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Nomination form

SUTRA of GREAT 'DEITY TARA'

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Sutra of Great Deity Tara, 4.5x5.0 cm tiny book of Green and White Tara with 79 lines of text, was handwritten by red and black ink. It is believed to be written by a single animal hair in 1914 by a Buddhist lama, Shagj Sangajav (1886-1938). It would have filled 6 pages if written in normal size letters. Shagj was killed by communist dictatorship for being a "contra-revolutionary who bowed to Dalai Lama". Tibetan books were confiscated by then-Stalinist regime, however, the sutra, brought to the Central Library of Mongolia in 1980s, was overlooked, possibly because of its unremarkable frame.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Khaidav CHILAAJAV
Gundegmaa JARGALSAIKHAN

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Director, National Library of Mongolia
Chairperson, Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program

Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

2.3 Contact person(s)

Gundegmaa JARGALSAIKHAN
Secretary-General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

Khaidav CHILAAJAV
Director, National Library of Mongolia
Chairperson, Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program

2.4 Contact details

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Address</i> |
| JARGALSAIKHAN Gundegmaa | Government building XI Post Office-38 Revolution Avenue, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Address</i> |
| CHILAAJAV Khaidav | Ulaanbaatar-210648, Chinggis Avenue-4 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia |

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| Telephone | Facsimile | Email |
|--|-----------------|--|
| JARGALSAIKHAN.G.(976)-11-315652 (976)-99115749 | (976)-11-322612 | g.jargalsaikhan@unesco.mn jsaikhan@yahoo.com |
| CHILAAJAV KH. (976)-11-323100 (976)-99100949 | (976)-11-323100 | director@nationallibrary.mn chilaajav@yahoo.com |

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

SUTRA of GREAT 'DEITY TARA'

Description:

Mongolians have a rich tradition of creating books and sutras with various items and in many forms since early ages. Great canonic sutras and sacred worship texts of Buddhism used to be printed through typolithography both in large and miniature sizes using special techniques and applications. This tradition that demonstrates intellectual creativity and magic has reached levels that has resulted in evolving of extraordinary and unique style and methods to create the largest and the smallest books and sacred sutras.

The dimensions of this memorialia is 4.9x5.4 cm, text outlined within 4.5x5cm frame, of 0.08 cm thickness and it weights 0.2 gr and paper used is more likely of russian origin which was widely used at the cross-roads of 19-20th centuries. Though it is not known when exactly this unique and extraordinary work was created but believed that it is about 100 years of age. Also, specially noteworthy feature of writing in this book of Green and White Tara is its very miniature sizes, the text has been reproduced not in Tibetan shorthand taking so-called "gshar" script but written in full-sized "gzab" letters that is used in typolithographical printing of religious texts and sutras. Thus, in condense writing of this text in 79 lines on tiny space, natural red paint and black ink were used intermittently. This work is indeed an extraordinary unique and masterfully performed piece of art where texts of Green and White Tara were written in altogether 79 lines on tiny space that is even not full 5 cm space using very thin pen point where risk of overlapping lines and decorations is extremely high. Hence, these characteristics make this work as unique and unparalleled masterpiece by enabling to fit into such tiny space a total of about ten thousand characters.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

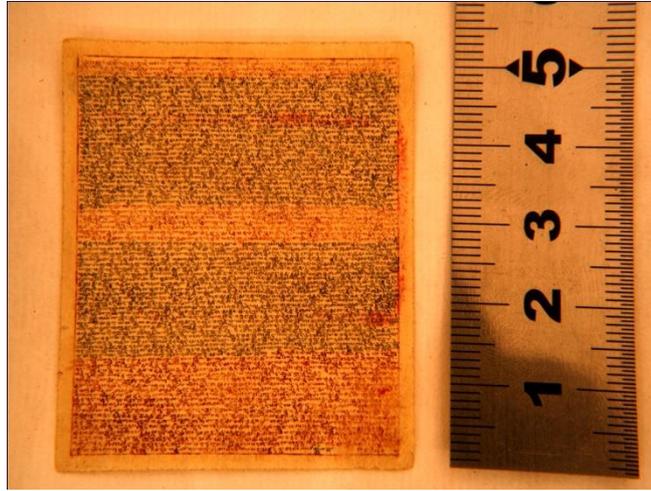
Registration number: 24/56

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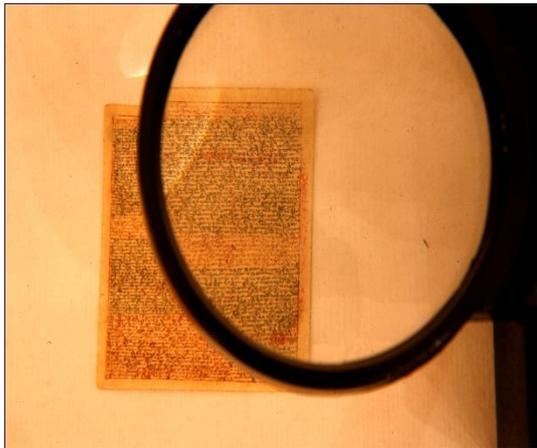
3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage



