

Tibet

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THE MUSEUM *New Series*
Spring-Summer 1972



COVER: Pile of rocks supporting boards with Chinese inscriptions and poles holding Tibetan prayer flags at the summit of a pass on the Tibetan-Chinese border. Such prayer markers were common throughout Tibet, signifying and protecting sacred places.

The origin of the Newark Museum's outstanding collection of Tibetan Art dates back to 1910, when a group of items gathered by Dr. Albert L. Shelton in Eastern Tibet was acquired by the Museum. Since that time, further additions by gift and purchase have made the Museum's Tibetan collection among the best and most inclusive in the western world. As well, we have amassed a pictorial archive of over 1,000 photographs illustrating the land and its people—an invaluable record of a way of life that has, perhaps, disappeared forever.

The collection itself has been documented in a recently completed five-volume catalogue. The present publication, in conjunction with the first major exhibition of our Tibetan collection in twenty years, is concerned with the little-known story of the Westerners who have succeeded in penetrating the barriers of Tibet, a land forbidden to outsiders throughout its history.

Mrs. Barbara Lipton, Museum Librarian, has prepared a chronological chart and an annotated bibliography tracing the experiences of these intrepid western explorers, missionaries and adventurers.

Miss Valrae Reynolds, Curator of the Oriental Collections, has selected a group of photographs taken by Dr. Albert L. Shelton and has written a short summary of his life in Eastern Tibet. With informative captions the photographs bring to our readers a visual impact of this strange, inaccessible land and provide a background of information that enhances the objects in our collection.

SAMUEL C. MILLER, *Director*

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The Western Experience in Tibet, 1327-1950

By BARBARA LIPTON

Tibet has intrigued and interested Westerners for hundreds of years, perhaps because of its reputation as the seat of oriental magic and mystery and the exoticism of its culture, perhaps because of its physical inaccessibility, and perhaps especially because Tibet has historically interdicted access to outsiders. Despite formidable obstacles, however, foreigners in small numbers have made their way to the Forbidden Land over the centuries and have left invaluable written and pictorial records which were the western world's only introduction to the land and its people.

Tibet proper (or Greater Tibet) is largely situated on a high windswept plateau north of the Himalayas. The climate is mostly cold and dry and vegetation is sparse, despite the fact that it runs along the same latitudes as North Africa and Mexico. Geographically, it divides naturally into three parts:

- 1) the northern plateau, called the Chang Tang, average altitude of about 16,000 feet above sea level with higher mountains,
- 2) valleys running parallel to the southern edge of the northern plateau and extending in an easterly direction, about 10,000 feet high,
- 3) valleys and mountains in the east between the Chang Tang and the Chinese frontier running north and south, dropping down to 6,000 feet above sea level, and having a higher annual rainfall than the other areas.

The Chang Tang has a small nomadic population; permanent settlements exist in the other two regions of Tibet. In addition to Tibet proper, ethnographic Tibet includes parts of western China to the east, Ladakh and Baltistan to the west, and portions of the population of Bhutan and Sikkim to the south. The people are largely of Mongoloid origin with some Caucasian strain in the eastern highlands; their language belongs to the same linguistic family as Burmese.

Tibet was never eager to admit foreigners to its territory, thus avoiding exposure of its population to both an alien religion and a more materialistic culture. The official policy of exclusion hardened in the early 18th century when Chinese

influence under its Manchu rulers became stronger, and was quite strictly enforced by the Tibetan government and the lamaseries. Nevertheless, Westerners in small numbers managed to penetrate the physical, cultural and political barriers, sometimes openly and sometimes in disguise.

