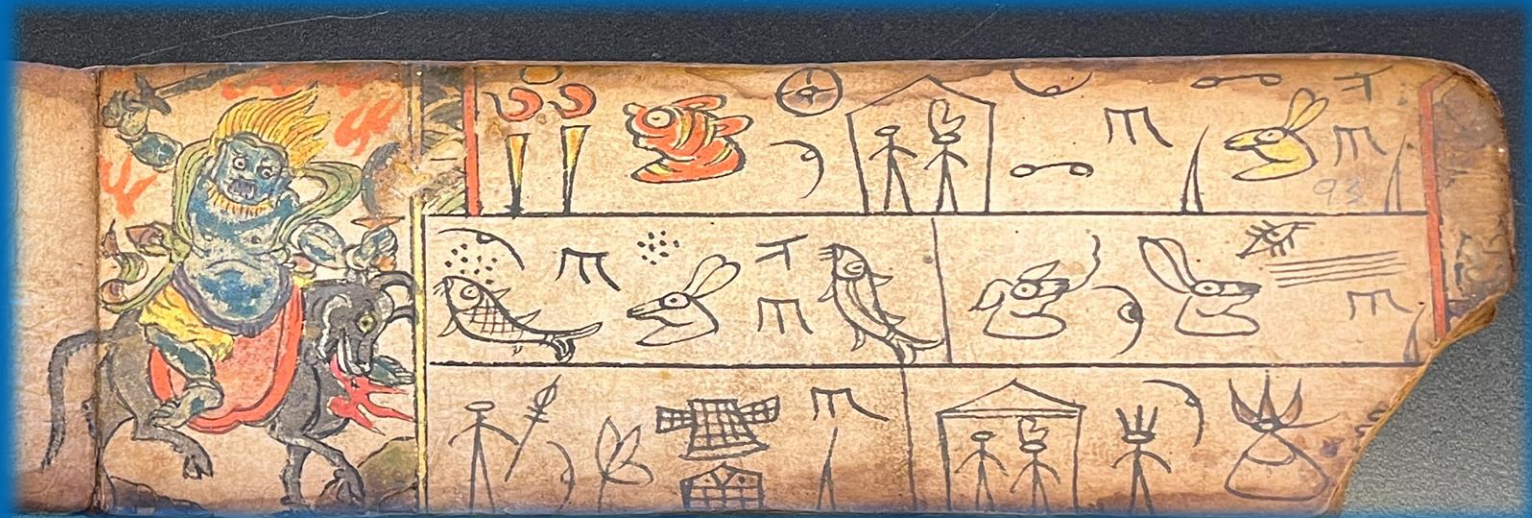


Provenance research on the Naxi (Mo-so) manuscript in the British Library: focus on the items from the British Consul in Tengyue 1930

