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# Guide to the Tanka Collection

## Tibet MSS 62



by Matthew Daniel Mason

July 2012

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Tankas .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Identified Creators, circa 1865-circa 1950 .....	5
Series II: Identified Subjects, circa 1600-circa 1950 .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	27

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Tibet MSS 62

**TITLE:** Tanka collection

**DATES:** [circa 1600]-[circa 1950]

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.3 linear feet (77 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In Tibetan and Sanskrit.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of tankas, which are Buddhist scrolls or fabric temple banners, chiefly Tibetan, but also Nepalese, Bhutanese, Indian and Chinese, which bear religious images, circa 1600-circa 1950. Some tankas also bear inscriptions on their versos.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tankas>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tankas>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from various sources. For further information consult entries for individual tankas in the guide to the collection.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Tanka Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Tanka Collection. General Collection of Books and Manuscripts, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

All of the deity names are expressed in accordance with the Library of Congress Authority File.

Descriptions of individual items derive chiefly from catalog cards created by Wesley E. Needham (Yale 1954 Hon. M.A.H.) at the time of acquisition, as well as from a survey of the material completed by Paul A. Draghi in June 1994.

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## Tankas

Tankas, also known as thangkas, are hanging scrolls or fabric temple banners that consist of a painted picture panels (called *mélong* in Tibetan, which means 'mirror'), usually depicting buddhas, mandalas, or great practitioners, which are sewn into or bordered by a textile mountings. Tankas are intended to serve as records of, and guides for, contemplative experiences and visualizations.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 77 tankas, chiefly Tibetan, but also Nepalese, Bhutanese, Indian and Chinese, which bear religious images, circa 1600-circa 1950. Some tankas also bear inscriptions on their versos.

Divinities represented in the collection include Akṣobhya, Amitābha, Amitāyus, Avalokiteśvara, Bardo Thodol deities, Bhaiṣajyaguru, Dorje Shugden, Garwai Nagpo Damchen, Hayagrīva, Mahākāla, Palden Lhamo, Prajñāpāramitā, Rāhula, Sitāpatrā, Tārā, Vajrabhairava, Vajrapāṇi, Vajrasattva, Vajrayoginī, Vasudhārā, and Viśrāvāṇa.

Buddhist practitioners with portraits in the collection include Gautama Buddha, his arhats (disciples), Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer, Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltzen, Mi-la-ras-pa, Nag-dbañ-blo-bzañ-rgya-mtsho, Padma Sambhava, Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa, and Yungtön Dorjepel, as well as unidentified Karmapa abbots and an unidentified Sa-skya-pa lama.

Portrayals of inanimate objects and locations include srid-pa-ho (astrological divination charts), a srid-pa'i-'khor-lo (wheel of life), rgyan-tshogs (offerings), a stupa and a mandala.

Identified artists in the collection consist of Tsewang Norbu, an artist active in Darjeeling, India, circa 1865, as well as Rin-zin (or Rig-zin), a artist active in Sikkim, India, circa 1950.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Identified Creators, circa 1865-circa 1950. II. Identified Subjects, circa 1600-circa 1950.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Identified Creators, circa 1865-circa 1950

(8 paintings)

Tankas created by identified Indian artists or attributed to unidentified Tibetan and Nepalese artists.

This series is organized alphabetically by the artist, followed by groups of tankas by an unidentified Tibetan and Nepalese artists.

Rin-zin (or Rig-zin)

Rin-zin (or Rig-zin) was an artist active in Sikkim, India, circa 1950.

b. 1 (Oversize)

[Tanka of Mañjuśrī](#)

circa 1950

*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 63 x 49 cm. bordered with silk brocade 130 x 97 cm. in a frame.*

Mañjuśrī is a bodhisattva associated with transcendent wisdom.

A Sikkimese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Mañjuśrī, accompanied by a white Tārā with seven eyes and Viśrāvaṇa, the chief of the Four Heavenly Kings. The figures are reportedly modeled after the Macrae family.

Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.

The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.

Gift of Marjorie Knight Macrae, 1968.

Publisher Elliott Beach Macrae (1900-1968) was given the tanka by Tashi Namgyal (1893-1963), the Maharaja Chogyal of Sikkim, circa 1950.

Former call number: TIB. 68.1.

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Tsewang Norbu

Tsewang Norbu was an artist in Darjeeling, India.

b. 2 (Oversize)

[Tanka of Gautama Buddha](#)

circa 1865

*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 104 x 74 cm. bordered with silk 104 x 73 cm.*

Gautama Buddha (circa 563 BCE-483 BCE), also known as Śākyamuni, was a spiritual teacher from ancient India who founded Buddhism.

A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha surrounded by nine figures. The painting also depicts the male and female patron on the painting in Sanskrit expressed in phonetic Tibetan, Bhalaram Norbu and Bhanavati Drolma.

Inscription in Tibetan on the verso, which venerates Gautama Buddha, the patrons, and the artist.

Gift of Martin J. Gerson, 1959.

Former call number: TIB. 59.1.

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## Unidentified Tibetan Artist

Two tankas created by an unidentified Tibetan artist based on Jātakas, a body of literature native to India concerning the previous births (jāti) of the Gautama Buddha.

Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.

b. 3 (Oversize)	<p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha and scenes from the Vessantara Jātaka</a>  <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65.5 x 40.0 cm. bordered with silk 134 x 76 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha surrounded by scenes from "Vessantara Jātaka," In the story a compassionate prince gives away everything he owns, including his wife and children, thereby displaying the virtue of perfect charity.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.3.</p>	circa 1700-circa 1800
b. 4 (Oversize)	<p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha and scenes from the Ruru Deer Jātaka</a>  <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65.5 x 39.0 cm. bordered with silk 134 x 76 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha surrounded by scenes from "The Ruru Deer Jātaka," In the story the Ruru Deer saves man, who then betrays the deer, but the deer survives and teaches.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.2.</p>	circa 1700-circa 1800
Unidentified Nepalese Artist		
Four tankas created by an unidentified northern Nepalese artist.		
Purchased by Joseph F. Weiler in Nepal. Gifts of Joseph F. Weiler and Eliza Weiler, 1983.		
b. 5 (Oversize)	<p><a href="#">Tanka of Amitāyus</a>  <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 57 x 39 cm. mounted on cotton 87 x 63 cm.</i></p> <p>A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a red Amitāyus seated on a multicolored lotus accompanied by three smaller figures above and six human figures below in Nepalese dress and holding black umbrellas.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 83.2.</p>	circa 1900-circa 1950
b. 6 (Oversize)	<p><a href="#">Tanka of Avalokiteśvara</a>  <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 54 x 41 cm. mounted on cotton 93 x 79 cm.</i></p> <p>A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara seated on a pink lotus accompanied by smaller figures, as well as Amitābha above and Padma Sambhav below.</p> <p>Inscription in Tibetan on the verso. Consecrated by a lama to address an illness.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 83.1.</p>	circa 1900-circa 1950

## Unidentified Nepalese Artist (continued)

- |                 |   |                       |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 7 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Bardo Thodol Deities</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 77.5 x 46.5 cm. mounted on cotton 108 x 67 cm</i></p> <p>A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts the 42 Peaceful Deities of Bardo with Samantabhadra in a rainbow framed circle accompanied by human figures below in Nepalese dress and holding black umbrellas.</p> <p>Inscription in Tibetan on the verso. Nine of the inscriptions are consecrations of the divinities on the recto.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 83.3.</p> | circa 1900-circa 1950 |
| <hr/>           |   |                       |
| b. 8 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Padma Sambhava</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 21 x 16 cm. mounted on cotton and silk 58 x 42 cm.</i></p> <p>A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Padma Sambhava seated on a lotus throne.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 83.4</p>  | circa 1900-circa 1950 |
| <hr/>           |   |                       |

**Series II: Identified Subjects, circa 1600-circa 1950***(69 paintings)*

Tankas created by unidentified artists from Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and China of identified subjects.

Series II is organized alphabetically by subject.

**Akṣobhya**

Akṣobhya is one of the Five Wisdom Buddhas, a product of the Adi-Buddha, who represents consciousness as an aspect of reality.

- b. 9 (Oversize) [Tanka of Akṣobhya](#) circa 1850-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65.0 x 44.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 114 x 71 cm.*  
 A Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Akṣobhya surrounded by 516 miniature emanations of himself. All of the figures are outlined in red on gold.  
 Purchased in Nepal by Ann Rohrer in 1968. Gift of Ann Rohrer, 1976.  
 Former call number: TIB. 76.3.
- 

**Amitābha**

Amitābha, also known as "The Buddha of Infinite Light," is a celestial buddha known for his longevity and the deep awareness of individualities.

- b. 10 (Oversize) [Tanka of Amitābha](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 61.5 x 41.0 cm. mounted on silk brocade 107 x 58 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Amitābha seated on a lotus throne presiding over Sukhāvātī, his celestial realm, surrounded by eight bodhisattvas and twelve smaller buddhas and divinities, and behind a lake with two babies upon a lotus.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.11.
- 
- b. 11 (Oversize) [Tanka of Amitābha](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65 x 46 cm. mounted on silk brocade 112 x 71 cm.*  
 An eastern Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Amitābha surrounded by miniature figures.  
 Gift of Wesley E. Needham, 1965.  
 Former call number: TIB. 65.1.
- 

**Amitāyus**

Amitāyus is also used for the Sambhogakāya aspect of Amitābha, particularly associated with longevity.



## Amitāyus (continued)

- b. 12 (Oversize) [Tanka of Amitāyus](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 70.0 x 45.5 bordered with silk brocade 118 x 72 cm.*  
 Purchased from Vivian Rose, 1962.  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Amitāyus, a deity associated with longevity, surrounded with 144 miniature emanations of himself.  
 Inscription in Tibetan on the verso.  
 Former call number: TIB. 62.2.
- 

## Arhats

Arhats, also known as Sthaviras, were sixteen individuals selected by Gautama Buddha from among his disciples and to remain in the world and protect the Dharma for as long as beings are capable of benefitting from the teachings. The sixteen arhats are usually depicted in tankas accompanied by their two attendants, Hva Shang and Upasaka Dharmatala, as well as by the Four Great Kings.