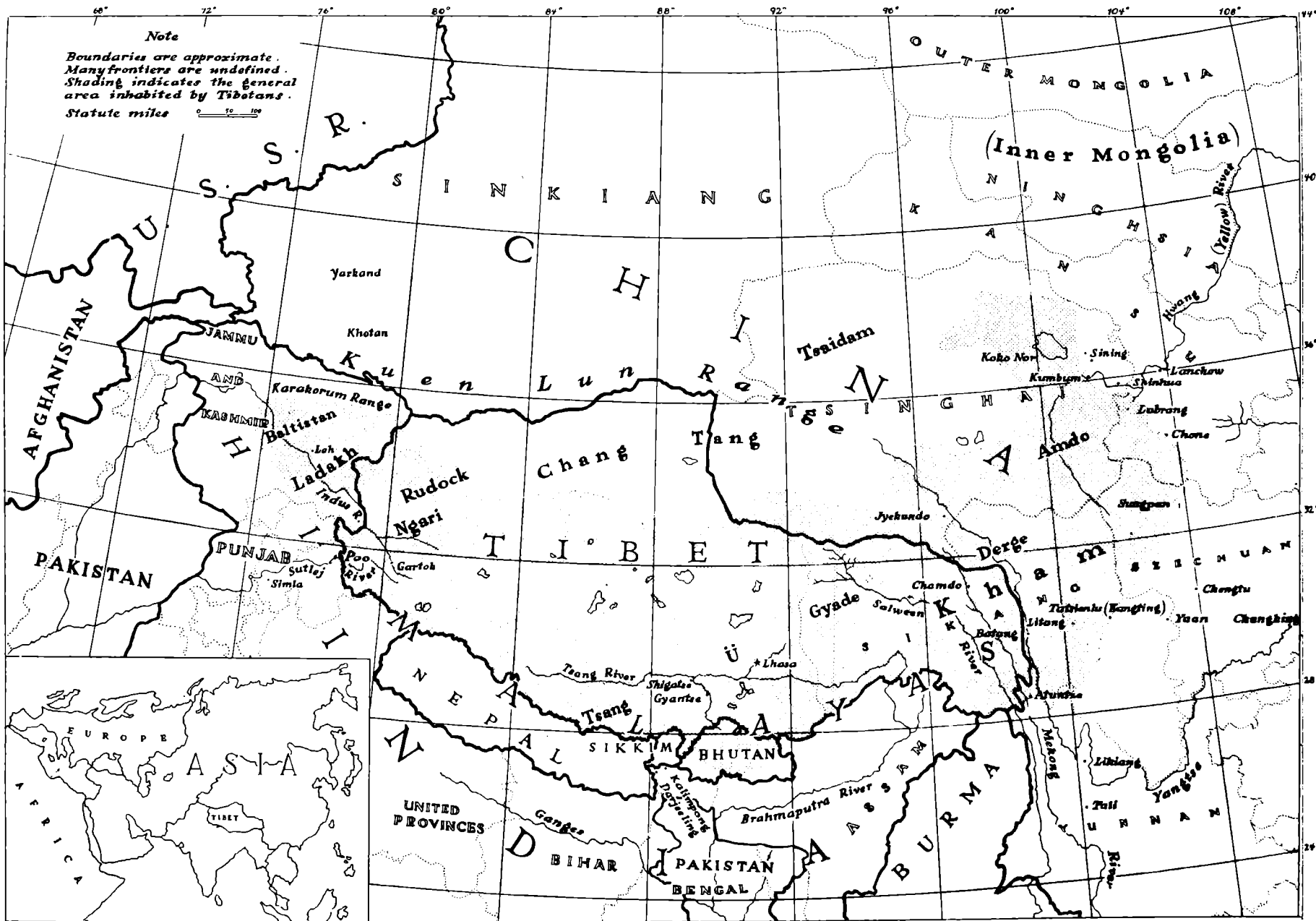
The first recorded western visitors to Tibet were Catholic priests beginning in the 14th century, who were drawn there by rumors and tales of Christian settlements in the Orient and by the legend of a great Christian warrior and religious leader, Prester John. They hoped to find a fertile field for sowing the Christian faith among the native populations but, although the Jesuits and the Capuchins both established Missions in the 17th and 18th centuries and were met with a relatively warm reception for a while, they made only a handful of religious converts and were eventually forced to leave.