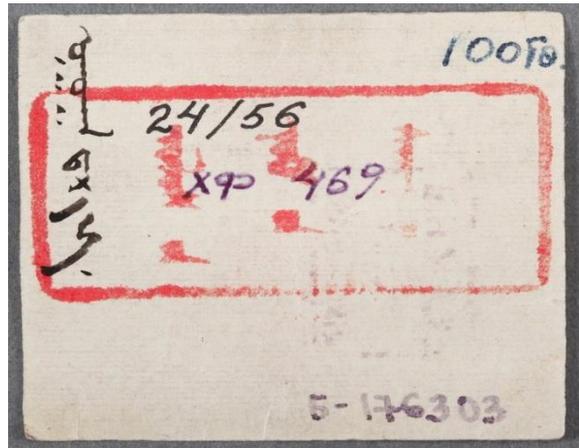
Lama S. Shagj's photograph published on a newspaper from 1910



Front Side



With magnifying glass



Back side

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

This unique and rare work was created early 20th century by S. Shagj (1886-1938), monastic high ranking lama from one of the three greatest philosophical schools of religion at the Gandantegchilen monastery and full member of the first Institute of Scientific Research "Institute of Sutra Book and Chronicles". The dimensions of this memorialia is 4.9x5.4 cm, text outlined within 4.5x5cm frame, of 0.08 thickness and it weights 0.2 gr. Though it is not known when exactly this unique and extraordinary work was created but believed that it is about 100 years old. Also it is worth to note that in writing this book of Green and White Tara in so miniature sizes, the text has been reproduced not in Tibetan shorthand taking so-called "gshar" script but written in "gzab" letters that is used in typolythographical printing of religious texts and sutras. Thus, in extremely condense writing of this text in 79 lines on tiny space, natural red paint and black ink were used intermittently.

3.5 Bibliography

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1. Damdinsuren Ts, "Full Compilation of Works", Volume IV UB, 2008
2. Book of Mongolia (Almanac of a bookworm), Moscow 1988
3. Mongolian Literature Osaka, 1998
4. Central Depository of the Mongolian National Library, M0054577095, M0054577104

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

| Name | Qualifications | Address |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Choimaa Sh. | Doctor, Professor of Mongolian National University, Department of Altaic Studies and Textology | Baga Toiruu-47, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar-14200, Mongolia Tel: 976-11-325435 Fax: 976-11-325263 E-mail: choimaa@num.edu.mn |

| Name | Qualifications | Address |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Batchuluun L. | Professor of University of Culture and Art | Baga Toiruu-26, Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar-210646, Mongolia Tel: 976-99896475 |

| Name | Qualifications | Address |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Jack Weatherford | Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Macalester College | 1600 Grand Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105, USA Tel: 976-7011-7076(Mongolia) 843-727-4505 (USA) E-mail: jack.m.weatherford@gmail.com |

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the *Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register*, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Signature |  | Full name (Please PRINT) OYUNGEREL Tseveddamba, Minister |
| | | Institution(s), if appropriate Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism |
| | | Date 2013-11-13 |

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

| Name | Address |
|------------------------------|---|
| National Library of Mongolia | Ulaanbaatar-210648 Chinggis Avenue-4 |

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| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Telephone | Facsimile | Email |
| 976-11-323100 | 976-11-323100 | director@nationallibrary.mn |

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name | Address |
| National Library of Mongolia | Ulaanbaatar-210648 Chinggis Avenue-4 |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Telephone | Facsimile | Email |
| 976-11-323100 | 976-11-323100 | director@nationallibrary.mn |

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

This heritage is owned by the National Library of Mongolia, a public service institution.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

It is available to use in accordance with the below clauses on Law for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia:

- “To be used for the dedication of advertisement, research and investigation and training”
- “Prohibited for the dedication of original usage”
- In compliance with the clause No.3 of the Law on Relationship between the State and the Temples, “The Government shall determine the issues offered by the State authority responsible to the culture and science regarding the peerlessly valuable cultural and historical heritage object in the library for the usage of religious and ritual activities”
- “The Government shall determine the regulation on the issues related to copying, makingsouvenir objects with the model, photographing, video recording, preparing stamps, greeting cards and CDs by using historical and cultural objects”
- “The State authority responsible to culture and science, or competent authority permitted by the state authority can involve the registered cultural heritage temporarily to the international and domestic exhibitions, based on the agreement with the heritage owner”

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The National Library of Mongolia

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

This unique and rare work was created early 20th century by scholar S.Shagj (1886-1938), monastic high ranking lama from one of the three greatest philosophical schools of Buddhist religion at the Gandantegchilen monastery and full member of the first Institute of Scientific Research “Institute of Sutra Book and Chronicles”.

