

The Visit to the Ancient Cities of Turkistan Buried Under Sand*

Tevfik Orçun Özgün**

Abstract

In a period when cultural background and geographical characteristics of ancient Turkestan cities became a field of interest for the British, Douglas Forsyth and his team's journey to the East Turkestan in 1873, aside from its diplomatic and economic purpose, brought efforts to understand and explore Central Asia and East Turkestan more comprehensively. Thus, this visit was turned into a pursuit of cultural traces with the thought of old settlements buried under the sand with a mythical reputation and their sacred treasures. Relationship between the Yakub Beg, ruler of the East Turkestan, and British-Kashgar Khanate was lacking mutual trust during the period of the visit. Despite the inconvenient conditions, treasures and cultural traces gathered thanks to those expeditions carried out in Hotan and its vicinity, increased the academic interest towards the region.

Keywords

Kashgar Khanate, Douglas Forsyth, ancient cities, East Turkestan, expedition.

* Date of Arrival: 28 July 2020 – Date of Acceptance: 05 October 2020

You can refer to this article as follows:

Özgün, Tevfik Orçun. "The Visit to the Ancient Cities of Turkistan Buried Under Sand." *bilig*, no. 98, 2021, pp. 147-163.

** Dr., Hacettepe University, Institute of Turkish Studies – Ankara/Turkey

ORCID: 0000-0003-3796-6098

ozgun@hacettepe.edu.tr

Introduction

British visits to Central Asia since 1868 and geographical and commercial expeditions of George Hayward and Bernard Shaw were accelerated with the influence of liberal movement. Following these visits, Douglas Forsyth travelled to Yarkant (Yarkand, Yarkund) and Kashgar in 1871 and 1873 accompanied by various experts with diplomatic backgrounds from India. These travels were carried out for various purposes such as to inspect suitability of Central Asia market for British products, sign commercial agreements and look for available caravan routes. In addition to geographical exploration and trade route searching purposes of these visits, they were also aimed to gather information regarding language, culture and military of the region¹. Journals in which lives of Central Asian Turks were reported day by day, were published right after those visits and offers an insight for not only political history of its period but also enlightens their cultural treasures.

Forsyth carried out an expedition in Yarkant with a large group in 1873 and his visit to Hotan's vicinity with mere cultural curiosity and explorers there were guided to this area by him, ensured an encounter with rich historical, archeological and geographical mysteries even though the visit was far away from its original purpose. It can't be said that there had been many excavation or exploration projects that could be used as reference in Hotan's vicinity before Douglas Forsyth, however, many European States competed against each other in searching for treasures and archeological artifacts through the region after Forsyth. Archeologists, Albert von Le Coq and Albert Grünwedel together with Sven Hedin and Aurel Stein, continued those excavations by extending their scope. Travels of Forsyth and expeditions of experts in his team that he assigned later in Hotan and its vicinity, are very important. Knowing Persian and having the knowledge regarding the history and chronology of the expeditions in Central Asia and accessing to local resources, Douglas Forsyth followed the traces of compressed tea bricks that he encountered in a local market during his travel in Yarkant. He planned expeditions in Hotan and its vicinity that remnants of ancient civilizations were located in and presented his works titled as "On the Buried Cities in the Shifting Sands of the Great Desert of Gobi" to The Royal Geographical Society. His report was published in the Journal of The Royal Geographical Society and also included in his

reminiscence that was published by his daughter Ethel Forsyth in 1887 and as a special part of his expedition, his report is very valuable and intriguing for us. Common stories referring to legends in the region and tales about treasures being protected by mystical forces were also included in the report, and this shows us the versatile cultural background of Forsyth.

In this study, Forsyth's exploration and findings in Hotan during his travels to Central Asia will be referred first time based on reports of this administrator and diplomat and his team that haven't taken place in our history literature comprehensively before. Cities mentioned in this article and buried places don't share a connection with the ancient cities which was discussed and examined in Zeki Velidi Togan's *On Yedi Kumaltı Şehri ve Sadri Maksudi Bey*.

