

Acknowledgements

This study could not have borne much fruit without various forms of support from numerous individuals, scholars, institutions, libraries, archives, etc. First and foremost, the work would have been impossible without the continuous support and invaluable supervision of Professor Dr Harunaga Isaacson (University of Hamburg). I wish to thank him very much not only for giving me the opportunity to work on the subject-matter of this book, but also for his constant support and encouragement during my work. His immense knowledge and guidance helped me at all stages of its research and throughout the book's preparation.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr Jürgen Hanneder (University of Marburg), who as second supervisor kindly examined my PhD dissertation. He too, showed constant interest in my research, provided motivation and insightful comments right up to the book's completion. Furthermore, I would like to thank Prof. Dr Michael Zimmermann (University of Hamburg), one of the members of the examination committee of my PhD defence. His comments and suggestions were of great help in improving my work.

My sincere thanks also go to Prof. Dr Eva Wilden (University of Hamburg), who kindly granted me a three-month working contract in 2017 under the auspices of the NETamil project funded by the European Research Council (ERC). During which time, I was able to continue working on the book's completion. Likewise, my heartfelt thanks go to the CSMC, especially Prof. Dr Michael Friedrich for the various short-term working contracts between 2016–2017 which permitted me to carry out further work on the book.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague Dr Giovanni Ciotti (University of Hamburg). Always interested in my work, he provided remarkable feedback during my PhD, and was someone with whom I was able, not only to discuss many specific details, but also widen the horizons of my approach to manuscript studies.

This book would not have arrived at this form without the support of the editors of the *Studies in Manuscripts Cultures* series of the University of Hamburg, namely the aforementioned Prof. Dr Michael Friedrich, Prof. Dr Harunaga Isaacson and Prof. Dr Jörg B. Quenzer. I thank them all for granting me the opportunity of publishing the work in this series and most notably for their learned comments and suggestions.

I am also thankful to Dr Sebastian Bosch (University of Hamburg), Prof. Dr Oliver Hahn (University of Hamburg), Emanuel Kindzorra, and Prof. Dr Ira Rab-in (University of Hamburg) for their generous support regarding the section on

the scientific examination of manuscripts. In 2013, Prof. Hahn, Emanuel Kindzorra, and Prof. Rabin conducted the material analysis of certain manuscripts in Kathmandu, assisting me in making new discoveries on the materials used in manuscripts. Dr Bosch shared his valuable expertise with me when I was engaged in finalising the section on scientific examination. Furthermore, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Karsten Helmholtz, Christina Kaminski and Dr Irina Wandrey (CSMC) for their generous administrative assistance for the preparation of the research trip to Nepal in 2013 and the late Dr Albrecht Hanisch (Nepal Research Centre/Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project) for his organisational help before and during our trip to Kathmandu.

One other individual deserves special mention, namely Cosima Schwarke (CSMC), who took great care in the layout of this book and several vital administrative tasks. This book would not have achieved the form it has now without her insights. She also played an essential role in ensuring smooth communication between the editors of the series, de Gruyter, and myself during the volume's preparation. I am grateful to her for her great patience and support. Furthermore, my sincere thanks also go to de Gruyter Verlag and Florian Ruppenstein who took upon the book's publication tasks. I would also like to thank James Rumball who read through the English of this volume at its near-final stage and made many valuable suggestions.

The research undertaken for this book also received various kinds of support from several archives and libraries. My gratitude goes to the Kaiser Library (Kathmandu) and the members of its team for their helpfulness. In particular, I thank Mr Dashrath Mishra (Chief, Kaiser Library) for granting me the permission to publish folios or parts of folios of the manuscripts in the library's possession.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the National Archives (Kathmandu) and its team members, who always allowed me to conduct manuscript research, on the spot, and gave me permission to publish some of the folios from the archive's manuscripts. My thanks go to Prakash Darnal (Former Chief, National Archives), Jyoti Neupane, Manita Neupane, Saubhagya Pradhananga (Chief, National Archives), Niran Kumar Rajbamshi, Raju Rimal, Shivaram Sapkota, and Kumar Shrestha.

Thanks also go to the Bodleian Library (Oxford), especially Jen Burford, Gillian Grant and Samantha Sherbourne, and their team who were always supportive during the preparation of this volume and made digital images of a particular manuscript available to me and granted me the permission to use some of the folios or elements from them.

Similarly, my sincere gratitude goes to the British Library (London) and its team for their generous support, particularly Sandra Powlette and Chris Rawl-

ings for making images of manuscripts available to me as well as granting me the permission to use a few folios or parts from them. Their help enabled me to conduct my research further.

I am also thankful to the Cambridge University Library, in particular, Domniki Papadimitriou, Johanna Ward and the whole team as well as the members of the 'Sanskrit Manuscripts Project' who were always supportive and provided me with the digital copies of manuscripts for my study and the permission to publish them in their entirety or in part for the present volume.

Furthermore, my sincere thanks also go to the Jinabhadrasūri Grantha Bhaṇḍāra (Jaisalmer), especially to Dhiraj Dharod and Muni Pundarikratnavijaya who helped me in many ways, making digital copies of manuscripts available to me during my research and giving permission to use folios of manuscripts or parts of them in this book.

Thanks also go to the General Library, University of Tokyo, the Hemacandrācārya Jaina Jñānamandira (Patan), the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project, the Schøyen Collection and its editor of texts of the Buddhist manuscripts, and the members of those institutions for producing digital copies of the manuscripts required for my study and granting me the permission to publish folios or extracts of them.

Many more friends and colleagues supported me during the preparation of this book. My thanks go to Dr Jung-Lan Bang, Dr Victor D'Avella (University of Hamburg), Dr Camillo Formigatti (University of Oxford), Shanshan Jia (University of Hamburg), Dr Andrey Klebanov (University of Kyoto), Jooyoung Lim (University of Hamburg), Dr Costantino Moretti (École française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris), Dimitri Pauls (University of Hamburg), Dr Ramhari Timilsina (University of Heidelberg) and Dr Judith Unterdörfler (University of Würzburg). I also thank all friends and members of the CSMC who supported me in numerous ways.

Last but not least, this work would have not been possible in the first place without the constant support of each member of my family, who assisted me in many more ways than can be stated here. I would like to thank all of them deeply.