Han-Lin Hsieh
Curator, Chinese collection

2026 EASL@Heidelberg



Naxi



漢

摩沙夷



唐-清

磨些、麼些、麼梭、摩梭、麼西

納西、納、納日、納罕、納若



1954

納西



❖ Even more complicated: 東巴

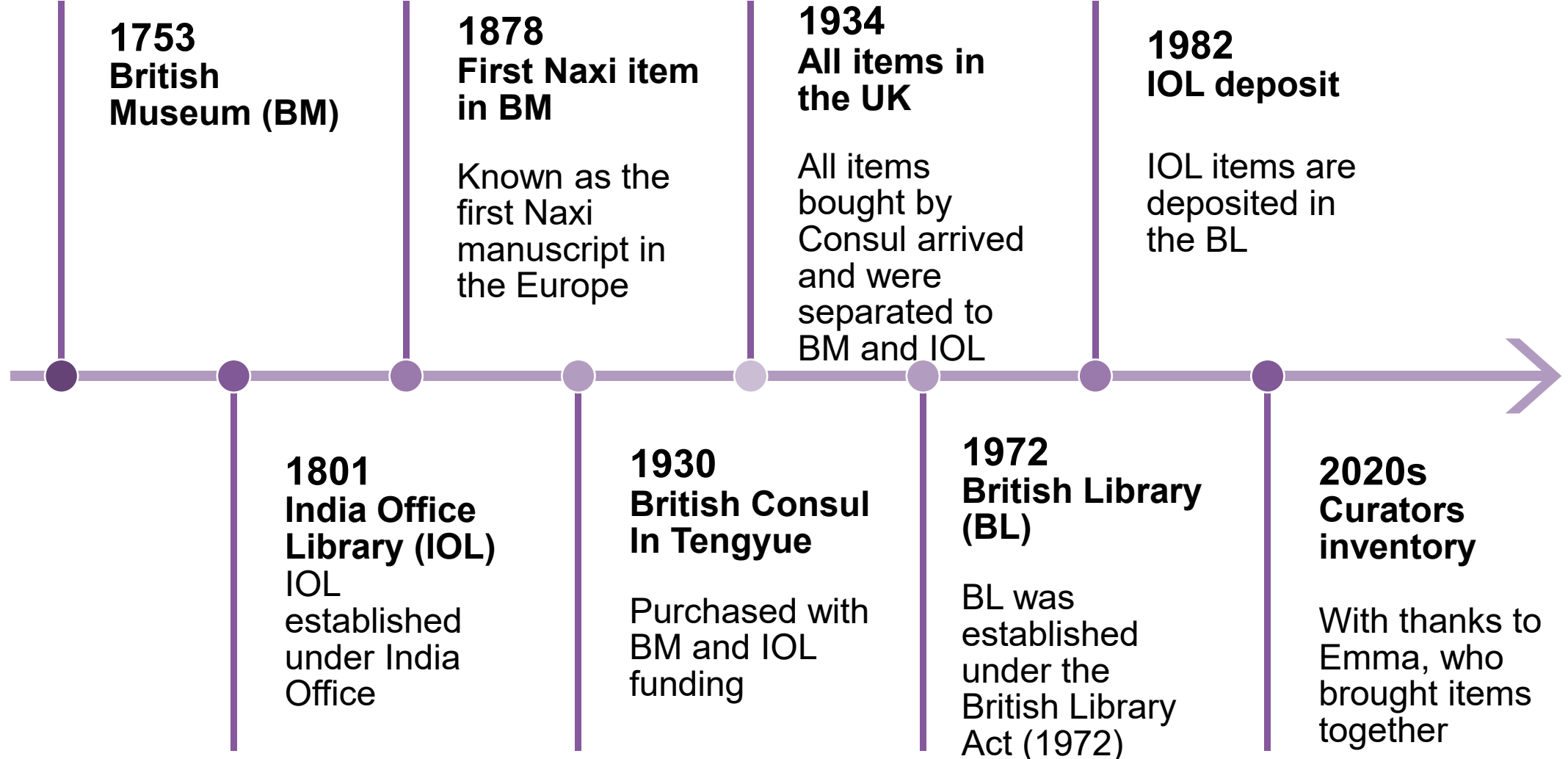
- Religion
- Title of the religion master

❖ Naxi script

- aka 東巴 script
- Naxi script is one of the few hieroglyphic still in use
- Is part of Lijiang in the UNESCO World Heritage

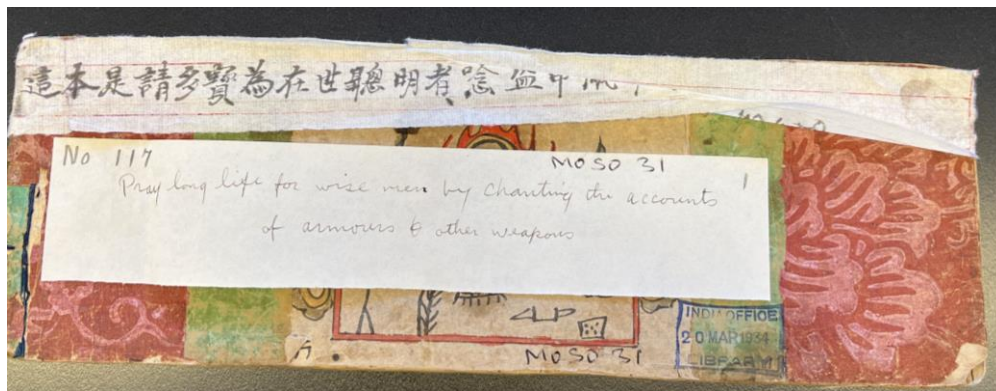
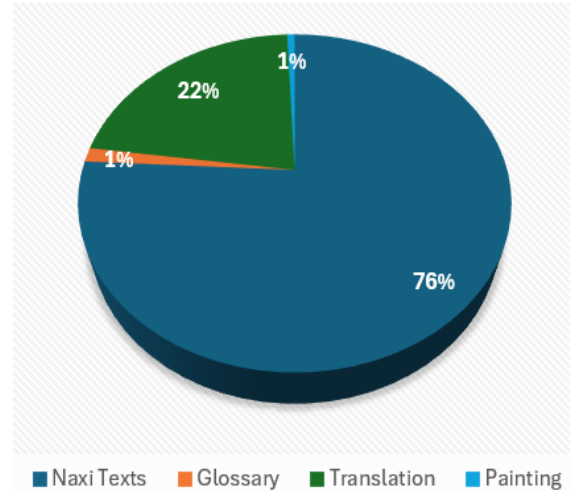
Key stages:

