Review: Tibetan Borderlands

Author(s): H. R. D.

Review by: H. R. D.

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 6 (Dec., 1913), pp. 558-559

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1778519>

Accessed: 01-06-2016 03:22 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

328. *Maps and Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) Here is a volume which can hardly fail to interest any Londoner, for though it is cast on scientific lines, there is much matter in it that is intelligible to the unscientific reader. Its compilation has clearly been a labour of love for the subject on the part of the various contributors, who include Messrs. H. R. Maynard and C. J. B. Findon (who write cleverly on the topography of the heath and its surroundings), Mr. Rudler on geology, Mr. E. L. Hawke on climate, Messrs. A. G. Tansley, H. B. Watt, and W. A. Whitton on various departments of botany, Messrs. H. Goodchild and H. Findon on birds, mammals, etc., respectively, Dr. F. O'B. Ellison on insect life, Mr. H. Findon on molluscs, and Mr. J. Burton on bird-life. The whole is carefully edited and unified, and forms a very noteworthy record of minute study; it is built up from a proper topographical foundation, and if criticism be not ungenerous it can only be directed (from the geographical standpoint) at the maps, which bear perhaps too clearly the imprint of the amateur.

'The Passing of the Turkish Empire in Europe.' By Captain B. Granville Baker. (London: Seeley. 1913. Pp. 335. *Map and Illustrations*. 16s.) This book discloses much historical erudition, and though it is based upon a journey whose incidents are narrated, the historical is the chief interest in it. The author illustrates it himself with line sketches and half-tones. A map is given, which, though not very clear, will presently possess no little historical value, for it illustrates, by shading, the territory, till lately Turkish, occupied by the Balkan ex-allies in the recent war.

'Travel Pictures: the Record of a European Tour.' By Bhawani Singh, Raj Rana Bahadur of Thalawar. (London: Longmans. 1912. Pp. viii., 287. *Illustrations*. 6s. net.) A Continental tour, undertaken in 1904, by the Raj Bana of Thalawar, prompted the publication of this modest volume of *impressions de voyage*. Bhawani Singh's observations are occasionally instructive, and, thanks to the simplicity and sincerity of the style, generally readable. He is evidently an omnivorous reader of guide-books, and most of the information is familiar enough. The persevering reader will, however, occasionally light upon some little-known fact. We should like, by the way, to learn his authority for the curious statement that the circular opening in the roof of the Pantheon at Rome (probably meant for lighting purposes) was originally intended as a means of exit for an eagle bearing the souls of the dead buried in this pagan temple.

ASIA.

TIBETAN BORDERLANDS.

'The Land of the Blue Poppy.' By F. Kingdon Ward. Cambridge: University Press. 1913. Pp. xii. and 283. *Maps and Illustrations*. 12s. net.

The borderland of Western China and Eastern Tibet is one of the most interesting parts of Asia. For a long time entry into Tibet from this direction was closed by the hostility and exclusiveness of the lama rulers of the country, who not unnaturally resented intrusion by Europeans, and even by Chinese, fearing that any influence from outside might threaten their own power.

This state of things has been considerably modified by the result of the Tibetan rebellion of 1905. In this rising both Chinese officials and French missionaries were killed, and the Chinese Government, awaking to the seriousness of the outbreak, sent an army to put it down. There was much severe fighting, for the Tibetan, though ignorant of the art of war, has plenty of courage. In the end the better organization of the Chinese prevailed, large numbers of the lamas were killed, and many monasteries destroyed. For the present, at all

events, the traveller finds Chinese garrisons established where Tibetans were formerly supreme.

Happily for geographical science, several travellers have taken advantage of this extension of Chinese rule to add to our knowledge of these regions. Captain Bailey has recently passed through this part of Tibet to Assam—the first European to accomplish this feat, for Prince H. d'Orléans and Mr. E. C. Young both took more southerly routes without touching Tibetan territory. M. Bacot and other French travellers have also contributed to our knowledge of this country, and now Mr. Kingdon Ward has given an account of his journeys on this frontier during a period extending from April to December, 1911. The result is a very interesting and readable book, which adds considerably to our previous information.

The author has a great gift for describing scenery—a fortunate circumstance for a traveller in such a magnificent country. In the six months that he spent in his botanical researches he was able to see a good deal of hitherto undescribed country, and his observations on the forests, the geographical features, and the climate of this region are both interesting and valuable. His sympathetic descriptions of the tribes he met with also add to our knowledge, especially as to their home life and customs. In one instance Mr. Ward is at variance with Prince H. d'Orléans, the only previous authority on a tribe called Lama,* whom Prince Henri considers very closely allied—at all events, in language—to the Min-chia. The emphatic denial of this connection by the tribesmen themselves does not really preclude the possibility of their common origin, and Mr. Ward seems to have overlooked the fact that Pe-tzü is merely the name applied to the tribe whom the Chinese call Min-chia.

One cannot help regretting that the author was not accompanied by a companion with a plane-table, who might have filled up many of the blank spaces on the map; but Mr. Ward is a botanist, and at the time of this journey had not qualified himself as a surveyor, so that we must be thankful to him for having spared time to make rough sketches, which will certainly be of use. The spelling of Chinese names does not seem to be the author's strong point. Wade's system is doubtless not perfect, but it is now so generally adopted by English travellers that it seems a pity not to adhere to it for Chinese names. It cannot, of course, be necessarily used for Tibetan or tribal names.

The author's photographs are excellent, and well illustrate both the country and its inhabitants. Those who have already travelled on this borderland will sympathize with Mr. Ward in his desire (since gratified) to return there, and those who have never visited it may well be tempted by the author's admirable descriptions and photographs to undertake the journey. H. R. F.

AFRICA.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

A British Borderland: Service and Sport in Equatoria.' By Captain H. A. Wilson. London: John Murray. 1913. *Illustrations and Sketch-map.* 12s. net.

Captain Wilson spent the period 1902–1906 in British East Africa and Uganda, serving part of that time on the Anglo-German Boundary commission. He has considerable literary gifts, and his descriptions of the country bring before us definite pictures not likely to fade quickly from memory. The flavour of the book is of the past, for in East Africa there have been considerable changes since

* Not to be confused with the word meaning a Tibetan Buddhist monk.