

Dhāraṇī Collection: Mapping a Genre

Gergely Hidas

This paper surveys those Buddhist manuscripts at Cambridge which contain collections of *dhāraṇīs*. The majority of such compendia are *Pañcarakṣā* and *Saptavāra* sets designed in various ways and often beautifully illuminated. The longest collection of incantations is the *Dhāraṇīsamgraha* (Add. 1326), which contains more than 150 spells. Beside an examination of these traditions and tracing their provenance, this paper also investigates whether it is possible to establish a South Asian canon of *dhāraṇīs* on the basis of the above mentioned sources.