Tocharian 萬歲 wànsuì

Hannes A. Fellner
University of Vienna

hannes.fellner@univie.ac.at

TB *tmāne* TA *tmāṃ*

- TB *tmāne* TA *tmāṃ* 'ten thousand, myriad'
  - used for numerical units
  - metaphor for an indefinitely large quantity

- TB variant $t_u māne$
  - only three fragments attest this variant and they are quite late
    - cf. already Winter 1991:127-128

TB *tmāne* numerical unit

TB CEToM [PK AS 4B a4](#)

säswa	*ā(ñm)*	*(plyäñ)(ca)lñ(e)sa*	*klokastäṃnmeṃ*
lord.VOC	self	selling.PERL	pore.ABL.PL

ok	*tmane*	*pletkar-c*	*ysāra*
8	10 000	overflow.3PL.PRET-PRO.2SG	blood.PL

"O lord, by (sell)ing y(ourself) blood overflowed out from eighty thousand pores."

TB *tmāne* 'myriad'

TB CEToM [THT 45 b3](#)

wī	*tmāne*	*kwä(r)s(arw=)*	*(e)tteś*	*ñor*	*su*
two	myriad	league.PL	downward	below	this.SG

"Two myriad leagues down below it (Avici hell) [is]"

TA *tmāṃ* numerical unit

TA CEToM

tmāṃ	*śtwar-wälts*		*puklā*	*śol*
10 000	4 000		year.PL	life.SG

śkā	*lyalyipuräṣ*		*ksaluneyaṃ*	*kälk*
still	leave behind.PRET.PTCP.ABL.SG		nirvana.LOC.SG	go.3SG.PRET

"Having left behind forteenthousand life yeras, he went into extinction."

TA *tmāṃ* 'myriad'

TA CEToM [A 346 a3](#)

tmānantuyo	*koṃ-ñäktañ*	*kämpo*	*tākiñc*
by ten thousand	sun.NOM.PL	circle	be.OPT.3PL

tmäṣ	*lyutār*	*ceṣ*	*wañitse*
dem.ABL.SG	more	dem.NOM.PL	delightful

"Even if by tens of thousands suns were forming a circle, those (gods) would be more brilliant."

Kraft- bzw. Schwellhundet?

- Old Turkic *tümän* 'unit of ten thousand'
- Mongolian *tümen* 'unit of ten thousand'
  - Manchu *tumen* 'ten thousand'
  - Persian تومان *tumân* 'unit of curreny (archaic also: ten thousand)'

- Proto-Turkic *tümen as origin of the Tocharian words is not possible since then we would probably expect palatalization in Tocharian

- Bailey 1985:120: *tumāna- 'great measure' (skt. *tumrá-* 'strong'?)
    - cf. Van Windekens 1976: 642 and Winter 1991:127-128
  - √*tewh$_2$- 'swell, be strong'

- Pulleyblank apud Clauson 1972: 507 hinted at a connection with the Chinese word for 'ten thousand, myriad' *wàn* 萬

wàn 萬/万

- In Chinese, the number *ten thousand – wàn* 萬/万 – represents the highest commonly used numerical unit and frequently serves as a metaphor for an indefinitely large quantity

- The expression *wànsuì* literally "ten thousand years", thus came to signify not only exceptional longevity but also symbolic immortality

Myriad years

- While the First Emperor Qín Shǐhuángdì 秦始皇帝 expressed the aspiration for "ten thousand generations" *wànshì* 萬世 of imperial continuity, the specific formula *wànsuì* is believed to have originated during the Han dynasty (202 BCE–9CE, 25–220 CE)

- A recorded early instance appears in 110 BCE, when Emperor Hàn Wǔdì 汉武帝 was addressed with this phrase during a ritual at Mount Song—according to legend, the mountain itself pronounced the exclamation

- By the Tang dynasty (618–690, 705–907), *wànsuì* had become an exclusive form of address for the emperor, functioning as a ritualized acclamation for the enduring vitality and legitimacy of his reign

Myriad years

- Other East Asian languages took over Chinese *wànsuì* 万岁/萬歲
  - Japanese　　　*banzai*　　　　　　万歳
  - Korean　　　　*manse*　　　　　　만세
  - Vietnamese　　*vạn tuế*

- It serves serves both ceremonial and ideological purposes across historical and political contexts

- It is conventionally rendered in English as "Long live [X]!"

