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The point of departure for this thematic issue of the Revue d’Études Tibétaines was a conference co-convened by the two guest editors of the present volume, George FitzHerbert and Alice Travers, on June 18, 2018 at Wolfson College, Oxford, entitled “Military Culture in Tibet during the Ganden Phodrang Period (1642–1959): The Interaction between Tibetan and Other Traditions”, at which preliminary versions of these papers were presented and discussed. In addition to the authors of the eight articles published here, we would also like to express gratitude to all those involved in that conference, including Ulrike Roesler, Nicola Di Cosmo, Charles Ramble and Qichen (Barton) Qian, all of whom contributed indirectly to the contents of the present volume. While several of the contributors (George FitzHerbert, Ryosuke Kobayashi, Yasuko Komoto, Diana Lange, Federica Venturi and Alice Travers), are themselves members of the TibArmy project, the volume also includes papers by other invited scholars (Hosung Shim and Ulrich Theobald) who participated in the conference.

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Many uncertainties remain in this nascent field of study, but we hope that the material presented here will foster further interest and research on Tibetan military history, and on the many interactions and mutual influences that shaped Tibetan history in this period.

George FitzHerbert and Alice Travers