

Cambridge University Press
0521247616 - Tun-huang Popular Narratives
Victor H. Mair
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge Studies in Chinese History, Literature and Institutions
General Editors
Patrick Hanan and Denis Twitchett

TUN-HUANG POPULAR NARRATIVES

Cambridge University Press
 0521247616 - Tun-huang Popular Narratives
 Victor H. Mair
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Other books in the series

- GLEN DUDBRIDGE: *The Hsi-yu Chi: A Study of Antecedents to the Sixteenth-Century Chinese Novel*
- STEPHEN FITZGERALD: *China and the Overseas Chinese: A Study of Peking's Changing Policy 1949–70*
- CHRISTOPHER HOWE: *Wage Patterns and Wage Policy in Modern China, 1919–1972*
- RAY HUANG: *Taxation and Government Finance in Sixteenth-Century Ming China*
- DIANA LARY: *Region and Nation: The Kwangsi Clique in Chinese Politics, 1925–37*
- CHI-YUN CHEN: *Hsün Yüeh (A.D. 148–209): The Life and Reflections of an Early Medieval Confucian*
- DAVID R. KNECHTGES: *The Han Rhapsody: A Study of the Fu of Yang Hsiung (53 B.C.–A.D. 18)*
- J. Y. WONG: *Yeh Ming-ch'en: Viceroy of Liang Kuang (1852–8)*
- LI-LI CH'EN: *Master Tung's Western Chamber Romance (Tung hsi-hsiang chu-kung-tiao): a Chinese Chantefable*
- DONALD HOLZMAN: *Poetry and Politics: The Life and Works of Juan Chi (A.D. 210–63)*
- C. A. CURWEN: *Taiping Rebel: The Deposition of Li Hsiu-cheng*
- P. B. EBREY: *The Aristocratic Families of Early Imperial China: A Case Study of the Po-Ling Ts'ui Family*
- HILARY J. BEATTIE: *Land and Lineage in China: A Study of T'ung-Ch'eng County, Anhwei, in the Ming and Ch'ing Dynasties*
- WILLIAM T. GRAHAM: *The Lament for the South: Yü Hsin's 'Ai Chiang-nan fu'*
- HANS BIELENSTEIN: *The Bureaucracy of Han Times*
- MICHAEL R. GODLEY: *The Mandarin-Capitalists from Nanyang: Overseas Chinese Enterprise in the Modernization of China 1893–1911*
- CHARLES BACKUS: *The Nan-chao Kingdom and T'ang China's Southwestern Frontier*

Cambridge University Press
0521247616 - Tun-huang Popular Narratives
Victor H. Mair
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

***Tun-huang
popular narratives***

VICTOR H. MAIR

Assistant Professor of Oriental Studies,
University of Pennsylvania

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE
MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press
0521247616 - Tun-huang Popular Narratives
Victor H. Mair
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521247610

© Cambridge University Press 1983

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1983

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 83-1939

ISBN-13 978-0-521-24761-0 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-24761-6 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2006

Cambridge University Press
0521247616 - Tun-huang Popular Narratives
Victor H. Mair
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Meinem Vater
dem geheiligten Weisen der Drehbank

CONTENTS

	<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
	<i>Preface</i>	ix
	Introduction	1
1	Śāriputra	31
	Transformation on the Subduing of Demons, One Scroll	
2	Maudgalyāyana	87
	Transformation Text on Mahāmaudgalyāyana Rescuing His Mother from the Underworld, With Pictures, One Scroll, With Preface	
3	Wu Tzu-hsü	123
	[The Story of Wu Tzu-hsü]	
4	Chang I-ch'ao	167
	[Transformation Text on Chang I-ch'ao]	
	<i>Usages and symbols</i>	172
	<i>Notes on the texts</i>	174
	<i>References</i>	312
	<i>Index</i>	319

ILLUSTRATIONS

1	Beginning of the Śāriputra illustrated transformation scroll (ms P4524)	<i>page x</i>
2	'Transformation Text on the Subduing of Demons, One Scroll' (ms formerly in possession of Hu Shih), end portion	30
3	'Transformation Text on Mahāmaudgalyāyana Rescuing his Mother from the Underworld, With Pictures, One Scroll, With Preface' (ms S2614)	86
4	The story of Wu Tzu-hsü (ms S328)	122
5	Chang I-ch'ao transformation text (ms P2962)	166
6	'Fasting Siddhārtha', dating from the Kuchān era (second to third century, I.E.), from Sīkri, now kept in the Lahore Museum	204
7	From a wall-painting in the Schiffahrtshöhle at Qyzil in Central Asia, now kept at the Museum für Völkerkunde	205
8	Details from the left and right sides of the back wall of cave 8 at Tun-huang	221

The reproduction of the Maudgalyāyana ms (fig. 3) is published here by courtesy of the British Library Board. The plate of the Wu Tzu-hsü scroll (fig. 4), also in the British Library, is from M. A. Stein, *Serindia* (Oxford, 1921), p. 918 (no. CLXVI). The Śāriputra manuscript (fig. 2) is reproduced from a set of photostatic copies kept in the Library of Congress. The Śāriputra illustrated scroll (fig. 1) is from a photograph prepared expressly for this book by the Bibliothèque Nationale. The photograph of the Chang I-ch'ao transformation text (fig. 5) has also been provided by the Bibliothèque Nationale.

