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TIBETAN LITERARY TEXTS
AND DOCUMENTS CONCERNING
CHINESE TURKESTAN

SELECTED AND TRANSLATED BY

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PART II: DOCUMENTS

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PREFACE

The matter in this volume, substantially, as may be seen from the Table of Contents, a reprint of articles contributed to the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* in the years 1927-1934, had been attentively revised, with incorporation of some new items, prior to the outbreak of war in 1939: and the revision has continued since. But an accumulation of new observations and emendations has necessitated the preparation of a third volume, which is to accommodate also a concordance of document numbers, a Tibetan vocabulary and plates. An Introduction and an Index of Subjects and Proper Names have also been prepared. Pending publication of Volume III it is hoped that the analytical particulars given in the Table of Contents here may be found utilizable.

In regard to the cross-references in this volume it may be noted that where they point to expressions in the Tibetan texts the normal page-numbers are supplemented, taking as a full form, e.g. "p. 208 : 43.2". What follows the colon (:) is always the serial number prefixed to the text, while what follows the dot (.) is the original line-number inserted in the text. Where on the page there is only one document the serial number is omitted, and where the document is quite short the line-number is omitted: hence, simpler forms, e.g. "p. 125 : 7", or "p. 22.6". The same particularizations apply to the translations, which usually cite the line-numbers of the corresponding text.

Grateful thanks are due to the authorities of the India Office, and now the Commonwealth Relations Office, for permission to use and publish the manuscript material and for a liberal subvention already accorded to this work: and to two now retired Librarians, Professor C. A. Storey and Dr. H. N. Randle, C.I.E., and their staffs for constant kindness and help.

F. W. THOMAS.

August, 1948.

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