

# MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

## Mongolian Tanjur

(Mongolia)

Ref N° 2010-48

### PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

#### 1 SUMMARY

Tanjur is a Tibetan word which means translation of treatise. These had a huge effect on the development of Mongolian literature and other branch sciences. This is the greatest sutra written on thick Chinese muutuu paper with red nature dust paint size 22.7 x 71,8 cm and which has **107839** pages.

It is a large collection of over 3427 works on ten great and small sciences (philosophy, technology, logic, medicine, philology, astrology, model dance, poetics, Abhidharma, composition) created by ancient Indian and Tibetan scientists and panditas. The Mongolian dust paint printed Tanjur had been translated from Tibetan into Mongolian by over 200 translators under the supervision of reincarnates Janjaa Rolbiidorj and Shireet Luvsandambiinyam between 1741 and 1742 and had been printed in Beijing between 1742 and 1749.

To print Mongolian Tanjur from blocks 2160.9 ounce of silver was used. It means that one collection's cost equaled to 4000 sheep's total cost of that time.

#### 2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

- 2.1 Name (person or organisation)  
Dorjbal DALAIJARGAL
- 2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated  
Chairperson of the Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program
- 2.3 Contact person (s)  
Dorjbal DALAIJARGAL  
Secretary - General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO,  
Chairperson of the Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program
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#### 3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

- 3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated
  - **Mongolian Tanjur**

Location : National Library of Mongolia  
Ulaanbaatar - 210648, Chinggis avenue - 4  
Fax: 976-11-323100,  
Tel: 976-11-323100,  
Web site: <http://www.nationallibrary.mn>

### 3.2 Description

#### **MONGOLIAN TANJUR**

AUTHOR: Collective work

DATE OF CREATION: Between 1742 and 1749.

SIZE:

Sutra with 226 Volumes  
107839 pages  
One volume book paged with 436  
Width: 22.7 cm  
Length: 71.8  
Thickness: 11.5  
Length of script: 60.8 cm  
Width of script: 16.4 cm  
Weight: 8750gr = 8kg 750gr

MATERIAL: written on thick Chinese muutuu paper with red nature dust paint.

FIRST FOUND:

This sutra was kept by the nobleman Nayant, whose real title was Governor, Khalkah's Sain Noyon Khan Province, and had been used for prayers in the temple "Long Live the Religion",

Mongolian aristocrat Jam'yan who was the first director of Institute for Script and Sutra had concluded an agreement consisting of 9 paragraphs with the nobleman Nayant in 4 copies in Mongolian and Chinese on October 28, 1924 that the Mongolian dust paint printed Tanjur will be kept in Mongolia forever.

So when the original 226 volumes of Tanjur sutra arrived in Mongolia in 1925, a stone monument dedicated to this event was inscribed and set up in 1929. The stone monument was inscribed by Dendev, one of the first staff of the Institute for Script and Sutra. The stone monument consisted of 3 parts: lotus-like basement, vertical stone with inscriptions, and top part. The monument's basement has the following parameters: length 71 cm, width 38 cm, and total height 248 cm. The facade and back reverse side of the basement have three drop like ornaments, covering it from top to bottom in diagonally way. The three drop-like ornaments are framed by a hammer-like ornament and three flowers are depicted on the top. The seal of the nobleman Nayant, namely two dragons are depicted on the left top of the monument. The seal of the People's Enlightenment Ministry is depicted on the opposite right top. The ornaments found in the monument basement and top head measure 13 cm and the facade of the monument main corpus consists of 13 line writings and the reverse side consists of 6 line writings. There is an inscription in the bottom of the reverse side which announces that "inscribed by Dendev in 1929". Hence this monument is especially dedicated to the book only; it is one of few such monuments in the world.

DESCRIPTION: Large sutra consisting of 107839 pages. It is commonly said that Tanjur consists of 226 volumes and Janjaa Khutagt Rolbiidorj, Shireet Khutagt Luvsandambinyam and other translators (more than 200 people) translated in between 1742 and 1749 and made in Beijing. Wrapped in yellow fabric and pressed by 2 wooden frames in sandal wood book covers; in total, 226 volumes.

The only copy, printed in natural original red paint is printed in the old Mongolian vertical scrip format.

REGISTRATION NUMBER: X Ô-397.

REFEREES.

