Sven Hedin: Explorer and Collector
Håkan Wahlquist

Sven Hedin (1865–1952) spent almost twenty years of his life on Asian soil. Originally, he aspired to follow the path of other late nineteenth century Swedish explorers and engage in polar research. But an offer to serve as private teacher to the son of a man who worked in the naphtha fields of the Nobel family in Baku directed his attention to Asia. After completing his work he embarked on a ride through Persia, which taught him how to endure both physical and economic hardship en route.

The IDP Web Database Goes International

We are delighted to announce that the four Dunhuang manuscripts in the collection of the Chester Beatty Library (CBL), Dublin, Ireland, are now online on the IDP Interactive Web Database (search under specific search for "CBL") following a collaboration between the CBL and IDP. IDP would like to thank the CBL for their cooperation and preparing and loaning photographs of the manuscripts to make this possible.

Sponsors are sought to help fund other such collaborations (see p.7). Please contact IDP if you can help.
Hedin’s Persian exploits drew him further into Asia, acquainting him with its people and history. The book he wrote upon his return (Hedin 1887) set the tone for a string of travelogues, which were to make him into one of the best read explorers of his day. His prolific writing and extended lecture tours provided him with the financial means to maintain his family and also to finance future expeditions. He held no public or academic position.

Back in Sweden in the mid-1880s and lacking any formal training for future expeditions, Hedin studied geography, geology and palaeontology. His father was the Stockholm city architect and life in and around the family was rich and intensive. The family soon became centred on him. Only one sister married, the other siblings remained together for the rest of their lives and developed into a kind of secretariat for Hedin, serving him both in the field or at home. The private archives left behind by Sven Hedin testify to the exceptional position he was to occupy in Swedish public and learned life. He became a member of several academies, and few if any comparable persons have received so many international decorations and honours. Admittedly some of these were revoked when Sven Hedin entered the political arena advocating a pro-German stand, a political position that proved mistaken in both World Wars. Right up to his death Hedin remained loyal to these political and social ideas: vestiges of his nineteenth-century upbringing.

In the early 1890s Hedin was studying with Ferdinand von Richthofen in Berlin, the foremost China expert of his day. His teacher implored him to further his research before leaving for Asia, but Hedin settled for a minor study for his dissertation, so as to free him as soon as possible for a first expedition. Already in 1890–91 he made a reconnaissance expedition to Kashgar (Hedin 1892–3) and he felt ready to tackle the last blank areas on the Central Asian map. He knew that time was running out for clausal explorers.

Hedin’s Central Asian Expeditions

Hedin’s first expedition lasted four years — 1893–97. He mapped the Pamirs before turning to the desert of the Tarim Basin. He had read about recent archaeological discoveries in the area and was soon fed the same local stories as had been heard by travellers before him: ‘cities buried in the sands’. Hedin sought them out, less for archaeological reasons than because their discovery would help his studies of the changing landscape of the basin. In early 1895, this took him to Tünschuk/Maralbashi, but it was for Paul Pelliot in 1906 to reveal the importance of this discovery. In late 1895 and early 1896, Hedin travelled from Kashgar to Khotan. While in Kashgar he had been shown the Russian Consular General Petrovskij’s archaeological collection, and probably discussed antiquities with the British representative there, Mr. Macartney. On the way to Khotan he noted several sites, rummating on the earthenware shards and glass fragments. Once in Khotan, he visited Yotkan and acquired an archaeological collection of well over 500 objects — including some manuscripts (Hedin 1898: 78–100; Montell 1936 & 1938) — from various sources. After hardly a week, he left again for the desert. Between Khotan darya and Kerila darya he discovered the ruined settlement that Aurel Stein was to identify in 1900 as Dandan Uliqi. Hedin acquired several objects from this site. Following the Kerila darya northwards he learned about more ruins and soon after pinpointed Kara Dung on his maps, but made no collections from this site. The rest of Hedin’s first expedition was devoted to his primary objectives — to map and explore unknown areas of Northern Tibet.

