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STIMULANTS AMONG  
THE TURKS OF EASTERN TURKESTAN

AN EASTERN TURKI TEXT  
EDITED WITH TRANSLATION, NOTES AND GLOSSARY

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## Introduction

With some hesitation I decided to give the title "Stimulants Among the Turks of Eastern Turkestan" to this treatise. I was hesitant because in it tea is ranged with hashish and other narcotics which have to be labelled as harmful intoxicants. But the author of the Eastern Turki text which I now present was a native of Eastern Turkestan and he evidently felt that all stimulants, whether harmful or not, could be dealt with within the same essay.

The author is Muhammad Ali Damollah who around 1905–1910 acted as a language teacher at the Swedish mission in Kashghar. He was also employed by the British Consulate General there in a similar capacity. Muhammad Ali Damollah is the author of several essays which have been published by me earlier.<sup>1</sup>

The original manuscript is kept in the collection of Eastern Turki manuscripts in the Lund University Library. It is contained in a composite manuscript marked Prov. 207 with the sub-number 8 of sub-collection I.<sup>2</sup> The manuscript is 36 × 22.5 cms in size and is reproduced in a reduced scale in facsimile on pp 00–00 of this edition. The idea of having a native mullah writing down his conception of conditions in Eastern Turkestan was originally instigated by G. Raquette, who in those days was a missionary-surgeon in the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden in Kashghar. His intention was to use this text and all the other similar texts contained in Prov. 207 for an Eastern Turki-English Dictionary which however was never written.

The text illustrates not only the use of stimulants but also the social conditions as they were in the southern parts of the country in the first decade of the 20th century.

I intentionally use the terms Eastern Turkestan and Eastern Turki when publishing this text as they were current at the time of its composition. I further feel that after the recent events in what was formerly called the Soviet Union, Eastern Turkestan is a convenient term to distinguish this province of China from the present independent republics of Western Turkestan.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> V. my treatise "Garments from Top to Toe" (1992), p. 10 with several contributions by his hand.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. op. cit. p. 9 for details.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. op. cit. p. 7, n. 1.