Douglas Forsyth's Interest in East Turkestan

Douglas Forsyth had a successful education in East India Company's College until 1847 where he learned Persian. It can be said that Forsyth grew up as a diplomat and versatile intellectual with curiosity about archeology. He was a member of a liberal group that advocated for the idea of searching new and wider markets for British products by a trade network to be established, developed in the future, connecting Northern India, Central Asia and Russia² and Forsyth gained support of Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India in this matter. Purpose of his diplomatic visit to Petersburg in 1867 was to especially notify the Russia of the borders of Northern lands of India (Forsyth 43-53). Thus, first steps for developing political and commercial relations were taken. It is remarkable that he recognized local community and boundaries of political domination during his expedition task that were given in 1870 for the relations between Central Asian and British that was planned to be developed when Yakub Beg took control of the East Turkestan.

Believing that Kashgar Khanate would be a new market for British products and presenting it to his superiors with his reports titled as "Yarkund Mission" in 1871, Forsyth was assigned to travel to East Turkestan again in 1873. His main mission was to develop diplomatic relations and make an official agreement to increase trade. Moreover, the other purpose of the expedition committee was to carry out geographic explorations (Rawlinson 414 - 415). However, his growing interest in Hotan and its vicinity was

merely personal. He wasn't assigned to carry out archeological research or examine cultural remnants, however, it is correct to say that he was under the influence of his observations during his first East Turkestan expedition. In his 1873 expedition, he pursued those cultural explorations that he was particularly interested in.

It can be said that his precedent information and curiosity for exploration were in accordance with his knowledge regarding Central Asia. His curiosity wasn't based on groundless excitement. Scientific researches regarding Central Asia at the beginning of 19th century, were known and followed in Britain. Forsyth examined Marco Polo and had an interest in events mentioned in *Tarikh-i Rashidi* of Mirza Haidar Dughlat thanks to his Persian. Forsyth also followed *Histoire de la ville de Khotan* (Paris, 1820) of Abel Remusat and *Memoires Relatifs a l'Asie* (Paris, 1824-1828) of Julius Klaproth which prepared the scientific grounds for Asia researches. Reports of Russian explorers Chokan Valikhanov and Nikolay Przhevalsky got Forsyth interested in prehistoric remnants of Buddhism in Tarim Basin and he referred to their works³. Moreover, Forsyth also had a close relationship with Colonel Yule who had works on history and geography of East Turkestan and Central Asia in Middle Age. Forsyth used and praised the works of Yule titled as *Cathay and the Way Thither* (1866) and *The Book of Marco Polo* (1871) (Forsyth 27-28). In addition, it was reported that William Johnson had carried out an expedition in Hotan and its vicinity in 1865 and visited an ancient city that was not further from Keriya and Hotan, which was buried under the sand for centuries and, gold and silver ornaments, tea bricks were excavated in there⁴. Reports about those events, mystery of ever-shifting desert sands and buried ancient settlements and their treasures caused Forsyth to grow a bigger interest towards the region.

The Expedition to Ancient Cities

British explorers had visited Hotan and its vicinity before Forsyth, but none of those visits were particularly focused on archaeological purposes. Hotan is referred as the name of a country or sometimes a region and Ilchi is accepted as its capital. Forsyth used Ilchi as the capital of Hotan and Kingdom of Khotan was referred in his works from history books (Forsyth 38, Johnson 1-2, Rawlinson 6-8). Johnson who was used as a reference by Forsyth (27), reported abundance of gold and silver mines and ever-shifting

