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*Iranian fragments from the Ōtani collection* (Facsimile series of rare texts in the Library of Ryūkyō University, 17), 2 vols., Hōzōkan, Kyoto, 1997. [in Japanese]

Nicholas Sims-Williams

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- <sup>1</sup> An exemplary edition of the Middle Iranian fragments of the Ōtani collection. The main part of Vol. 1 consists of an edition by Sundermann and Yoshida. In addition to Western Middle Iranian and Sogdian texts in Sogdian and Manichean script, a few fragments of non-Iranian texts in Sogdian script are included: Sanskrit *dhāraṇīs* on pp. 85-6, a Chinese text on p. 153. Kudara's introduction includes a study of the Chinese (and occasionally Turkish) texts on the other side of the fragments. Since the Chinese Buddhist texts are often identifiable, they sometimes make it possible to reconstitute the *disjecta membra* of a single manuscript and thus to recover a meaningful text from a sequence of Iranian fragments. Vol. 2 contains superb photographs of the whole collection. Several plates show texts from the Ōtani collection (hypothetically) rejoined with fragments of the same page preserved in Berlin or St. Petersburg.
- <sup>2</sup> The texts of the Ōtani collection are very varied: fragments of Manichaean and Buddhist doctrinal texts, hymns, calendars, letters, and so on. Although the collection consists chiefly of small fragments, the care devoted to them in this edition allows them to contribute fully to our knowledge of the Middle Iranian languages and the literature composed in them.

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**Thèmes** : 2.1. Langues anciennes

## AUTEURS

**NICHOLAS SIMS-WILLIAMS**

Université de Londres (Grande-Bretagne)