WESTERNERS IN TIBET 1327-1950: a selected annotated bibliography

THE NEWARK MUSEUM
May 1973
This bibliography was originally prepared for and included in THE MUSEUM—New Series, Vol. 24, Nos. 2 & 3 (combined)—Spring-Summer 1972. Because of its specialized interest, the Newark Museum now publishes the bibliography as a separate piece.

The following bibliography cannot claim to be exhaustive of the subject. It has been prepared according to the following criteria:

1. Only material originally written in or translated into English (with three exceptions) and in book form has been included;

2. Only books written by Westerners, with the exception of several works by the so-called Indian “pundits” who were working directly under the British, are included;

3. Books relating solely to mountain climbing expeditions are excluded;

4. Books listed are for the most part primary sources, written by the travelers themselves, the only exceptions being several particularly notable works dealing with the subject.

The Newark Museum would welcome any suitable additions to this bibliography from readers.

BARBARA LIPTON
Librarian
   Ahmad lived in Leh, Ladakh, from 1894-1897, practicing medicine. He wanted to refute the “find” by Notovitch, a Russian, of a hitherto unknown manuscript of a Tibetan version of the life of Christ between the ages of 12 and 30.


   Contains a section on the early European travelers to Tibet as well as a general account of Tibet and bibliographical references to European books of the time on Tibet and Central Asia.

   Bailey spent 3-1/2 years in Tibet as a trade agent after having accompanied the Young-husband Mission. Went on a geographical expedition in 1911 to trace the outlet of the Tsangpo river.

   Traveled with Capt. Morshead on a geographical mapping and surveying expedition.

   Excellent account of former British political representative in Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim describing people, customs and everyday lives.

   Historical survey of Tibetan history and politics from British point of view. Description of the Dalai Lama.

   A description of modern Tibet by American who was initiated there as a Buddhist monk.

   Tale of a lady missionary.

   Was accompanied by Prince Henry d’Orléans and Father Dedeken on a trip across Tibet in 1890. Somewhat patronizing but interesting description.

   Matter-of-fact style describing a trip made in 1891-92 accompanied by Dr. Thorold of the Indian Medical Service and Atma Ram, a sub-surveyor.

   Student of Buddhism who lived in the region around 1936.


Very good, scholarly, documented presentation of British missions to open trade with Tibet.


Impressions of a journalist, member of the British expedition to Lhasa in 1904.


Annie Taylor entered Tibet through China in 1892-93 without a companion and penetrated almost to Lhasa. A missionary, she kept a shop and lived in Yatung on the Tibetan border for many years. A story of great human interest.


Accompanied B.J. Gould, Head of British Government Mission to Lhasa, in 1936-37 when Tibet was in danger of invasion by China. Undertook work in natural history and attached a botanical appendix. Interesting descriptions and photos of Lhasa officials.

18. Cooper, Thomas Thornville. *Mishmee Hills;* an account of a journey made in an attempt to penetrate Tibet from Assam to open new routes for commerce. London; King, 1873.


The first major Western description of the area.


Made three trips to Tibet and twice visited Lhasa, the first time in 1935 with Arthur Vernay on a natural history expedition and the second time in 1937 with Mrs. Cutting. The book describes correspondence with the late Dalai Lama.


Written in flowery Indian style from Buddhist and oriental point of view. Author was headmaster of the Tibetan Boarding School at Darjeeling and introduces much Tibetan legendary lore.


Interesting, generally accurate information gathered by an Indian pundit.


25. David-Neel, Alexandra. *Initiations and Initiates in Tibet.* Translated by Fred Rothwell. Berkeley; Shambala, 1970. (1st English edition appeared in 1932; this is an augmented and revised text prepared after twelve additional years in Tibet.)

Interesting discussion of the meanings of “initiation,” spiritual exercises and prescriptions.
(1st English edition appeared in 1931 under the title “With Mystics and Magicians in Tibet.”)
Fascinating account by a woman Buddhist and scholar who is an objective observer and reporter of so-called psychic phenomena during a long sojourn in Tibet.

