ARCHIVES

Himalayan Archives in Paris
Part Two

Lucette Boulinos

THE COLLECTIONS ON NEPAL IN THE BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

The Bibliothèque Nationale (National Library) in Paris, rightful heir to the Royal Library of French kings, has as its first duty to keep copies of anything published in France (the Dépot Légal system, founded in XVIIth century by the French king François Ier); consequently all French books and periodicals are automatically available there; it is also rich with manuscripts, from the Middle Ages to nowadays, French and foreign; but the Library may also be considered as a good international library, having bought the best foreign books, covering a vast range of topics in various languages. Among others: it has a collection, not insignificant, on Nepal and a rich collection on Tibet.

The Bibliothèque Nationale is situated 58 rue de Richelieu in a historical building. Access is limited to people fulfilling certain conditions. No loans are allowed.

Collections on Nepal are found in two of its departments: the Département des Manuscrits Orientaux and the Département des Imprimés (Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Department of Printed Material). Readers should go to both. The Département des Manuscrits Orientaux holds oriental manuscripts and most of the printed production in vernacular languages. It also holds a part of the printed production in Western languages on Asian countries.

The Département des Imprimés, although essentially keeping publications in Western languages, also holds important oriental collections including works on Nepal and the Himalayan states.

The Département des Manuscrits Orientaux holds some marvellous manuscripts: one of them, a copy in Newari script, as old as 1743, the title of which is Pujavidhi. (See Catalogue sommaire des manuscrits indiens ... by A. Cabaton, Paris, 1912). It also holds 66 original prints stamped from engraved inscriptions, including the 21 inscriptions which have been published by Sylvain Lévi in Le Népal. (As the Bibliothèque Nationale is preparing a printed catalogue of its oriental manuscripts, we shall not say more about the Nepalese manuscripts and let our readers wait for the future aforesaid printed catalogue.)

Oriental collections go back to 18th century, a period when there existed a strong attraction to, and curiosity for, Asian civilisations and their fundamental values.

To meet scholars' growing interest in Asia, the Library started acquiring oriental works in the fields of religion, philosophy, history, classical texts and sciences; it systematically and extensively developed such a practice during 19th century, when oriental studies ("l'orientalisme") were in full blossom in France.

Following this tradition of oriental acquisitions, the Library has continued adding new titles to its permanently growing collection; without losing sight at the necessity both to preserve its heritage and to make it available to readers in the most proper conditions.

The Département Légal system is responsible for the availability of all French works, as aforesaid; so Sylvain Lévi's Le Népal is there, and all his other works: Sylvain Lévi (1863-1935) was the first French Indologist to go to Nepal, as early as 1898, to collect material on the spot, and his work, of great scientific significance, is at the root of French research on Nepal.

Foreign publications on Nepal are bought from Great Britain, USA, Germany, India; they deal with history, ancient and modern, social anthropology, linguistics; sacred and profane literature, philosophy and religions, covering an extensive range of knowledge in diverse fields.

The first available works on Nepal have been kept in the Department of Printed Material, according to a subject classification traditionally labelled by "letters", which follows an encyclopaedic systematic classification. Thus under the letter "X", "linguistics and rhetoric", which includes grammar books, vocabularies and dictionaries in the various languages written all over the world, will be found A.D. Molony's "Gurkha Beginner" (1923) along with E. Chazot's and Sony Pant's "Dictionnaire français-népal" published in 1984.

In the field of Nepali literature will be found M.-C. Cabaud's "Le rossignol en cage", 1983, a collection of folk tales and fables which she translated from Nepali into French. In the field of economy, many titles also are to be found on development, agriculture planning and land tenure systems. In social anthropology, one of the most favoured fields of research in Nepal, one will find well-known monographs on the Nepalese people, such as Dor Bahadur Bista's and Marc Gaborit's works, and monographs on Nepalese castes, tribes, or localities: Limbu, Gurung, Tamang, Sherpa, Panauti, etc.

