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### Obituary

A.C. Yate

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## OBITUARY

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR HENRY TROTTER, R.E. (Retired),  
K.C.M.G., C.B.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR HENRY TROTTER, who died at Lucas Green Manor, Chobham, on September 25, 1919, after a prolonged illness which, keenly as it was felt, was as patiently borne, served his country in many capacities, military and civil, for a period of forty-six years—from 1860 to 1906; and, during the last twelve years of his active life (1907 to 1918) was a steadfast supporter of and worker for the Central Asian Society. For some ten years he was a Member of Council, and well merited the chairmanship which he held from 1917 to 1918, and which fittingly crowned his services to the Society.

Lieutenant H. Trotter (R.E., Bengal) left Addiscombe in 1860 for India, and in 1863 joined the Trigonometrical Survey of that Empire. With it he continued to serve till 1875, his two last years being put in with Sir Douglas Forsyth in his mission to Yarkand and Kashgar (*vide* "Autobiography and Reminiscences of Sir Douglas Forsyth," by his daughter, Richard Bentley, 1887). It was while on this mission that Sir Henry shot the first *Ovis Poli* known to have been shot by a European, and acquired the knowledge which enabled him to inaugurate his chairmanship of this Society with a lecture entitled, "The Amir Yakub Khan and Eastern Turkistan in Mid-Nineteenth Century." Yakub Khan is now almost forgotten, but in the seventies of the last century he was a notable figure, and our Indian Government thought it politic to send a special mission to Kashgar to, if possible, gain Yakub Khan's ear before our dangerous Muscovite rivals in Central Asia had done so. From that employ Captain Trotter passed in 1876 to special service in China, and thence to act as Assistant Military Attaché at Constantinople during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. In that capacity he accompanied the Turkish armies throughout the campaign in Asia Minor, and, among other things, witnessed the capture by the Russians and return by them to the Turks in 1878 of Erzeroum, a town which the Russians captured for the third time during the late war, and which again has slipped through their fingers. Many members of the Society will remember Sir Henry's confident prediction that Erzeroum could not be taken in winter, and his good-humoured admission a few weeks later that he would have done better to resist the temptation to prophesy.

The years of 1878 to 1894 saw him employed, first for four years in Kurdistan—which recently has acquired a sickening notoriety for the murder of British officers—then at Scio, then for seven years as Military Attaché at Constantinople, and finally (1890-94) as Consul-General in Syria. During his last twelve years of official work (1894-1906) he was British Delegate on the European Commission of the Danube and H.B.M. Consul-General for Roumania. During that period he frequently acted as H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest. He was in his earlier days a keen sportsman and one of the few who, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, had shot a lion in Gujerat. It is to be regretted that the railway strike prevented the corps of Royal Engineers from paying to him those honours at his funeral which it was their wish to pay.

I cannot do better than conclude this with a quotation from the tribute paid to Sir Henry in *The Times* of October 4 last by the Rev. H. P. Cronshaw, Rector of St. James', Piccadilly:

“Settling in London after his retirement, he served on numerous councils, including those of the Royal Geographical, Central Asian, and Royal Asiatic Societies, the Palestine Exploration Fund, and the S.P.G., while his experience and help were at the disposal of many charities. In spite of advancing years, he took an active interest in many war organizations, and was consulted by the Government on questions of Eastern policy; and having been spared to witness the triumph in the late war of the country he had served so well, he passed away very peacefully. He is mourned, not only as a soldier, diplomatist, and scientific explorer, but as the embodiment of all that is typical and best in the English character, and as a pattern of valiant and true knighthood. Courteous and sympathetic, with a delightful sense of humour, he was universally loved and respected by numerous colleagues and friends, and for them his simple, upright character will remain an inspiration and an ideal.”

A. C. YATE.