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5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

Mongolians have a strong tradition until nowadays that is being passed on from one generation to another reciting of Tara (Mother Goddess) prayer as their immediate salvation in situations of need, and used to know by heart the praising hymns and magic mantras of Green and White Mother Taras. Therefore, only remaining single copy of praising prayers of sacred Goddess that has become spirit guardian among believers was masterfully created by the creative genius of S.Shagj and now has become rare yet enriching exhibit for the public. Yet this work is an extraordinary and unique piece of art that is specific since it contains 79 lines written in red and black inks on tiny space using very thin pointed pen. Its disappearance would be an afflicting loss to human kind's heritage. It is a unique book in terms of book creating art and it had a great impact on Mongolians' belief and mind.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International *Memory of the World Register*:

Time: Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

This rare creative work is truly a piece of art that has kept inside and showcased the social and cultural changes among mongolians that had occurred over the many centuries. It is a unique piece of art which bears Mongolians' creative method of book creating art. As a manuscript, this is one of the smallest manuscripts in the history of Mongolians.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

Mongolians have a strong tradition until nowadays that is being passed on from one generation to another which is reciting of Tara (Mother Goddess) prayer as their immediate salvation in situations of need, and used to know by heart the praising hymns and magic mantras of Green and White Mother Taras. However, only remaining single copy of praising prayers of sacred Goddess that has become spirit guardian among believers was masterfully created by the creative genius of S.Shagj and now has become rare yet enriching exhibit for the public. Yet this work is an extraordinarily unique and unparalleled piece of art which is very specific since it contains 79 lines written in red and black inks on tiny space using very thin pointed pen.

In general, it is obvious that the search for creation of the smallest books, sutras or paintings etc. among talented craftsmen from around the world have been continued since ancient times till today. News and rumors about extraordinary masters from different periods are being spread from time to time about their wonderful works including for instance, even writing of a small verse on a single human hair using special instruments. However, many of those cases involve using of special instruments and tools. But honorable S.Shagj had used ordinary, commonly used stationary tools to create a miniature prayer book of sacred mantras and powerful prayers which is even hardly read by bare eyes that makes it really unique and unparalleled piece of art.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

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Written book memorabilia described herein is comparable in its sizes with the bus ticket that used to be purchased by capital city inhabitants during early years of 21st century in public transportation where on this tiny space Green and White Tara sutras in Tibetan were written in incredibly dense writing. The dimensions of this miniature book is 4.9x5.4 cm, text outlined within 4.5x5 cm frame, of 0.08 cm thickness and it weights 0.2gr. Truly, this work is undoubtedly can be considered as the smallest book ever created in the world and yet uniquely rare since it showcases the creative human wisdom, elaborate design and techniques applied in creation of a book. White and Green Taras' texts were written in red and black inks interchangeably and specifically to note, text is highlighted in meaningful parts. Totally 62 verses or 250 lines that comprise of 5718 letter characters, 2510 dots and symbols or total of 8228 characters in Tibetan language are written in a tiny piece of paper with dimensions of only 4.9 cmx5.4 cm.

Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

This manuscript has been considered to be holy and virtuous among people since it was created in the beginning of 20th century. Green and White Taras are believed to give immediate help to people.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

White and Green Taras' texts were written in red and black inks interchangeably and specifically to note, text is highlighted in meaningful parts. In fact, 62 verses in total of 250 lines that comprise of 5718 letter characters, 2510 dots and symbols or total of 8228 characters in Tibetan language were written in a space with dimensions of only 4.9 cmx5.4 cm.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

This manuscript is complete and has not been altered.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

This heritage is being kept at the “Museum of Rare and Valuable Book” of the National Library under conditions that comply with the standard requirements.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

Management Plan

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| | Actions | Duration |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Within the implementation of inventory rare and valuable books, detailed information will be prepared. | 2012 - 2013 |
| 2 | Brochures will be published to be used as a tool of advertisement and promotion. | 2012 - 2013 |
| 3 | Book Restoration Laboratory will be established At the National Library of Korea. | 2013-2014 |
| 4 | Nominate some of Rare and Valuable Books to UNESCO programme "Memory of the World". 2008 – 2010 | 2008-2016 |
| 5 | Make a list of books and sutras which are urgently required to be specially preserved and restored | 2011-2016 |

8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

We are nominating one of Shagi's greatest masterpieces, which was miraculously overlooked and was brought to the Central Library of Mongolia by academician Damdinsuren, after the harshest years of the regime has passed, for the International Memory of the World Register.

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9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

| | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required) |