While it has been a long-established tradition to buy books on Himalayan arts, it is only recently that works on ecology, fauna and flora, geology and alpinism have been bought (more recent of all: alpinism).

As to books on history and geography, they make the bulk of the collection. This section includes historical works, chronologies, travel reports (often old
Nepalese names

standing. handwritten. completed.

MalcolCollection

book.

since 1970.

first

collection

Manuscripts

Resources on Tibet

Resources on Tibet may be found in the
General Collections (Département des
Imprimés, main reading room), in the Divi-
sion Orientale du Département des Manu-
scrits, in the Département des Cartes et Plans
(Map Department) for old and modern maps,
and in the Cabinet des Médailles (Medals and
Coins Department) for Tibetan coins (of which
some are kept there, several brought by Pére
Huc about 1848).

Division Orientale du Département des
Manuscrits

This inquiry was completed by Mme
Berthier, now in office, and was largely
based on the notes and professional heritage
left by A. Silburn. Miss Silburn was in
charge of the Tibetan section for many years
before retiring in 1988. Mme Cohen,
Conservateur, is Chief Librarian of the
Oriental Division. The material on books
printed in Western languages was compiled by
L. Boulnois.

The Tibetan collections

The Department holds two collections
of Tibetan books: the Fonds Tibetain and
the Fonds Pelliot-Tibétain.

The following data on these collections are
extracted from a manuscript by Mme
Berthier, which is to be published in the near
future in: Le Guide du Lecteur (The Reader's
Guide) by Division Orientale du
Département des Manuscrits de la Biblio-
thèque Nationale.

The Fonds Tibetain

Holds 1506 xylograph volumes and
333 Manuscripts (note that one volume may
include several texts).

The first volume in Tibetan which
ever entered the Bibliothèque du Roi (now
Bibliothèque Nationale) was offered to it by
Clère, a physician who had served in
the Russian army: this happened in 1777; it was
an isolated arrival; it is during 19th century
that a collection of xylographs and manus-
cripts in the Tibetan language was actually
started in the Bibliothèque Nationale,
through gifts or purchases from Orientalists,
bookshops, from the Desgodins mission in
Tibet and other travellers. In 1835 the Royal
Asiatic Society of Bengal presented the
Paris new-born Société Asiatische with a
complete set of the (complete set of the Nor-
than Kangjur, which in
1840 entered the Bibliothèque Nationale.
A letter by B.H. Hodgson, then in
Kathmandu, dated 1835, deals with this gift. The
Société Asiatische at Paris had no room for
such a collection and had to transfer it to the
B.N., where it has remained since.

First Mongol and Tibetan works were
kept together in a Fonds Tibétio-Mongol; in
1914 the Tibetan works were separated in a
Fonds Tibetain as it is presently. Then it
included 520 works; later on, in 1932, the
Tibetan books belonging to Palmyro Cordier
(a French military surgeon who collected
between 1898 and 1902) were included in the
Fonds Tibetain, and later on it received a
collection from Musée Guimet.

The Tibetan works are of two kinds:
religious and secular. Among the religious
works are the 100 and more volumes of
the Kang (the Library holds two sets: a "red"
set from Peking and a "black" Kang
set), the 223 volumes of the Taruz; the Rin
chen tsermjo, the Mdo-man treaties, Bonpo
texts, the Tibetan Tripitaka, Prajnaparami,
propitation rituals, and also Tibetan
translations from the Christian Gospels by

Among the secular works will be found
the Gesar saga, geography books and
pilgrimage guides, music and poetry works,
yogi, genealogies, historical annals and
chronicles, administrative correspondence,
practical manuals on agriculture, statute
casting, chinaware, tea, commercial,
accountancy, legal writings; customary law
papers; and many books of lexicography,
vocabulary, and dictionaries.

The "fonds tibétain" includes books

in different Tibetan scripts and also some
books in languages other than Tibetan:
Chinese, Turkish, Mongol, Sanskrit, Zaw
Zun, Manchu, Tangut, as well as Latin,
Italian, English.

