

Grant Report: Columbia University Library Award
Researcher: Douglas Duckworth
Title: Redactions from India in Modern Tibet

The library research award for my project, “Redactions from India in Modern Tibet,” allowed me to access the Tibetan collections at C.V. Starr library in July and August 2013 and further my research on Tibetan commentaries of Dignāga’s *Ālambana-parīkṣā*, a sixth-century Buddhist text composed in Sanskrit. One of the important commentaries I located on this text was a modern edition published in Lanzhou, P.R. of China, less than two years ago. I found this edition in the collected works of the author, Tendar Lharampa (1759-1831), which helped me to understand the text in a new light. Yet to my surprise, one of the most practical aspects of my research at C.V. Starr was when I was browsing the catalogues and the new Tibetan acquisitions that were not yet in the catalogue. At those times, I was able to locate several modern Tibetan publications that I had not heard about, thanks in no small part the instructive guidance of the Tibetan librarian, Dr. Lauren Hartley.

One of the books I found at C.V. Starr while looking through the modern Tibetan collection was particularly relevant to another research project I am wrapping up. The particular book contained two commentaries by a twentieth-century Tibetan scholar on one of the texts I had translated for a forthcoming edited volume on the ecumenical movement (*ris med*) in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Eastern Tibet. These commentaries were in a three-volume set of the collected works of the late Jikme Phuntsho (1933-2004). I was aware that his works had been published at a small publishing house in Serta, a remote nomadic region of the Tibetan plateau, but I had not

seen them, nor did I know that these commentaries even existed. These commentaries helped me considerably to formulate an introduction to my translation, and also to revise my translation of this important Tibetan text by Mipam (1846-1912).

The volumes of Jikme Phuntsho's collected works, and other anthologies from this same publishing house in Serta, were particularly interesting to me, and is one of the primary draws for me to the C.V. Starr Tibetan collection. Reading new publications from Tibet has planted seeds of research in me in the past, and continues to sustain my future research on contemporary monastic education in Tibet. I hope to go back to CV Starr and continue to utilize the rich modern Tibetan collections there, particularly since these collections are not widely available outside of Tibet, and it is not easy to access them in Tibet (or get to Tibet for that matter, for geographical as well as political reasons).

My research will culminate in a contribution to a two-volume edition of Dignāga's *Ālambana-parīkṣā* (likely published in the Harvard Oriental Series), including all major Tibetan and Chinese commentaries, and critical essays introducing each text. Another result of my research, although not previously anticipated, will be my contribution of an introduction and translation of an important text by Mipam in a forthcoming edited volume on the ecumenical movement in Eastern Tibet.