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Front cover:

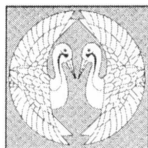
The depiction of Nāgeśvara-rāja, the “king of *nāgas*”, the central figure in the miniature from the first volume of the collection *Sungdui*. Manuscript K 6 in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, 17th century, lower cover, 63.0×21.5 cm.

Back cover:

Plate 1. The depiction of *bodhisattva* Mañjuśrī, an embodiment of wisdom, on the left, and of Prajñāpāramitā as a *Yum*- “Mother”, on the right. Miniature from the second volume of the collection *Sungdui*, manuscript K 6, upper cover, 63.0×21.5 cm.

Plate 2. The depiction of the formidable deity Śrī Maqakala, the central figure, and of Guru Ganbo (Skt. Pañjara Mahākāla), on the left and right, the second volume of the collection *Sungdui*, manuscript K 6, lower cover, 63.0×21.5 cm.

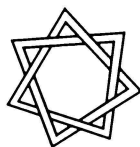
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SINHALESE PAINTED WOODEN BOOKCOVER UPDATE

Since publication of my paper, "Sinhalese Painted Wooden Bookcovers", in *Manuscripta Orientalia* [1], some additional references containing material on painted and otherwise decorated Sinhalese bookcovers have appeared in the library computer catalogue, or have come to my attention from other sources. The first source is Pratapaditya Pal and Julia Meech-Pekarik's, "Buddhist Book Illuminations"[2]. This source discusses Sinhalese decorative bookcovers. The discussion, though, aside from the interesting narration of stories associated with some scenes on some of the bookcovers shown, is very general in keeping with a broad survey such as this book. Further, it is not always correct regarding what is uncommon on such bookcovers.

Shown in this source are several covers not reported before in American collections. Plate 51 shows in colour the painted insides of painted wooden bookcovers in a private American collection (the Paul F. Walter Collection). Plate 52 (also in colour) shows in colour a set of decorative ivory bookcovers in another private American collection, but the collection is not identified. Figs. 74, 75, and 76 provide two sets of decorative silver bookcovers in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum. The set of bookcovers shown in figs. 75 and 76 (detail of one cover of the set in each figure) is noted to be in the Museum's Herbert Cole Bequest. Shelf numbers or acquisition numbers are not otherwise identified.

Also shown and discussed as fig. 71 a—b are two fourteenth century A. D. wooden bookcovers from a manuscript of the *Sāratthadīpanī* in the British Library, and as fig. 73 the painted insides of two sets of bookcovers with *jātaka* illustrations also in the British Library. Unfortunately, the shelf numbers for these latter three sets of bookcovers are also not given.

The silver set of bookcovers from the Los Angeles County Museum (Herbert Cole Bequest), which are shown in figs. 75 and 76, was earlier published in the 1984 exhibition catalogue by Pratapaditya Pal, et al. [3] Here the inscriptions accompanying each scene on these covers are translated by Prof. Siri Gunasinghe, and they are placed in a general framework by him, thereby providing a detailed description of the covers.

The three sets of bookcovers from the British Library were shown earlier in the 1985 exhibition catalogue [4]. In this source, No. 90 shows and discusses the text of the now much faded outsides of the *Sāratthadīpanī* manuscript and mentions that the insides are painted as well. The photograph is the same as that shown later by Pratapaditya Pal

and Julia Meech-Pekarik. The shelf number is given here as OMPB Or. 6676 (OMPB = Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books). The two sets of *jātaka* covers shown by Pratapaditya Pal and Julia Meech-Pekarik (the second actually of the story of Dhammasoṇḍa, found in various Sinhalese sources) are shown here in a colour photograph, and are written up in Nos. 217 and 218. They are identified as OMPB Stowe Or. 28 and OMPB Or. 2253 respectively. Also shown as No. 220 is a decorative silver bookcover the shelf number of which is identified as OA 1982. 10-8.2 (OA = Department of Oriental Antiquities, British Museum). The only set of bookcovers among these that I have been able to find earlier reference to is Stowe Or. 28, which is noted in M. de Z. Wickremasinghe's "Catalogue" as his No. 62 [5]. He notes there that these covers were not made for the manuscript they were together with, which was a text of the *Navapaṭalasaṅgraha*, an anonymous work in Sanskrit verse treating the auspicious times for various religious rites, and two fragments of astrological works in Sinhalese prose and poetry interspersed with Sanskrit stanzas. The other bookcovers shown by W. Zwalf do not appear to have been reported elsewhere to date [6].

Another British exhibition catalogue from 1981 by Johanna Engelberta van Lohuizen-De Leeuw, published three sets of bookcovers from Sri Lankan collections [7]. One, No. 105, is just a set of plain wooden bookcovers, or perhaps stained wooden bookcovers in the National Museum Library, Colombo, No. 82/N.10. A second, No. 106, is a set of painted wooden bookcovers on a manuscript formerly in the collection of Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy. Dr. Coomaraswamy passed on in 1947. The manuscript and its painted wooden bookcovers are now also in the collection of the National Museum Library, Colombo, No. 69/H.16. Also shown as No. 107 is a set of decorative ivory bookcovers in the Archeological Museum, Department of Archeology, University of Peradeniya, No. H. 2.