中华人民共和国 万岁

Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó **wànsuì**

世界人民大团结 万岁

Shìjiè rénmín dàtuánjié **wànsuì**

[may the] People's Republic of China [last for] ten thousand years   [may] the Great Unity of the world's people [last for] ten thousand years

wàn 萬

Historical forms of the character 萬			
Shang 14th – 11th c. BCE	Western Zhou 11th – 8th c. BCE	Warring States 475 – 221 BCE	*Shuōwén Jiězì* (Han) 100 CE
Oracle bone script	Bronze inscriptions	Chu slip & silk script	Small seal script

wàn 萬

- The original character for 'scorpion' was used for 'ten thousand, myriad' since they were perceived as phonetically similar

- The practice of adapting existing characters to write words with similar pronunciations—known as *phonetic loaning* or *rebus writing*—was instrumental in the early development of the Chinese writing system and has remained a feature throughout its history

- Such characters, referred to as *jiǎjiè* (假借, 'borrowing'), are often employed to represent words that initially lacked a written form

wàn 萬

- Modern Standard *wàn*
- most Sinitic languages ("dialects") very similar forms
- Southern Min (Fujian, Zhejiang, Taiwan) *bān*
- Wu (Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu) ^{6}*me*

- Middle Chinese *mjon*^{H}

| Type	Glyph represents	Example
logography	morpheme/word	Chinese characters
		汉字 hàn zì
syllabography	syllable (CV, CVC, VC etc.)	Japanese Kana
		カタカナ ka-ta-ka-na
abugida	syllable (CV)	Indic, i.e. Brahmic scripts
		देवनागरी d^e-v^a-$n^{\bar{a}}$-g^a-$r^{\bar{i}}$
abjad	consonant (C)	Arabic script
		الأبجدية العربية alabğdy al'rby
alphabet	consonant (C) und vowel (V)	Latin alphabet
		A-l-ph-a-b-e-t
phonetic writing	phonetic feature	Korean Hangul
		한글

OC Reconstruction

- Middle Chinese
- Chinese character structure
- Rhyming structure
- Sinitic languages
- Early transcriptions
- Loanwords

OC Reconstruction: Middle Chinese

- Middle Chinese (1st m. CE)
  - Chiefly preserved in the 切韻 *Qièyùn* rhyme dictionary (601 CE) and later rhyme tables
  - 反切 fǎnqiè
    - 東 pronounced like 德 t-ək at the beginning of the word
    - and 紅 ɣ-uŋ at the end of the word
    - i.e. *tuŋ*
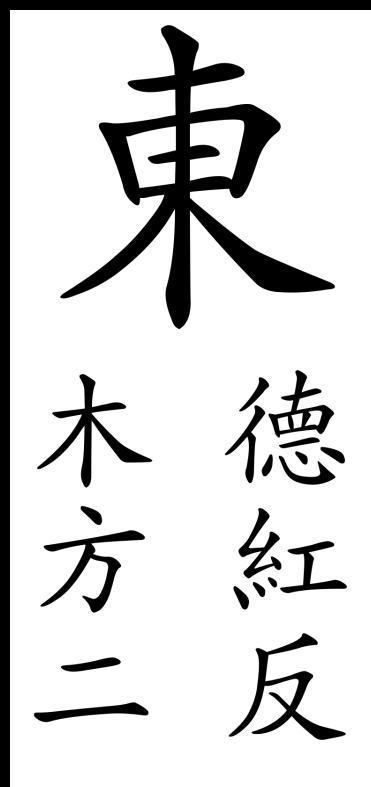
OC Reconstruction: Characters

- Xiéshēng (諧聲, "harmonized sounds") refers to groups of Chinese characters that share a common phonetic component and likely originated from words with similar pronunciations

- These series form the basis of many phono-semantic compounds, the most common type of Chinese character

- Characters in the same xiéshēng series were originally phonetically similar, offering clues to historical pronunciation and sound change

> 中   *zhōng* 'middle'
>
> → 忠   *zhōng* 'loyalty'
>
> → 沖   *chōng* 'to rush, pour'

- All three characters share the 中 phonetic element, suggesting a historical phonetic link, even though modern pronunciations may differ

