

Workshop "Material culture in Central Asia" - Monday February 10, 2020

Dear colleagues,

You will find attached the program of the workshop "Material Culture in Central Asia - Buddhist Manuscripts and Paintings of the Kucha Region (6th-8th century)" organized by the EPHE and the CRC with the support of the BnF and the ERC HisTochText project. This workshop will be held on **Monday February 10, 2020 at the Auditorium, Galerie Colbert, INHA, 2, rue Vivienne, 75002 Paris.**

The Tarim basin, with the Taklamakan desert at its center, has witnessed the development of civilizations that have flourished, in particular thanks to the development of the Silk Road. We will be interested during this workshop in the material vestiges linked to the practice of Buddhism. The manuscripts (on paper, textile or wood) and paintings (on paper, textile or wall) are of particular interest for linguists, philologists and historians who study religious or profane texts as well as iconography and color materials. Located geographically at the confluence of the cultures and civilizations of Iran, India and China, the Kucheans converted to Buddhism used in particular paper invented by Chinese in order to copy the religious texts translated or adapted from Sanskrit, which were previously written on other supports (palm leaf, birch or poplar bark).

During this workshop, we invite you to discover this Kucha region and the Indo-Buddhist civilization which flourished there (from the 3rd to the 8th century AD). Throughout this day, twelve researchers will exhibit their work from the following perspective: to what extent can the material and technological study of manuscripts and paintings provide us with information on these ancient societies, their uses and their history?

Please register for free (compulsory registration, subject to availability) on the workshop website:

<https://histochtext2020.sciencesconf.org/>

Thank you for your broadcast.

Best regards,

Georges-Jean Pinault
Kilian Laclavetine

Organizers of the workshop