

The Book in Late Tantric Buddhist Lore

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This paper proposes to examine a selection of passages from late (9th to 13th c.) tantric Buddhist literature (including the *Hevajratantra* and its commentaries, the *Samputodbhava*, the *Samvarodayā nāma maṇḍalopāyikā*, the *Vimalaprabhā*, and others) and inscriptions, which deal with the book as a material object simultaneously assuming the roles of a commodity, an object of worship, an aid for the dispensation of knowledge and power, as well as a palladium. The main point is to examine whether books containing tantric material were seen as in any way different from their mainstream Buddhist counterparts.