The next group of Westerners to penetrate Tibet were Englishmen sent by Warren Hastings, the Governor General of India, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, in an attempt to establish trade relations. As well, the English trained Indian nationals as spies and surveyors who were sent in disguise to map the lands to the north, the British being wary of possible Russian expansion.

In the early 1900's, a British military expedition under Colonel Younghusband pushed its way into Lhasa and effected the Treaty of 1908 under which the Tibetans guaranteed to grant entrance of Europeans into Tibet, a guarantee not always kept. In the early 20th century, a much larger number of Europeans visited and lived in Tibet, although the Tibetan government continued to keep a careful check on all travelers and Lhasa was still the "Forbidden City." With the Chinese invasion of 1950, Tibet's frontiers were once again closed.

Throughout the years, however, there has been a trickle of intrepid adventurers and explorers who made their way into Tibet under the most adverse and sometimes dangerous conditions. Some of these emerged to tell their tales, and others lost their lives or disappeared in the vastness of the Tibetan land.

The following publication attempts to follow the story of these western travelers in general, and one, Dr. Albert L. Shelton, in particular. We cannot claim to be exhaustive in our coverage as there are undoubtedly men and women who did not leave a visible record of their experiences. What emerges, however, is a monument to man's courage and sense of curiosity and high adventure.



Dates in Tibet	Travelers	Country of Origin	Where Traveled	Comments	Main Bibliographic References
1879 1881-1883	DAS, SARAT CHANDRA	India	Tashilhünpo, Lhasa	A scholarly Bengali schoolmaster, headmaster of a school in Darjeeling, Das was believed to have been the prototype of Babu Hurree Chunder Mookerjee in Kipling's "Kim."	Bibliography #22, #23, #24
1879 1883	PRJEVALSKI, NICHOLAS MIKHAILOVICH	Russia	Across northern Tibet	Of four Central Asian expeditions, his 3rd and 4th explored northern Tibet, but he was turned away from entering Lhasa.	Bibliography #80
1890	BONVALOT, GABRIEL D'ORLÉANS, PRINCE HENRY DEDEKEN, FATHER	France France Belgium	Across Tibet, from northwest to southeast	Undisguised in any way, they refused to obey the Chinese and turn back, and they were finally given permission to continue their trip.	Bibliography #10
1890-1891	BOWER, CAPTAIN HAMILTON	England	Across Tibet, from northwest to southeast	Covered about 800 miles of previously unexplored land.	Bibliography #11
1889 1891-1892	ROCKHILL, WILLIAM WOODVILLE	U.S.A.	Across Tibet, from northwest to southeast	Rockhill, a great scholar, made a lifelong study of Tibet. He was former secretary of the U.S. Legation to Peking.	Bibliography #85, #86, #87
1891-1894	DUTREUIL DE RHINS, HENRY GRENARD, FERNAND	France France	Eastern Tibet, almost to Lhasa	Dutreuil de Rhins was murdered by hostile villagers in eastern Tibet in June, 1894.	Bibliography #44
1892-1893	TAYLOR, ANNIE	England	From China, almost to Lhasa	Annie Taylor was the first woman traveler to enter Tibet. 36 years old, she spent 7 months there, practically alone.	Bibliography #16
c.1893-1910	HEDIN, SVEN ANDERS	Sweden	Throughout Tibet and Central Asia	One of the greatest adventurers and explorers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Tried to enter Lhasa in disguise as a Mongolian in 1901, but was turned back.	Bibliography #49-54
1895-1899	RIJNHART, DR. SUSIE CARSON RIJNHART, PETER	Canada Holland	Eastern Tibet	Peter Rijnhart disappeared and was presumably killed while seeking aid from the natives in eastern Tibet. Their child had died previously and was buried in Tibet. Susie Rijnhart later became a member of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society and remarried.	Bibliography #84
1897, 1899	LANDOR, ARNOLD HENRY SAVAGE	England	Southern Tibet	His 1897 trip resulted in his capture and torture by Tibetans before he was finally rescued and expelled.	Bibliography #62, 63
1903-1904	YOUNGHUSBAND, COL. FRANCIS	England	From India to Lhasa	The British military expedition was mounted to secure rights to trade with Tibet and to guard British India's flanks against Russian expansion. The Tibetans, who had put their faith in charms against guns, were soundly beaten in military encounters.	Bibliography #112
1903-1904	LANDON, PERCEVAL	England	From India to Lhasa	A journalist for the London "Times" who accompanied the Younghusband Mission.	Bibliography #61