Also in Sri Lanka, P. H. D. H. de Silva's, "Colombo National Museum: Illustrated Guide through the Exhibited Collections", shows for Gallery 9, item No. 139 (p. 82) a set of decorative silver bookcovers [8]. Colour plate 3 shows two sets of painted wooden bookcovers. For one of these sets of bookcovers the painted outsides, for the other, the painted insides are shown with gallery locations, shelf numbers, or acquisition numbers for these two sets of bookcovers given. In addition, in plate 21 of "One Hundred Years, 1877—1977", by de Silva, shows a photograph of a manu-

script of the *Cūllavagga* with bookcovers with painted insides is presented [9]. It remains unclear whether or not this is one of the manuscripts of the *Cūlavagga*, such as MS. 2363, listed in W. A. de Silva's, "Catalogue of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in the Library of the Colombo Museum" [10]. Further, it has not been possible to locate the manuscripts noted in Lohuizin-De Leeuw's catalogue in this latter source. Shelf numbers are of a different format. As noted in my earlier article, the recording of bookcovers in Sri Lankan sources is poor, though there is clear evidence from photographs and passing mention that painted and otherwise decorated bookcovers are included in the collections.

By far the most significant additional source containing reference to Sinhalese painted wooden bookcovers and otherwise decorated bookcovers is the recent "Catalogue of the Sinhalese Manuscripts in the Library of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine" by K. D. Somadasa [11]. The catalogue contains reference to 469 manuscripts on a wide spectrum of subjects. While the collection has over 90 items on medicine, Buddhist texts and tracts form the major portion of the collection. As in K. D. Somadasa's earlier "Catalogue of the Hugh Nevill Collection of Sinhalese Manuscripts in the British Library", the noting and description of the bookcovers is consistently excellent [12]. Here, though, the descriptions are perhaps a bit briefer than in that catalogue, though nevertheless fully adequate. Also, the type of wood from which the plain bookcovers are made is noted here in only a handful of instances. And the stains used for stained bookcovers are perhaps not as fully noted. Excellent in this catalogue, as in the earlier catalogue, is that stitched palm leaf covers are noted as well.

There are here forty-one sets of painted wooden bookcovers, six with painted insides (one a single colour only). As in my earlier paper, I have placed here an asterisk before the references to manuscripts the bookcovers of which have their insides painted. These forty-one sets of bookcovers are with WS. 14, WS. 23, WS. 27, WS. 51, WS. 55, WS. 59, WS. 60, WS. 62, WS. 63, WS. 64, WS. 65, WS. 67, WS. 69, WS. 70, WS. 72, WS. 74, WS. 77, WS. 80, WS. 84, WS. 96, WS. 97, WS. 99, WS. 100, WS. 103, *WS. 105, *WS. 106, WS. 107, WS. 108, *WS. 113, WS. 115, WS. 116, WS. 117, *WS. 126, WS. 133, WS. 137, *WS. 143, WS. 151, *WS. 198, WS. 218, WS. 281, WS. 300. The set of bookcovers with the insides painted a single colour only is together with *WS. 126. Of the forty-one sets of painted wooden bookcovers, three are painted a single colour only with the border another colour (WS. 108, WS. 137, WS. 300). Two of these sets of bookcovers are noted to be "bulky wooden covers", one painted an overall red (WS. 65) and one painted with a mixture of green and yellow (WS. 97). One of these sets of bookcovers is atypically described as "black wooden covers, with circles drawn with a pair of dividers" (WS. 80). To be noted is that the bookcovers of WS. 64 are said to be similar to those of WS. 42. This is an error. WS. 42 is together with a set of lac worked bookcovers. Probably, on the basis of one of the colour plates shown in the catalogue, that on p. 362, they should be noted to be similar to those of WS. 51. There is also one set of bookcovers with a design outlined but not painted. This is with WS. 83.

There are in this collection eleven sets of lac worked bookcovers. These are with WS. 35,

WS. 42, WS. 61, WS. 71, WS. 75, WS. 78, WS. 102, WS. 104, WS. 112, WS. 114, WS. 216.

There is one set of incised brass covers, this with WS. 46, and one set of "dark wooden covers" with vine scrolled brass plates nailed on to them, this with WS. 18.

In addition, there are seventeen sets of bookcovers referred to as "dark wooden covers". These are with WS. 11, WS. 34, WS. 48, WS. 52, WS. 54, WS. 95, WS. 122, WS. 127, WS. 132, WS. 135,

WS. 217, WS. 228, WS. 257, WS. 270, WS. 286, WS. 312, WS. 320.

Ten sets of wooden bookcovers described as "dark stained" are with WS. 20, WS. 149, WS. 210, WS. 223, WS. 224, WS. 275, WS. 293, WS. 314, WS. 368, WS. 437. One of these is noted to have fluted borders (WS. 210); two are noted to have bevelled edges (WS. 224, WS. 437), though it is likely that more than this number do in fact have bevelled edges.

