

George FitzHerbert: «An Early Gesar bsang Text». Projet ERC «The Tibetan Army of the Dalai Lamas, 1642-1959» (TibArmy).

This talk will introduce what appears to be an early—and perhaps our earliest—Tibetan Gesar *bsang* (smoke purification) ritual text. The talk will explore some of the «layers» discernible in this text's rich presentation of Gesar as an apotheosised folkloric figure. It will also explore the issues around dating and attributing the text. The attribution to Karma Pakshi (suggested by others) is ultimately rejected in favour of a tentative attribution to Yongs-dge mi-'gyur rdo-rje (1628/41-1704), a *gter-ston* from Nang-chen who is famous for his visionary Karma Pakshi *sādhana*. This attribution would make sense in light of what we already know about the evolution of the Buddhist cult of Gesar in eastern Tibet (particularly in the Sde-dge region) from the mid 17th century.



© Ge-sar cham à A-phuyug (réputé être le lieu de naissance de Ge-sar, près de Sde-dge), photo de Barbara Hazelton.

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salle 3.15