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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

On the reading of the 'Phags-pa seal of Galdan Boshogtu Khan

by
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Sapporo

Professor J. R. Krueger's "Three Oirat-Mongolian Diplomatic Documents of 1691", *Central Asiatic Journal*, vol. XII, No. 4 (1969), 289–295, deals with a 'Phags-pa seal of Galdan Boshogtu Khan. The enlarged photo-reproduction of it is given in Fig. 3 (p. 289).

Professor Krueger's tentative reading of its inscription is as follows:

dgaḥ-ldan	"Galdan"
biden ḥγin	"our word" (reading uncertain)
bošogt'u qan	"Boshogtu Khan"

The reading of the first and third columns is no doubt acceptable, but it is possible to propose a different version for the second column.

The lower part of the second column is clearly read as *ḥdzin*. The letter form denoting the sibilant *dz* appears only in Tibetan seals, and was never seen in any Mongolian/Chinese 'Phags-pa documents of thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, which denote the sibilant *dz* as  or its derivative forms.

As the available reproduction of the seal is quite illegible, the upper part of the second column is hardly decipherable. My tentative reading is *bden*. Thus the whole inscription of the seal is:

dgaḥ-ldan	"Galdan"
bden-ḥdzin	"[who] is believed to be true"
bošogt'u qan	"Boshogtu Khan"

The word *bden-ḥdzin* means "to believe to be true" (see H. A. Jäschke's *Tibetan-English Dictionary*, p. 271a), "實 執, 認 爲 實 在 態" (see 格 西 曲 禮, *Tibetan-Chinese Dictionary*, Peking, 1957, p. 424b), or "to grasp the truth" (see S. H. Buck's *Tibetan-English Dictionary, with Supplement*, Washington, 1969, p. 535a).

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My reading, *bden-ḥdzin*, may still hardly be acceptable, as I have been unable to find the word *bden-ḥdzin* in connection with Galdan or other rulers in Mongolia. The author wishes that readers will provide some more material for reading this seal inscription.

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