

Three Gandhari Ekottarikagama-Type Sutras: British Library Kharosthi Fragments 12 and 14

Mark Allon

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Three Gandhari Ekottarikagama-Type Sutras continues the Gandharan Buddhist Texts studies of the firstcentury A.D. birch bark scrolls in the British Library's Kharosthi manuscript collection. It describes the text found on two fragments which constitute the lower part of a scroll and consists of the remnants of three sutras. All three sutras are relatively short and have an association with the number four, which suggests that they are from a Gandhar- Ekottarikagama, a collection of short discourses grouped according to numerical principles and one of the major collections of writings in the Buddhist canon.

The first sutra records a discussion in which a brahman asks the Buddha four questions. The second su-tra, like the third, depicts the Buddha preaching to monks. The structure of this sutra is based on the four postures: walking, standing, sitting, and lying down. The Buddha's discourse in the third sutra concerns the four efforts (or abandonings).

The book describes the condition of the scroll and its reconstruction; examines in detail the literary and textual background of the sutras, comparing them with other extant versions and parallels in other languages; and presents a transcription of the extant text, a reconstruction, and an English translation. It includes chapters on the paleography, orthography, phonology, and morphology of the text, and offers a detailed analytic commentary.

For more information go to the Early Buddhist Manuscript Project web site at http://www.ebmp.org/



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