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**4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA**

**4.1 Is authenticity established?**

Since 1926 when V.Ya...Vladimirtsov published his article “Mongol Tanjur” such scholars as F.Waller, W.Heissig, Lokesh Chandra have followed. During the 1920s, the philologist of Mongolia Shagi jointly with Bat-Ochir created the brief content of “Tanjur” in Tibetan and Mongolian language. In 1950s a professor of the National University of Mongolia Ts.Dorj started to create the detailed content of Mongolian “Tanjur” and published the first few volumes in Delhi. Also, in 1972 B.Renchin published with the foreword and photos the translation of “Mirror of Poetry” created by Dandin, the poetical theorist of the ancient India. This work is included in the “Tanjur”. Numbers of scholars have

conducted interesting scientific research on attractive literatures included in the “Tanjur” such as “Merged garahyn oron” of the ancient Indian author Ronagaranshat, “Cloud Messenger” of famous poet of India and the great philosophical verse of India “Bodichara Avatra”.

#### 4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established? (see 4.2.4)

Tanjur is a Tibetan word which means translation of treatise. It is a large collection of over 3427 works on ten great and small sciences (philosophy, technology, logic, medicine, philology, astrology, model dance, poetics, Abhidharma, composition) created by ancient Indian and Tibetan scientists and panditas. These had a huge effect on the development of Mongolian literature and other branch sciences.

Works included in Tanjur have been translated into Tibetan language since the 9<sup>th</sup> century to create a special collection during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Mongolians have translated and studied the works of Tanjur since the beginning 14<sup>th</sup> century. The translation of the whole Tanjur began in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or in 1724 when a Khaan’s decree was issued on the translation of the Tanjur. Under the decree, 135 Mongolian, Tibetan and Manchurian translators, teachers, xylographic printer workers, and Buddhist scientists as well as 163 typists were gathered from all corner of Mongolia. In 1741-1749, the Tanjur was translated by the leading role of teacher Noble Janjaa Rolbiidorj and Galdan Shireet Luvsandambiinyam and printed from block in 226 volumes.

To print Mongolian Tanjur from blocks 2160.9 ounce of silver was used. It means that one collection’s cost equalled to 4000 sheep’s total cost of that time.

In 1748, “Merged garahyn oron” Tibetan-Mongolian dictionary was published to simplify the translation of terms of any sciences. It is very interesting that some issues of the translation theory were touched upon in the introduction of the dictionary. For instance, it includes such details as differences in translation of versified literature and prose, how to translate individual names of persons and things and while translating how to preserve meanings of allegory and poetry. This served as a theoretical guide for translators and moreover had greatly contributed to the translation of Mongolian of the Middle Ages.

In the course of translation of a large number of works, language knowledge and translation skills and methods of Mongolian translators have greatly improved. Thanks to providing carefully such preparatory works, the Tanjur was successfully translated within few years. Translator Avgyn Dai Agvaandampil, his brother talented translator Luvsanlunden, Urad Biligiin Dalai, Khalkha translator Gelegjaltsan, Luvsanjaltsan, Zaya Pandita, Luvsandanza, a student of Luvsanperenlei translator Rashjamts from Onniud Beil county, and reincarnation of Rah Khutugtu Luvsanchultem (Samadishila) have taken part in the translation. In terms of content, the Tanjur is richer than Ganjur for including some kinds of principles that are available in Ganjur, “Udanabarga” and “Darmavada” poem-teachings as well as number of philosophical poems, plays and literatures of ancient India that are not found in Ganjuur. Besides, poetics and works which belong to language science include writings mainly concerning poetics and stylistics.

#### 4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style (f) social, spiritual and community significance satisfied?

##### (d) Subject and theme

It is a large collection of over 3427 works on ten great and small sciences /philosophy, technology, logic, medicine, philology, astrology, model dance, poetics, Abhidharma, composition/ created by ancient Indian and Tibetan scientists and panditas. And also we can say that this sutra is one of the largest in the world.

##### (e) Form and style

Works included in Tanjur have been translated into Tibetan language since the 9<sup>th</sup> century to create a special collection during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Mongolians have translated and studied the works of Tanjur since the beginning of 14<sup>th</sup> century. The translation of the whole Tanjur began in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or in 1724 when a Khaan's decree was issued on the translation of the Tanjur. Under the decree, **135** Mongolian, Tibetan and Manchurian translators, teachers, xylographic printer workers, and Buddhist scientists as well as **163** typists were gathered from all corner of Mongolia. In 1741-1749, the Tanjur was translated by teacher Noble Janjaa Rolbiidorj and Galdan Shireet Luvsandambiinyam and printed from block in **226** volumes.

To print Mongolian Tanjur from blocks **2160.9** ounce of silver was used. It means that one collection's cost equalled to **4000** sheep's total cost of that time.

