

AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE OLDEST DATED MANUSCRIPT
OF THE MILINDAPANHA

Since writing the article for the previous issue of this journal continuous research on Pāli manuscripts in North Thailand led to the discovery of further parts of this invaluable manuscript. These researches were greatly facilitated by project started by the initiative of Dr.H.Hundius, Chiang Mai, financed for the better part by the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), and run by the Centre for the Promotion of Arts and Culture Project, Chiang Mai University, under the directorate of Dr. M.L. Rujaya Abhakorn. The aim of this project is to preserve palm leaf manuscripts in Vat (monastery) libraries of North Thailand and to microfilm a selection of the more important manuscripts in North Thai (Thai Yuan) and also in Pāli. It is hoped that a catalogue of the microfilmed Pāli manuscripts will be produced in due course to facilitate the access to this material.

In August 1987 renewed searches in the library of Vat Lai Hin, which also resulted in a complete rearrangement of the manuscripts, brought to light two most probably complete phūk (fasciculi) and some stray leaves. Lack of time prevented a more exact description of the newly discovered parts than the following:

phūk 8: na-ṇaḥ, ta-taḥ

phūk 9: folios thū, du-daṃ, three folios without pagination belonging to this phūk most probably.

phūk 14: ra-raḥ, la-laḥ

Thus, only phūks 3, 12, and 13 are entirely lost, and there does not seem to be much chance to recover them, as all manuscripts in the library of Vat Lai Hin have been checked by now.

As far as the bibliography of the Milindapañha is concerned, a few titles may added now to those given in note 1, JPTS 11. 1987, p. 118 foll.:

Milindapañha Pāli. Ed. (N^e) by Dwarikadas Shastri. Bauddha Bhāratī Series, 13. Benares 1979

Milindapañha. Die Fragen des Königs Milinda. Aus dem Pāli Übersetzt von Nyanatiloka, herausgegeben und teilweise neu übersetzt von Nyanaponika. Interlaken 1985.

This new and revised edition of the translation of 1919/1924 also contains an important introduction by H.Bechert.

T.Pobožniak: Dilemma no. 56 in the Questions of King Milinda, in: Proceedings of the Fifth World Sanskrit Conference, Varanasi, India, October 21-26, 1981. Delhi 1986. 613-615

T.Pobožniak: Genesis of the Milindapañha, in: Sanskrit and World Culture. Proceedings of the Fourth World Sanskrit Conference. Weimar May 23-30, 1979. Schriften zur Gesellschaft und Kultur des alten Orients 18. Berlin 1986. 508-510

The opinion put forward here that the Milindapañha had been con-

ceived in Greek originally, can hardly be substantiated by any facts. The only thing really Greek in this text seems to be the (distorted) name of king Menandros.

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REMARKS ON A LIST OF BOOKS SENT TO CEYLON FROM SIAM
IN THE 18TH CENTURY

The letter sent to the royal court at Kandy (Sirivaḍḍhanapura) on behalf of the king of Siam, and published in the present issue, includes some information of considerable interest for the study of the history of Pāli texts. For a shipment, which comprised no less than 97 books (sattanavuttipakaraṇāni) containing texts no longer extant on the island, and therefore asked for in a second document accompanying this letter (samaṇasandesa, § 2 at the end), is said to have been dispatched together with the letter. That the Siamese side readily complied to the request from Ceylon can be gathered from § 15 of the letter: "In the auspicious letter (subhakkhara) sent by you (i.e. the aggamahāsenāpati of Kandy: § 1 at the end) it is said that books on dhamma, vinaya, etc. are not available in Ceylon. Having heard this, and that no other books on dhamma and vinaya than those mentioned in the letter on religious matters (samaṇalekha, cf. § 13 and elsewhere)¹ have been asked for to reestablish these texts there (i.e. in Ceylon), I reported this to the best of lawful and pious kings with all due respect and having risen my folded hands over my head. <§ 16> The best of lawful and pious kings joyfully gave 97 texts, namely ... to establish them in Ceylon."

For easy reference the list is repeated here with a number given to each individual text:

1. Sumaṅgalavilāsinicatuatṭhakathāsuttapitaka²
2. Paṭhamasamantapāsādikādīpañcavinayaatṭhakathāpitaka
3. Moggallānapakaraṇa
4. Atṭhakathāvinayaṣaṭṭikā
5. Vimativinodanī
6. Rūpasiddhi
7. Bālapabodhisatṭikā
8. Bālāvatārasatṭikā
9. Saddasārasatṭikā
10. Saddabindupakaraṇa
11. Kaccāyanaatṭhapakaraṇa
12. Sampiṇḍamahānidāna
13. Vimānavatthupakaraṇa
14. Petavatthupakaraṇa
15. Cakkavāladīpanīpakaraṇa
16. Sotabbamālinīpakaraṇa
17. Soḷasakīmahānidāna
18. Lokadīpaka
19. Lokavināsa
20. Jambūpatisutta
21. Theragāthāpakaraṇa
22. Therīgāthāpakaraṇa
23. Anuṭṭikāsaṅgaha