- b. 13 (Art) [Tanka of two arhats accompanied by Upasaka Dharmatala](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 63 x 42 cm. bordered with silk brocade 132 x 81 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts two of the sixteen arhats, the original followers of the Buddha, accompanied by Upasaka Dharmatala, a patron of the Dharma, attendant of the sixteen arhats and a manifestation of Avalokiteśvara.  
 Purchased from Vivian Rose, 1962.  
 Former call number: TIB. 62.5.
- 

- b. 14 (Oversize) [Tanka of two arhats](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 70 x 46 bordered with silk brocade 144 x 74 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts two of the sixteen arhats, the original followers of the Buddha.  
 The painting is one of a set of nine paintings and is marked "Right-two" in Tibetan on its verso.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on the verso.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.  
 Transferred from the Yale University Art Gallery, 1960. Former Art Gallery No. 1951.51.52.  
 Former call number: TIB. 60.1.
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## Avalokiteśvara

Avalokiteśvara is a bodhisattva that embodies the speech of all the buddhas and incarnation of their compassion.

## Avalokiteśvara (continued)

- |                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| b. 15 (Art)      | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Avalokiteśvara</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 91.5 x 60.0 cm. mounted on silk in a frame 101 x 67 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan or Chinese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara with a eleven heads and eight arms standing on a lotus.</p> <p>Gift of Orson L. St. John, 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.2.</p>   | circa 1700-circa<br>1800 |
| <hr/>            |  |                          |
| b. 16 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Avalokiteśvara</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 76 x 48 cm. bordered with silk brocade 133 x 76 cm.</i></p> <p>An Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara accompanied by celestial scenes and divinities, as well as a figure of a Tibetan king.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.8.</p>   | circa 1800-circa<br>1850 |
| <hr/>            |  |                          |
| b. 17 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Avalokiteśvara</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65 x 42 cm. bordered with silk brocade 130 x 84 cm.</i></p> <p>An eastern Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara accompanied by eight smaller figures.</p> <p>Inscriptions in Tibetan on the verso.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.</p> <p>Purchased from Tibet House, New Delhi, India, 1966.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 66.2.</p>   | circa 1800-circa<br>1900 |
| <hr/>            |  |                          |
| b. 18 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Avalokiteśvara</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 57.0 x 39.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 115 x 70 cm</i></p> <p>An eastern Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a white Avalokiteśvara with four arms seated on a pink lotus below Gautama Buddha, Vajrapāṇi, and Tsoṅ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa with two disciples, as well as above Manjushri, a green Tārā, and Vajrapāṇi.</p> <p>Inscriptions in Tibetan on the verso.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover.</p> <p>Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.12.</p> | circa 1800-circa<br>1900 |

## Avalokiteśvara (continued)

- b. 19 (Oversize) [Tanka of Avalokiteśvara](#) circa 1850-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 69 x 49 cm. bordered with silk brocade 122 x 78 cm.*  
 A southern Tibetan or Bhutanese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara with four arms and accompanied by numerous smaller figures.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on the verso.  
 Purchased in Nepal by Ann Rohrer in 1968. Gift of Ann Rohrer, 1976.  
 Former call number: TIB. 76.1.
- 
- b. 20 (Oversize) [Tanka of Avalokiteśvara](#) circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 45 x 31 cm. mounted on silk brocade 85 x 57 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Avalokiteśvara with four arms and accompanied by Manjushri and Vajrapāṇi.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Purchased in Nepal by Ann Rohrer in 1968. Gift of Ann Rohrer, 1976.  
 Former call number: TIB. 76.2.
- 
- Bardo Thodol Deities  
 The Bardo Thodol, also known as the Tibetan Book of the Dead, is a text used in Tibetan Buddhism to guide one through the experiences that the consciousness has after death, during the interval between death and the next rebirth. The first portion of the ritual is dedicated to the epiphany of the peaceful and wrathful bardo deities.
- b. 21 (Oversize) [Tanka of the 58 Wrathful Deities of Bardo](#) circa 1600-circa 1700  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 74 x 47 cm. bordered with silk brocade 123 x 78 cm.*  
 An Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts the 58 Wrathful Deities of Bardo.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.19
- 
- b. 22 (Oversize) [Tanka of the 42 Peaceful Deities of Bardo](#) circa 1700-circa 1750  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 74 x 54 cm. bordered with silk brocade 125 x 85 cm.*  
 An Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts the 42 Peaceful Deities of Bardo accompanied by other figures and some inscriptions.  
 Purchased from Russell Trenholme, 1972.  
 Former call number: TIB. 72.1.
-

## Bhaiṣajyaguru

Bhaiṣajyaguru, also known as the Medicine Buddha, is the buddha of healing and medicine in Mahāyāna Buddhism. He is described as a doctor who cures suffering using the medicine of his teachings.

- b. 23 (Oversize) [Tanka of Bhaiṣajyaguru](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 51 x 34 cm. bordered with silk brocade 101 x 69 cm.*
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Bhaiṣajyaguru accompanied by seven emanations of himself and posited above a depiction of Mahākāla.
- Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.
- Former call number: TIB. 85.7.
- 

## Dorje Shugden

Dorje Shugden, also known as Dolgyal Shugden, a deity in the Dge-lugs-pa school of Buddhism, and regarded as a Dharma Protector or "guardian angel."

- b. 24 (Oversize) [Tanka of Dorje Shugden](#) circa 1600-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 36.5 x 29.0 cm. bordered with silk brocade 85 x 60 cm.*
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Dorje Shugden below three lamas and two deities and above three deities, as well as flanked by three smaller figures.
- Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.
- The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.
- Purchased from Vivian Rose, 1962.
- Former call number: TIB. 62.3.
- 

## Garwai Nagpo Damchen

Garwai Nagpo Damchen, also known as the Blacksmith, is the main attendant to Vajrasadhu, and the oath bound worldly protector of the Nyingma School.