(f) Social, spiritual and community significance

It is worth noting that the translation of the "Tanjur" played a significant role in stylistics of the classic Mongolian language, including in determining norm and terminology of the literacy language.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

***Rarity:***

Tanjur is a Tibetan word which means translation of treatise. It is a large collection of over 3427 works on ten great and small sciences /philosophy, technology, logic, medicine, philology, astrology, model dance, poetics, Abhidharma, composition/ created by ancient Indian and Tibetan scientists and panditas. These had a huge effect on the development of Mongolian literature and other branch sciences.

Included in Tanjur works on ten great and small sciences has been translated into Tibetan language since the 9<sup>th</sup> century to create a special collection during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Mongolians have translated and studied the works of Tanjur since the beginning of 14<sup>th</sup> century. The translation of the whole Tanjur began in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or in 1724 when a Khaan's decree was issued on the translation of the Tanjur. Under the decree, 135 Mongolian, Tibetan and Manchurian translators, teachers, xylographic printer workers, and Buddhist scientists as well as 163 typists were gathered from all corners of Mongolia. In 1741-1749, the Tanjur was translated by teacher Noble Janjaa Rolbiidorj and Galdan Shireet Luvsandambiinyam and printed from block in 226 volumes.

To print Mongolian Tanjur from blocks 2160.9 ounce of silver was used. It means that one collection's cost equalled to 4000 sheep's total cost of that time.

***Integrity:*** This Mongolian manuscript is complete and has not been altered

***Threat:***

The manuscripts is made of materials of organic origin such as stone printing block paint, paper processed by the special technology, cloth, skin and chamois leather are affected by mold, insects and is torn in its folds.

Our specialists are predicting that if manuscripts are preserved in such way continuously 50 percent of them written manually and printed by various technology will be lost in a few years.

This danger is the one of the important issues requiring to pay related attention specially.

For example, when we examine the keeping regime of Mongol Vermilion Tanjur with pages of 107839 which is unique:

- 94341 paged /28 volumes/ are damaged
- 88 volumes are got wet
- 11 volumes are seriously worn,
- spaces between rows are scribbled in 4 volumes,
- as well as 4 volumes are affected by insects.

It indicates that 89 percent of total books are damaged and need to be restored.

The above requires the establishment of the special laboratory for restoring old books and manuscripts in the National Library.

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

National Library of Mongolia  
Ulaanbaatar - 210648, Chinggis avenue - 4  
Fax : 976-11-323100,  
Tel : 976-11-323100,  
<http://www.nationallibrary.mn>

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

National Library of Mongolia  
Ulaanbaatar - 210648 , Chinggis avenue - 4  
Fax : 976-11-323100,  
Tel : 976-11-323100,  
<http://www.nationallibrary.mn>

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

The National Library of Mongolia owns, which is a State Service Authority.

(b) Accessibility

It is available to use in accordance with the below clauses on Law for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia:

- “To be used for the dedication of advertisement, research and investigation and training”
- “Prohibited for the dedication of original usage”
- In compliance with the clause No.3 of the Law on Relationship between the State and the Temples, “The Government shall determine the issues offered by the State authority responsible to the culture and science regarding the peerlessly valuable cultural and historical heritage object in the library for the usage of religious and ritual activities”
- “The Government shall determine the regulation on the issues related to copying, making souvenir objects with the model, photographing, video recording, preparing stamps, greeting cards and CDs by using historical and cultural objects”
- “The State authority responsible to culture and science, or competent authority permitted by the state authority can involve the registered cultural heritage temporarily to the international and domestic exhibitions, based on the agreement with the heritage owner”

(c) Copyright status

The National Library of Mongolia

(d) Responsible administration

The National Library of Mongolia is responsible for the documentary heritage and keeps it in the special fund of priceless and rare books.

(e) Other factors

This sutra had been kept by the nobleman Nayant, whose real title was Governnor, Khalkah’s Sain Noyon Khan Province, and used for prayers in the temple “Long Live the Religion”, Mongolian aristocrat Jam’yan who was the first director of Institute for Script and Sutra concluded an agreement consisting of 9 paragraphs with the nobleman Nayant in 4 copies in Mongolian and Chinese on October 28, 1924 that the Mongolian dust paint printed Tanjur will be kept in Mongolia forever.

## 6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES/NO

Within the framework of the implementation of Government platform of Mongolia, and the package of laws of the Culture of Mongolia, some activities conducted under the plan to register and itemize the cultural scriptural heritage, as well as to improve the protection and conservation of it.

In accordance with the Law for the safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage, we got registered and certified some significantly precious creations such as “**Mongolian Tanjur**”, *Lu.Altan Tobchi, Yesun Erdeniin Ganjuur, Sanduin Jud etc...* to the “Outstanding valuable property” category of Cultural Heritage of Mongolia.