OC Reconstruction: Rhyming

- Poetic rhyme

Ode 8: Guó fēng: Zhōu nán: Fúyǐ 國風・周南・芣苢 rhyme words

1. 采采芣苢、薄言采之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán CǍI zhī   采 cǎi < MC *tshojX*
   采采芣苢、薄言有之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán YǑU zhī   有 yǒu < MC *hjuwX*
2. 采采芣苢、薄言掇之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán DUŌ zhī   掇 duó < MC *twat*
   采采芣苢、薄言捋之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán LUŌ zhī   捋 luō < MC *lwat*
3. 采采芣苢、薄言袺之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán JIÉ zhī   袺 jié < MC *ket*
   采采芣苢、薄言襭之 cǎicǎi fúyǐ, bó yán XIÉ zhī   襭 xié < MC *het*

1. Colorful is the plantain, we GATHER it   采 cǎi < MC *tshojX*
   Colorful is the plantain, we HOLD it   有 yǒu < MC *hjuwX*
2. Colorful is the plantain, we PICK it   掇 duō < MC *twat*
   Colorful is the plantain, we PLUCK it   捋 luō < MC *lwat*
3. Colorful is the plantain, we HOLD IT IN OUR SKIRTS   袺 jié < MC *ket*
   Colorful is the plantain, WE TUCK IT UP IN OUR SKIRTS   襭 xié < MC *het*
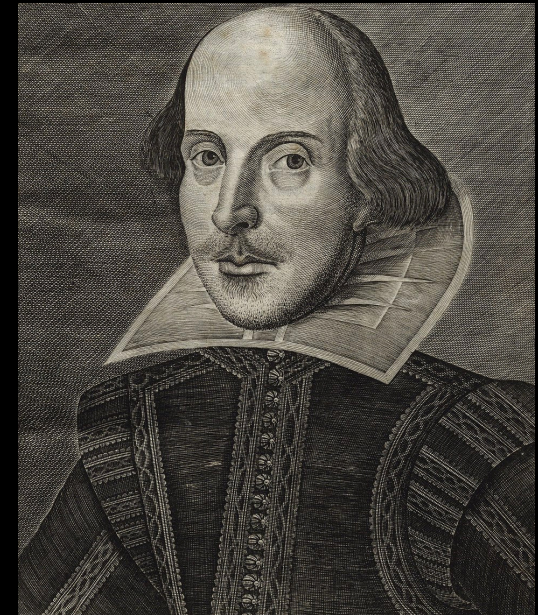
Cf. Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Act 3, Scene II, lines 104-106:
    Flower of this purple d*ye*,
    Hit with Cupid's archer*y*,
    Sink in apple of his ***eye***

☞ all ended in Elisabethan Engl. -əɪ

OC Reconstruction: Sinitic

gloss	character	Standard	Wu Shanghai	Yue Guangzhou	Kejia Meixian	Min Xiamen	Xiang Changsha	Gan Nanchang
middle	中	zhōng	tsoŋˀ˥	tsoŋ˥˥	tuŋˀ˥	tiɔŋ˥˥	tʂon˦	tsuŋˀ˥

OC Reconstruction: Transcriptions

- 毗 里 害 波 底 Pílǐhàibōdǐ
- bjij-li^X-haj^H-pa-tej^X
- Skt. *Bṛhaspati*

OC Reconstruction: Loanwords

- *wànsuì* 万岁/萬歲
  - Japanese   *banzai*   万歳
  - Korean   *manse*   만세
  - Vietnamese   *vạn tuế*

wàn 萬

- Baxter&Sagart 2014 reconstruction

- OC *C.man-s > MC *mjon*[H] > wàn 萬
  - Southern Min *bhuêng*[7]

  - Cf. *man-s > MC *man, mjon*[H] > màn 曼 'long'
    - Southern Min *bhuang*[6]

TB *tmāne* TA *tmāṃ*

- OC *C.man-s [MC *mjon*^{H}; wàn 萬]

    >

- PT *tämanä* > TB *tmāne* TA *tmāṃ*

- in turn, now we know the initial: OC *t.man-s

Conclusionette before the *sermōn

- TB *tmāne* TA *tmāṃ* ist an early loanword from Old Chinese into Proto-Tocharian

- Early Old Chinese loanwords into other branches, including Tocharian, of course, can be vital to corroborate the reconstruction of Old Chinese

Postscript *sermōn

Position matters

Position of Anatolian

- It has become widely accepted that the "otherness" of the Anatolian branch (Melchert forthcoming with literature)...
  - nominal morphology
    - lack of feminine gender
    - lack of participles with fixed diathesis built on tense-aspectual stems
  - verbal morphology
    - lack of perfect
    - lack of full *s*-aorist
- ...is due to its branching off first
  - in this scenario the other languages share a common ancestor

