

Some observations on the Tocharian B secular texts found in Kucha

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Numerous manuscripts are found in the region of Ancient Kucha (approximately the territory of today's Kuche, Baicheng, Xinhe and Shaya). Among them, the secular texts are mainly written in Kuchean (i.e. Tocharian B) and Chinese. On the basis of the classification of secular texts in the Old Uighur studies, I will make a general classification of the Kuchean ones and then describe some of their properties from the aspects of chronology, physical features, purposes, and writing materials. In particular, a brief introduction of the wooden documents presently kept in the Xinjiang Kucha Research Academy will be presented in order to show their historical value, and some paper documents kept in other countries will be dated more precisely.