

### Sources of Vasubandhu's *Pañcaskandhaka* and Its Three Commentaries

This paper will be concerned with Vasubandhu's *Pañcaskandhaka* and its commentaries by Sthiramati (available through a Sanskrit manuscript of 73 folios which came to light in the collection of microfilm copies kept in the China Tibetology Research Center in Beijing a few years ago), by \*Prthivībandhu and by Guṇaprabha (the latter two available only in their Tibetan translations). The investigation of the *Pañcaskandhaka* and its commentaries sheds light on some very interesting details of the Buddhist view of the nature of matter and mind. It shows that the concept of the five *skandhas* (as it is known from early canonical sources) changed when it was integrated into the Abhidharmic system of the Yogācāras. The comparison of the four texts with earlier Abhidharma works, as for instance the *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya*, reveals that while the definitions and explanations given in these works are on the whole closely related, they vary or even disagree in some cases. In several instances it seems that the authors try to compromise on the varying teachings of the *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya* and Abhidharmic works of the Yogācāra tradition, as for example the *Abhidharmasamuccaya*. In other cases they appear to develop their own interpretations. The main focus of my presentation will be on the possible Abhidharmic sources for Vasubandhu's and his commentators' concepts and views.