- b. 25 (Oversize) [Tanka of Garwai Nagpo Damchen](#) circa 1600-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 39.5 x 25.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 78 x 51 cm.*
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Garwai Nagpo Damchen holding a vajra hammer in his right hand, wearing a hat, and riding a goat. He is below Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa and two of his disciples.
- Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.
- Former call number: TIB. 67.16.
- 

## Gautama Buddha

## Gautama Buddha (continued)

- |                  |   |                       |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 26 (Art)      | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 94.5 x 62.5 cm. in a frame 101 x 67 cm.</i><br/> A Tibetan or Chinese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha seated on a lotus accompanied by two lamas, four arhats, and several divinities, including Yama and Yami.</p> <p>Gift of Orson L. St. John, 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.1.</p>  | circa 1700-circa 1800 |
| b. 27 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 63.5 x 35.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 105 x 55 cm.</i><br/> A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha escorted by two bodhisattvas and blessing a lama above a scene of the lama accompanied by Sarasvatī, a guardian deity who upholds the teachings of Gautama Buddha by offering protection and assistance to practitioners.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover.</p> <p>Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.10.</p> | circa 1700-circa 1800 |
| b. 28 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha</a><br/> <i>1 painting: gold ink on silk on rice paper 119 x 68 cm.</i><br/> A Chinese gold ink painting on black silk that depicts Gautama Buddha accompanied by smaller figures.</p> <p>Writing on the upper recto of the painting in Chinese, Manchu, Mongolian, and Tibetan.</p> <p>Inscription in French on verso.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.4.</p>   | circa 1700-circa 1900 |
| b. 29 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha with eight arhats and two attendants</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton 98 x 63 cm.</i><br/> A Tibetan or Chinese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha accompanied by eight arhats and two attendants, probably Hva Shang and Upasaka Dharmatala. The tanka has painted borders that simulate silk brocade.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.5.</p>  | circa 1700-circa 1900 |
| b. 30 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha</a><br/> <i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 70 x 45 cm. bordered with silk 101 x 58 cm.</i><br/> A western Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha accompanied by smaller figures, including a monkey. Several panels in the image contain inscriptions in cursive Tibetan script.</p> <p>Depiction of a stupa on the verso.</p> <p>Gift of Colonel Eric Foster Storm, 1963.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 63.1.</p>   | circa 1800-circa 1850 |

## Gautama Buddha (continued)

b. 31 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha, disciples, and the Thirty-five Buddhas of Confession</a>	circa 1900-circa 1950
	<i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 62.0 x 41.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 90 x 65 cm.</i>	
	A western Tibetan or Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton, probably by an amateur artist that depicts Gautama Buddha seated on a lotus throne flanked by two of his chief disciples, Sāriputta and Moggallāna, and surrounded by the Thirty-five Buddhas of Confession.	
	The tanka includes a silk cover	
	Gift of Martin J. Gerson, 1959.	
	Former call number: TIB. 59.2.	
b. 32 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha</a>	circa 1950
	<i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 94 x 64 cm.</i>	
	A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton by a refugee painter that depicts Gautama Buddha accompanied by two buddha figures and two arhats.	
	Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.	
	Purchased from Tibet House, New Delhi, India, 1966.	
	Former call number: TIB. 66.1.	
b. 33 (Broadside)	<a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha, disciples, and the Thirty-five Buddhas of Confession</a>	undated
	<i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65.0 x 47.5 cm., unmounted and unbordered</i>	
	A western Tibetan or Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha surrounded by the Thirty-five Buddhas of Confession.	
	Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.	
	Gift of Norton Canfield, 1981.	
	Former call number: TIB. 76.6.	
Gautama Buddha and Scenes from Jātakas		
Jātakas are a body of literature native to India concerning the previous births (jāti) of the Gautama Buddha.		
b. 34 (Oversize)	<a href="#">Tanka of Gautama Buddha and scenes from the Starving Tigress Jātaka</a>	circa 1700-1800
	<i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 60 x 41 cm. bordered with silk brocade 135 x 81 cm.</i>	
	A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Gautama Buddha surrounded by scenes from "The Starving Tigress Jātaka." In the story a bodhisattva sees a starving tigress about to eat her own cubs, and the bodhisattva offers her his own body.	
	Inscription in Tibetan on verso describes the position of the tanka in relation to other tankas.	
	The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.	
	Transferred from the Yale University Divinity School Library, 1960. Gift of Orville Anderson Petty (Yale Ph.D. 1915, Hon. D.D. 1919).	
	Former call number: TIB. 60.4.	

## Guhyasamāja

Guhyasamāja is a blue-black Akṣobhyavajra, a form of Akṣobhya.

- b. 35 (Oversize) [Tanka of Guhyasamāja](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 61 x 42 cm. bordered with silk brocade 112 x 58.5 cm.*  
 A Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Guhyasamāja with a dark blue body, six arms, and three faces and in union with his consort as Sparshavajrā, as well as accompanied by forty-five figures.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.14.
- 

## Hayagrīva

Hayagrīva is a fierce horse-faced deity who is powerful in driving off unconverted demonic forces.