There is no catalogue on cards of the
Tibetan collection; it has been described in
hand-written registers or printed books or
articles, some as early as 1909: see by
Palmyro Cordier, Catalogue du Fonds Tibé-
tain de la Bibliothèque Nationale, Deux-
tième Partie, 1909, et Troisième Partie,
1915 (which are descriptions of the 223
tomes of the Kang, based on the Peking,
"red" set); it deals with items "Tibetain No
108" to "332". The author explains that the
"Part I", describing the Kang set, Items 1 to
108, will be published later on.

Cordier's catalogue was published; so
were the following volumes by Marcelle
Lalou: Catalogue du Fonds Tibetain de la
Bibliothèque Nationale, Quatrième Partie,
I, Les Mdo-man, Paris, 1931 and Répertoire
du Tanjur d'après le Catalogue de P.
Cordier published in 1933, which is an
Index of Cordier's work.

After its arrival in the B.N. Cordier's
own collection was catalogued by Jean Filli-
ozat in Est des manuscrits sanscrits,
bengalis et tibétains de la collection Palmyr
Cordier, in Journal Asiatique, 1934,
January-March issue.

The Division keeps an old manuscript
catalogue, possibly handwritten by P.E.
Foucaux, corresponding to the Kang
"black" Tanjur kept in B.N.: Index du
Gangdjour imprimé dans le couvent de
Goumboum dans le Tibet, composé par le
Baron Schilling de Canstadt, without date.

The complete "brief" catalogue of the
Tibetan collection was started in 1936 by
Jean Filliozat and was continued by Mme
Guignard and then Miss A. Silburn; it is
composed of several bound registers, hand-
written, kept in the reading-room of Divi-
sion orientale; the first register (items 1 to
780) is by J. Filliozat; the second, started in
1941 by the same, was continued in Mme
Guignard's handwriting (items 821 to 875) and then Miss Silburn's handwriting (876 to 1136). Later on it was Miss Silburn only who was in charge of the cataloguing. The continuation of the register, a Kanjur reprint (a Delhi edition of the manuscript from Tojg Palace; item 1137, 109 volumes); items 1138 to 1165 list mostly editions or reprints issued between 1960 and 1981. The 1970ies were years of a new start for Tibetan acquisitions, now in modern forms; and the next and last register, from item 1166 to item 1262, stopped at the time of Miss Silburn's retirement and lists publications issued between 1980 and 1988. In these two last registers are listed reprints of works on history, royal genealogies, history of Buddhism, archives, religious works, philosophy, divination, alchemy, rituals, grammars, lamas' biographies, etc. One item may include a single volume or a large number of volumes, as for the Kanjur for instance. The modern editions come from Delhi, from Peking, from Dharmasala, and elsewhere. Specially worthy of notice is the important amount of works on Bon-po religion: religious and canonical texts, rituals, reproductions from manuscripts coming from Nepal, historical texts; many of them issued by the Tibetan Bon-po Monastic Centre in Ochghat, Solan district, Himachal Pradesh; item 1175 describes a Bon-po treatise in Zah-Zuin language.

The last register includes another Kanjur (reproduction from a Lhasa edition xylograph of 1767. From the same monastery, 1972, 118 volumes), and also works issued in Bhutan.

A. Silburn has also compiled an unpublished Tib. 886 (1-63). Rin chen gter migrod (Collection de textes tibétains concernant le laïmaisme de la secte non réformée), Paris, without date, in 198 sheets, describing the 63 volumes of this text.

The Fonds Pelliot-Tibétain

This comprises 4450 manuscripts (no xylographs), written before the 11th century A.D., brought back by Paul Pelliot (along with Chinese and other manuscripts) from the Dunhuang grottoes in Gansu, between 1908 and 1910. Among them are some of the oldest written works in Tibetan, extremely interesting for the study of ancient Tibetan civilization, and for comparison with Chinese sources.