Miss David-Neel entered and lived in Lhasa for two months disguised as a beggar in 1923-24.


29. Deasy, H.H.P. In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan; being the record of 3 years’ explorations. London; T.F. Unwin, 1901.
Traveled in northwestern Tibet from 1896-1899 with Mr. Arnold Pike. Very thorough, nicely written personal account.

Well edited book of personal experiences taken from manuscripts and letters found in the “Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses écrites des Missions étrangères” by Legobien and Du Halde, Vol. XV, in the “Biblioteca Pistoienis” by Zacaria, and from private libraries.

Story of a religious mystic who lived for months in a Tibetan temple about 1909.

Travels in Ladakh and Baltistan.

33. Duncan, Marion H. The Yangtze and the Yak; adventurous trails in and out of Tibet. Alexandria, Va.; 1952. (Previously published under the title “The Mountain of Silver Snow.”)
Missionary, geographer and explorer, Mr. Duncan was attached to the Foreign Christian Missionary Society from 1921-1932.

Interesting anthropological information written by a missionary who lived with his family for seven years in northeastern Tibet with Tibetan nomadic tribes. Warm and sympathetic account.

Further account of life in the 1930’s by a man who tried to live as did the people among whom he lived. He left Tibet in 1941 when China’s encroachment on Tibet could not be ignored.

36. Fergusson, W.N. Adventure, Sport and Travel on the Tibetan Steppes. N.Y.; C. Scribner’s Sons, 1911.
Book based on the diary of Lt. John Weston Brooke’s two journeys through China and Western Tibet. Brooke was murdered on his last trip in 1908.

Account of the 1904 British expedition.

   Rather credulous account of Tibet while searching for the "mystery mountain" called Amnyi Machin in northeastern Tibet.


   A Moravian missionary-scholar stationed in Ladakh.


   A geographer and experienced traveler, this is a bright personal narrative of a trip made in 1877.


   Account of an expedition to Western Tibet.


   Spiritual experiences in Tibet, in some ways reminiscent of David-Neel.


   An account of the travels of Henry Dutreuil de Rhins and his party in Tibet from 1891-94. Dutreuil de Rhins was murdered by hostile villagers in June 1894.


   Record of two expeditions made to northeastern Tibet between 1936-1940.


   A German who escaped from a prison camp in India in 1944, Harrer lived for many years in Lhasa and worked there as an engineer/constructor. As well, he instructed the Dalai Lama in geography, English, arithmetic and world events. Very interesting account of modern Tibet.

47. Hayden, Henry Hubert. *Sport and Travel in the Highlands of Tibet*. London; R. Cobden-Sanderson, 1927.

   Hayden had accompanied Younghusband's mission as a geologist. He was invited to explore Tibet's mineral resources in 1922.


   Trip to Ladakh.


All of Hedin's books are accounts of his adventurous wanderings through Asia in the late 1800's and early 1900's.


An account of Tibetan exploration, based partly on Sandberg's "*Exploration of Tibet*," perpetuating some of its inaccuracies.


A classic among travel books with good notes on people, manners and customs. He recounted—and apparently believed in—many "miraculous" events, so perhaps cannot be trusted in details.


Personal adventures of a lone traveler in the mid-1930's who was interested in the spiritual life.


Contains abstracts of letters addressed to Kircher from Father Johann Grueber who visited Lhasa for two months in 1661. These letters were originally published in "*Notizie varie dell' Imperio della China*" (Jacopo Carlieri, ed.). Florence, 1687.


Account of the leader of a British expedition to Tibet in 1922-23, of which Dr. W.M. McGovern was scientific advisor.


Landon, a special correspondent of the London "Times," in a good, well-written book says that British intervention in Tibet was provoked by the entrance of Russia into Tibetan affairs.


Account of a trip made in 1897 under conditions of great hardship, where he was captured, severely tortured and fired at for observing Tibet.