Dates in Tibet	Travelers	Country of Origin	Where Traveled	Comments	Main Bibliographic References
1903-1932	Foreign Christian Missionary Society. In 1920, became the United Christian Missionary Society	U.S.A.	Batang		Disciples of Christ Historical Society Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.
1903-1905	MOYES, MR. & MRS. (SUSIE RIJNHART)				
1903-1922	SHELTON, MR. & MRS. ALBERT L.			Shelton and MacLeod were instrumental in building up the Newark Museum's superb collection of Tibetan objects and photographs from the private collections they had accumulated during their years spent in Tibet.	Bibliography #93-#95
1908-1909	LOFTIS, DR. ZENAS				Bibliography #64
1917-1927	MAC LEOD, MR. & MRS. RODERICK				
1921-1932	DUNCAN, MR. & MRS. MARION H.				
	and others				Bibliography #33
1904-1921	BELL, SIR CHARLES ALFRED	England	Southern Tibet, Lhasa	Bell, British political representative in Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim, was in charge of a diplomatic mission to Lhasa in 1920-21.	Bibliography #6, #7
c.1910-1930	WARD, FRANCIS KINGDON	England	Mainly eastern Tibet	A great natural scientist, Ward made several trips to Tibet in the first third of the 20th century and did invaluable work recording the flora and geography of the region.	Bibliography #104-108
c.1911-1945	DAVID-NEEL, ALEXANDRA	France	Many regions, Lhasa	Mme. David-Neel, a student of Buddhism, and herself initiated as a Buddhist lama, spent most of her life in the Orient.	Bibliography #25-#28
c.1918	TEICHMAN, SIR ERIC	England	Eastern Tibet	Politically sophisticated, Teichman was a British Consular official.	Bibliography #97
1927-1948	TUCCI, GIUSEPPE	Italy	Many areas of Tibet	Tucci, a great authority on Tibet and Tibetan art, made 8 trips to the area.	Bibliography #100, #101
1930, 1935, 1937	CUTTING, C. SUYDAM	U.S.A.	To Lhasa twice	Cutting maintained correspondence with the 13th and 14th Dalai Lamas. His 1935 expedition was sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. He was invited to return to Lhasa in 1937 with Mrs. Cutting.	Bibliography #21
1935	VERNAY, ARTHUR	U.S.A.			
1937	CUTTING, MRS. C. SUYDAM	U.S.A.			
1930-1935 1939-1941	EKVALL, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT BRAINERD	U.S.A.	Northeastern Tibet	Ekvall and his family lived in a monastery and among the nomadic tribes, living as the people themselves did.	Bibliography #34, #35
1936-1937	CHAPMAN, FREDERICK SPENCER GOULD, B.J.	England England	To Lhasa	Accompanied Gould, Head of Mission to Lhasa, as his private secretary.	Bibliography #17
1947	RIENCOURT, AMAURY DE	England?	From India to Lhasa	A journalist and student of world politics, he wanted to investigate the influence of religion and mysticism on politics in the Orient.	Bibliography #83
1949	THOMAS, LOWELL THOMAS, LOWELL JR.	U.S.A. U.S.A.	To Lhasa	Lowell Thomas and his son made radio broadcasts from Lhasa, where they were invited to publicize Tibet's losing struggle for independence from China.	Bibliography #99



1. Chinese and Tibetan porters carrying a litter over a rocky pass. The use of litters was more common in China than in Tibet where men and women either rode horses, mules or yaks, or walked. This photo may record the Sheltons' first journey from the interior of China. The mist-shrouded peaks in the background are beautifully suggestive of a Chinese landscape painting. "Mountains, mountains everywhere. Two high passes; at least they seem high to Kansas people. At the foot are ferns, flowers, bamboo, and summer weather; at the top snow and the wind blowing a hurricane. Tops were carried off the chairs, and the bearers were afraid to speak, for fear of arousing the wind-devil, who was supposed to lodge somewhere on that mountain. He didn't seem to need rousing, but acted as if he and all his family were awake." (Mrs. Shelton's comments on crossing into Tibet in 1904 from *Sunshine and Shadow*, p. 37.)

