

When Narration and Historical Sources Don't Match:
The Relation of the Embassy of a Mongol Prince to
Lhasa for the Enthronement of the Ninth Dalai Lama

A presentation of the *Fengshi Xizang tu* 奉使西藏圖
(Illustrations of the Imperial Embassy to Tibet)



COLLÈGE
DE FRANCE
— 1530 —

Delphine Spicq
Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises
Collège de France

- CHARLEUX, Isabelle, Marie Dominique Even and Gaëlle Lacaze, “Un Document Mongol sur l’Intronisation du IXe Dalai Lama”, *Journal Asiatique*, 2004, 1-2, pp. 151-222.
- LACAZE, Gaëlle, and Isabelle Charleux, “L’Intronisation du IXe Dalai Lama Vue par un Prince Mongol: Un Rouleau Conservé à la Bibliothèque de l’Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises”, *Arts Asiatiques*, 2004, 59, pp. 30-57.

- *Fengshi Xizang tu* 奉使西藏圖 (Illustrations of the Imperial Embassy to Tibet) is a horizontal manuscript in the Mongolian language written in the Uyghur-Mongolian script and accompanied by 12 painted illustrations. It dates to 1809.
- Manjubazar of the Qaracin
- Ninth Dalai Lama, Lungtok Gyatso (1805-1815)
- Jiaqing Emperor 嘉慶 (r. 1796-1820)

The two seals and the scroll's brocade.



The beginning of the text.

Handwritten text in vertical columns, likely a Buddhist sutra or historical document, written in cursive Japanese calligraphy (sōsho). The text is arranged in approximately 12 columns, reading from right to left. The characters are fluid and connected, characteristic of the style. The paper is aged and yellowed, with a gold border at the top and bottom. The text begins with a small heading or title on the far right, followed by several lines of dense script. The overall appearance is that of a well-preserved historical manuscript.

Fifth Illustration: The future Dalai Lama is submitted to an examination during which he has to correctly identify objects belonging to his predecessor.



Sixth illustration: The future Dalai Lama and his retinue on their way to Lhasa, crossing a rocky pass.



Tenth illustration: The Potala Palace is linked to the sky by a rainbow. This miraculous sign testifies to the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.



Twelfth illustration: The enthronement of the Ninth Dalai Lama.



Thank you !