These manuscripts are almost all written on paper (often hemp cloth paper) with a wooden pen; they are either religious Buddhist texts or secular texts of interest for the study of life in Tibetan society during 9-10th centuries, especially life in monasteries; or chronicles, annals, administrative treatises, law and economy papers, accountancy, letters, reports, deeds; they include books on hippietry and hunting, drawings and paintings, mantras, invocations, astrology, calendars, divination, demography works; and also grammars and library catalogues. The origin of these manuscripts, the famous cave where they were hidden (the so-called cave 28 in France), are well known. A preliminary sorting out was interrupted by war; the collection was stored in B.N. with a handwritten list by J. Bacoct. Evacuated far from Paris at the beginning of World War II, it was re-installed in the precincts of the B.N. in 1946.

The cataloguing was completed in 1939: here we find again the name of Marcelle Lalou and her more than twenty years Inventaire work: the volumes I to III of her Inventaire des manuscrits tibétains de l'Institut oriental conservé à la Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Pelliot-tibétain, were published between 1939 and 1961. She has also written articles on this collection. Later on, Ariane Macdonald and Yoshio Imaeda edited, in 1978, Choix de documents tibétains conservé à la Bibliothèque Nationale, complété par quelques manuscrits de l'India Office et du British Museum (réunis par la mission Paul Pelliot).

It should be added that in addition to the manuscripts in Tibetan, the Pelliot-tibétain collection includes 245 bilingual or trilingual manuscripts (Chinese, Ulug, Uyghur, turkish, Khotanese, Sanskrit).

Books in Chinese on Tibet

The Division Orientale holds an important and old collection of works in Chinese that has to do with geography and history of Tibet, its social life, religion, natural history etc. The catalogue (on cards) is by author and title. There is no subject classification.

Printed Material in Western Languages

Readers should go to two different places: the main reading room where the general collection of printed works is available, and the Division Orientale du Département des Manuscrits, where many are kept not only manuscripts but also many printed books and periodicals on Asian subjects. Let us begin by this one.

The oldest catalogue to look for is Histoire de l'Asie, a handwritten register-catalogue including the oldest printed material; it was compiled about 1900: Tibet is on pp. 485-497; the oldest title is Relation de la nouvelle découverte du grand Catalogue de bien du royaume de Tibet by Father Andrada, 1627 (with Italian and Spanish editions of the same); and the Parraud et Billecocq edition of An IV (1796) with extracts from Andrada; Samuel Turner in French and in German; Reilly's Description du Tibet, Paris, Bussange, Masson et Besson, 1808, which is actually a translation from P.S. Pallay; and an Opisanie Tibet, translated from Chinese into Russian, published in St Petersburg in 1828. It is obvious that in all fields the Bibliothèque Nationale not only holds everything published in France (as has been explained in the chapter "Resources on Nepal" in the Bulletin No. 3) but managed to require important works from major countries in Orientalist fields. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that Russian works, as well as English and German works, are available for this period; even English and German editions that already existed when this old Catalogue was written, Klaproth, Foucaux, J.J. Schmidt, Schilling von Canstadt had already written most of their work; J.J. Schmidt had already compiled Der Index des Kanjur, published in 1845 in St Petersburg. All are kept in B.N.

Next to the old Histoire de l'Asie come five full drawers of cards, mostly books, including also some imprints. It makes between 4000 and 5000 different titles, up to 1985. From 1985 on, the catalogue is computerized (on line) and cards are no longer used.

