

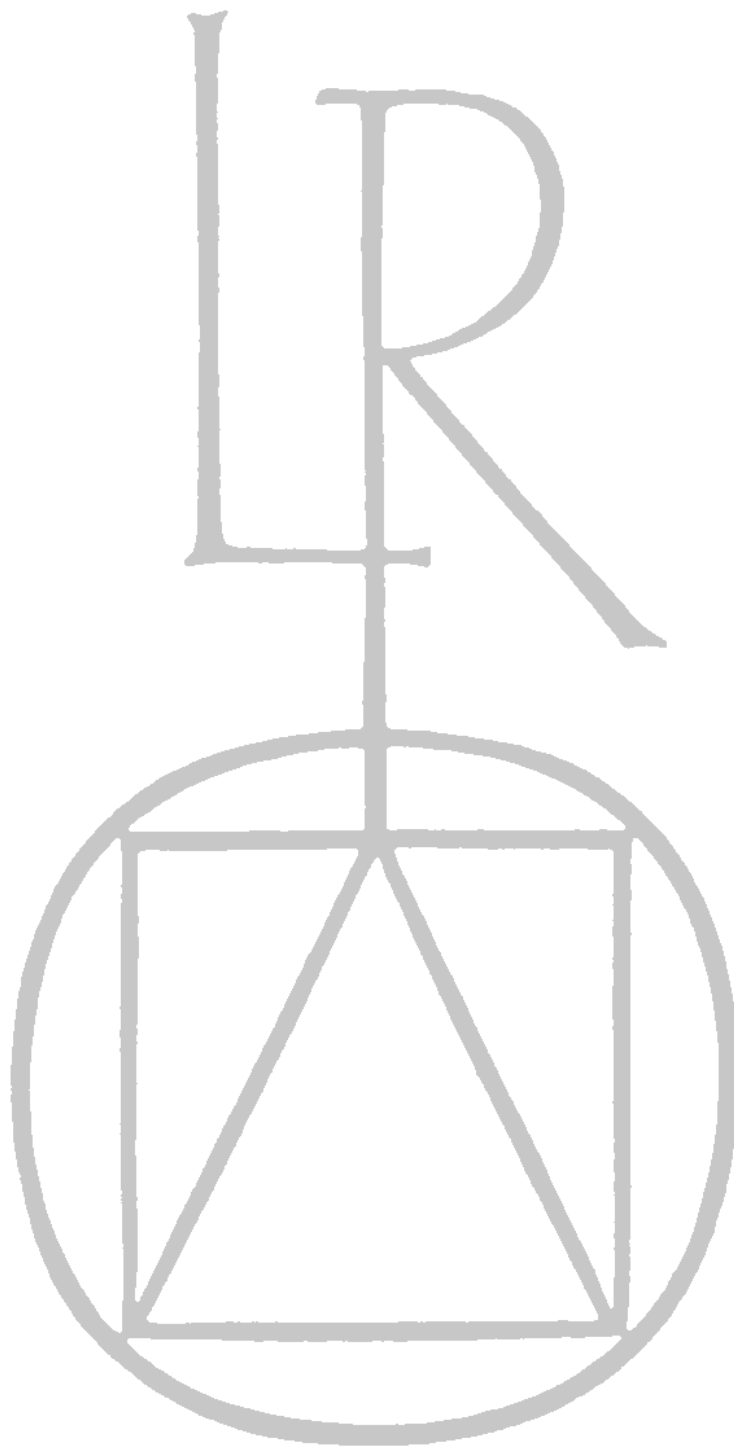
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A study such as the present one is the result of a confluence of many conditions. It all began in the middle of the 1990s, when I was working at the University of Hamburg for the NEPAL-GERMAN MANUSCRIPT PRESERVATION PROJECT and discovered, scattered among a large delivery of microfilms, films of manuscripts of Ame Zhab's (A-mes-zhabs) works. At that time I divided my working time between the Project, research for my dissertation and language class teaching. In my spare moments, I began to take notes on the material and soon established that the set of manuscripts of this important historian of the Sa-skyapa lineage was almost complete. It was due to the kindness of Prof. Albrecht Wezler, who allowed me to use these films for my own research, and the expertise of Prof. David P. Jackson, who pointed out to me the enormous significance of this find, that the work on these manuscripts was able to take shape.

In the following years, I was able to start three projects based on this material. The first was an exhaustive catalogue of the manuscripts, including an overview of A-mes-zhabs' life and his transmissions. The result of that project, which I began at the University of Munich, was published in 2007 as *Life, Transmissions, and Works of A-mes-zhabs Ngag-dbang-kun-dga'-bsod-nams, the Great 17th Century Sa-skyapa Bibliophile*, (Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland, Supplement Band 38). The second project concentrated on the records of teachings received (Tib.: *gsan yig*) of Ame Zhab and of his teachers, which forms the greatest part of volume *kha* of his manuscripts. Several articles issued forth from my occupation with these records of teachings that I consider an actual genre of Tibetan literature. I started a complete digitized documentation of these records and handed this project over to Jowita Kramer when I accepted a position at Copenhagen University. Dr. Kramer's work has been completed now and an electronic publication is on the way (in cooperation with Gene Smith's fantastic *tbrc.org*). While working on both of these projects, i.e. the work with the manuscripts in general and the study of the records of teachings, I stumbled onto a third line of research, namely the Indian and Tibetan literature on Hevajra and the Path with Its Fruit, the result of which is the present study. The first two projects were directly financed by the GERMAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (DFG). The third project began somewhere in the middle of all of this and was more or less completed during my three tenure-track years at the University of Copenhagen (2003-2006). I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Professors Albrecht Wezler, David Jackson (both previously at the University of Hamburg), Jens-Uwe Hartmann (University of Munich) and to the DFG for their support over the years. I would also like to take this opportunity and thank Dr. Anne MacDonald (University of Vienna) for her careful editing of my introduction to this book and Jürgen Klein for his technical assistance in the final print.

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All mistakes remaining in this books are, needless to mention, my sole responsibility.

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Jan-Ulrich Sobisch