

# **KASHGAR— CENTRAL ASIA**

**F.M. HASSNAIN  
TOKEN D. SUMI**



**RELIANCE PUBLISHING HOUSE  
NEW DELHI (INDIA)**

© A. Fida, Royal Life Stage, 302 Ajisaino-Oka,  
2004-5, Naka-Hira, Tenpaku-Ku, Nagaya-Shi-468 Japan.  
(Phone: 052-805-2749)

First Published 1995

Offers for translation into foreign languages may be made to the copy right holder mentioned above with intimation to the publisher.

ISBN : 81-85972-76-1

*All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, otherwise, without the prior permission of Reliance Publishing House.*

*This book is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise circulated without publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.*

*Published by*

Dr. S.K. Bhatia (Life Member ILA & INSA)  
for RELIANCE PUBLISHING HOUSE  
3026/7H, Ranjit Nagar,  
New Delhi-110 008 Ph. 5737377/5722605

*Composed by*

DTP & ALLIED SERVICES  
WP-438/1, 1st Floor, Wazirpur, Ashok Vihar.  
Delhi-110 052 Ph. 7217503

*Printed at :*

EFFICIENT OFFSET PRINTERS  
215, Shahzada Bagh Indl. Complex,  
Phase-II, Phone : 533736, 533762  
Delhi - 110035



# CONTENTS

<i>Description of Art Treasures</i>	vii
<i>Introduction</i>	ix
I. Kashgar	1
II. Crescentaders	29
III. Playground of the Khojas	61
IV. The Silk Road	102
<i>Bibliography</i>	140
<i>Index</i>	142



## FOREWORD

**I**t was in the first century A.D. that Kashmir expanded its culture into the countries on the Silk Road, including Kashgar, through Mahayana Buddhism. Since then India has taken an active part in the religious, economic and political affairs of Central Asia. Some of the kings of Kashmir—Mihirakula, Toramana and Mirza Haider Dughlat Kashgari hailed from Central Asia. Not only this, our arts and crafts—carpet weaving, shawls, papier-mache and Sufi Islam expanded into Kashmir in the 14th century with the arrival of Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani. What we had given them in the shape of progressive Buddhism centuries ago, they gave us back in the shape of Sufi Islam.

With the passage of time, our cultural and trade relations with the oasis towns on the Silk Road—Bokhara, Samarkand, Yarkand, Kashgar, Khotan and Turfan—developed to a great extent, which connected us not only with distant China but also with Imperial Rome. It was in this context that my great grand-father, Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885) started his "Leap Forward" policy towards the Central Asian countries, and even succeeded in exchanging embassies as well as entering into commercial and political relations with Hazrat Ataleeq Ghazi Yakoob Khan (1869-1877), the most powerful ruler in the Chinese Central Asia. Had the then British Government in India allowed the Maharaja to pursue his policy, the frontiers of India would have been on the other side of the Pamirs.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that scholars and historians like Professor Fida Hassnain of Kashmir and Professor Tokan Sumi of Japan have compiled an important work on Kashgar. I know both of them as authors of several authoritative works on Kashmir. I am sure the present work will prove of great interest to those who are interested to examine the winds of change now sweeping across the Central Asian countries.

**Karan Singh**



## DESCRIPTION OF ART TREASURES

### A. PAINTINGS :

- A. 1. Fragment of a mural painting depicting a Mongol prince. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 2. Fragment of a mural painting depicting Buddhist monks. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 3. Painting depicting Amitabha bestowing favours. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 4. Fragment of a mural painting with a mutilated Tantara text. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 5. Fragment of a mural painting depicting the face of an angel. Tokyo National Museum.
- A. 6. Silk painting portraying a lady, from Astana.
- A. 7. Painted Banner portraying a princess, from Tanguang.
- A. 8. Silk painting from Astana.
- A. 9. Silk painting from Turfan. Tokyo National Museum.
- A. 10. Mural painting depicting Buddhisattavas, mendicants and apsaras. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 11. Mural Painting depicting mendicants and musicians. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad.
- A. 12. Painted silk banner, depicting the king and his mistress. S.P.S. Museum, Srinagar
- A. 13. Mural painting

### B. FIGURES :

- B. 1. A rider on a white horse. Painted clay figure.
- B. 2. A female rider. Painted clay figure.
- B. 3. Horse riders. Painted wooden figures.
- B. 4. A lady wearing a long skirt. Painted wooden figure.

- B. 5. Painted wooden figure of Lokapala from Astana.
- B. 6. Avalokiteshvara with Ananda from Tan-huang.
- B. 7. Buddha from Tan-huang. Hermitage Museum, Lenin-grad.

### **C. FRESCO PAINTINGS :**

- C. 1. Fresco Painting from Dandan-uiliq. The princes riding on a horse and a camel.
- C. 2. Painted panel from Dandan-uiliq.