71. Marston, Annie W. *The Great Closed Land*: a plea for Tibet. N.Y.; Fleming H. Revell Co., 1894?


New edition of a French translation which appeared in 1628 under the title “Réalation de la Nouvelle Découverte du Grand Catay, ou bien du Royaume de Thibet.” The narrative of the Portuguese Father Antonio de Andrade who went to Tibet in 1624.


A great Russian explorer, Prjevalsky made four trips to the region. He succeeded in entering Tibet on his third trip in 1879 and his fourth in 1883, but never penetrated to Lhasa.


An account of explorations in 1903 in Central Tibet and the Cartok expedition in 1904-05.


Traveled in 1894 through northeastern Tibet with George Burton.


Written in good journalistic style, this is a record of a 1947 trip with informative coverage of Tibet’s recent history and politics.


A Canadian doctor and missionary, Mrs. Rijnhart lived and traveled among the Tibetans from 1895-1899. Her child died and her husband Peter disappeared during this period. A member of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, she later remarried.


A former Secretary of the U.S. Legation to Peking, Rockhill’s record of his journey taken partly under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution contains very detailed observations and excellent scientific appendices.


Excellent colorful, descriptive, detailed, accurate observations. The author had enormous interest in the people and their life.


88. Roerich, George N. *Trails to Inmost Asia; 5 years of exploration with the Roerich Central Asian expedition*. New Haven; Yale University Press, 1931.

   Is considered to be full of misstatements and inaccuracies, but gives account of British and Russian explorers in the late 1800's which is of interest.

   Tersely written account.

   Exciting adventures of an American from San Francisco who made three journeys to Tibet between 1912 and 1924.


   Accurate, clear, politically sophisticated account of a trip to Tibet about 1918 and the history of Chinese and Tibetan relations to 1919.

   Tells of voyage of Grueber and D'Orville.

   Lowell Thomas, Jr., was invited to accompany his father on a trip to Tibet in 1949 in order to publicize to America and the world the Tibetans' serious problem of defense against Communism.

   Tucci made eight visits to Tibet between 1927 and 1948. This is a general scholarly account of Tibetan culture, with emphasis upon the art.

101. Tucci, Giuseppe. Secrets of Tibet, being the chronicle of the Tucci scientific expedition to Western Tibet. Translated by Mary A. Johnstone. London & Glasgow; Blackie & Son Ltd., 1935. New York edition has the title "Shrines of a Thousand Buddhas."
   Documentation of a scientific journey by the great scholar and authority on Tibet.

Interesting account of Turner’s mission to Tibet, of his dealings with officials, of the manners, customs and religion of the people, and of his meeting with the infant Teshoo Lama who conducted himself, at 18 months old, with astonishing dignity, decorum and apparent understanding.


A great authority on Tibetan Buddhism, Waddell made several trips to Tibet. This is a very full account.


Ward’s books are records of a great naturalist and scientist who made several trips to the region in the first third of the 20th century.


In 1896, Capt. Wellby traveled across northern Tibet from west to east. This is a complete personal account, well-written in an easy, factual style.

**110. Wessels, C.S.J. Early Jesuit Travellers in Central Asia, 1603-1721.** The Hague; Martinus Nijhoff, 1924.

**111. Woodcock, George. *Into Tibet, the Early British Explorers.* London; Faber and Faber, 1971.

A history until the time of Manning.

112. Younghusband, Francis. *India and Tibet,* a history of the relations which have subsisted between the two countries from the time of Warren Hastings to 1910; with a particular account of the Mission to Lhasa of 1904. London; John Murray, 1910.

Apparently written in justification of the Mission which had two objectives: 1) to secure facilities for trade and 2) to insure that Russia would not obtain excessive influence and privileges in Tibet.


The diary of Brigadier General George Pereira’s trip.


Contains the section “Eastern Parts of the World Described,” by Friar Odoric, who supposedly traveled to Tibet in the early 14th century.