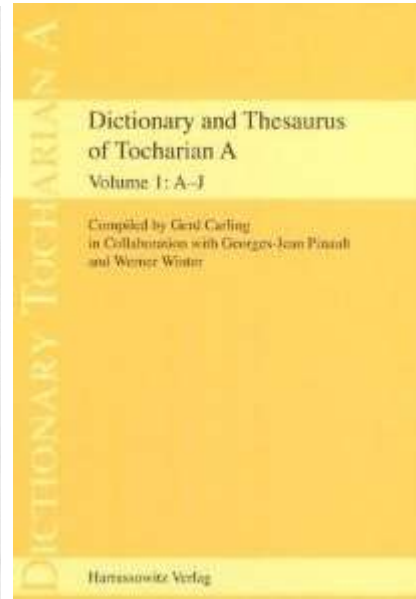
Tocharian Manuscripts from the Berlin Turfan Collection

This is a preliminary internet edition of the Tocharian manuscripts that are preserved in the [Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz](#) as part of the Turfan collection of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. For using the manuscript images as sources in any kind of publication please contact the [Oriental Department of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin](#).

The data as available from this server consist of both digitized images and texts (transcriptions were prepared by Christiane Schaefer, transliterations by Tatsushi Tamai, digitizing and transliterations by Katharina Kupfer). For the time being, only parts of the collection can be made available.

[Tocharian: text with manuscript images \(in frames\)](#)
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[Tocharian texts within the TITUS Corpus](#)
[Tocharian texts: complete catalogue arranged by TH1 numbers \(text only\)](#)
Tocharian A
[Tocharian A: catalogue arranged by TH1 numbers \(text only\) \(229 kb\)](#)
[HTML version \(UTF-8\) available \(TITUS members only; in frames\)](#)
[WordCruncher version available](#)
Tocharian B
[Tocharian B: catalogue arranged by TH1 numbers \(text only\) \(360 kb\)](#)
[HTML version \(UTF-8\) available \(TITUS members only; in frames\)](#)
[WordCruncher version available](#)
[Conventions of transcription](#)
[Technical description](#)

SOURCES FOR STUDYING TOCHARIAN: TEXTS AND DICTIONARIES TOCHARIAN A



LUND UNIVERSITY | THE JOINT FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND THEOLOGY | LUNDUNIVERSITY.LU.SE | ACTIVATE BROWSEALOAD

CeDICT: A Comprehensive e-Dictionary of Tocharian
 THE JOINT FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND THEOLOGY | LUND UNIVERSITY

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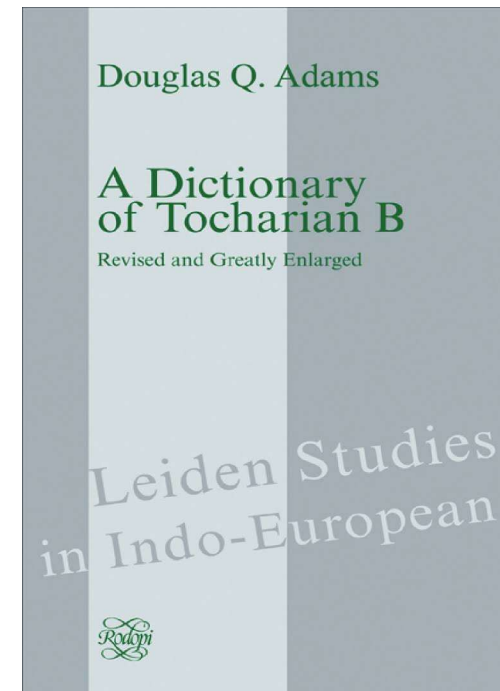
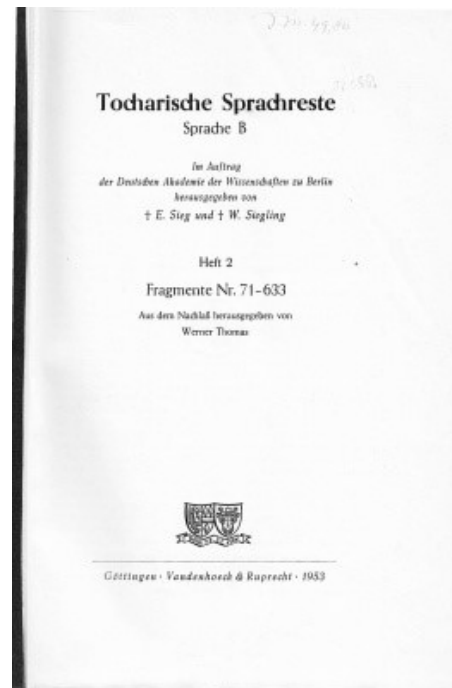
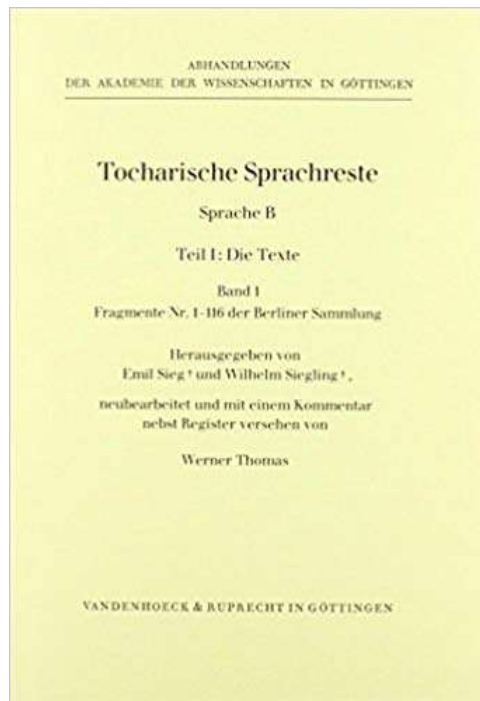
About