Five sets of wooden bookcovers described as "mahogany stained" are with WS. 28, WS. 53, WS. 82, WS. 139, WS. 412.

There are forty-nine sets of bookcovers described as "plain wooden covers" or just "wooden covers". These are with WS. 5, WS. 6, WS. 8, WS. 10, WS. 16, WS. 17, WS. 19, WS. 21, WS. 22, WS. 24, WS. 25, WS. 26, WS. 29, WS. 30, WS. 31, WS. 32, WS. 36, WS. 37, WS. 40, WS. 41, WS. 44, WS. 45, WS. 66, WS. 76, WS. 79, WS. 81, WS. 85, WS. 93, WS. 101, WS. 109, WS. 111, WS. 120, WS. 121, WS. 123, WS. 125, WS. 129, WS. 136, WS. 138, WS. 215, WS. 220, WS. 284, WS. 298, WS. 299, WS. 301, WS. 308, WS. 369, WS. 371, WS. 407, WS. 412. One of these sets of bookcovers is noted to have fluted edges (WS. 412). One set is noted to be "bulky", only one of these covers remaining now (WS. 136). To be noted is that one of the covers of WS. 44 is shown in the colour plate on p. 365. This appears there to be painted black.

For seven sets of bookcovers, the type of wood has been mentioned. Two are ebony, WS. 7 and WS. 128. One is teak, WS. 86. One is satinwood, WS. 131. This set of bookcovers is noted to have bevelled edges. Two of these sets of bookcovers are of kitalwood, WS. 134 and WS. 274. One of these sets of bookcovers is of millawood (WS. 265). In addition, one set of bookcovers is described as "varnished" (WS. 58).

And there are seven sets of stitched palm leaf covers noted to be together with WS. 20, WS. 38, WS. 44, WS. 118, WS. 172, WS. 307, WS. 371. Two of these latter manuscripts are now provided with plain wooden bookcovers as well, which bookcovers are noted above (WS. 44, WS. 371). One further manuscript containing illustrated fragments is wrapped in two palm leaf covers not noted to be stitched (WS. 469).

Colour plates at the end of this catalogue show the outsides of three lac worked wooden covers from WS. 42, WS. 104, WS. 114 (p. 361); the outsides of three painted wooden bookcovers for WS. 51 and WS. 64 (both covers) (p. 362); the outside of one painted wooden bookcover for WS. 105 (p. 363); the painted insides of the two painted wooden bookcovers for WS. 143 (p. 363); and the outsides of two ornamental brass covers for WS. 46 (p. 364). One of the bookcovers of a set described as "wooden outer covers", and appearing to be painted black, as noted above, is also shown with folios from WS. 44 (p. 365).

This clearly is another significant grouping of Sinhalese bookcovers in Great Britain.

It is hoped that this update makes my earlier article in *Manuscripta Orientalia*, III/4, December 1997, more com-

plete. I am planning to publish the results of my recent work on Sinhalese bookcovers, preserved in other collections in the nearest issue of *Manuscripta Orientalia*.

Notes

1. See Stephan Hillyer Levitt, "Sinhalese painted wooden bookcovers", in *Manuscripta Orientalia*, III/4 (December 1997), pp. 3—16, 2 colour plates p. 49, and 52.
2. Prapataditya Pal and Julia Meech-Pekarik, *Buddhist Book Illuminations* (New York, 1988), pp. 184—91, 194, 198.
3. Prapataditya Pal, et al., *Light of Asia: Buddha Sakyamuni in Asian Art* (Los Angeles, 1984), pp. 266—9.
4. *Buddhism: Art and Faith*, ed. W. Zwalf (New York, 1985), pp. 73, 75, 154—6.
5. M. de Z. Wickremasinghe, *Catalogue of the Sinhalese Manuscripts in the British Museum* (London, 1900).
6. I have written the British Library to find out whether these manuscripts are in fact reported elsewhere as well, but regrettably they have not responded to my queries. M. de Z. Wickremasinghe catalogued manuscript numbers in the same range as Or. 2253, but he did not catalogue this manuscript it seems. It would have been interesting to know why.
7. Johanna Engelberta van Lohuizen-De Leeuw, *Sri Lanka: Ancient Arts Catalog of an Exhibition, Held at the Commonwealth Institute, London, 17 July—13 September 1981, as Part of the Festival of Sri Lanka* (London, 1981), pp. 104—6.
8. P. H. D. H. de Silva, *Colombo National Museum: Illustrated Guide through the Exhibited Collections* ([Colombo], 1976).
9. Cf. P. H. D. H. de Silva, comp., *One Hundred Years, 1877—1977* ([Colombo], 1977).
10. W. A. de Silva, *Catalogue of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in the Library of the Colombo Museum*, vol. 1 (Colombo, 1938). *Memoirs of the Colombo Museum*, Series A, No. 4.
11. K. D. Somadasa, *Catalogue of the Sinhalese Manuscripts in the Library of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine* (London, 1996).
12. K. D. Somadasa, *Catalogue of the Hugh Nevill Collection of Sinhalese Manuscripts in the British Library*, 7 vols. (Henley-on-Thames and London, 1987—1995).