

Notes on a *dkar chag* of the monastery of Sa skya

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The main source of the paper I propose to present at the Tenth Seminar of the International Association of Tibetan Studies is a *dkar chag* of the monastery of Sa skya entitled *gDan sa chen po dpal ldan Sa skya'i gtsug lag khang dang rten gsum gyi dkar chag*. This guidebook was brought to Italy by Giuseppe Tucci after his visit to Sa skya in 1939 and was subsequently used by him as one of the sources for his *Tibetan Painted Scrolls*.

As well as being an extremely useful source for reconstructing the architectural and artistic aspects of the monastery of Sa skya, the guide book also contains interesting and curious anecdotes about holy personages of the 'Khon lineage and holy receptacles kept in the monastery. In particular, this *dkar chag* presents a picture of the conditions of the monastery of Sa skya after the renovation work made by *snags chang* Kun dga' rin chen (1517–1584) and points out the differences in the appearance of the monastery before and after its restoration.

It is thanks to these notations that it is possible to pinpoint with more exactness the temporal frame in which the guidebook was written, and thus to provide insight into the issue of its authorship. This paper will then illustrate the particular passages of the *dkar chag* which provide internal evidence for a different evaluation of the authorship and the period of writing of this text than has heretofore been posited, and in so doing will suggest some corrections to apparent discrepancies in the XVIth and XVIIth century lineage of the Sa skya pa.