Institution structures and key days



Some numbers

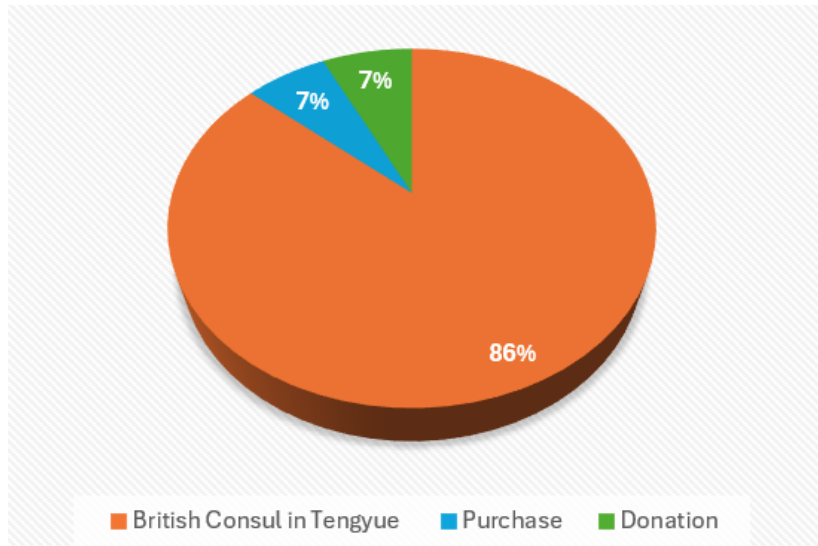
- ❖ Naxi Texts: 223
- ❖ Translation:
 - Full Eng+Chi: 20
 - Short Eng+Chi: 18
 - Chinese: 27
- ❖ Glossary: 4
- ❖ Painting: 2



Or.2168 - Known as the first Naxi item in Europe

Provenance

- ❖ British Consul in Tengyue 1930: 252
 - ❖ Funding from BM and IOL
- ❖ Purchase: 19
 - ❖ Funding from BM and BL
- ❖ Donations: 21

