

# INNERMOST ASIA

DETAILED REPORT OF EXPLORATIONS IN  
CENTRAL ASIA, KAN-SU AND EASTERN ĪRĀN

CARRIED OUT AND DESCRIBED UNDER THE  
ORDERS OF H.M. INDIAN GOVERNMENT BY

SIR AUREL STEIN, K.C.I.E.

INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



## VOL. II TEXT

WITH DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF ANTIQUES BY F. H. ANDREWS  
AND F. M. G. LORIMER; AND APPENDICES BY J. ALLAN  
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Sir Aurel Stein's name is notably associated with the extensive excavations and explorations in Central and Innermost Asia. Trained as an Orientalist and archaeologists, he planned several expeditions to the interior of Asia and used Sanskrit, Persian, Chinese, Turkish, Greek and Latin as scholarly tools to unlock the geographical puzzles, in the process making valuable topographical surveys and penned down his experiences in his famous books.

Innermost Asia constitute the story of his rediscovering the ancient silk route from the passage land of westernmost China across the Tarim basin to the uppermost reaches of Oxus and to Iran and Hindukush valleys. During his explorations he unearthed numerous long buried sites in the desert sands of Central Asia, exposing a long forgotten civilization and ancient remains and culture of a very rich people. His discoveries proves to the present day scholar the fact that the growth and development of civilization had a very close link between China and India on the one hand and beyond China to Mongolia, Russian Turkistan, Pamirs, Kashgar and upper Oxus down to Bokhara and Samarkand on the other hand.

The finds and relics of his extensive explorations include numerous antiquities, silk paintings, manuscript remains in Sanskrit and Prakrit, Kharosti documents recovered from the sites of Niya and Lou-Lan, ancient textiles analysis of remains of prehistoric painted pottery and porclains, Coins, Tapestries, stone impliments; Description of Chinese painting found in the tombs and caves and other discoveries of historical interest. The narration is of much interest from geographical and anthropological point of view as he describes in detail the nomadic tribes and clans he examines on his tours. Sir Stein was very ably assisted by a number of scholars who examined and described the large number of antiquities and other allied objects brought back by him.

The set is complete in five large size volumes. The first two volumes contain descriptive Text in 30 chapters besides Appendices and Inscriptions. Volume 3 contains 505 large pictures of geographical and historical descriptions while volume 4 has 200 plates of antiquities, arts and other objects found during the expeditions. Volume 5 has 56 maps of Chinese Turkistan and Kansu from surveys made during the explorations.

It is hoped that the publication of this set will be a source of great satisfaction and joy for the scholars interested not only in Indology but history, geography and anthropology of this vast area.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## VOLUME II

	PAGES
CHAPTER XVI.—TO GUCHEN AND ACROSS THE T' IEN-SHAN . . . . .	549-565
Section i. From Barkul to Guchen . . . . .	549
Section ii. The Site of Pei-t'ing and the Posterior Court of Ch'ü-shih . . . . .	554
,, iii. Across the Mountains to Turfān . . . . .	560
CHAPTER XVII.—THE TURFĀN TERRITORY : SOME ASPECTS OF ITS GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY . . . . .	566-586
Section i. The Geographical Position of Turfān and the Earliest Historical Notices . . . . .	566
,, ii. Turfān from Later Han to T'ang Times . . . . .	572
,, iii. Turfān under the Uigurs . . . . .	581
CHAPTER XVIII.—AT RUINED SITES OF TURFĀN . . . . .	587-641
Section i. Among the Ruins of Ancient Kao-ch'ang . . . . .	587
,, ii. List of Antiques excavated, or acquired, at Kara-khōja . . . . .	596
,, iii. Search among the Ruins of Toyuk . . . . .	609
,, iv. List of Antiques excavated at, or acquired from, Ruins at Toyuk . . . . .	620
,, v. Work at the Sites of Murtuk . . . . .	633
CHAPTER XIX.—THE ANCIENT CEMETERIES OF ASTĀNA . . . . .	642-718
Section i. Seventh-century Tombs in Group i . . . . .	642
,, ii. Figurines and other Sepulchral Deposits in Groups ii-v . . . . .	650
,, iii. Intact and other Burials in Tombs of Groups vi-x . . . . .	660
,, iv. General Observations on the Astāna Burials and their Textiles . . . . .	667
,, v. Relics of Textile Art from the Tombs of Astāna . . . . .	672
,, vi. List of Antiques from Cemeteries near Astāna . . . . .	680
,, vii. Conclusion of Work at Turfān . . . . .	710
CHAPTER XX.—EXPLORATIONS IN THE KURUK-TĀGH . . . . .	719-748
Section i. From Turfān to Singer . . . . .	719
,, ii. To Po-ch'êng-tzū and Shindī . . . . .	725
,, iii. To Ancient Graveyards by the Kuruk-daryā . . . . .	732
,, iv. Mian Afrāz-gul's Supplementary Surveys . . . . .	741
CHAPTER XXI.—ON THE ANCIENT ROUTE ALONG THE KONCHE-DARYĀ . . . . .	749-785
Section i. The Ruins of Ying-p'an . . . . .	749
,, ii. The Ancient Course of the Konche-daryā and the 'Town of Chu-pin' . . . . .	761
,, iii. Watch-stations along the Ancient Road to Korla . . . . .	768
,, iv. The Territory of Wei-li and the Modern Kara-kum . . . . .	777
CHAPTER XXII.—FROM KORLA TO KUCHĀ . . . . .	786-802
Section i. Along the Foot of the T'ien-shan . . . . .	786
,, ii. The Seat of the Protector-General . . . . .	790
,, iii. From Bugur to Kuchā . . . . .	797