- b. 36 (Oversize) [Tanka of Hayagrīva](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 47 x 34 cm. bordered with silk brocade 102 x 66 cm*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton with embroidery that depicts Hayagrīva surrounded by emanations of himself and other figures.  
 Inscription in Tibetan on verso.  
 Purchased from Vivian Rose, 1962.  
 Former call number: TIB. 62.4.
- 

- b. 37 (Art) [Tanka of Hayagrīva](#) circa 1900-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 74 x 52 cm. bordered with brocade 152 x 102 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton with embroidery that depicts Hayagrīva surrounded by thirty-six figures. The painting is mounted on brocade that depicts dragons.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.  
 Gift of Chester Bowles (Yale 1924), 1958.  
 Bowles was given the tanka by the King of Nepal, Tribhuvan Bir Bickrum Shah, circa 1951-1953.  
 Former call number: TIB. 58.1.
- 

## Karmapa Abbots

The Karmapa is the head of the Karma Kagyu, the largest sub-school of the Kagyupa, itself one of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

## Karmapa Abbots (continued)

- b. 38 (Oversize) [Tanka of a Karmapa Abbot](#) circa 1700-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 63 x 42 cm. bordered with silk brocade 122 x 84 cm.*  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts an unidentified Karmapa abbot wearing a red hat and seated, as well as accompanied by smaller figures, including a lama and protective divinities. Consecrated on the verso by a lama.  
 Depiction of a stupa and inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 Accompanied with an envelope from Hotel Mount Everest, Darjeeling, India, with notes about the tanka.  
 Gift of Orson L. St. John, 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.3.
- 
- b. 39 (Oversize) Tanka of a Karmapa Abbot circa 1800-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 23.0 x 18.5 cm. mounted on silk brocade 48 x 40 cm.*  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts an unidentified Karmapa abbot wearing a red hat and seated, as well as accompanied by smaller figures of two monks and three protective divinities seated on a horse, elephant, and a mythological creature.  
 Gift of Orson L. St. John, 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.5.
- 
- Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer  
 Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer (1308-1363), also known as Longchenpa or Longchen Rabjampa, was a major teacher in the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism.
- b. 40 (Oversize) [Tanka of Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 61.0 x 35.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 118 x 74 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer or Chos Kyi Rgya Mtsho sitting on a cushion below Amitāyus and two protective divinities and above Vajrapāṇi and dharmapalas.  
 Separate inscriptions on verso of painting identify it as Kloñ-chen-pa Dri-med-'od-zer and Chos Kyi Rgya Mtsho  
 The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.16.
- 
- Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltsen  
 Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltsen (1570-1662) was the fourth Panchen Lama of Tibet, and the first accorded the title during his lifetime.



## Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltzen (continued)

- b. 41 (Oversize) [Tanka of Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltzen](#) circa 1600-circa 1700  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 64 x 37 cm. bordered with silk brocade 107 x 58 cm.*  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltzen wearing yellow and seated on cushions with smaller figures of protective divinities, ten lamas, and Güshi Khan (1582-1655), a Khoshut prince and leader of the Khoshut Khanate.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.9.
- 
- Mahākāla  
 Mahākāla is a dharmapala in Vajrayana Buddhism.
- b. 42 (Oversize) [Tanka of Mahākāla](#) circa 1650-circa 1750  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 44.5 x 34.0 cm. mounted on silk brocade 92 x 58 cm*  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Mahākāla with a dark blue body, three heads, and six arms, with ornaments made of human skulls, and accompanied by thirty-eight figures. Consecrated by a lama on the verso with an om-ah-hum and the red hand prints of the lama and the patron.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.15.
- 
- b. 43 (Oversize) [Tanka of Mahākāla](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 39 x 25 cm. bordered with silk brocade 71 x 42 cm.*  
 A watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Mahākāla with four faces and four arms, with ornaments made of human skulls.  
 Inscription in Tibetan on verso.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.8.
- 
- Mandalas  
 Mandala is a Sanskrit word that means "circle". In Buddhist religious traditions their sacred art often takes a mandala form, which is a square with four gates containing a circle with a center point.
- b. 44 (Broadside) [Tanka of a Mandala](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 68.5 x 49.0 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a mandala consisting of a square with four gates containing a circle with a center point. Miniature figures are depicted outside of the enclosure.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.20.
-

## Mi-la-ras-pa

Mi-la-ras-pa (circa 1052-circa 1135), also known as Jetsun Milarepa, was a Tibetan yogi and poet, as well as a founder of the Kagyü school of Tibetan Buddhism.

- |             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 45 (Art) | <p>Tanka of Mi-la-ras-pa<br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 111 x 68 cm. mounted on bordered with silk 119 x 76 cm. in a frame.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Mi-la-ras-pa surrounded by previous hierarchs in the Kagyü school and smaller replicas of himself.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.6.</p> | circa 1600-circa 1800 |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
- 

## Ñag-dbañ-blo-bzañ-rgya-mtsho

Ñag-dbañ-blo-bzañ-rgya-mtsho (1617-1682) was the Fifth Dalai Lama and a political and religious leader in seventeenth-century Tibet.

- |                  |  |                       |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 46 (Oversize) | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Ñag-dbañ-blo-bzañ-rgya-mtsho</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65 x 50 cm. bordered with silk 87 x 79 cm.</i></p> <p>A Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Ñag-dbañ-blo-bzañ-rgya-mtsho, probably in Potala Palace and accompanied by musicians, with other human figures in the foreground.</p> <p>Inscription in Tibetan on verso.</p> <p>Gift of Martin J. Gerson, 1959.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 59.3.</p> | circa 1850-circa 1950 |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
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## Padma Sambhava

Padma Sambhava (circa 717-circa 762), also known as Guru Rinpoche or Lopon Rinpoche, was a guru from Oddiyana (modern Swat, Pakistan) credited with introducing Vajrayana Buddhism to Bhutan and Tibet in the eighth century.