sands around the mines during his expedition in Ilchi, capital of Hotan. This region consists of ancient cities buried under the shifting sands coming from the Taklamakan Desert which is 6 miles away from the northeast of the Ilchi. Moreover, Forsyth even reported that he heard nearly 360 cities were buried under the sand just in one day. Forsyth reported that “tea” which was probably a tea brick, was excavated in a buried city and took one of them as a sample. He also mentioned about a treasure of golden coins weighing around 4 lbs (nearly 1,8 kg) but stated that exact locations of the cities were kept secret and known only by few people and it was forbidden to talk about them. He tried to acquire golden coins or an artifact but he was told that he couldn’t get them in Ilchi and Yarkant and was advised to go to Kashgar for that purpose. In addition, he reported that those cities were relatively new as they were built again after being buried under the sand. Even though he tried every method to find artifacts there, he couldn’t find any but said that there could be artifacts in Kashgar. He located that buried cities were one mile away from Urangkash (Johnson 5-6). Thus, when we check the expedition route of the Forsyth according to the map of Johnson that was published in 1867, we can see that Urangkash (Yurung-kash) is located just in the South of Ilchi (Hotan) and Dul, Chira and Keriya (Kiria) is located in the East and Polu is located in the South of the Keriya River. According to the published map of Johnson, these settlements were located in the border of the Taklamakan Desert (Johnson not numbered).

Forsyth tried to trace of those remnants when he started following the tea bricks. Learning about those artifacts from Johnson in 1865 or 1866 and accompanying Forsyth in his two East Turkestan expeditions, the Sikh merchant Tara Chund told that those artifacts could be found in Yarkant market. With this information and curiosity, he returned to India and during his second visit to Yarkant in 1873, he encountered with old, musty and black tea bricks in the local market. He got tea bricks confirmed that they were brought from Hotan and added that place to his expedition list. When he was staying as guest in Yungi Hissar in Yarkant, he travelled by horse and was informed that there was an ancient city buried under the sand in the Great Desert that was a 2-day horse ride⁵. When we went from Yarkant to Kashgar, he asked for permission to visit Hotan but he was only allowed to visit Kum Shedan or Ourdum Padshah (Forsyth 28-30).

The cortege of Douglas Forsyth's second expedition was very crowded. T.E. Gordon, Captain Biddulph, H.W. Bellew, Captain Chapman, Dr. Stoliczka and Captain Henry Trotter attended to the expedition. As a historian and a doctor, Dr. Bellew was especially important for the cortege. He had a book in which he compiled history books regarding Kashgar history, Hotan and East Turkestan⁶. While some people from the expedition group stayed in Yungi Hissar, Forsyth, Gordon and Bellew had a chance to visit Ourdum Padshah.

Forsyth tried to carry out those visits together with Dr. Bellew. Forsyth reported that after their 3-hour travel through fertile lands of a green village to the Northeast, they entered into a branch of the Great Desert (Gobi Desert), but that region was Taklamakan Desert. Although it can be said that they thought Taklamakan Desert as an extension of Gobi Desert, it's also more likely that this was a naming error. Following their route, they arrived to the tomb of Begum Hazrat as mentioned in the *Tarikh-i Rashidi* of Mirza Haidar. They reported that well waters so far were all very sour (alkaline). They stated that responsible of the tomb, Sheikh Maqsud was very hospitable towards them. It is very interesting that Maqsud said that he never went abroad of his village and drank freshwater and would never drink it. They were informed by Maqsud that there was a sand-buried city or a castle which belonged to the Uyghur chief named Tokta Rashid but demolished by Arslan Khan centuries ago. They began digging with pickaxe and shovel immediately and found broken ceramic pieces, copper, broken green glass pieces, ceramic glaze and two coins. They weren't able to exactly identify the era that coins belonged to. Although they knew glass arts were popular in the region, glass pieces were one of the things that Bellew and Forsyth particularly focused on and made their expedition interesting (Bellew 366-367).

Then, they set off to East towards Ourdum Padshah. Well waters in their route were so sour that even the animals couldn't drink them. Sands in their route to the North resembled an ocean. While height of dunes were 10-20 feet, some dunes were reaching up to 100 feet like a mountain range. They examined a tomb, grave an abandoned area that was buried under sand. They also examine how dunes moved and got affected by winds and other formations that affected each other. They tried to understand how

shifting dunes caused collapse and collapses occurred gradually. Forsyth claimed that continuous winds blowing from North and Northwest towards dunes in every spring were the reason of those collapses. He reported that dunes moved because winds shifted loose sand grains forward. Thus, the least resistant grains moved forward as in the shape of long horns. He also mentioned that grains in the middle shifted over each other to forward and created a shore with a high curve. Forsyth thought that dunes moved gradually and symmetrically as a result of that formation continuing for a long time. He believed that it was impossible to determine the speed of this shifting movement and it was determined by the variables such as elevation of the sand and wind force. In addition, he stated that this shifting formation was the reason of Lop and Katak cities and their area to get crushed under sand flood. He also tried to explain how that gradual sinking period occurred by descriptions of the houses that he observed in Ourdum Padshah (Forsyth 32-33, Bellew 368).

