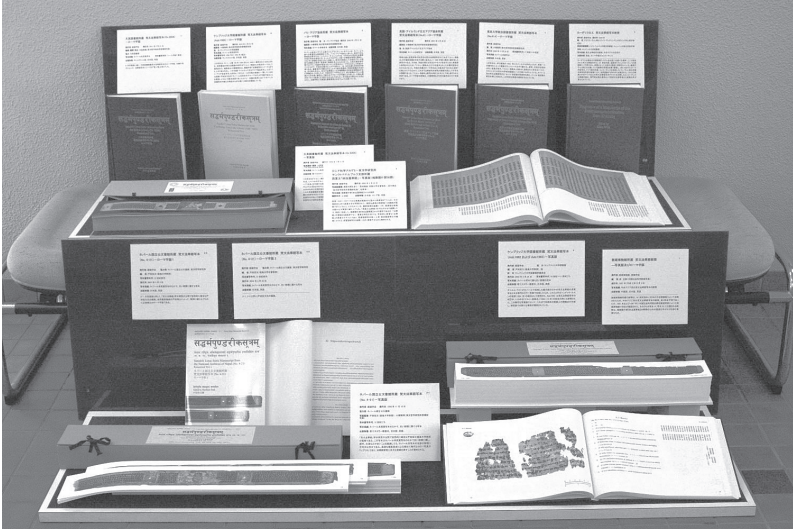


Feature: Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series Promoted by IOP

Commissioned by the Soka Gakkai to carry out research and editorship of Lotus Sutra texts, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) has promoted the publication of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series since 1997. The purpose of the project is to publish clear color facsimile editions and romanized texts of the precious manuscripts that are preserved in several places of the world, thus making them more accessible to researchers and experts and contributing to the studies of early Mahayana Buddhism centering around the Lotus Sutra.



Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series (1997–2011)

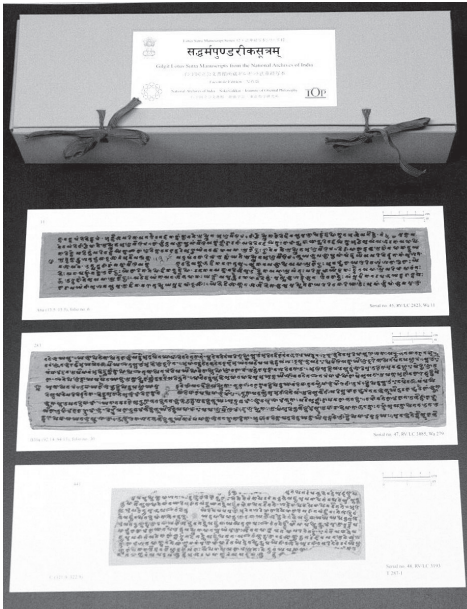
Among the critical editions of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra that have been published are works including the Kern-Nanjio edition (1908–12), the Wogihara-Tsuchida edition (1934–35), and the Dutt edition (1953). However, considering what contemporary academic research demands, it is required to make available critical editions that are more precise and reliable. In this regard, with the works in the manuscript series, the IOP intends to provide source materials essential for preparing such critical editions.

The series publications in the first phase (eight works) and the second phase (five works) have already been completed. As the start of the third phase, the *Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of India, Facsimile Edition* was published in March 2012. With this new facsimile edition, the series includes works that belong to all the three lineages of the Sanskrit Lotus Sutra manuscripts, namely, the Nepalese manuscripts, the Gilgit manuscripts, and the Central Asian manuscripts. In this issue of *The Journal of Oriental Studies* are reprinted prefaces, remarks, and an introductory article that are included in the new facsimile edition.

The following are the works thus far published (14 works):

1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Fragments from the Lüshun Museum Collection, Facsimile Edition and Romanized Text* (commonly called the Lüshun or Otani manuscripts)
Ancient fragments of the Central Asian manuscripts
Issued in May 1997
- 2-1–2-3. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the National Archives of Nepal (4-21)* (commonly called N1)
A text belonging to an ancient group of the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in the 12th century
Facsimile Edition (2-1): issued in November 1998
Romanized Text 1 (2-2): issued in May 2001
Romanized Text 2 (2-3): issued in March 2004
3. *Fragments of a Manuscript of the Saddharmapundarikasūtra from Khādaliq* (commonly called the Khādaliq manuscript)
An ancient text of a Central Asian manuscript
Issued in May 2000
4. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1682 and Add. 1683), Facsimile Edition* (commonly called C3 and C4)
Texts belonging to an ancient group of the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in the 10th–11th centuries
Issued in March 2002
5. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from University of Tokyo General Library (No. 414), Romanized Text* (commonly called T8)
A Nepalese paper manuscript, estimated to have been copied in the 17th–18th centuries)
Issued in November 2003
6. *Xixia Version of the Lotus Sutra from the Collection of St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences* (commonly called the St. Petersburg Xixia text)
Only non-Sanskrit text in the series, estimated to be produced in a period from the early 11th to the 13th centuries
Issued in March 2005
7. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (No. 6), Romanized Text* (commonly called R)
A Nepalese paper manuscript
Issued in March 2007
8. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Société Asiatique (No. 2), Romanized Text* (commonly called P3)
A Nepalese paper manuscript
Issued in March 2008
9. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Facsimile Edition* (commonly called B)
A text representing B Group, one of the ancient groups of the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in the 11th–13th centuries
Issued in March 2009

10. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from Cambridge University Library (Add. 1684), Romanized Text* (commonly called C5)
A text belonging to an ancient group of the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in 1064 or 1065
Issued in March 2010
11. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the British Library (Or. 2204), Romanized Text* (commonly called B)
A text representing B Group in the Nepalese palm-leaf manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in the 11th–13th centuries
Issued in March 2011
12. *Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of India, Facsimile Edition* (commonly called D1, D2, and D3)
Gilgit manuscripts, estimated to have been copied in the 6th-7th centuries
Issued in March 2012



Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of India, Facsimile Edition (2012)

In addition, the IOP has organized the exhibition, “Lotus Sutra—A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence,” in order to introduce in general terms how the Lotus Sutra has been transmitted in history and what its contents are. This exhibition has been held in nine countries and territories to date, and was held in February and March 2012 in Madrid, Spain. Professor Carlos Rubio, an authority on applied linguistics at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and supervising editor of the Spanish version of *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, was present at the opening of the exhibition and delivered a special lecture to commemorate the beginning of the event. The content of his lecture is also included in this issue.