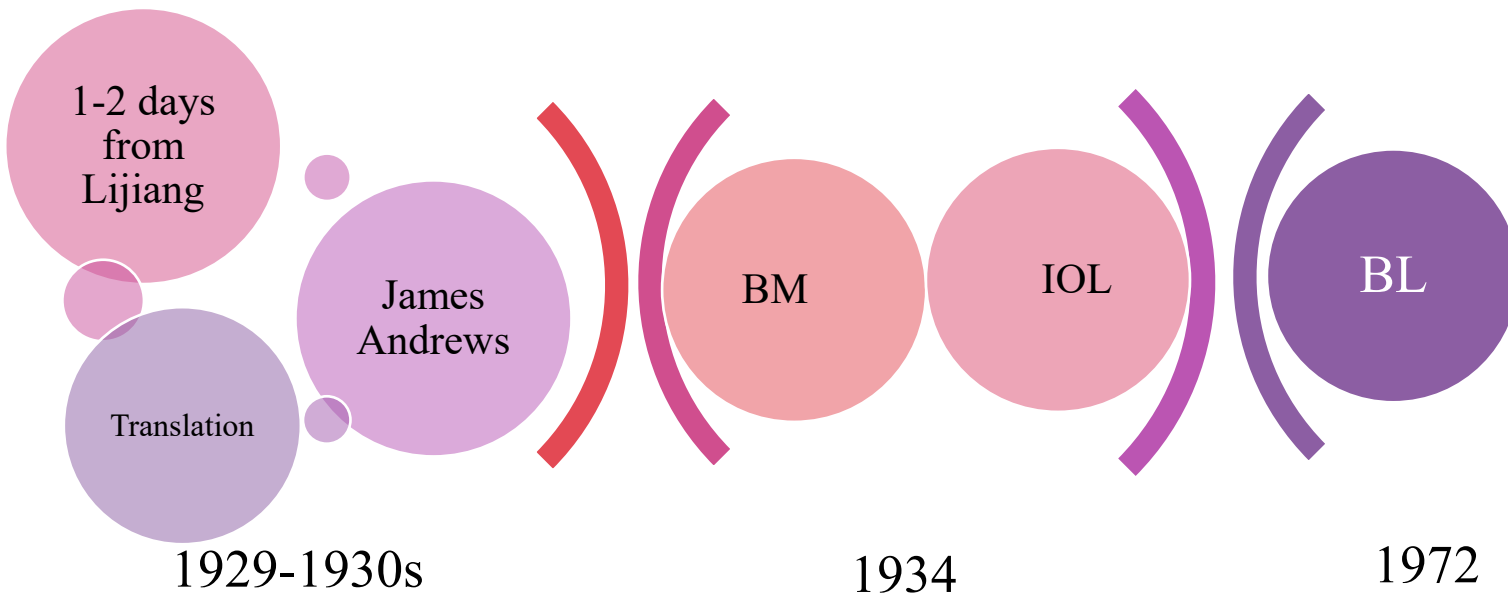


Collected by
George Forrest
Bequeathed to
IOL in 1914



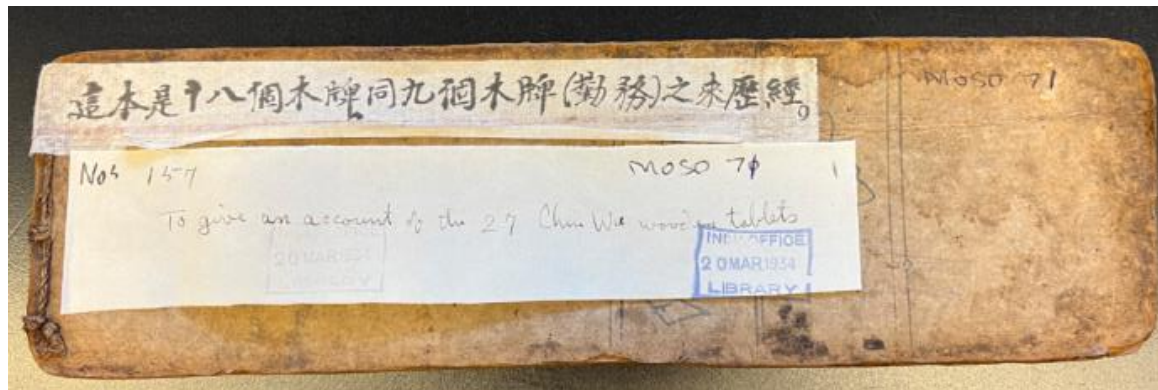
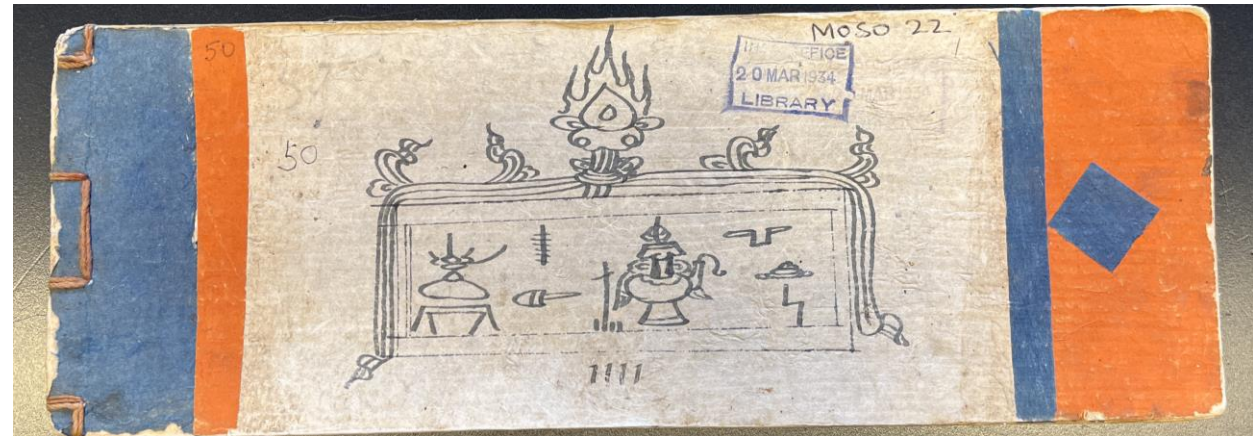
Items from British Consul in Tengyue 1930

