

Seventh International Conference of Manichaean Studies Dublin 2009

Abstracts

Sogdian Manichaean Confessional Fragments in Sogdian Script in the Berlin Turfan Collection

Christiane Reck (Berlin)

The Manichaean confessional formula “Xwāstwānīft” has been preserved well in its Turkish version, recently reedited by Russian colleagues in St. Petersburg. One assumes that it has been translated from Sogdian, which bases on a Parthian pattern. The Parthian original has not been found yet. But there are some Sogdian fragments in the Berlin and St. Petersburg collection which could be identified as parts of the “Xwāstwānīft”. Two bigger fragments of the Berlin Turfan collection has been edited by W.B. Henning. The fragments of St. Petersburg have already been published by Nicholas Sims-Williams. In the course of my work on the Manichaean Sogdian fragments of the Berlin Turfan collection I came across some smaller fragments of this text, written in different hands. I introduced these in Budapest at the 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies in 1997. But they have not been published as yet. Now the catalogue of the Manichaean Sogdian fragments in Sogdian script has been completed and the final amount of fragments belonging to the Xwāstwānīft and other confessional texts are known. These fragments shall be presented at the conference and published in the papers of the conference. They shall be compared with other related texts, especially with those fragments in Sogdian languages and Manichaean script presented by Elio Provasi at the same occasion and the confessional texts published by J. P. Asmussen in connection with the Uighur Xwāstwānīft.