If he had got allowed to visit Hotan following those observations, he would go the region and visit ancient cities that were buried under the sand. However, he was able to send someone (that he didn't mention their name) accompanied by his trusted men to the region. That person was from local people of India, well-educated and referred as pundit and also helped Forsyth during his Yarkant and Kashgar expeditions⁷. Forsyth described this traveler as "a chief that knew the routes and advised us". With the help of this description, it is possible to think that traveler could be one of the chief pundits named Kishen Singh that helped Forsyth in his expedition. It's known that Kishen Singh visited ancient cities of Hotan across the Southern border of Taklamakan Desert (Mason 436, Trotter 73). Kishen Singh said that he was assigned to go to Hotan but Forsyth didn't mention any name in his report. His research was mainly focused on roads and routes from Hotan to India and determining and confirming mathematical locations of them and later searched for information regarding cities buried under sand. Having considering that one of the purposes of Forsyth was to prepare a report on those routes, it can be said that traveler didn't drift away from the main mission. However, Forsyth reported that it wasn't sufficient (Forsyth 34).

Moreover, a pundit whose name wasn't mentioned in the report by Forsyth but we think that is the same person, found a Buddha emblem and a clay

figure of divine monkey god Hanuman in a buried city near Keriya and returned to Forsyth with those two artifacts. Even though Forsyth didn't find the results of his expedition sufficient, the pundit completed the duty. Forsyth stated that it was a lucky incident that those artifacts were founded unharmed as he knew the devastating effect of Islam religion on divine figures of Buddhism. Considering that Kishen Singh could enter cities of Keriya, Polu and Ghumbolik after Hotan in way back to Yarkant, it can be assumed that those artifacts were founded by Kishen Singh or another Indian servant that helped him (Trotter 100-102).

Another pundit that was assigned by Forsyth to visit Hotan, was Ram Chund (referred as Ramchand in other records). Ram Chund was assigned in the service of Captain Chapman. Ram Chund also returned back with precious treasures. There were golden rings and nose rings that are still worn by Hindu women and golden coins. Coins belong to Hermaeus, Constans II, last Greek king of Bactrian, Pogonatus, Justinus, Antimachus and Theodosius were priceless acquisitions of this expedition. In addition to those coins, Ram Chund also came back with valuable new information. Until Ram Chund's expedition, ancient cities were known to be located in walking distance of Eastern Hotan. However, new ruins were discovered in 4 miles away from Northeast of Ilchi. According to the information given by Ram Chund, when watering their land, someone noticed that water was completely absorbed and disappeared at one point and dug that spot and found a golden ornament depicting a cow figure. When Governor of Hotan was informed about this incident, it was immediately ordered to dig that spot and many large amounts of ornaments and coins were found. It was reported that Ram Chund was in the region in April 1874 and according to Ram Chund, nearly 16 lbs (7,2kg) of golden ornament was found. There was a seal on the top of this small vase-like treasure and according to the local rumors that seal was the necklace of the Great Afrasiab and believed to be a part of the legendary treasure. According to Forsyth, Afrasiab in Central Asia legends was much like King Arthur in British legends, attributions weren't describing real events and were exaggeration (Forsyth 38, Trotter 153-155). According to Aurel Stein, Ram Chund didn't see the digging site of the treasures. Believing that some of the rumors in the local market were exaggeration, Aurel Stein thought that the golden cow figure which was found, was actually confirming existence of treasures in Yotkan region. It

can be said that Stein accepted this discovery regarding the ancient history of Hotan as reference (Stein 192-193). These treasures are often mentioned referring to that period but locations of Buddha and Hanuman figures are unknown.