- ❖ Stanley Wyatt-Smith (1927-31 in Tengyue)
- ❖ Joseph Rock purchased lots of Naxi items and sent them back to the US
- ❖ Stanley suggested UK institutions to collect

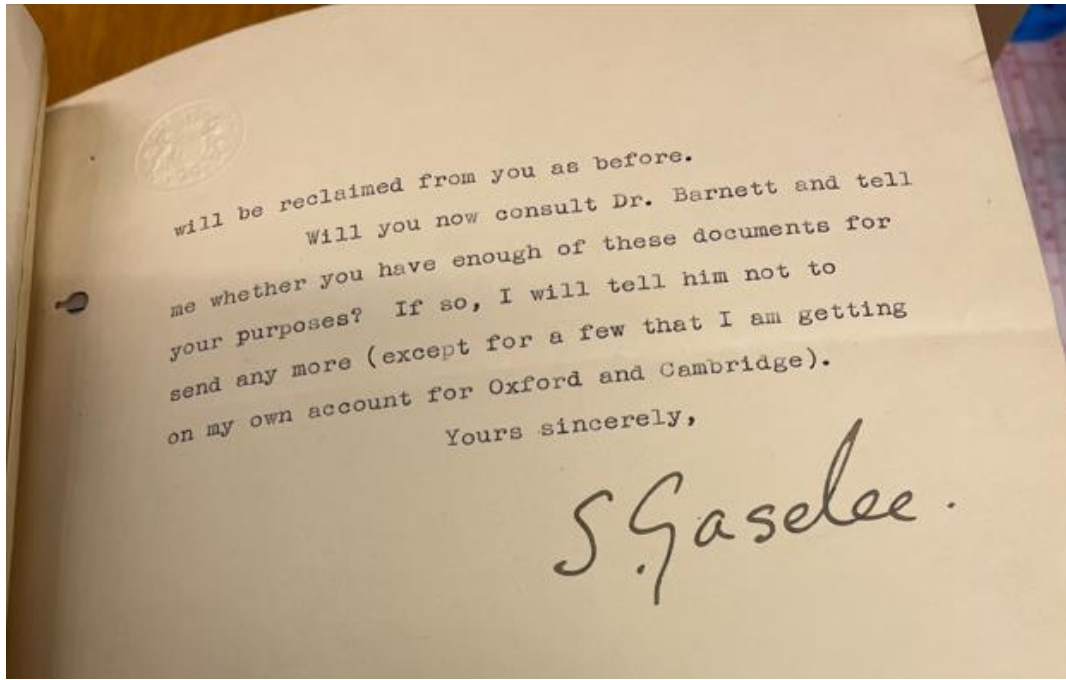


Items from British Consul in Tengyue 1930

- ❖ Naxi items: 181
- ❖ Naxi-Chinese glossary: 4
- ❖ Fully translated items: 55
- ❖ Translation slips: 130
- ❖ Mostly religious content