	PAGES
CHAPTER XXIII.—KUCHĀ AND SOME OF ITS ANCIENT SITES . . . . .	803-829
Section i. The Oasis in its Geographical Aspects and the Position of its Ancient Capital	803
"  ii. Ruined Sites West of the Muz-art River . . . . .	807
"  iii. Remains South-east of Kuchā and List of Antiques found or acquired . . . . .	818
CHAPTER XXIV.—FROM KUCHĀ TO KĀSHGAR . . . . .	830-841
Section i. Old Remains within the Bai District . . . . .	830
"  ii. Past Ak-su and Marāl-bāshi to Kāshgar . . . . .	834
"  iii. A T'ang Itinerary from Ak-su to Kāshgar . . . . .	838
CHAPTER XXV.—ACROSS THE PĀMĪRS . . . . .	842-862
Section i. Preparations at Kāshgar . . . . .	842
"  ii. Along the Alai Valley . . . . .	844
"  iii. Along the Western Rim of the Pāmīrs . . . . .	851
"  iv. By the Alichur and Great Pāmīr . . . . .	856
CHAPTER XXVI.—IN THE REGION OF THE UPPER OXUS . . . . .	863-895
Section i. Old Remains in Wakhān . . . . .	863
"  ii. Through Ishkāshm and Ghārān . . . . .	871
"  iii. In the Valleys of Shughnān . . . . .	877
"  iv. From Rōshān to Darwāz . . . . .	884
"  v. From Kara-tegīn to Bokhāra . . . . .	891
CHAPTER XXVII.—BY THE EASTERN MARCHES OF KHORĀSAN . . . . .	896-905
Section i. From Askhābād to Meshed . . . . .	896
"  ii. Past the Perso-Afghān Border . . . . .	897
"  iii. Into the Helmand Basin . . . . .	902
CHAPTER XXVIII.—THE SACRED HILL OF SĪSTĀN . . . . .	906-925
Section i. The Historical Interest of Sīstān . . . . .	906
"  ii. The Remains of Kōh-i-Khwāja . . . . .	909
"  iii. Remains of Mural Paintings . . . . .	913
"  iv. Remains on the Hill-top . . . . .	921
CHAPTER XXIX.—RUINED SITES WITHIN THE OASIS OF PERSIAN SĪSTĀN . . . . .	926-942
Section i. Remains at and near Shahrīstān . . . . .	926
"  ii. The Band-i-Sīstān and the Ancient Name of the Helmand . . . . .	930
"  iii. The Site of Zāhidān and Later Ruins to the North-west . . . . .	932
"  iv. List of Pottery Specimens and other Small Objects from Later Sites in Northern Sīstān . . . . .	938
CHAPTER XXX.—IN THE DESERT DELTA OF SĪSTĀN . . . . .	943-981
Section i. Ruins Ancient and Modern . . . . .	943
"  ii. Remains of Prehistoric Settlements . . . . .	949
"  iii. List of Objects found at Sites of the Southern Helmand Delta . . . . .	957
"  iv. Ruins of an Ancient Border Line . . . . .	972
"  v. From Sīstān to India and London . . . . .	979

