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A. BENKATO (ed.)

**Studies on the Sogdian Epistolary Tradition Studies on the Sogdian Epistolary Tradition**

V1+141 p., 43 b/w ill. + 13 colour ill., 210 x 297 mm, 2018, PB,

ISBN: 978-2-503-57876-7, € 65 *excl. tax*

Languages: English, Sogdian

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**Edition of Sogdian epistolary fragments discovered in Turfan as well as a wide-ranging comparative analysis of Sogdian epistolary formulae.**

An important part of the Sogdian corpora which have come down to us are epistolary texts: both the earliest substantial Sogdian documents (the 'Ancient Letters') and the only substantial textual corpus found in Sogdiana itself (the Mugh documents). The Turfan collections of (especially) Berlin, Kyoto, and St. Petersburg, also preserve a number of letter fragments. Altogether, these texts attest different phases of a Sogdian epistographical tradition stretching over some seven centuries. The edition and analysis of both well-preserved and fragmentary texts can contribute to efforts to reconstruct parts of those traditions—and eventually connect them with those of Central Asia and Iran more broadly. The first part of this work is an effort to present a comprehensive edition of the Sogdian epistolary fragments in the Turfan collections

of Berlin, Kyoto, and St. Petersburg. In the second part a comparative study of Sogdian epistolography is undertaken, based on the editions made in the first part, together with previously published work on other Sogdian epistolary corpora, including studies of layout, external addresses, and stamps. Additionally, an appendix by Simone-Christiane Raschmann contributes to the larger study of epistolary culture in Turfan with the edition and study of three Old Turkic fragments (two letters and one order) which shed light on the use of stamps.

*Adam Benkato is a Humboldt Fellow at the Freie Universität Berlin and was previously a researcher at the Turfanforschung, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.*

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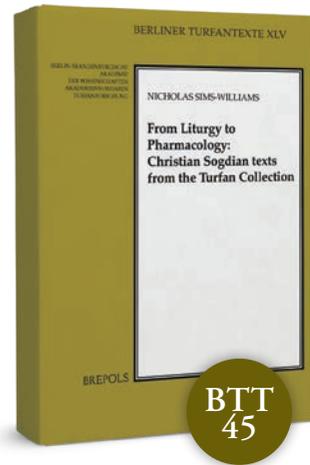
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## From Liturgy to Pharmacology Christian Sogdian texts from the Turfan Collection

N. SIMS-WILLIAMS (ed.)

232 p., 7 b/w ill., 210 x 297 mm, 2019, PB,  
ISBN: 978-2-503-58419-5, € 65 *excl. tax*  
Languages: English, Sogdian, Syriac  
*AVAILABLE*

**Containing a variety of texts ranging from liturgy to pharmacology via hagiography, calendars and ascetical works by Isaac of Nineveh, this volume completes the publication of all known Christian Sogdian texts.**

This volume completes the publication of the Christian Sogdian texts of the Berlin Turfan Collection begun by F. W. K. Müller in 1907. Several Syriac texts are also included, in particular a series of liturgical texts in Syriac with Sogdian rubrics (edited in collaboration with J. F. Coakley). The texts edited here are mostly short but extremely varied and interesting. The Syriac liturgical fragments are some of the earliest surviving witnesses to the liturgy of the “Church of the East”, though the Sogdian rubrics which accompany them show that those who performed them were not native speakers of Syriac. Other texts connected with the liturgy include a Sogdian version of the *Gloria in excelsis* and a text explaining how to calculate the date of Easter or Lent. Hagiographical texts include fragments of the martyrdoms of St George and of Cyriacus and Julitta as well as part of the so-called “Six Books” on the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. Two pharmacological fragments (edited in collaboration with Dieter Maue) show familiarity with Indian medicine, while a “prayer-amulet” belongs rather to a Syriac

tradition. Finally, a chapter contributed by Adrian Pirtea contains the re-edition of a well-preserved folio identified by him as a Sogdian version of a work by Isaac of Nineveh. The edition and translation of the texts is accompanied by a detailed commentary. The volume is completed by a full glossary, a bibliography, and a word-index covering all five of the author’s volumes of Christian Sogdian texts in the series BTT.

