

Studying early Tibetan medical manuscripts

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Several important old Tibetan medical manuscripts, which were written in the eight-century, have recently been discovered in archives, old libraries, and private collections in Tibet. Traditional medical histories indicate that many Tibetan scholars believed that such manuscripts were authored by the Buddha, or by Indian, Chinese or Persian scholars, and that they were later translated into Tibetan. But close study of those manuscripts makes it hard to believe that they really were translated from another language. In this paper I will try to explore who really were the authors of some of these recently discovered manuscripts, and when they were written. I will also try to explore their relationship with *rGyud bzhi*.

Finally, I also would like to discuss how different political views and religious beliefs influenced the formation of Tibetan medicine during this early period. The manuscripts sources for this paper include *sMan dpyad zla ba'i rgyal po*; *Bi ji'i po ti kha ser*; *gSang tig sgron me*; *sGrol me'i sngo 'bum*; and *bSe sgrom smug po*.