About the project

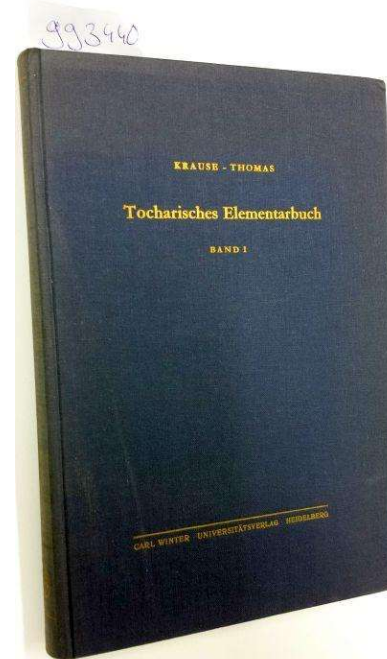
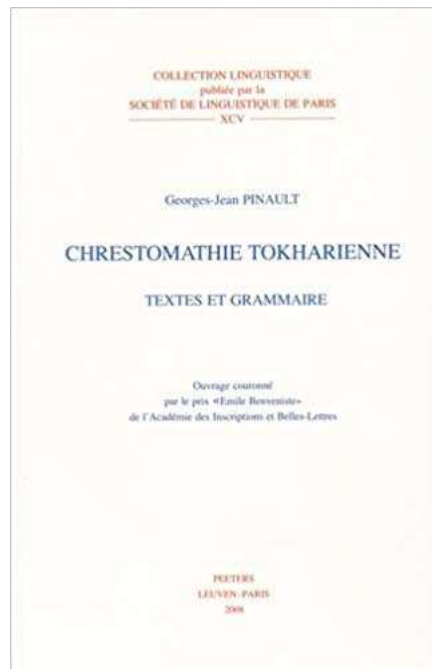
The project aims at producing a comprehensive e-dictionary of Tocharian, including a Dictionary and Thesaurus of Tocharian A and an etymological Dictionary of Common Tocharian. Tocharian is an extinct language, belonging to the Indo-European language family tree. The language was spoken in the region of Eastern Central Asia up to the 11th ct. AD. Tocharian is a difficult language with no living daughter languages, in which dictionary resources traditionally has been a problem. Renewed interest in historical linguistics, using computational cladistics methods, has resulted in a demand for reliable and electronically available dictionary resources for extinct languages such as Tocharian. The project is a continuation of an earlier project, which resulted in the publication of the first volume of a dictionary of Tocharian A. The current project aims at completing this project, as well as make available a reliable etymological dictionary of Common Tocharian (Tocharian A and B), both resources in the form of paper and electronic dictionaries. The project, which is performed by a core team of leading tocharologists, is done in collaboration with an international project, which aims at publishing online all Tocharian texts (6,000). Furthermore, the project is also based on a number of previously unpublished data collections by leading scholars of the older generation, which have been made available to



SOURCES FOR STUDYING TOCHARIAN: DICTIONARIES TOCHARIAN B



SOURCES FOR STUDYING TOCHARIAN: GRAMMARS



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