### **D. STUCCO HEADS :**

- D. 1. Stucco heads from Rawak, north of Khotan.
- D. 2. Sculptures from Rawak.
- D. 3. Statues from Rawak.

### **E. DESTRUCTION**

#### **E. DESTRUCTION OF ANTIQUITIES :**

- E. 1. "They destroyed our priceless assts"! Niya.
- E. 2. "They were worse than graverobbers"! Niya.

### **F. FOTOS:**

- F. 1. Tug of War, Kazazak nationality.
- F. 2. The Holy Quran.
- F. 3. Muslim Girls and boys.
- F. 4. Frescoes and Wall paintings of Buddha.
- F. 5. Muslims offering Eid prayers. in Jamia Masjid, Kashgar.
- F. 6. Uyghur girls.
- F. 7. The Tripitaka.



# KASHGAR-CENTRAL ASIA

Kashgar is a country, the borders of which have not been recognised and demarcated by the countries surrounding it. Both China and Russia have not solved their border question. At the same time, its borders with India and Pakistan are awaiting solution due to the Kashmir problem. The occupation of Aksai Chin in Ladakh by China and building of a road between Kashgar and Tibet by China in 1956-57, has added further complications. Since its occupation by the Chinese in 1876, Kashgar has ceased to be an independent state in Central Asia. But with the turn of events in the Russian-held Turkestan, there is bound to be also some political change in the Chinese-held Turkestan. The USA had once tried to convert this country into a satellite state of its own but failed. Now, when both India and Pakistan are at the verge of a war on Kashmir, it may be that the USA might try to bring, not only Kashgar but even Kashmir under its sphere of political influence.

Professor Hassnain and Professor Sumi, who are authorities on the history and culture of Kashmir and Central Asia, deal with history and culture of Kashgar from ancient times to the present day. The authors have given an account of the close commercial, trade and cultural links between Kashgar and Kashmir since ancient times. After the 4th Buddhist Council held in the first century, it was the Mahayana Buddhism, which went from Kashmir into Central Asia through Kashgar. Centuries after, it was Sufi Islam, which entered Kashmir from Central Asia via Kashgar. It was not only a *pasham* supplying region for the prestigious shawl industry in Kashmir but also served as a commercial centre for merchandise on the great Silk Road. The authors have given a beautiful account of such cultural relations between Kashgar and Kashmir. With this background, the book provides important information for researchers and readers alike.

*Pir-o-Murshid*, Haji Professor F. M. Hassnain was born in Kashmir in 1924. At the age of Four, he started learning the Holy Quran in Arabic. Having graduated from the University of the Punjab, he did his M.A. from the Muslim University, Aligarh. Later he obtained the L.L.B. Degree in Law and also got trained himself as an Archivist from the National Archives of India. R. C. Kak a renowned archaeologist of Kashmir, who rose to the position of the Prime Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir state, taught him the basic tenets of Archaeology. Having started his career as the Head of the Department of History in S. P. College, Srinagar, Professor F. M. Hassnain rose to the position of the Director of Archives, Archaeology, Research and Museums in 1954. Since then, he has lectured in India, Japan, Bulgaria, Germany and Scotland. He is the author of 15 books and numerous articles and his works have appeared in Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Sanskrit, Persian and English. He is the recipient of the Degree; (Hon. Causa) Doctor of Indology, D. Litt. Doctor of Sufism, Doctor of Theology.

He lives at Hastgir House, Chanapore, Srinagar, Kashmir, India.

Bodhisattava, Professor Tokan D. Sumi was born in 1914 in Japan. Having graduated in 1941 from the Tokyo University, he did his masters Course in Indian philosophy. In recognition of his scholastic attainments, he was honoured with the Degree of the Doctor of Indology by the Sharda Peetha of Kashmir. He also obtained the degree of: Doctor of Buddhist Philosophy and D. Litt. from Vishwa Samsad of Delhi. Widely travelled, he is the author of several research works on Buddhism, Himalayan culture and ancient history of Kashmir.

He has translated the *Rajatarangini* of Kalhana from Sanskrit into Japanese. His other works include, *Moonland Ladakh*, *Buddhism in Kashmir and Himalayan region* and numerous research papers regarding the 4th Buddhist Council of Kanishka, held in the first century of Kashmir. He has taught Indian culture and Buddhist philosophy in several universities in Japan including the Aichi Gakusen University. He is an authority on Shiva Philosophy of ancient Kashmir, Tantric Buddhism of Ladakh and Tibet and Zen mysticism of Japan. After retirement, he is a Professor Emeritus of the Aichi University of Education. He is the President of the Center for Buddhist studies of Himalayan States. Having retired he practises Zen and Shinto mysticism in his temple at 217 Nomicho, Okazaki-shi, Aichi-ken, 444 Japan.

ISBN: 81-85972-76-1

Rs. . 200/- \$ 40/-

## RELIANCE PUBLISHING HOUSE

3026/7H, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi - 110008