- |                  |   |                       |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 47 (Oversize) | <p>Tanka of Padma Sambhava<br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 37 x 23 cm. bordered with silk 72 x 40 cm.</i></p> <p>A western Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Padma Sambhava seated on a lotus blossom below three smaller protective divinities of Amitābha, Amitāyus, and Tārā, as well as above two smaller figures of Nyingma disciples.</p> <p>Gift of Orson L. St. John, 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.4.</p> | circa 1600-circa 1800 |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
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## Padma Sambhava (continued)

- b. 48 (Oversize) [Tanka of Padma Sambhava](#) circa 1850-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 34 x 28 cm. bordered with silk brocade 80 x 61 cm.*  
 A western Tibetan or Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Padma Sambhava with two female consorts, Mandarava and Yeshe Tsogyal.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Purchased from Vivian Rose, 1962.  
 Former call number: TIB. 62.1.

## Palden Lhamo

Palden Lhamo is a female deity who protects the teachings of Gautama Buddha in the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as the principal Protectress of Tibet.

- b. 49 (Oversize) [Tanka of Palden Lhamo](#) circa 1600-circa 1700  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 48.0 x 35.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 74 x 50 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Palden Lhamo crossing a sea of blood riding side-saddle on a white mule. Above her are Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa and a Panchen Lama.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.14.
- b. 50 (Oversize) [Tanka of Palden Lhamo](#) circa 1600-circa 1700  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 41 x 28 cm. bordered with silk brocade 83 x 55 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Palden Lhamo crossing a sea of blood riding side-saddle on a white mule. Above her are Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa and two of his disciples. Below her is a mounted figure.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.15.

- b. 51 (Oversize) [Tanka of Palden Lhamo](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 59 x 48 cm. in a frame 61 x 51 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Palden Lhamo surrounded by miniature figures.  
 Transferred from the Yale University Art Gallery, 1960. Former Art Gallery No. 1952.40.23.  
 Former call number: TIB. 60.3.

## Prajñāpāramitā

Prajñāpāramitā is a concept of buddhist transcendental wisdom perfection is often personified as a bodhisattvadevi (female bodhisattva)

## Prajñāpāramitā (continued)

- b. 52 (Oversize) [Tsakli of Prajñāpāramitā](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 13 x 10 cm. bordered with silk 28 x 26 cm. in a frame.*
- An example of a tsakli (also "tsakalis"), a Tibetan miniature painting, normally produced as thematic groups or sets, which are used in rituals. A tsakli can also be placed in a portable shrine or box (Tibetan "gau") and carried as a device giving protection to the traveller or pilgrim who carries this box around the neck or on a shoulder strap.
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Prajñāpāramitā.
- Gift of James Robert Tanis (Yale 1951), 1967
- 
- Rāhula**  
 Rāhula is a Tibetan protector deity based on the Indian deity Rahula, an ancient Indian god, a demi-god, of the cosmos, related to the eclipse of the sun, moon and other planets.
- b. 53 (Oversize) [Tanka of Rāhula](#) circa 1900-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 56 x 41 cm. bordered with silk brocade 117 x 76 cm.*
- A Nepalese or Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Rāhula surrounded by eight figures.
- The tanka includes a silk cover.
- Source unknown.
- Former call number: TIB. 81.1.
- 
- Rgyan-Tshogs**  
 Rgyan-tshogs, also known as an assembly of offerings, are pictorial representations of a spectrum of peaceful and wrathful attributes and offerings to the deities.
- b. 54 (Broadside) [Tanka of a Rgyan-Tshogs](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 49.6 x 37.5 cm., unmounted and unbordered*
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a Rgyan-Tshogs that consists of skulls, bones, flayed human hides, dogs sheep, yaks, and horses.
- Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.
- Former call number: TIB. 67.22.
- 
- Sa-skyapa Lama**  
 The Sa-skyapa school is one of four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.
- b. 55 (Oversize) [Tanka of a Sa-skyapa Lama](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 60 x 45 cm. bordered with silk brocade 116 x 61 cm.*
- An eastern Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts an unidentified Sa-skyapa lama sitting on a cushion below figures and two guardian divinities and above three protective divinities.
- Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.
- Former call number: TIB. 85.13.

## Sitātapatrā

Sitātapatrā is the Goddess of the White Parasol and protector against supernatural danger.

- b. 56 (Oversize) [Tanka of Sitātapatrā](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 67 x 45 cm. bordered with silk brocade 106 x 73cm.*

A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Sitātapatrā accompanied by eleven buddha figures above and three deities below.

Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.

Former call number: TIB. 67.9.

- b. 57 (Broadside) [Tanka of Sitātapatrā](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 46.0 x 33.5 cm. bordered with silk 66.5 x 47.5 cm.*

An unmounted Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Sitātapatrā surrounded by smaller human and other figures.

Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.

Former call number: TIB. 67.10.

## Srid-pa-ho

A Srid-pa-ho is a Tibetan astrological divination chart, which includes signs and symbols of the universe.

- b. 58 (Oversize) [Tanka of a Srid-pa-ho](#) circa 1900-1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 55 x 46 cm. bordered with silk brocade 110 x 79 cm.*

A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a Srid-pa-ho. The central figure is a large golden tortoise, representing the Bodhisattva of Knowledge, upon whom are drawn various geomantic diagrams, representing the nine magic squares and symbols of the eight planets.