WESTERNERS IN TIBET 1327-1950: a selected annotated bibliography

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

*Book is available in Newark Museum library
**Book is secondary source of particular interest

- *1. Ahmad Shah. *Four Years in Tibet*. Benares; Y.J. Lazarus & Co., 1906.
Ahmad lived in Leh, Ladakh, from 1894-1897, practicing medicine. He wanted to refute the "find" by Notovitch, a Russian, of a hither-to unknown manuscript of a Tibetan version of the life of Christ between the ages of 12 and 30.
- *2. Ahmad Shah. *Pictures of Tibetan Life*. Benares; E.J. Lazarus & Co., 1906.
- **3. Astley, Thomas (ed.). *A New General Collection of Voyages and Travels*. London; T. Astley, 1747.
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.
4. Bailey, F.M. *China-Tibet-Assam; a journey, 1911*. London; Jonathan Cape, 1945.
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.
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Traveled with Capt. Morshead on a geographical mapping and surveying expedition.
- *6. Bell, Charles Alfred. *The People of Tibet*. Oxford; Clarendon Press, 1928.
Excellent account of former British political representative in Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim describing people, customs and everyday lives.
- *7. Bell, Charles Alfred. *Tibet, Past and Present*. London; Oxford University Press, 1927 (reprint of 1924 ed.).
Historical survey of Tibetan history and politics from British point of view. Description of the Dalai Lama.
- *8. Bernard, Theos. *Penthouse of the Gods; a pilgrimage into the heart of Tibet and the sacred city of Lhasa*. N.Y., London; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1939.
A description of modern Tibet by American who was initiated there as a Buddhist monk.
9. Bishop, Isabella L. Bird. *Among the Tibetans*. N.Y.; F.H. Revell Co., 1894.
Tale of a lady missionary.
- *10. Bonvalot, Gabriel. *Across Thibet*, being a translation of "De Paris au Tonking à travers le Thibet inconnu." Translated by C.B. Pitman. N.Y.; Cassell, 1892.
Was accompanied by Prince Henry d'Orléans and Father Dedeken on a trip across Tibet in 1890. Somewhat patronizing but interesting description.
11. Bower, Hamilton. *Diary of a Journey Across Tibet*. London; Rivington, Percival & Co., 1894.
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.
- *12. Brunton, Paul. *A Hermit in the Himalayas; the journal of a lonely exile*. N.Y.; Samuel Weiser, 1971. First published by Rider & Co., 1937.
Student of Buddhism who lived in the region around 1936.
13. Byron, Robert. *First Russia, then Tibet*. London; Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1933.

- **14. Cammann, Schuyler. *Trade through the Himalayas; the early British attempts to open Tibet*. Princeton; Princeton University Press, 1951.

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

15. Candler, Edmund. *The Unveiling of Lhasa*. London; Edward Arnold, 1905.

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

- *16. Carey, William. *Adventures in Tibet; including the diary of Miss Annie R. Taylor's remarkable journey from Tau-Chau to Ta-Chien-Lu through the heart of the "Forbidden Land."* N.Y.; Baker & Taylor, 1901.

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.

- *17. Chapman, Frederick Spencer. *Lhasa, the Holy City*. N.Y. and London; Harper & Bros., 1939.

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.

19. Crosby, Oscar Terry. *Tibet and Turkestan; a journey through old lands and a study of new conditions*. N.Y. and London; G.P. Putman's Sons, 1905.

20. Cunningham, Alexander. *Ladak; Physical, Statistical and Historical with notices of the surrounding countries*. London; W.H. Allen & Co., 1894.

The first major Western description of the area.

