



Manuscript reference: Ds 273

The only page of this manuscript is beautifully ornamented.

The title folio possesses an elaborate double frame traced with thick red lines, patterned with red and black designs, and painted yellow. At the centre, the title of the text is written in *smar chung* script with black ink between two short syllables in large red *dbu med* letters, which symbolically open and auspiciously end the text, respectively.¹

All these writings are surrounded by a frame made of black oblique strokes forming series of adjoining up- and downside triangles, which distantly recall the wave designs observed in other manuscripts of the collection. This frame extends to the sides into two compartments that include the syllables *stag* and *lha* starting the name of the deity *sTag lha me 'bar*, to a teaching of which the text is dedicated. A second, wider frame surrounds that first one, with the rectangular spaces left in between them on the sides painted yellow. It is patterned with triangular designs similar to those just described, traced with red ink on the sides and with black ink on top and at the bottom of the first frame.

On the verso, the text opens with a *yig mgo* consisting of six curls painted in the negative on a black trapezoidal background, and a wide ornate *rgya gram shad* that develops organically on the sides into six scrolls modelled with red ink. It is further surrounded by a yellow frame,

¹ They read: *ā* ; *bkris* (*bkra shis*).

on the sides of which are added columns patterned with black triangular designs resembling waves.

Overall, the ornamental features of this manuscript recall those of manuscripts Ds 112, 113, 195, and 215.