

Seminar cycle of the ERC project TibArmy

**Tibetan Primary Sources for the Study of the Ganden Phodrang's Military History.  
 The State Library of Berlin\*'s Collection of Legal Documents  
 from South-Western Tibet**

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The state library of Berlin (Staatsbibliothek Preußischer Kulturbesitz zu Berlin) is in possession of a collection of 320 legal documents from south-western Tibet, primary sources for the study of the region's cultural, religious, social and military history that cover the time range between the beginning of the 18th century and the early aftermath of the Ganden Phodrang era, i.e., the early sixties of the 20th century.

Given the longstanding strategic importance of Tibet's border with Nepal, it comes without surprise that a considerable part of these documents directly relate to issues of military purport, with a clear focus on the three aspects of military administration, maintenance and defence.

Above all, these documents deal with and respond to the changing tides of Tibet's history during and after the two Gorkha wars (1788-1792; 1855-1856) in the first place. Both events triggered far reaching consequences that e.g. led to the reinforcement of troops, the upgrading of the military prefecture of south-western Tibet with its headquarters at Ding-ri, and the systematic development of new settlements and arable lands in order to strengthen the human and agricultural resources in times of war and peace.

This collection grants valuable first hand insights into the various aspects of Tibetan military history of the time and place: the role of the key players - the Tibetan government with its central and provincial branches, e.g., the Khashag or council of ministers, the military prefecture of Dingri (Ding-ri sPyi-mdā' khang) and the monastery and rDzong of Shel-dkar; the role and involvement of Ch'ing authority within these levels of Tibetan bureaucracy and within the borderland defence, the administration and maintenance of the troops and their garrisons, the role of the local people within the military administration as well as within the service and tax system; documents such as a certified copy of the 10 points Nepal-Tibet treaty of 1856, sources covering the border security at the strategically important border crossing at Rong-shar, and documents dealing with reconnaissance-cum-security issues across the high ranges of the highest mountains of our planet, down to an undertaking for the restoration of and a receipt for the timely delivery of fire wood to the military headquarter at Ding-ri in the height of winter.

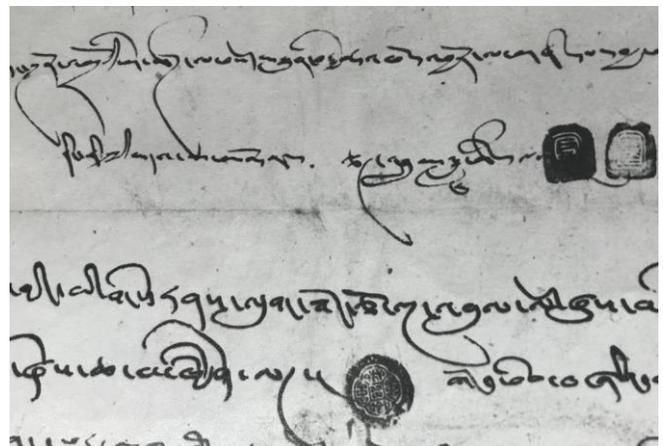
**Mercredi 17 octobre 2018**

**Salle 3.04**

**18h00 - 19h30**

**65 rue des Grands Moulins**

**75013 Paris**



Detail of Hs.or.6697, a public proclamation concerning the renovation of the military headquarter-cum-court of Dingri (Ding-ri sPyi-mdā' ya-mon)