- *21. Cutting, Suydam. *The Fire Ox and Other Years*. N.Y.; Scribner's, 1947.

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.

- *22. Das, Sarat Chandra. *Indian Pandits in the Land of Snow*. Calcutta; Baptist Mission Press, 1893. (ed. Nobin Chandra Das).

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.

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- *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.

- *26. David-Neel, Alexandra. *Magic and Mystery in Tibet*. Baltimore; Penguin Books, 1971. (1st English edition appeared in 1931 under the title "With Mystics and Magicians in Tibet.")
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29. Deasy, H.H.P. *In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan*; being the record of 3 years' explorations. London; T.F. Unwin, 1901.
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- **30. De Filippi, Filippo (ed.). *An Account of Tibet, the Travels of Ippolito Desideri of Pistoia, S.J., 1712-1727*. London; George Routledge & Sons Ltd., 1931. Revised edition, 1937.
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31. Dingle, Edwin John. *My Life in Tibet*. Los Angeles; The Institute of Mental Physics, 1939, 1952.
Story of a religious mystic who lived for months in a Tibetan temple about 1909.
32. Duncan, Jane. *A Summer Ride through Western Tibet*. London; Smith, Elder & Co., 1906.
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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.
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- **37. Fleming, Peter. *Bayonets to Lhasa*. N.Y.; Harper, 1961.
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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.
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- *51. Hedin, Sven Anders. *A Conquest of Tibet*. Translated from Swedish by Julius Lincoln. N.Y.; E.P. Dutton & Co., 1934.
- *52. Hedin, Sven Anders. *My Life as an Explorer*. Translated by Alfhild Huebsch. Garden City, N.Y.; Garden City Publishing Co., 1925.
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- *54. Hedin, Sven Anders. *Through Asia*. 2 vols. N.Y. & London; Harper & Bros., 1899.
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Born to a Scottish father and a Sikkimese mother, Macdonald was British trade agent in Gyantse, Tibet, from 1905-1925. In 1904, he accompanied the Younghusband Mission and in 1923, he accompanied the Earl of Lytton to Pharijong as guide and interpreter.
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- **68. MacGregor, John. *Tibet; a Chronicle of Exploration*. N.Y. & Washington; Praeger, 1970.
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Chattily written book describing the 1948 trip he made accompanying Tucci.
- *70. Markham, Clements Robert (ed.). *Narratives of the Mission of George Bogle to Tibet and of the Journey of Thomas Manning to Lhasa*. London; Trübner & Co., 1876.
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75. O'Connor, F. *On the Frontier and Beyond: A Record of Thirty Years Service*. London; J. Murray, 1931.
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79. Pratt, A.E. *To the Snows of Tibet through China*. London; Longmans, Green & Co., 1892.
80. Prjevalsky, Nikolai Mikhailovich. *Mongolia, the Tangut Country and the Solitudes of Northern Tibet*. Translated by E.D. Morgan. London; S. Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 1876.
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81. Rawling, C.G. *The Great Plateau*; London; E. Arnold, 1905.
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- *84. Rijnhart, Susie Carson. *With the Tibetans in Tent and Temple*. Cincinnati, Foreign Christian Missionary Society, 1901.
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.
- *85. Rockhill, William Woodville. *Diary of a Journey through Mongolia and Thibet in 1891 and 1892*. Washington, D.C.; Smithsonian Institution, 1894.
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- *95. Shelton, Flora Beal. *Sunshine and Shadow on the Tibetan Border*. Cincinnati; Foreign Christian Missionary Society, 1912.
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Tells of voyage of Grueber and D'Orville.
- *99. Thomas, Lowell Jackson. *Out of this World; across the Himalayas to Forbidden Tibet*. N.Y.; The Greystone Press, 1950.
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.
- *100. Tucci, Giuseppe. *Tibet, land of snows*. Translated by J. E. Stapleton Driver. N.Y.; Stein & Day, 1968.
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."
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- **111. Woodcock, George. *Into Tibet, the Early British Explorers*. London; Faber and Faber, 1971.
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