Position of Tocharian

- There is a growing camp that takes the Tocharian branch as having split off second after Anatolian with arguments based on
  - lexical archaisms (e.g., Winter 1998)
  - nominal morphology
    - "otherness" of the feminine morphology (Kim 2009, Hackstein 2012)
    - lack of participles with fixed diathesis built on tense-aspectual stems (Malzahn 2010: 480, recently, again Peyrot 2019: 99)
  - verbal morphology
    - lack of *s*-aorist (Jasanoff 2017: 231)
  - extra linguistic things
    - mostly mummies and ancient DNA (Peyrot 2019 passim)

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s-Aorist

	Gk.	Lat.	Ved.	Toch. B	Hitt.
1	*(é-)deik-s-a*	*vēx-ī* /-k-s-/	*á-vāk-ṣ-am* /-k-s-/	*prek-wa*	*dā-ḫḫun*
2	*(é-)deik-s-as*	*vēx-istī* /-k-s-/	*á-vāṭ* /-k-s-/	*prek-asta*	*dā-tta*
3	*(é-)deik-s-e*	*vēx-it* /-k-s-/	*á-vāṭ* /-k-s-/	*prek-sa*	*dā-š*

TB pärk 'ask'
1.sg.non-act. parksamai
2.sg.non-act. parksatai
3.sg.non-act. parksate
1.pl.non-act. parksamte
2.pl.non-act. parksat
3.pl.non-act. parksante

- yes, the Tocharian active *s*-aorist only has the *s*-formant in active
- however, the non-active has the *s*-formant throughout the paradigm

Linguistic **position matters**

- The earliest linguistic evidence for Tocharian speakers near the places where Tocharian texts are found (starting in 4th century CE) is furnished by loanwords (Baxter and Fellner in progress), among other things

  - Old Chinese   ⇒ Proto-Tocharian
    - OC *$l^ʕ$u? [MC *daw^X*;稻 *dào*]   ⇒ PT *$kləw$ [TB TA *klu*] 'rice, paddy'
    - OC *$t.mans$ [MC *mjon^H*;萬 wàn]   ⇒ PT *təmanə* [TB *tmāne*, TA *tmān*] '10.000'

  - Proto-Tocharian   ⇒ Old Chinese
    - *krætswæ [TB *kretswe* TA *kratsu*] 'wool'⇒ OC *krats [MC kjej^H; 罽 jì]
          < PIE *grod 'scratch' (yours truly ECIEC 40)
    - *m^{j}ət [TB *mit*] 'honey'   ⇒ OC *mit [MC mjit; 蜜 mì 'honey]
          < PIE *méd^{h}u 'id.'

Linguistic position matters

- The linguistics contacts between speakers of Old Chinese and Proto-Tocharian must have appeared before the beginning of the Middle Chinese period during the second half of first millennium BCE

- Presumably, in an area where Chinese speaker's agriculturalism (OC *$l^ˤuʔ$ ⇒ PT *$kləw$ 'rice, paddy' !) and Tocharian speakers pastoralism (PT *$krætswæ$ 'wool' ⇒ OC *$krats$) converged

- namely, before rice culture came to the Tarim Basin for good around the first century CE: maybe Gansu?

Migration of the Yuezhi 175-162 BCE

NOTES
I 175 BCE: Yuezhi attacked and defeated by the Xiongnu.
II 173 BCE: Yuezhi overran the Wusun.
III 162 BCE: Yuezhi attacked and defeated again by the Xiongnu.
IV 162 BCE: Yuezhi relocated themselves to the Ili valley.

Yuezhi migration path:
Boundary of Xiongnu Empire, 175 BCE:
Xiongnu extended boundary, 162 BCE:

Final conclusion

- The aforementioned contacts amount to the first evidence of Tocharians close to Ancient China
  - claims based on supposed genetic and/or archaeological evidence remain pure speculation
    - and should not be used for linguistic arguments

- Loanwords are able to inform the reconstructionc
  - Old Chinese *[k](r)[a][t]-s   now for sure *krats
  - Old Chinese *C.ma[n]-s   now for sure *t.man-s

吐火罗语万岁

Tǔ huǒ luó yǔ wàn suì

谢谢大家

xiè xie dà jiā

Thank you all