FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was completed at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, between October 2002 and October 2005. Our heartfelt thanks go to our many colleagues there, in particular to Dr Charles Ramble and Ms Charlotte Vinnicombe, who gave us such excellent and unstinting support and assistance throughout. We would also like to thank Wolfson College for opening its doors to us and offering us such consistant hospitality within its beautiful and conducive environment. We owe a very special debt of gratitude to the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK, who funded our research so generously. Professor Ernst Steinkellner of the Austrian Academy of Sciences has given us encouragement and support at all stages of the project. We also offer our thanks to Dr Karma Phuntsho, the Venerable Gangtey Rinpoche, and the monks of Gangtey Monastery, Bhutan, who enabled us to procure such fine digital colour photographs of the beautiful Gangtey-b NGB manuscript in its entirety. Several people gave time to our questions in the course of this research, notably Dr Jean-Luc Achard, Dr Henk Blezer, Mr Brandon Dotson, Geshe Gelek Jinba, Dr Dan Martin, Dr Karma Phuntsho, and Dr Charles Ramble. Mr Ralf Kramer of the Bodleian Library gave us magnificent support throughout, for which we are extremely grateful. Dr Burkhard Quessel, Curator of Tibetan Collections at the British Library, and staff at the British Library's India Office and Oriental Reading Room, were most helpful when we needed to work with the original manuscripts of the Rig 'dzin edition of the rNying ma'i rgyud 'bum held at the British Library. Dr Günter Grönbold of Munich and Dr Gyurme Dorje gave us further bibliographic support by supplying further copies of the sDe dge xylograph NGB, without which this project could never have been completed; our sincere thanks to them also. Mr Michael Kowalewski and Dr Jean-Luc Achard helped in the cataloguing of the Gangtey-b NGB, an originally unexpected bonus to our research programme. Mr David Chapman, the Oxford Text Archive, Mr Mark Stretton and Dr Somdev Vasudeva, all offered us invaluable computing support at different times and in different ways. Last but not least, our two children, George and Angie, gave us considerable help in the challenging task of formatting the edition chapters.

At all stages from its conception to its completion, this work has represented a joint production, such that it is impossible for us to specify our exact division of labour. Earlier versions of Chapters 1.II and 2.VI began as our individual contributions to the tenth International Association of Tibetan Studies Seminar at Oxford, 2003, but otherwise, we take equal responsibility for all sections. An earlier version of Chapter 2.IV and an earlier illustrated version of part of Chapter 3.I were presented as joint papers at the fourteenth International Association of Buddhist Studies Conference in London, 2005. It has sometimes been assumed that Cathy's background in Social Anthropology has meant that her role in our joint philological projects has been less than fully equal, but this is mistaken. Without renouncing the anthropological heritage of her early academic training, we wish to make it clear that Cathy has been working as a textual scholar for many years.