

"Tibetans in Gilgit and Wakhan – new data, new implications"

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Abstract of panel paper for ISMEO "Roots of Peristan" Conference October 2022

Several rock art and inscription sites which I discovered in the Wakhan Corridor display numerous Tibetan-language inscriptions and associated *chorten* (*stupa*) figures. The site locations correlate with Tang and Tibetan imperial records of 7th-9th century Tibetan-Chinese rivalry in the Pamir and Gilgit region. Attributes of the inscriptions and of the *chorten* architecture also support their historical assignment to the Tibetan Empire. Interestingly, several inscriptions bearing the clan name *smer* point to a possible post-imperial occupation of the site by the west-Tibetan kingdom of Ladakh in the 11th century after the fall of Khotan to the Qarakhanids, a scenario bolstered upon reexamination of previously published Tibetan inscriptions in the Gilgit region. If so, then the current scholarly assumption that by the end of the ninth century Tibetan influence no longer reached to Wakhan should be re-evaluated, with concomitant implications for the Gilgit region.

Abstract of short presentation "On the Title *Tham* of Hunza Rulers" for ISMEO "Roots of Peristan" Conference October 2022

This short presentation will examine the four possible sources for the title *Tham* of the Hunza *mirs*. Since the 19th century, scholars have discussed Chinese, Old Turkish, Sanskrit and Burusho, the Hunza language itself, as possible sources for the title. The presentation will review the various arguments in light of current knowledge of the history of Hunza and the Burushaski language, and offer tentative conclusions for discussion.

Abstract of short presentation "Onomastics of Shri Badat, the Cannibal King of Gilgit" for ISMEO "Roots of Peristan" Conference October 2022

This short presentation revisits a topic which I previously wrote about (Mock 1998 "The Cannibal King of Gilgit" - see C.V. for citation) and revises the hypothesis of that earlier work in light of recent epigraphic and historical studies of the 7th-8th c. Palola Shahi dynasty of Gilgit. Together with the short presentation on the title *Tham*, the presentations offer a new perspective on the cultural history of the Gilgit-Hunza region.