The tanka includes a silk cover.

Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.

Former call number: TIB. 67.21.

- b. 59 (Broadside) [Tanka of a Srid-pa-ho](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 52 x 32 cm., unmounted and unbordered*

A Tibetan painting of a Srid-pa-ho, which includes a giant golden turtle and twelve animals, as well as Avalokiteśvara, Manjushri, and Vajrapāni, known as the Three Family Protectors.

Inscription in Tibetan on verso.

Purchased in Nepal by Ann Rohrer in 1968. Gift of Ann Rohrer, 1976.

Former call number: TIB. 76.5.

## Srid-pa'i-'khor-lo

Srid-pa'i-'khor-lo, also known as bhavacakra or wheel of existence/life, is a symbolic representation of samsāra (or cyclical existence).

## Srid-pa'i-'khor-lo (continued)

- |   |   |                       |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| b. 60 (Oversize)  | <p>Tanka of Srid-pa'i-'khor-lo<br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 119.5 x 86.5 cm. mounted on silk brocade 176 x 102 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan painting of a Srid-pa'i-'khor-lo held by Yama, also known as Gshin.rje, the prime mover of samsāra, below Gautama Buddha in the upper right corner.</p> <p>Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 85.18.</p>   | circa 1800-1900       |
| <hr/>   |   |                       |
| <p><b>Stupa</b><br/>A stupa is a dome-shaped monument housing relics of Buddha or an accomplished master.</p>   |   |                       |
| b. 61 (Oversize)  | <p><a href="#">Tanka of a Stupa</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 32.5 x 21.0 cm. bordered with silk 59 x 34 cm.</i></p> <p>A Nepalese or western Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a stupa.</p> <p>Purchased in Nepal by Ann Rohrer in 1968. Gift of Ann Rohrer, 1976.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 76.4.</p>   | circa 1800-circa 1850 |
| <hr/>   |   |                       |
| <p><b>Tārā</b><br/>Tārā, also known as Ārya Tārā or Jetsun Dolma, is a female Bodhisattva that represents the virtues of success in work and achievements</p> |   |                       |
| b. 62 (Art)   | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Tārā</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 90.0 x 63.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 175 x 104 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Tārā surrounded by 321 miniature replica emanations of herself, as well as two incarnations of the Amitābha and Amitāyus.</p> <p>Gift of Edwin R. Meiss (Yale 1933) and Jean Hoffheimer Meiss, 1961.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 61.1.</p> | circa 1800-circa 1850 |
| <hr/>   |   |                       |
| b. 63 (Oversize)  | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Tārā</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 63 x 44 cm. bordered with silk 94 x 66 cm.</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a green Tārā surrounded by miniature scenes and figures.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.11</p>  | circa 1800-1900       |
| <hr/>   |   |                       |
| b. 64 (Art)   | <p><a href="#">Tanka of Tārā</a><br/><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 79 x 56 cm. bordered with silk brocade 158 x 88 cm</i></p> <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a white Tārā accompanied by four figures above in clouds.</p> <p>Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 67.12</p>   | circa 1800-1900       |

## Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa

Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa (1357-1419), also known as Tsongkhapa, was a teacher of Tibetan Buddhism and founder of the Dge-lugs-pa school of Buddhism, also known as the Yellow Hat sect.

- |                  |  |                          |
|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| b. 65 (Oversize) | <a href="#">Tanka of Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa</a><br><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 55 x 39 cm. bordered with silk brocade 69 x 86 cm.</i>  | circa 1650-circa<br>1750 |
|                  | <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa accompanied by two disciples.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.</p> <p>Purchased from Joseph F. Weiler and Eliza Weiler, 1974.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 74.1.</p>   |                          |
| b. 66 (Oversize) | <a href="#">Tanka of Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa</a><br><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 68 x 48 cm. bordered with silk brocade 139 x 73 cm.</i>   | circa 1650-circa<br>1750 |
|                  | <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa accompanied by two disciples.</p> <p>Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.</p> <p>The tanka includes a silk cover and ribbons.</p> <p>Purchased in New Delhi, India, by Wesley E. Needham, 1966.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 66.3.</p> |                          |
| b. 67 (Box)      | <a href="#">Tanka of Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa</a><br><i>1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 51.0 x 35.5 cm. in a frame 54 x 38 cm.</i>  | circa 1700-circa<br>1800 |
|                  | <p>A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa surrounded by miniature figures.</p> <p>Transferred from the Yale University Art Gallery, 1960. Former Art Gallery No. 1952.40.22.</p> <p>Former call number: TIB. 60.2.</p>   |                          |

## Vajrabhairava

Vajrabhairava, also known as Yamāntaka, a wrathful manifestation of Mañjuśrī, the bodhisattva of wisdom, and in other contexts functions as a dharmapala, or 'Dharma-protector'.

## Vajrabhairava (continued)

- b. 68 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vajrabhairava](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 60.5 x 41.0 cm. bordered and mounted on silk brocade 117 x 73 cm.*
- A central Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Vajrabhairava with a dark blue body, nine heads, thirty-four arms, and sixteen legs, as well as wearing a garland of fifty human heads. He is below smaller figures, including Atiśa Dipankara Shrijnana (980-1054), also known as Atisha, a Buddhist teacher from the Pala Empire, and Tsoñ-kha-pa Blo-bzañ-grags-pa with two disciples, as well as two protective divinities. He is above smaller figures of divinities, including Begtse, Yama, Yami, and Lha-mo.
- Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.
- Former call number: TIB. 85.17.
- 

## Vajrapāṇi

Vajrapāṇi is a Buddhist bodhisattva and the protector and guide of Gautama Buddha.