*Nicholas Sims-Williams is Emeritus Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies at SOAS University of London. His research is focused on Sogdian, Bactrian and other Iranian languages of pre-Islamic Iran and Central Asia. Publications on Christian Sogdian include four previous volumes in the series Berliner Turfantexte as well as the comprehensive catalogue Iranian manuscripts in Syriac script in the Berlin Turfan collection (Steiner, 2012) and A Dictionary: Christian Sogdian, Syriac and English (Reichert, 2016).*

IN PRODUCTION



## Old Uyghur Documents concerning the Postal System of the Mongol Empire

M. VÉR (ed.)

approx. 260 p., 210 x 297 mm, PB,  
ISBN: 978-2-503-58417-1, approx. € 90 *excl. tax*  
Languages: English, Uyghur  
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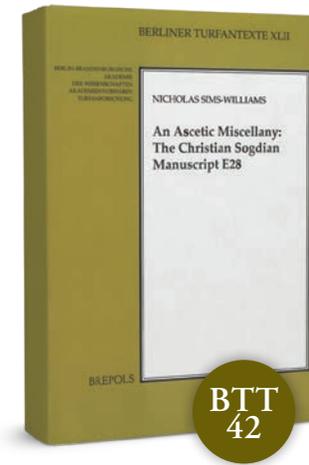
**This is the first collected edition of the Old Uyghur fragments related with the postal system in the Mongolian period.**

It is well known that the Mongols recognized the need for a fast and reliable flow of information and commercial goods at an early stage of their conquests. This necessity led to the establishment of an empire-wide postal relay system. Unprecedented in both size and efficiency, the pan-Eurasian network of messengers and postal stations became one of the Chinggisids’ most important imperial institutions. This new volume of the Berliner Turfantexte presents an edition and English translation (with detailed commentary) of the surviving Old Uyghur documents related to the postal system of the Mongol Empire (13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries), many of which are previously unpublished. Mostly preserved in the Berlin Turfan collection, these unique texts were unearthed in the Turfan region and in the vicinity of Dunhuang. Comprising a range of administrative records and other documents with links to the postal system,

they provide multiple snapshots of its operation at local and regional level. Their study therefore enables us to examine the postal system from a completely different point of view than that found in previous reconstructions, which tended to focus on narrative sources. Exposing administrative strata and regional nuance, the work sheds new light on this vital aspect of imperial Mongol rule. The book concludes with a bibliography, indices and tables of concordance. This work will be of interest for specialists in Turkology, Mongolian studies, medieval Central Eurasian history, information history and the Mongol Empire.

*Márton VÉR is a specialist in Turkology and the History of Central Asia. His research focuses on the edition and interpretation of Old Uyghur documents from the Mongolian period.*

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## An Ascetic Miscellany: The Christian Sogdian Manuscript E28

N. SIMS-WILLIAMS (ed.)

396 p., 35 b/w ill., 210 x 297 mm, 2017, PB,  
ISBN: 978-2-503-57878-1, € 70 *excl. tax*  
Languages: English, Sogdian  
*AVAILABLE*

**Edition of Christian Sogdian manuscript in Syriac script E28 discovered in Turfan.**

The Christian Sogdian manuscripts in Syriac script which were found at a Central Asian outpost of the “Church of the East”, the monastery at Bulayīq in the Turfan oasis, and are now preserved in the Berlin Turfan collection, include a large number of fragments in a distinctive handwriting which have been catalogued under the designation “E28”. Through his choice of texts to translate or to copy the scribe demonstrates his interest in the practice and traditions of monasticism, originating with St Anthony and the other “Desert Fathers”, the solitaries and monks of the Egyptian desert, and transplanted to Mesopotamia and Iran, according to legend, by Mār Awgen (Eugenius). In addition to works whose Syriac sources have been identified, such as passages from the spiritual writings

of Šem’on d-Taibuteh, Isaac of Nineveh and Dādišo’ Qatrāyā, as well as from the life of Mār Awgen, “E28” contains a number of unidentified texts, also no doubt translated from Syriac, many of which deal with aspects of the ascetic life. This volume contains an edition and translation of all the texts, most of them previously unpublished, together with a commentary, glossary and 35 plates. An appendix contains critical editions of some of the parallel Syriac passages.

*Nicholas Sims-Williams is an Emeritus Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies at SOAS, specializing in Iranian and Central Asian philology, Christian and Manichaean texts from Central Asia.*