



ILEDONG

ILEDONG, site in Central Asia. Its location is not quite certain. The name itself (Eastern Turkish for “a road-sign hillock”) is no help in the identification, as it is a factual description rather than a real place name, *iles* being “road signs, established on every dominant height or hill in the form of small stone cairns” (S. Hedin, who transcribes *ille-dung*). It has been suggested that it should be identified with Kuduk-Köl near **Dumaqu** in the eastern part of the Khotan region (G. Gropp, *Archäologische Funde aus Khotan, Chinesisch-Ostturkestan*, Bremen, 1974, p. 24). Twenty-six items labeled “Ile-dong” were brought back to Europe by M. Auriel Stein from his third expedition. They were collected for him by Badruddin Khan in Khotan and include a number of Khotanese fragments of Mahāyāna Buddhist works and a Khotanese document on a wooden tablet, as well as two Tibetan and some Sanskrit fragments (M. A. Stein, *Innermost Asia*, Oxford, 1928, pp. 1020, 1026-27, and 1098; the Tibetan fragments are not listed). Of the Khotanese fragments, Iledong 04 and 06 are from the *Suvarṇabhā-sottamasūtra*, Iledong 05 and 017 from the *Saṅghāṭa-sūtra*, and Iledong 015.1 from the *Bhaiṣajyaguruvaiḍūr-yaprabharājasūtra* (q.v.).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

On the place name and for Hedin's quotation see G. Jarring, *Central Asian Turkic Place-Names: Lop Nor and Tarim area: an attempt at classification and explanation based on Sven Hedin's diaries and published works*, Stockholm, 1997, pp. 134 and 180.

Edition of the Khotanese fragments in H. W. Bailey, *Khotanese Texts III*, Cambridge, 1956, pp. 132-35, and Idem, *Khotanese Texts V*, Cambridge, 1963, p. 295.

For an edition of the *Bhaiṣajyaguru* fragment see R. E. Emmerick, "A Khotanese Version of the Sūtra of the Lord of Healing," in *Buddhism and its Relation to other Religions: Essays in Honour of Dr. Shozen Kumoi on his Seventieth Birthday*, Kyoto, 1985, p. 231.