- b. 69 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vajrapāṇi](#) circa 1800-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 46.5 x 33.5 cm. bordered with silk brocade 88 x 61 cm.*
- A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Vajrapāṇi, and includes three miniature horse heads and a garuda holding a serpent above his crown.
- Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.
- Former call number: TIB. 67.13
- 
- b. 70 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vajrapāṇi](#) circa 1900-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 66 x 52 cm. bordered with silk 104 x 76 cm.*
- A western Tibetan or Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Vajrapāṇi surrounded by eight figures.
- Gift of Martin J. Gerson, 1959.
- Former call number: TIB. 59.5.
- 

## Vajrasattva

Vajrasattva is a bodhisattva associated with the Dharmakaya and with purification practice.

- b. 71 (Art) [Tanka of Vajrasattva](#) circa 1600-circa 1800  
*1 needlework: silk on silk; 100 x 73 cm. bordered with silk 135 x 103 cm.*
- A central Tibetan silk appliqué on silk that depicts Vajrasattva seated on a lotus throne holding a vajra (dorje) and ghanta (bell). The mountains were likely added later by a Korean or Japanese artist.
- Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Roger, 1973.
- Former call number: TIB. 73.1.
-



## Vajrasattva (continued)

- b. 72 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vajrasattva](#) circa 1600-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 51 x 36 cm. bordered with silk 108 x 72 cm.*  
 A Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Vajrasattva seated on a lotus holding a vajra (dorje) and ghanta (bell), below three smaller figures: a lama, Adi-Buddha, and Atiśa Dipankara Shrijnana, as well as above three protective divinities: Palden Lhamo, Mahākāla, and Yama.  
 Gift of an anonymous donor (Yale 1929), 1985.  
 Former call number: TIB. 85.6.

## Vajrayoginī

Vajrayoginī is the Vajra yoginī, literally 'the diamond female yogi'. Her practice includes methods for preventing ordinary death, intermediate state (bardo) and rebirth (by transforming them into paths to enlightenment), and for transforming all mundane daily experiences into higher spiritual paths.

- b. 73 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vajrayoginī](#) circa 1700-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 61 x 38 cm. bordered with silk 90 x 55 cm.*  
 A western Tibetan or Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a red Vajrayoginī drinking blood from a human skull and surrounded by many miniature figures.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.17.

- b. 74 (Broadside) [Tanka of Vajrayoginī](#) undated  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 54 x 36 cm. bordered with silk brocade 63.5 x 44.5 cm.*  
 An unfinished Tibetan watercolor painting on cotton that depicts a red Vajrayoginī wearing a necklace skulls and drinking blood from a human skull. She is also surrounded by many miniature figures.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.18.

## Vasudhārā

Vasudhārā is the Buddhist bodhisattva of wealth, prosperity, and abundance.

- b. 75 (Oversize) [Tanka of Vasudhārā](#) circa 1870-circa 1900  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 65.0 x 42.5 cm. bordered with silk 117 x 90 cm.*  
 A Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Vasudhārā accompanied by smaller male and female divinities. The painting includes decorative elements to mimic silk brocade.  
 Gift of Martin J. Gerson, 1959.  
 Former call number: TIB. 59.4.

## Viśrāvaṇa

Viśrāvaṇa, also known as also known as Jambhala or the King of the North, is a worldly dharmapāla or protector of the Dharma and a god of wealth.

## Viśrāvaṇa (continued)

- b. 76 (Oversize) [Tanka of Viśrāvaṇa](#) circa 1900-circa 1950  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 89.5 x 58.0 cm. bordered with silk 137 x 82 cm*  
 A Nepalese watercolor painting on cotton that depicts Viśrāvaṇa on a white horse with smaller figures on elephants, a lion, and a tiger in the four corners.  
 Inscriptions in Tibetan on verso.  
 Gift of Wendell Phillips Colton, Jr. (Yale 1929) and Cornelia Mary Safford Colton, 1968.  
 Former call number: TIB. 68.2.
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## Yungtön Dorjepel

Yungtön Dorjepel (1284-1365), also known as Gyun-ston-rdo-rje-dpal, was considered to be the final Tibetan incarnation of Amitābha Buddha before Khedrup Gelek Pelzang (1385-1438), who is recognized as the First Panchen Lama.

- b. 77 (Oversize) [Tanka of Yungtön Dorjepel](#) circa 1700-circa 1800  
*1 painting: watercolor on cotton; 71 x 47 cm. framed with silk 124 x 68 cm.*  
 A Tibetan painting of Yungtön Dorjepel wearing a red hat, with smaller figures of his teacher, three disciples and divinities.  
 The tanka includes a silk cover.  
 Gift of Edna Bryner Schwab, 1967.  
 Former call number: TIB. 67.7.
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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Buddhist art and symbolism -- China -- Tibet  
Autonomous Region  
Buddhist gods in art  
Buddhist painting -- China -- Tibet  
Autonomous Region  
Painting -- Bhutan  
Painting -- China  
Painting -- China -- Tibet Autonomous Region  
Painting -- India  
Painting -- Nepal  
Tankas (Tibetan scrolls)

### **Genres / Formats**

Tankas (scrolls or banners)