The only surviving coin sample from that treasure is a copper alloy coin that is preserved under the OR. 7240 collection number in British Museum. The coin belongs to Sino-Kharosthi writing era and exact transcription of the writing on it is yet to be understood⁸. Information given in the article of Percy Garner and co-writer H.H. Howorth regarding the writing on the coins found by Douglas Forsyth, makes it possible to have a more detailed understanding. However, that article only includes pictures of copper and iron coins of Hermaeus. According to Gardner, silver coins that belongs to Antimachus and Menander are in good form and have the same minting method as the coins found in Kabul. Golden Byzantium coin resembles the similar coins copied by barbarians. Being different from the originals in terms of value and weight, these coins were not standardized. However, Gardner believed that those coins were found in Kashgar route or during that expedition. Gardner also stated that those coins were the proof that the region wasn't affected by Greek influence until the era of Indo-Scythian that invaded India (Gardner and Howorth 277).



Copper Coin, British Museum
OR.7240

Copper and iron coins (Gardner and
Howorth 276).

Image 1. *Coins of Hermaeus*

Forsyth, stated that information they have gathered from the local people was later confirmed by Seyyid Yakub Khan in their Kashgar expedition. He also mentioned that a ruined city named Tukht-i Turan was located on a rocky hill near Kuchar city. He reported that remnants were made up of a unique-looking dark yellow soil in the hill and many caves were dug for settlement. Forsyth emphasized on the rumor that the city had existed before first Chinese invasion and was burned into destruction as its ruler

didn't accept Islam religion. He also mentioned about a big icon made by carving 16 or 60 miles of rock in North of Kuchar but it is understood that he never went there to see it. He stated that the icon was described as 40-50 feet tall, had 10 heads and 70 hands and a long tongue coming out of its mouth. Climbing the mountain behind the icon was very challenging. Although there were many animals for hunting, it was forbidden to hunt as they were under preservation. He was informed that there were interesting remnants in this region which wasn't very far away from Mural Bashi. There were only walls made up of sun-dried bricks and holes of girders standing in Kohna Shahr or old city which was destroyed centuries ago and is located not so far away from today's Kashgar city.

When Forsyth visited the tomb of Hussan Bughra Khan in Yanghisa, he read on his epitaph that Bughra Khan captured the castle by defeating the army of heretic King of Hotan and thus reached the martyrdom. When he searched for this castle, he wrote that wooden crafting and doormat under the soil crafting of eaves were still visible. But this castle should have been disappeared 800 years before comparing the date of the tomb. The sands that destruct many places before, didn't destroy that castle in the same way. It caused to Forsyth to question how did those brick walls and other remnants that stand still under the extreme hot weather and were affected by destructive sand and tried to find answers to the question that where the sand came from.

The Source of the Sand

One of the questions that Forsyth tried to answer was where and how this sand came from and covered the ancient cities. At first, based on his observations and information from the local people, he thought that sand was moving from Northwest to Southeast. If he had mentioned the location of a country in the East of Gobi Desert, this would be a very easy question to answer. However, he realized that the incident was more interesting, considering that the region was in the West and far away from the desert. He thought that sand could be coming from Tian Shan Range. He claimed that sand could be moving from a great desert located on the Tian Shan Mountains in Siberia by emphasizing the idea that sand could come from a gap between the mountain range. The other claim was that sand was elevated and carried away by an air flow in Kashgar Basin from Gobi Desert. He later focused

on the idea that sand could be coming from a mountain pass in the border of the desert but then accepted that it was impossible. According to his observations, sand was always moving towards one direction by the air flow. Sand grains could fill up the atmosphere as dense as a London fog. Being considered how thin they are, without a doubt. These sands were elevated by the winds flowing from the outskirts of mountains and fell over the region like a fog but as they were too thin to burry homes and temples. The claim that the sand was coming from a desert in Russia was also baseless. Forsyth thought that these sands elevated by air flow should travel across Issyk-Kul, other lakes and ponds and fertile lands which was not quite possible. Indeed, sands should have been elevated into air until passing the divine Alai or Tian Shan and hang in the air. Then, sands should be burned in Gobi Desert and fell over the region. Third theory emphasized on a circular air flow which was more probable according to him. Forsyth observed that formation in as small scale in a high plateau. He made observations in a vast plain which was once a bed of a dried lake surrounded by lime or alkaline hills starting from Chang-Chenmo Valley to the Karakash River. While he was camping on a valley that was 5 miles away from that plain, he saw a dense white fog cloud rising from the plain during an afternoon. However, that was a local dust storm and didn't spread or expand, on the contrary, it was vanished when they passed the plain in the next morning. However, a similar storm occurred in that afternoon and according to him, these types of storms happened every day except winter. He focused on the idea that this formation that occurred in the small scale there, happened in a broader scale in Gobi Desert continuously (Forsyth 40).

