

***Xizang Lishi he Fojiao de Yuwenxue Yanjiu* 西藏历史和佛教的语文学研究(Philological and Linguistic Study on Tibetan History and Buddhism) by SHEN Weirong 沈卫荣. Shanghai: Shanghai Guji Publishing House, 2010. 736 pages.**

WANG Tiantian, & WANG Yue

Shaanxi Normal University

The Xizang Lishi he Fojiao de Yuwenxue Yanjiu, written by Shen Weirong, was published by Shanghai Guji Publishing House in 2010. It contains some representatives of the author's academic papers in the past 30 years. The main contents include: I. Studies on the political relationship between Tibet, Han region and Mongolia in the Yuan and Qing dynasties; II. Studies on the history, documents and figures of Tibetan Buddhism; III. Studies on the communication history of Tibetan Buddhism documents in Chinese translation in Central Asia and Han region in the Western Xia and Mongolia regime; IV. The interactive studies among the Chinese and Western cultures and Tibetan Buddhism. They could be also divided into the study of the Yuan, Ming and Zang histories, the comparative study of Sino-Tibetan Buddhism and the comments of overseas Tibetology. All papers have employed the generalized philology to study Tibetan histories and religions of different periods and the individual cases of their relations with the outside world, reflecting the author's thinking process and academic achievements.

Based on the studies accomplished by Han Rulin 韩儒林 and Chen Dezhi 陈得芝, Shen Weirong deepened and broadened the strategy and history study of Tibet governance in Yuan dynasty in two of his papers, "Yuanchao Zhongyang Zhengfu dui Xizang de Tongzhi"(元朝中央政府对西藏的统治, Yuan Central

Government's Reign to Tibet) and "Yuandai Wusizang Shisan Wanhū Kao"(元代乌思藏十三万户考, Studies on the 130 thousand Households in Dbus-Gtsang of Yuan Dynasty). He had a clear and unprecedented understanding of the study of thousands of households in La Stod lho and the imperial kinsmen of Gling tshang, especially for the discussion on historical sites and ethnic groups. As far as the Tibetan history of the Ming dynasty, the Biographical Sketch of Dalai Lama I was the study example of Tibetan political and religious figures. It also reflected the author's summary of his doctoral dissertation on the level of theories and methods. Studies on the pioneering figures in the Tibetan sect integration movement in modern times continued employing this method.

Since the 1920s, Chen Yinke 陈寅恪, Yu Daoquan 于道泉, Lin Liguang 林黎光 and other scholars were inspired by the "comparative religion," which was introduced by Alexander von Staël-Holstein. The comparative work of multilingual Buddhism texts was the groundbreaking study in China. Hereafter, with the change of study style, this study was shelved for a long period of time. It has gradually been thriving in recent years, however, due to the advocacy and practice of Shen Weirong. His "Hanzang Foxue Bijiao Yanjiu Chuyi"(汉藏佛学比较研究刍议, Comparative Study of Sino-Tibetan Buddhism) is for the rectification of the name of Sino-Tibetan Buddhism studies and the plan for his following academic work. Some relevant articles started with Sino-Tibetan comparison and then illustrated the historical issues. In terms of the documents collection, the author found the new materials of Tibetan Buddhism from Khara-Khoto Russian and Tibetan documents, from which he proposed the slogan, "to reconstruct the Buddhism history of the Western Regions from the 11th to the 14th century," and set about an in-depth study, while this study also continued employing the comparison method of Buddhism texts. The retrospect to the Tibetan language source of Buddhism tantra prompted the study of Khara-Khoto documents. The comparison of Avikalpaprapesa-dharani took advantage of Dunhuang Tibetan and Han texts. The book, Comparison and Study of Avikalpaprapesa-dharani, was edited with the comparison of Avikalpaprapesa-dharani and relevant studies done by scholars such as Tan Xiyong and Shao Songxiong. The comparison of the Sheng Guan Zi Zai Da Bei Xin Zong Chi Gong Neng Yi Jing made full use of the Tibetan and Han Chinese books of Khara-Khoto. All of these studies accumulated experience for the later Tangut script, Auspicious Tantra of All-Reading Union. Moreover, the in-depth serial studies on Mahayana Esoterica also led to the rediscovery of Tibetan esoterica texts collected in National Library, Palace Museum in Taipei and Liaoning Library, which combined these scattered texts efficiently and laid a solid foundation

for restoring the oriental history. More importantly, this study was a great academic program for the author.

The author kept a watchful eye on the Western studies of Chinese frontiers and actively responded to it. Most of the author's comments and reflections about overseas Tibetan studies have been collected in his academic essays *Searching for Shangri-La*, in which, the *Fantasy and Reality: 'Tibetan Death Book' in Western World* embodies his thoughts about the influence of Tibetan culture to the world. *The Sketch of Tibet in the Western Horizon* has an important academic value and practical significance to understanding the origin and development of the modern Tibetology and to discovering the essence of "Tibet issues." All of the essays have provided specialized perspectives and lively styles. The readers who are interested in Tibetan culture can consult *Searching for Shangri-La* to get more valuable information.

In the 1980s, Shen Weirong left Nanjing University for Beijing to study Tibetan, starting with the history of the Yuan Dynasty. In the following decades, he has been studying overseas, where he accumulated profound Tibetan foundations, broadened international horizons, and familiarized himself with both Chinese and Western academics. In 2006, he returned home and began to run the Institute of Western Regions' History of School of Chinese Classics at Renmin University of China. Focusing on "studies on historical language" advocated by Mr. Fu Sinian 傅斯年, he insisted pursuing his academics and obtained significant ideas that were always far beyond histories in original texts. Meanwhile, he strongly advocated the study of Han and Tibetan philology comparison. He, as well as his students, dedicated to the study of multilingual Tibetan texts and have made a considerable quantity of achievements. They have become a new emerging force in the field of Tibetan studies.