PRINTS FROM KASHGHAR

The Printing-office of
the Swedish Mission
in Eastern Turkestan
History and Production
with an Attempt at
a Bibliography

by

GUNNAR JARRING

SWEDISH RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN ISTANBUL 1991
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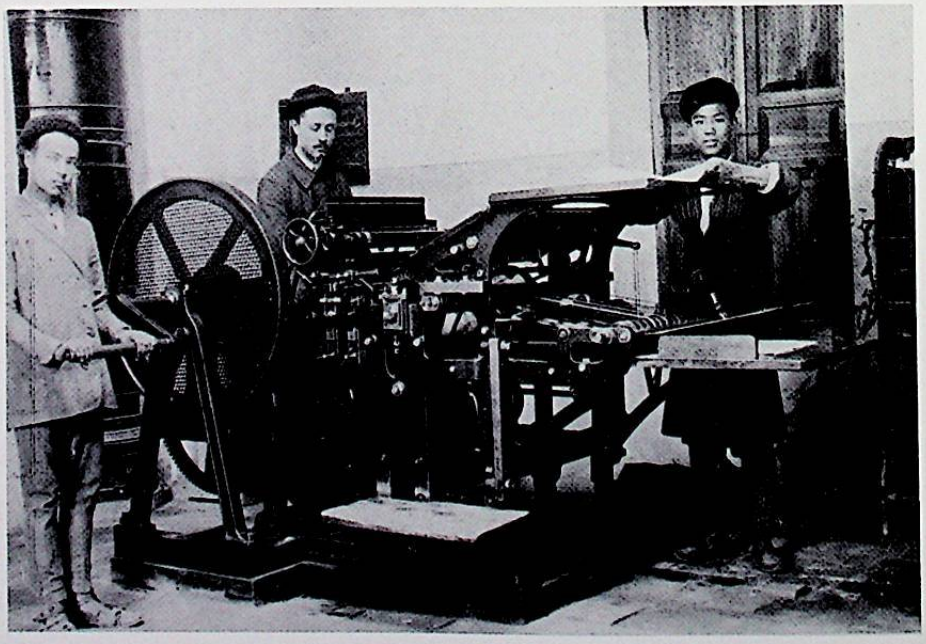

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Cover, front: A specimen of a typical Eastern Turkestanian design; back: 4 tanga, printed on patterned cotton cloth.

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Preface

During my visit to Kashghar in 1929–1930 I had the opportunity to follow the work of the printing-office of the Swedish Mission there. I will not allege that the idea of the present paper took shape then. But soon thereafter I began collecting prints, emanating from the printing-office and data about its history and activities and I have been continuing this purpose during the years gone by. It is only now, more than sixty years after my first acquaintance with the printing-office, that I have come to publish this historical and bibliographical account of a Swedish cultural enterprise in innermost Asia which deserves the attention of all those who are doing research in the Central Asian field.

Upon finishing this work of mine, I wish to extend my warm thanks to the many who have in one way or another helped me to bring it to its conclusion. Some of them are no longer alive. I would like to mention Gustaf Ahlbert, John Anderson, Oskar Hermansson, Sigfrid Moen, Gustaf Raquette and Georg Roberntz, all of the Swedish Mission in Eastern Turkestan. They all took part in the literary and cultural activities of the Kashghar printing-office and they have all rendered me friendly help and assistance.

Furthermore my thanks go to Mrs. Astrid Nyström Persson, born in Yarkand as the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Rickard Nyström. With her ardent interest in the country where she was born, she has on many occasions given me valuable assistance. With Jacob Stephen, likewise a native of Yarkand, I have had many fruitful discussions of linguistic problems for which I thank him. John Hultvall, the eminent historian of the Swedish Eastern Turkestan Mission, has always been available for discussions of the intricate problems of the mission of southern Sinkiang. Samuel Fränne who has done so much to further our knowledge of the pictorial geography of the country has often given me many valuable hints. To all of them go my warmest thanks. I am furthermore indebted to Dr. Per Ekström of the University Library of Lund, Professor Staffan Rosén of the University of Stockholm and Professor Christopher Toll of the University of Copenhagen for help and sound advice.

Last but not least I thank our daughter Eva Jarring Corones for all the trouble she has taken to correct and revise my English.

Stockholm, January 1991

Gunnar Jarring

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