Focusing on the Gobi Desert, these theories are perceived as irrational. However, name of Taklamakan Desert was never used in reports of British travelers of that period and probably unknown or it may be more possible that Gobi Desert or Great Desert was used to refer both Taklamakan Desert and Gobi Desert (Hopkirk 27-28). However, it must be said that Taklamakan Desert's location in maps of Johnson and Forsyth is correct because maps in the reports later published as book, were drawn and published by Royal Geographical Society in accordance with observations of Johnson and Forsyth. From this standing point, it can be said that the theory advocated by Forsyth is ambiguous.

Evaluation and Conclusion

Douglas Forsyth and his team's expedition in Yarkant and Kashgar also had a diplomatic purpose and a commercial interest. Contributions of people with versatile historical backgrounds such as Dr. Bellew deepened the examination and research processes and search for cultural and historical findings was very remarkable. Research of cultural and historical findings led by Forsyth was very important during that period. Although there were few areas that were not examined by Forsyth, Aurel Stein indicated those areas and presented the works brought into the surface and tried to complete the earlier expedition efforts. Findings of Forsyth and his team are very essential in reporting the historical process of excavation works in the region. In addition, these works are accepted as premise for the works of British regarding the Central Asia archeology.

As this expedition was carried out in the last quarter of 19th century before the developments that caused suspension of British efforts regarding political and commercial approach in East Turkestan, it can be said that it was the most comprehensive and detailed expedition movement. However, the expedition received negative criticism from British authorities. Considering that his predecessors were killed, expedition team was not allowed to visit Turkish cities and it was obligated for them to stay in the same house, it made it clear that British influence over East Turkestan would not be developed as easily as expected. Therefore, British explorers were not able to carry out planned expeditions on remnants due to lack of permits or safety reasons. Cultural expeditions in Hotan and its vicinity also received negative criticism as like Forsyth expedition in Turkestan in general. Forsyth emphasized on the unfairness of the comments made at the end of the research and stated in a chapter of a compiled report and rejected the comments that his works were unsuccessful. This chapter or report has not been produced as a defense however, it indirectly states that the resources used in this expedition is not for a vain purpose.

As Forsyth and his team used the opportunity for gathering geographical, cultural and academic information during the period when China's influence in East Turkestan varied down, their works opened the ground for similar efforts in the field in 20th century.

Notes

- 1 Yarkant language study of Shaw whose second expedition was led by Forsyth, is a remarkable example of these efforts.
- 2 For further information on this matter and Forsyth's reports and letters written in 1866 and 1867 on importance of trade in Central Asia and presented to Indian Government, please check "Copies of a Note on Seistan by the Officiating Under Secretary at Fort William, dated the 20th day of December 1867 And, of Despatches and Memoranda or, Extracts from Despatches Memoranda which have been sent to the Government of India since 1866, by Mr. Forsyth, or other Officers On the Frontier, as to the Trade of India with Eastern Turkestan or the Countries between it and the Punjab", Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed, 31 July 1869, 1-60.
- 3 While expeditions in East Turkestan in between 1865 and 1876 were called "British period", the expeditions after 1876 were called "Russian period", with the increasing Russian expeditions in Central Asia and East Turkestan (M.V. Pevtsov 14, presented by Kolesnikov 10).
- 4 Being a soldier and an explorer, Johnson traveled in 1862 to research from the capital of Ladakh, Leh, to the border of China. He studied the Chang Chenmo valley and the plateau in the North, acquiring remarkable new geographical discoveries for those years. Although his visit to Hotan in 1865 without permission, was criticized by the Royal Geographical Society, it can be assumed that it was a premise for people like Forsyth. Considering that what Schlagintweit tried to accomplish for the Society in 1857, even though he was only a few miles away from the Southern of the city, he was not able to enter into the city and was killed due to this expedition, he was the first English to be able to advance on Leh Ilchi (Hotan) route which was the center of attention for the British, enter the city and return back. He was later awarded an honor medal by the Society and resulted in his appointment within the institution (Godwin-Austin 291-293).
- 5 It is the Gobi Desert that Forsyth wants to indicate with Great Desert and the same expression is used by Johnson too. However, the expedition direction is Taklamakan Desert. With the Taklamakan Desert (Gobi) expression of Johnson, we can understand the way that they express or know the geography.
- 6 For further information, please check: Bellew, Henry Walter. *The History of Kashgharia*. Foreign Department Press, 1875.