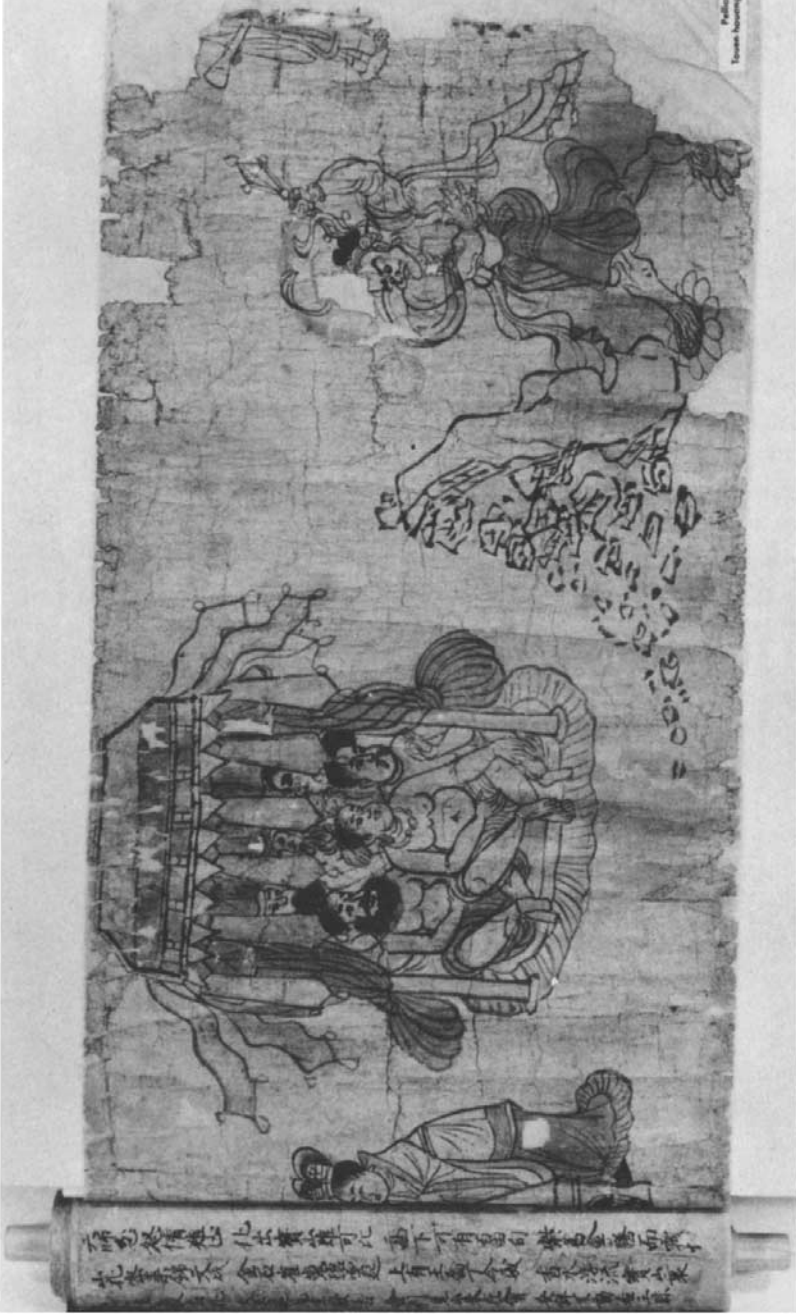
PREFACE

There are many persons to whom thanks are due for the help and encouragement given to me during the writing of this book. I should first like to thank Professor Patrick D. Hanan. Not only did he introduce me to the serious study of Tun-huang popular literature but he has consistently given me expert guidance during all phases of the writing of the book. Professor James R. Hightower read over portions of the early drafts and made numerous corrections. I have benefited immeasurably from the high standards of accuracy and scholarship which he demands of his students.

My debt to Professor Masatoshi Nagatomi is particularly great for his able assistance on matters of Buddhist doctrine and Indian languages. I was especially privileged to be able to consult Professor L. S. Yang. His vast fund of knowledge in many areas and his great skill in reading T'ang colloquial Chinese have rescued me from many impasses. Thanks are also due to Mr George Potter and Miss Deborah White who have helped me obtain the materials necessary to carry on my research without interruption.

Kate Owen and Elizabeth O'Beirne-Ranelagh of the Cambridge University Press deserve special thanks for many good and sensible solutions to difficult problems. They made the editing of this book a pleasure instead of a predicament. I am also grateful to the designers and typesetters who, though faced with unusual specifications, have created such an attractive printed product.

I am indebted to my colleagues, Joseph Miller, Barbara Ruch, Nathan Sivin, and Barbara Herrnstein Smith, for their careful criticism of the Introduction. I am also grateful to my wife, Li-ching, for the many sacrifices she has endured, and to my son, Thomas Krishna, who has been most understanding and sympathetic throughout. It goes without saying that all the good waves coming from Ohio (Athens, Canton, Kent, and Columbus) gave me the strength required to complete this work.



1. Beginning of the Śāriputra illustrated transformation scroll (ms P4524).