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

vii

## APPENDICES

	PAGES
APPENDIX A.—CHINESE SEPULCHRAL INSCRIPTIONS FROM ASTĀNA, TURFĀN, translated and annotated by HENRI MASPERO, Professeur au Collège de France . . . . .	983-987
APPENDIX B.—INVENTORY LIST OF COINS FOUND OR OBTAINED, prepared from Notes by F. M. G. LORIMER and J. ALLAN . . . . .	988-995
APPENDIX C.—NOTE ON THE PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE PĀMĪRS AND OXUS BASIN, by T. A. JOYCE, M.A., Deputy Keeper, British Museum, Vice-President of the Royal Anthropological Institute . . . . .	996-1012
APPENDIX D.—NOTES ON CERAMIC SPECIMENS FROM CHINESE TURKESTĀN, KANSU, AND SĪSTĀN, by R. L. HOBSON, Keeper of Ceramics and Ethnography, British Museum . . . . .	1013-1016
APPENDIX E.—INVENTORY LIST OF MANUSCRIPT REMAINS MAINLY IN SANSKRIT, by F. E. PARGITER, M.A., I.C.S. (Ret.) . . . . .	1017-1025
APPENDIX F.—INVENTORY LIST OF MANUSCRIPT REMAINS IN SANSKRIT, KHOTANESE, AND KUCHEAN, prepared by STEN KONOW, Professor of Oslo University . . . . .	1026-1028
APPENDIX G.—NOTES ON MANUSCRIPT REMAINS IN KUCHEAN, by SYLVAIN LÉVI, Professeur au Collège de France . . . . .	1029-1030
APPENDIX H.—NOTES ON MANUSCRIPT REMAINS IN SOGDIAN, by E. BENVENISTE . . . . .	1031
APPENDIX I.—CHINESE INSCRIPTIONS AND RECORDS, translated and annotated by LIONEL GILES, M.A., D.Litt., Deputy Keeper of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts, British Museum . . . . .	1032-1046
APPENDIX K.—INVENTORY LIST OF MANUSCRIPT FRAGMENTS IN UIGHUR, MONGOL, AND SOGDIAN, by A. VON LE COQ, Director, Museum of Ethnology, Berlin . . . . .	1047-1049
APPENDIX L.—A TIBETAN INSCRIPTION ON THE DARKŌT PASS, translated and annotated by A. H. FRANCKE, Ph.D. . . . .	1050-1051
APPENDIX M.—DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ANTIQUES BROUGHT FROM KHOTAN AND PRESENTED BY H. I. HARDING, Esq., Chinese Consular Service, by F. H. ANDREWS, O.B.E. . . . .	1052-1056
APPENDIX N.—NOTES ON STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM THE TĀRĪM BASIN AND SĪSTĀN, by REGINALD A. SMITH, Deputy Keeper, British Museum . . . . .	1057
APPENDIX O.—SPECIMENS OF ROCK AND SAND, examined and described by W. J. SOLLAS, Sc.D., F.R.S., Professor in the University of Oxford, and R. C. SPILLER, B.A., late Burdett-Coutts Scholar, Oxford, with a Note on Specimens of Shells by D. F. W. BADEN-POWELL, M.A., B.Sc. . . . .	1058-1080
APPENDIX P.—NOTE ON THE FRAGMENT OF A MANICHAEAN PARCHMENT MANUSCRIPT, KAO. 0111, FROM KARA-KHŌJA, by W. LENTZ, Ph.D. . . . .	1081
APPENDIX Q.—FRAGMENT OF A RUNIC TURKISH MANUSCRIPT, KAO. 0107, FROM KARA-KHŌJA, edited and translated by VILHELM THOMSEN, Professor at the University of Copenhagen . . . . .	1082-1083
APPENDIX R.—PARTICULARS OF THE TIBETAN MANUSCRIPTS ILLUSTRATED IN PLATES CXXX-CXXXIII, by F. W. THOMAS, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.A., Boden Professor of Sanskrit, Oxford . . . . .	1084-1090
INDEX OF OBJECTS FOUND, ACQUIRED, ETC. . . . .	1091-1117
PLATES DESCRIBED OR REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT . . . . .	1118-1119
PLANS DESCRIBED OR REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT . . . . .	1119
FIGURES DESCRIBED OR REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT . . . . .	1120-1121
GENERAL INDEX . . . . .	1123-1159

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