It is impossible to give the names of all authors. Of course, all important works, all important authors are to be found there, French, English, German, Italian, Russian and others; also the visiting scholar will find all the printed catalogues of important collections on Tibet kept in the most important libraries in the world, including what has been published in the French library catalogues themselves, his titles about Kanjur; dictionaries and grammars go by dozens. Starting from the time when Latin was used throughout Europe, we find the Alphabetum Tangutum sive Tibetanum of 1773 (the Alphabetum Tibetanum by Giorgii or Georgi, 1762, is catalogued in the main reading room); and the Bibliothéca responsa tibetica cum versione latina ab Antonio Schiefner edita, Petropolii (St Petersburg), 1875 and other works by A. Schiefner ... to the latest contemporary works by living authors from A.-M. Blom dea to H.E. Richardson and R. Stein, with Samten Karmay, P. Kvaerne, B. Lecocq, H. A. Macdonald and L. Peet. Many titles go under the names of David-Néel, Bacoct, Körösì Csoma (Csoma de Körös), L. Feer, A.H. Francke, A. Grünwedel, S. Hedin, M. Hermans, S. Hummel, Desgodins, H. Eimer, Jäschke, De Jong, M. Lalou, D.I. Lauf, B. Lauffer, La Vallée Poussin, R.O. Meisezah, A. Róna-Tas, Nebesky-Wojkowitz, G. Tucci, Géza Uray. We have to stop listing names, there are too many of them. Let us add only that the Russian literature is represented by I. Bilibin, N.D. Bolshoeva, ...
relations and political studies; the section 1960-1979, about 100 titles on the political situation, memoirs, essays, religion, books by Tibetans in exile, reprints of David-Néel; more recently religion, language manuals and the political situation are the chief subjects.

Needless to say, many important periodicals in Asian fields are also available in B.N., either in the main reading room or in Département des Périodiques, depending on the dates of publication. A part of the periodicals collection is now kept in Versailles in the Annex of Bibliothèque Nationale.

Maps of Tibet in Département des Cartes et Plans

Situated in the same building, the Département des Cartes et Plans (Map Department) holds a very considerable collection of maps. Tibet, of course, is not a major subject there, but it holds current maps found in all important universal map libraries. What is especially interesting is that the Bibliothèque Nationale is rich in old European maps of Asia and holds the Collection d'Anville: maps belonging to or compiled by Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville, "Géographe ordinaire du Roi". D'Anville is famous among Tibetologists for his Carte générale du Tibet ou Bou-tan of 1733; in his collection will be found also many manuscript maps and drafts which were used for his own maps. Maps by Guillaume de l'Isle, also Géographe du Roi, and generally speaking maps of 18th century, when our knowledge of Tibetan geography started developing, are also very interesting.

THE LIBRARY OF THE CENTRE D'ÉTUDES DE L'INDÉ ET DE L'ASIÉ DU SUD

Founded in 1955 as Centre d'Études Indiennes as a part of the Chaire de Sociologie de l'Inde, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Vie section), this Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud is rich since 1965 associated ("Laboratoire associé") to Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. It stands in the building of Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris 75006, same building as Centre de Documentation sur la Chine Contemporaine.

It is a research centre including a library.

The Library

The Librarian in charge, Mme B. Pelissier, who also compiled this information, will be in charge until the end of 1992; then Mme Arnaud will take over.


The Collections

The Library presently holds about 22,000 books, 3,000 offprints, 300 maps, and receives currently 120 periodicals. Coverage: the whole of South Asia: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal.

As to Nepal, the collection is limited as it had been settled between different librarians in Paris that it was rather left to the Centre d'Études Himalayennes to buy materials for the other part of the Subcontinent, and consequently for the Himalayan districts of India and Pakistan, the Centre d'Études de l'Inde is one of the best places in Paris for the modern period, and also the British Raj period. Mostly it is post-1960 materials, this including of course the numerous reprints of old books which have been published these last 40 years. Old books, such as a copy of Volume V of La Harpe's Histoire des Voyages, are the exception.

All fields of social sciences are covered; natural history is present in a limited scale, especially Botany and Medi-
with a Portable Computer Olivetti with software Texto. In 1988 the union catalogue was stopped as were the subject classification card files.

THE CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION SUR LA CHINE CONTEMPORAINE

The Documentation Centre on Modern China is situated in the building of Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme, 54 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris. Founded in 1958 as a department of Ecole Pratique des Hautes études, VIe section it is now Laboratoire associé URA 1018 (associated laboratory) to Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

The Library

*Inquiry: Librarians: Mme Monique Abu; Mme Aubert (books in Chinese); Mme Peh.*

The Library is one of the best places in France to study the political and economic history of modern China, with a very good collection of books, periodicals and newspapers in Chinese.

