

## **Manichaeism and Tocharian**

Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Germany

There are various points of interaction between Manichaean and Tocharian studies, the most obvious being the Manichean Tocharian text and Hitch's interesting suggestion that the Tocharian 'Fremdzeichen' were developed on the basis of the Manichaean script (Doug Hitch, A Brāhmī-Manichaean Hybrid Script. *Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica* 14, 1983, 293-312). Hitch localised this development in the Bactrian area.

I would like to explore the implications of this thesis for the presence of Manichaeism in Bactria and the Tarim Basin and suggest an alternative interpretation of the few facts available to us.