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### **Tibetan Buddhism and the van Manen collection in Leiden**

The van Manen collection, held in the Leiden University Library, contains a large number of Tibetan and Himalayan manuscripts. The texts in question started arriving in Leiden in the 1930s, when the materials were sent, along with Sanskrit and other Indic materials, from India by Johan van Manen. After van Manen's death in 1943 a large part of his personal collection also came to be housed in the Kern Institute. While it was an important resource for earlier generations of scholars of Tibetan Buddhism, in recent years the collection has come to be more or less forgotten. In this paper I examine the background and history of the works preserved in this collection, and highlight their overall contribution to our knowledge of Tibetan literature, and their current (ir)relevance. All in all, a consideration of the collection serves as a vessel to discuss the past and present of the study of Tibetan Buddhism in Leiden.