Within the implementation of the package of laws of the Culture of Mongolia, and in compliance with the Governmental Act No.23 ratified in 2003 and the “*Regulation on the charged service to be observed for the usage by the organizations and individuals for copying, shooting, video recording, photographing, releasing CDs and making stamps*”, “*Regulation to be observed for reading the scripts, printed books and dissertations in the National Library of Mongolia ordered by the Director of the National Library of Mongolia*” and based on the permission of the Director of National Library of Mongolia, we have been enabling people for copying, taking pictures and reading which is a practical action for the protection of the rare and precious books.

### Management plan

| 1 | Actions   | Duration    |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Implement projects on preservation and conservation condition of books and sutras. Equipments for adjusting the air dryness, fluctuation of hotness and coldness (air conditioner). | 2005 - 2013 |
| 2 | Implement digitalization project of “Mongolian Tanjur”, other rare and valuable books and sutras at the National Library of Mongolia.   | 2005 - 2013 |
| 3 | Improve the equipment and professional level of the book restoration laboratory on preventing books and publications of being physically and mechanically damaged.                  | 2007 - 2011 |
| 4 | Nominate some of Rare and Valuable Books to UNESCO programme “Memory of the World”.   | 2008 - 2010 |

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

Consultation meeting held in National Library of Mongolia in 29<sup>th</sup> of December in 2008.

(a), (b) Consultation meeting about the nomination of “Mongolian Tanjur” with the owner of the heritage held in 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 in of National Library of Mongolia.

Participators: Kh.Chilaajav                      Director of National Library of Mongolia,

D. Byambasuren Deputy director of National Library  
B.Tsogjargal Methodology librarian  
D.Dalaijarga, Secretary - General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Head of the Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Committee

B.Garid, Science and ICT officer of NatCom Mongolia  
L.Munkhzul Culture officer of NatCom Mongolia

(c) Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program consultation meeting held in National University of Mongolia on 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

Participants: D.Dalaijargal  
Secretary - General of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO,  
Head of the Mongolian National Committee for Memory of the World Program

D.Tumurtoogoo  
Director of Institute of Language and Literature  
for Mongolian Academy of Sciences, member of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Honored Science Worker of Mongolia

Sh.Choimaa  
Doctor, Professor of Mongolian National University,  
Department of Altaic studies and textology

Kh.Chilaajav  
Director of the National Library of Mongolia

D.Ulziibaatar  
General Director of the Implementing Agency  
of the Government of Mongolia, National Archives of Mongolia

B.Garid,  
Science and ICT officer of NatCom Mongolia  
L.Munkhzul Culture officer of NatCom Mongolia

## **PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION**

The National Library of Mongolia is responsible to the documentary heritage and keeps “**Mongolian Tanjur**” in the special fonds of priceless and rare books in a safe showcase. Area of the fonds is 177.84 square meter. This fonds room equipped with dedicatory equipments like fire detection and alarm system but still absent are equipment for air condition, humidity controls, standard lights and shelves.

There is no dedicated budget for the improvement of protection and conservation of rare and precious books.

Urgent issue to be solved in the near future is to establish a reserve fonds room in accordance with standard requirement MNS ISO 11799:2007

### **8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK**

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)



Due to the poor storage condition, there are more signs of decay appearing on the book, such as blackening and deteriorating from the edges, words and letters fading, and the painting peeling. Since the handwritten sutras and books are made of organic materials, such as paper, textile, skin and hide which are processed in special ways, they are decaying and coming apart in various ways, due to the insects, fungus and other such negative factors.

The library does not have facilities for filtering the air, controlling moisture and room temperature, lighting and electrical facilities are inadequate to the “Requirements for the protection and conservation of the heritage objects in the archives and libraries” MNS ISO 11799:2007.

## **9 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION**

### **9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)**

The storage condition of the “Mongolian Tanjur”:

- One volume book paged with 436
- Width: 22.7 cm
- Length: 71.8
- Thickness: 11.5
- Length of script: 60.8 cm
- Width of script: 16.4 cm
- Weight: 8750gr = 8kg 750gr

The manuscripts made of materials of organic origin such as stone printing block paint, paper processed by the special technology, cloth, skin and chamois leather are affected by mould, insects and torn in fold.

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This danger is the one of the important issues requiring attention specially. For example, when we examined the keeping regime of Mongol Vermilion Tanjur with pages of 107839 which is also only piece in the World:

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- as well as 4 volumes are affected by insects.

It indicates that 89 percent of total books are damaged and need to be restored.

This only fact requires establishing the special laboratory for restoring old books and manuscripts in the National Library.