- 7 The term pundit is derived from the word pandit in Sanskrit, meaning a scholar, teacher and an expert on a specific subject. In addition to its connotations such as ruler, Indian travellers who accompany British explorers in their expeditions and have knowledge on the routes and guide them, are also called pundit. The discovery of Northern regions of India and expeditions there have been accompanied by pundits since the beginning of 19th century (Waller 25).
- 8 Although locations of other coins are unknown today, it is assumed that they can be in British Museum.

References

- Bellew, Henry Walter. *Kashmir and Kashghar: A Narrative of the Journey of the Embassy to Kashghar in 1873-74*. Trubner & Co., Ludgate Hill, 1875.
- Copies of a Note on Seistan by the Officiating Under Secretary at Fort William, dated the 20th day of December 1867 and of Despatches and Memoranda or, Extracts from Despatches Memoranda which have been sent to the Government of India since 1866, by Mr. Forsyth, or other Officers On the Frontier, as to the Trade of India with Eastern Turketan or the Countries between it and the Punjab*. 31 July 1869, pp. 1-60.
- Forsyth, Ethel, ed. *Autobiography and Reminiscences of Sir Douglas Forsyth*. Richard Bentley and Son Publishers in Ordinary Her Majesty Queen, 1887.
- Forsyth, Douglas T. "On the Buried Cities in the Shifting Sands of the Great Desert of Gobi." *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol. 21, no. 1, 1876 -1877, pp. 27-46.
- Garder, Percy, and Henry Hoyle Howarth. "Coins From Kashgar." *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society, New Series*, vol.19, 1879, pp. 274-281.
- Godwin-Austin, Henry Haversham. "Obituary: Mr. W. H. Johnson." *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society and Monthly Record of Geography*, vol. 5, no. 5, 1883, pp. 291-293.
- Hopkirk, Peter. *Foreign Devils on the Silk Road, The Search for the Lost Treasures of Central Asia*. John Murray Publishing, 1988.
- Johnson, William H. "Report on His Journey to Ilchi, The Capital of Khoten in Chinese Tartary by Mr. Civil-Assistant of W. H. Johnson, F.R.G.S., Great Trigonometric Survey of India." *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol. 37, 1867, pp. 1-50.
- Kolesnikov, Aleksandr. *Rus Seyyahların Gözüyle Kaşgar XIX. Yüzyılın İkinci Yarısı-XX. Yüzyılın Başı*. Çev. Rakhat Abdieva, Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 2010.

- Mason, Kenneth. "Kishen Singh and the Indian Explorers." *The Geographical Journal*, vol. 62, no. 6, 1923, pp. 429-440.
- Rawlinson, Henry Creswicke et al. "Extracts of Letters from Members of Mr. Forsyth's Mission to Kashgar Relating to the Geographical Results of the Mission." *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol.18, no. 4, 1873 -1874, pp. 414-444.
- Rawlinson, Henry Creswicke. "On the Recent Journey of Mr. W. H. Johnson from Leh, in Ladakh, to Ilchi in Chinese Turkistan." *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1866 -1867, pp. 6-15.
- Stein, M. Aurel. *Ancient Khotan: Detailed report of archaeological explorations in Chinese Turkestan*, Clarendon Press, 1907.
- Trotter, Henry. *Account of The Survey Operations in Connection With The Mission to Yarkand and Kashgar in 1873-74*. Foreign Department Press, 1875.
- Waller, Derek. *The Pundits, British Explorations of Tibet and Central Asia*. The University Press of Kentucky, 1988.
- British Museum. "Collection" https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/C_OR-7240 (retrieved: 24.05.2020).

