

MATERIALS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF EASTERN TURKI

TALES, POETRY, PROVERBS, RIDDLES, ETHNOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL TEXTS FROM THE SOUTHERN PARTS OF
EASTERN TURKESTAN

WITH TRANSLATION AND NOTES

BY

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III.

FOLK-LORE FROM GUMA

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PREFACE

The present volume contains tales, poetry, proverbs and riddles from Guma, a small town and oasis between Yarkand and Khotan (v. STEIN, Innermost Asia, IV, map 9 1A). They have all been collected in Srinagar, Kashmir, in 1935 from Maqsud hadji (*mæqsut ha:dʒi*), a native of Guma, born in 1900. He earned his living as a farmer in the oasis outside the town of Guma. He had at that time just completed his pilgrimage to Mecca and stayed for a couple of months in Srinagar. Maqsud hadji was literate and had spent some time in a local madrasah. Although he was a mullah his language is not very much influenced by literary style but extremely rich in contracted forms and interesting colloquialisms.

A fourth volume containing ethnological and historical texts from Guma is in the press and will be published shortly.

My thanks are due to Dr. Bror OLSSON of the University Library of Lund who has this time too, very kindly helped me with matters connected with the printing of this volume.

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GUMA