Naxi Items in Oxford and Cambridge



Stanley 1932/06/13: I am getting on my own account for Oxford and Cambridge



Cambridge: 10 with translation



Oxford: unknown number with translation



With thanks to Yen and Mamtimyn

Naxi woman from Likiang



- ❖ Painted by Stanley Wyatt-Smith in 1930s and initially collected by the IOL

- ❖ Recorded the Naxi people and culture in the 1930s
 - 1. Like to be named as Ligiang People
 - 2. Men wore like the Han group
 - 3. Women wore with 7 stars on the back
 - 4. Additional sun and moon during special events

Completed Collection Management Work

❖ Inventory

❖ Measurements

❖ Information documented

❖ Translation matching

❖ Condition check

❖ Provenance check

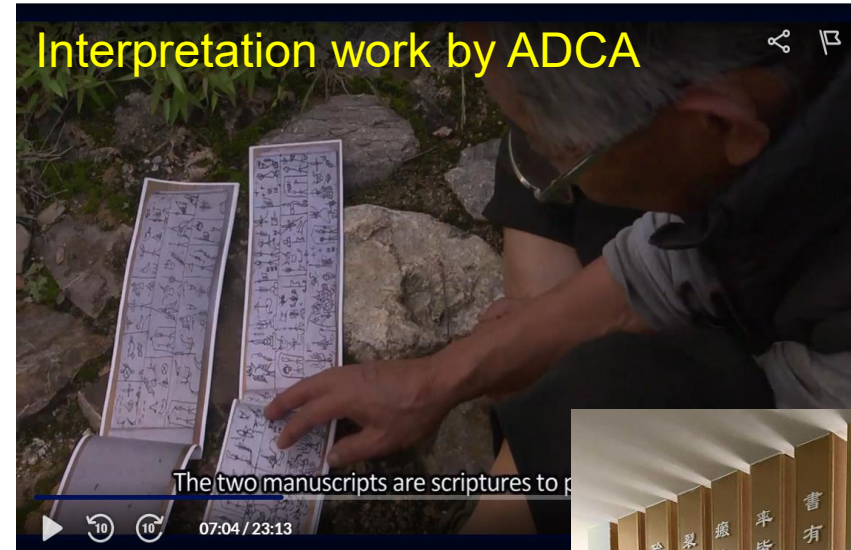
❖ Blog posts

❖ Field trip in Yunnan 2025

2	Shelfmark	Categ	Cou	Title/description	Lo	Measur	Assoc	Cor	Item condition	Content discription	Other notes	Stamp	Provenance	Folios	Reference
193	Moso 21	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28*9.8	49	N		4 holes blue thre	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	17	CT: MOSO 115
194	Moso 22	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28.6*10	50	N		4 holes brown th	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	17	CT: MOSO 116
195	Moso 23	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28.4*9.8	51	N		4 holes brown thr	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	13	CT: MOSO 117
196	Moso 24	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28.4*9.6	52	N		4 holes blue thre	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	13	CT: MOSO 118
197	Moso 25	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28.7*10.1	53	N		4 holes blue thre	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	15	CT: MOSO 119
198	Moso 26	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28*9.2	54	N		4 holes white thr	Red patterned paper	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	28	CT: MOSO 120
199	Moso 27	Naxi	1	[No Chinese description]	28*10	55	N		4 holes orange th	Colour paper (red and	[No English descript	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	11	CT: MOSO 121
200	Moso 28	Naxi	1	這本是請多寶超渡在世聰明	27.5*9	114	Y		4 holes blue thre	Patterned red and gre	No 114 Pray long lif	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	15	
201	Moso 29	Naxi	1	這本是請多寶超渡在世聰明	27.4*9	115	N		4 holes blue thre	Patterned red and gre	No 115 Pray long lif	INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	9	
202	Moso 30	Naxi	1	這本是請多寶超渡在世聰明	27.7*8.9	116	N		4 holes blue thre	Patterned red and green paper on the title		INDIA OFFICE 2	Bought of the Indi	10	

Future work

- ❖ Conservation
- ❖ Re-housing
- ❖ Cataloguing
- ❖ Digitization
- ❖ Interpretation



BRITISH
LIBRARY

Thank
you