Kum Altında Kalan Kadim Türkistan Şehirlerine Ziyaret*

Tevfik Orçun ÖZGÜN**

Öz

Kadim Türkistan şehirlerinin tarihsel süreçte sahip oldukları kültürel birikimin ve coğrafi karakterinin İngilizler tarafından ilgi nesnesi haline getirildiği bir dönemde Douglas Forsyth ve ekibinin 1873 yılında Doğu Türkistan'a gerçekleştirdiği seyahat, diplomatik ve ekonomik amacının dışında Orta Asya'yı ve Doğu Türkistan'ı daha kapsamlı tanıma ve inceleme çabalarını da beraberinde getirmiştir. Bu doğrultuda kum altında kalarak efsanevi bir şöhrete de bürünen eski yerleşimler ve bunlara dair saklı hazinelerin düşüncesi, bu seyahati kültürel izlerin takibine dönüştürmüştür. Seyahatin gerçekleştirildiği dönemde Doğu Türkistan'ın hakimi olan Yakup Bey ile geliştirilmeye çalışılan İngiliz Kaşgar Hanlığı münasebeti ise henüz karşılıklı güvenden yoksun vaziyettedir. Olumsuz şartlara rağmen Hoten ve çevresine yönelik gerçekleştirilen keşif gezileri sonucu elde edilen hazineler, kültürel izler bölgeye yönelik akademik ilginin artmasını sağlamıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Kaşgar Hanlığı, Douglas Forsyth, kadim şehirler, Doğu Türkistan, keşif gezisi.

* Geliş Tarihi: 28 Temmuz 2020 – Kabul Tarihi: 05 Ekim 2020

Bu makaleyi şu şekilde kaynak gösterebilirsiniz:

Özgün, Tevfik Orçun. "The Visit to the Ancient Cities of Türkistan Buried Under Sand." *bilig*, no. 98, 2021, pp. 147-163.

** Dr. Araş. Gör., Hacettepe Üniversitesi, Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü – Ankara/Türkiye
ORCID: 0000-0003-3796-6098
ozgun@hacettepe.edu.tr

Путешествие в погребенные под песками города древнего Туркестана*

Тевфик Орчун Озгюн**

Аннотация

В период, когда культурный фон и географические особенности древних туркестанских городов стали предметом интереса британцев, поездка Дугласа Форсайта и его команды в Восточный Туркестан в 1873 году, помимо дипломатической и экономической цели, способствовала более глубокому изучению и пониманию Центральной Азии и Восточного Туркестана. Таким образом, это путешествие превратилось в поиск культурных следов с фокусом на старых поселениях, похороненных под песком, с мифической репутацией и их священными сокровищами. В отношениях между правителем Восточного Туркестана Якуббеком и Кашгарским ханством в период данной поездки не было взаимного доверия. Несмотря на неудобные условия, сокровища и культурные ценности, собранные благодаря экспедициям, проведенным в Хотане и его окрестностях, повысили академический интерес к региону.

Ключевые слова

Кашгарское ханство, Дуглас Форсайт, древние города, Восточный Туркестан, экспедиция.

* Поступило в редакцию: 28 июля 2020 г. – Принято в номер: 05 октября 2020 г.
Ссылка на статью:

Özgün, Tefvik Orçun. "The Visit to the Ancient Cities of Turkistan Buried Under Sand." *bilig*, no. 98, 2021, pp. 147-163.

** Д-р, Университет Халджеттепе, Институт тюркологических исследований – Анкара / Турция
ORCID: 0000-0003-3796-6098
ozgun@hacettepe.edu.tr