It holds about 30,000 books and 1600 titles of periodicals, in Chinese and Western languages. The Library is open to research workers, students and people with a serious motivation. No loan is allowed.

Period covered: modern China from the second half of Ch'ing dynasty period. Although Tibet is not in itself a very important item in the bulk of the collection, this Library is very important for Himalayan studies in three ways: first, the foreign relations of China with Himalayan countries, including Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, India etc.; second, the history of Sino-Tibetan relations; and third, contemporary Tibet as politically a part of China.

Although most of the collection deals with the post-1950 period, some old rare books are available in the Tibetan field: classical books by Bonvalot, Legendre, Grenard, S. Turner and the collection of the Eastern miscellany (in Chinese) from 1905 to 1973. But what is especially valuable is the possibility to follow day to day political and economic history of all parts of China through current newspapers and news agency reports and a lot of periodicals, through which much information on Tibet and on Chinese foreign relations may be picked out.

On paper or on microfilm, the Centre holds the Survey of China Mainland Press and Survey of China Mainland Magazines, issued for more than 25 years after the communist take over, by the American Consulate in Hong Kong: these series are translations into English of important news from continental Chinese newspapers, periodicals, New China News Agency bulletins etc; when this collection stopped, the Centre started buying the BBC Summary of World Reports (daily, and economic weekly, reports) for Far East - a capital source of information which may be used by people not reading Chinese.

Some current periodicals specifically on Tibet are received: Xizang Yanjiu, Tibetan Review, Tibetan Studies (from Lhasa); often articles on Tibet also appear in Minzu yanjiu, a well-known periodical on Chinese national minorities.

Very useful for following current events are the Chinese daily newspapers (like Renmin Ribao) and important periodicals, in Chinese and Western languages, in the fields of political and economic affairs of the Far East.

As to books specifically on Tibet since 1950, their number is limited (two or three scores in Western languages and ten or fifteen volumes in Chinese). The collection will be more useful in the field of Sino-Tibetan relations, or for a chapter on Tibet in books on China in general the data on Tibet in yearbooks, statistical publications etc. Maps and atlases (many in Chinese) of China in general, are available, but not specifically maps of Tibet.

THE SOCIETE ASIATIQUE LIBRARY

*Inquiry: Mme Allier; Mme Karunatilleke*

The Société Asiatique, a private institution, was founded in 1822; it has moved several times to different places in Paris. The Library is presently in the precincts of Collège de France, 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 75005 Paris.

The Library never had any budget to buy books; the collections consist exclusively of gifts and legacies. As it is very old, it holds publications practically from the middle of the 19th century, but somewhat at random. It has however a complete collection of the Journal Asiatique, the journal of the Société).

Members of the Société are allowed to borrow books.

As the buildings of 22 avenue du Président Wilson, where the Centre d'Etudes sur les Religions Tibétaines and the Ecole Francaise d'Extrême Orient (EFEO) Library have been until now are being renovated for the next two years, the collections there have to be packed and will not be available for a time. The Bacot Collection, which belongs to Société Asiatique but was kept as was written in Bulletin No.3 - in Centre d'Etudes sur les Religions Tibétaines, is to be returned to the Société Asiatique library at the end of this summer.

**Additions and Corrections:**

1. The EFEO library and Centre d'Etudes sur les religions tibétaines, have been removed from the avenue du Président Wilson for about two years because of restoration work. With the exception of the Fonds Bacot (see Société Asiatique library) and the index files of the photographic collection these collections are not available. The temporary office for both institutions is: 29 rue Daviel, 75013 Paris.
2. The Bacot collection, which was previously kept in Centre d'Etudes sur les religions tibétaines, but actually belongs to the Société Asiatique, has now been returned to the Société Asiatique.
3. In Part I, p. 29, right hand column, after line 7, should read: "...and about 40 dictionaries, grammars and essays on the language: religion comes next, with 30 titles published between 1940 and 1960 and about 10 since 1960; then next in importance comes history with 20 titles; in other fields..."