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**FRAGMENTS OF THE “SADDHARMAPUṆḌARĪKA-SŪTRA”
IN THE I. P. LAVROV MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH
OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES**

The paper continues the publication of Sanskrit manuscripts from I. P. Lavrov collection, which we started in the first number of “*Manuscripta Orientalia*”.

Judging by the number of copies found in Eastern Turkestan, the “*Saddharmapuṇḍarīka-sūtra*” played an important part in the diffusion of the Mahāyāna doctrines in Central Asia and China and enjoyed a wide popularity, especially in the 5th—8th centuries. The so-called “Kashgar manuscript” found by N. Th. Petrovsky is generally known. Its facsimile has been twice published and serves a basis for investigating the Central Asian version of the sūtra [1]. The manuscript was written in a book Brāhmī script, current in the southern oases of Eastern Turkestan during several centuries (mainly, in the 5th—8th centuries). Beginning from 1985 about 100 fragments of the sūtra were published in Russia, most of these coming from the Petrovsky collection as well [2]. More than 5 different copies of the sūtra were recognized among them. Apart from two fragments of the Lavrov collection which we are going to consider in the paper, M. I. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya is publishing another two fragments of the sūtra in the same number of the journal. These come from S. E. Malov's collection and belong to two different manu-

scripts. We may hope that some more fragments of the sūtra will be identified in the St. Petersburg manuscript collection in the future.

The Central Asian version of the sūtra is recognized in the greater part of the published fragments. The Petrovsky manuscript represents a classical sample. Simultaneously with the Central Asian version one more Sanskrit version was circulating over Eastern Turkestan. It came down to us in several eleventh century Nepalese manuscripts. They were used by H. Kern and B. Nanjio in their publication of the text of the sūtra in the “*Bibliotheca Buddhica*” series (further referred to as BB) [3]. The new name of the variant appeared after the discovery and publication of the Gilgit manuscripts of the “*Saddharmapuṇḍarīka*”, that is the Nepalese-Gilgit variant [4]. We are publishing new fragments of the sūtra with a view to promote the study of this variant.

In the Lavrov collection two fragments of the Nepalese-Gilgit variant of the sūtra are kept under call number SI L/12. Both belong to the same manuscript. According to the palaeographic criteria suggested by Lore Sander, its script can be determined as “*Türkistanischer Gupta-Typ (Schrifttypus III), Alphabet q*” [5].

FRAGMENT 1 (fig. 1, 2)

A fragment of a folio of the poṭhī type, 17 × 7,5 cm. The left edge is torn off. Judging by the traces of glue, there was a patch along the left edge. There are 6 lines on each side. Some lacunae are present in the central part of the fragment.

The text belongs to chapter 12 (in the Central Asian version — chapter 13) of the sūtra — “*Utsāhana-parivar-*

taḥ”. It follows the version of the “*Bibliotheca Buddhica*”. Below we compare four versions of the text: one of our manuscript; one of the “*Bibliotheca Buddhica*”, p. 267, lines 12—269, line 1; one of the Gilgit manuscript, group B, pp. 247(13)—248(5), and, at last, one of the Petrovsky manuscript, ff. 257a(1)—258b(1).