Hedin’s second expedition (1899–1902) was again devoted to the Tarim basin. He mapped the Tarin River in minute detail and expended great efforts into unravelling its lower courses and the position of the enigmatic Lop Nor. These stages of the expedition took him in January 1900 to Endere (Hedin 1903. Vol. I: 338 ff; 1904: 376 ff). Following Cherchen darya he encountered amazingly well preserved mummies of apparently Indo-European origin. Of greater importance, however, was the discovery his servant Ördeki made on 28 March 1900, when he stumbled upon ruins of an old settlement in the then dried up terminal areas of Kötje darya (Hedin 1903 Vol. I: 427 ff; 1905: 620 ff). One year later Hedin returned spending a week exploring what was to be identified as Loulan (Hedin 1903 Vol. II: 102 ff; 1905: 620 ff). He acquired a sample of objects (Bergman 1935), and an important collection of wooden and paper documents in Chinese (Conрад 1920). The rest of the second expedition was devoted to an aborted attempt to reach Lhasa and a final crossing and mapping of the Tibetan high plateau.

Hedin’s third expedition (1905–1908) was devoted to work in Persia and Tibet, devoid of any archaeological content. Hedin then spent almost twenty years writing a series of books, venturing further into politics, acting as a quasi-reporter at the battlefronts of the Great War, travelling the Middle East, recording the results of his great Persian and Tibetan expedition (Hedin 1918–27, 1916–22) and eventually preparing for his final expedition.

His fourth and final expedition lasted eight years (1927–35). It was actually a succession of expeditions, with different sponsors, participants and programmes. It covered Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Northern Tibet. This time Hedin headed various constellations of young scholars from a number of countries. The aims of the expedition were first and foremost within the fields of geo- and related sciences, but Hedin also took ethnographers and archaeologists with him. The archaeological projects were designed together with John Gunnar Andersson, the Swedish geologist turned archaeologist, who had had such profound impact on developing Chinese archaeology. The young Swede Folke Bergman served as Hedin’s main archaeologist (Bergman 1945), together with Huang Wenbi, and this turned Bergman into an accomplished field archaeologist. He devoted much time to Neolithic traces in Inner Mongolia (Maringer 1950), but his major contributions were made in the Essina region, which he carefully surveyed and mapped (Sommarström 1956 & 1958; Sylvan 1949), and the archaeologically intriguing area of the lower Kötje darya (Bergman 1939; Sylvan 1941, 1949). Bergman made substantial archaeological collections, which were taken to Sweden for analysis. In accordance with the agreement that Sven Hedin had negotiated with the Chinese authorities, the collections were repatriated in the early 1950s, and are now to be found in the History Museum, Beijing. Only minor parts were allowed to remain in Sweden. The fabulous find of Han-dynasty wooden slips from Essina remained in China for analysis, but they are now in Taiwan. The Stockholm holdings of Central Asian manuscripts were augmented by acquisitions of materials in Saka, Tibetan, Old Turkic and Xixia made by other members of the expedition. Folke Bergman died prematurely in 1946 putting an end to direct Swedish contacts with Chinese archaeology. Fortunately he had finished cataloguing and analysing his material, enabling other scholars to publish most of his material.
波斯之旅促使斯文赫定的興趣轉向亞洲的民族文化和回國之後以旅行報告，文獻撰寫的《波斯、美索不達米亞、高加索遊記》，使其成為當時最受歡迎的探險作家。他豐富的著作、回憶和講演所獲得的收入除維持家庭生活之外，還用作將來探險的費用。他一生從未擔任任何公職，也沒有在大學任教。

斯文赫定在十九世紀八十年代中期仍然缺乏將來探險事業所需的正規訓練。回到瑞典，他開始鑽研地理學、歷史學和人類學，他的父親是斯德哥爾摩的建築師，頗享盛譽，家族富裕和睦。不久他成為家庭的核心。他只有一個姐姐結婚，其余的兄弟姊妹一直生活在一個大家庭中。家庭好像是斯文赫定的秘密處，無論他在國內或國外，時刻為他提供服務，斯文赫定留下的私人檔案證明他在瑞典公眾和學術界所佔的特殊地位。斯文赫定成為很多學者的興奮點，他所獲得的勳章與榮譽無人與其比肩，當斯文赫定涉入政治舞台，在兩次世界大戰中錯誤地與德國站在一起，許多國際勳章和榮譽因而被取消。直到去世，斯文赫定的政治思想、社會觀念仍停留在 19 世紀。

十九世紀九十年代初，斯文赫定在柏林師從當時著名漢學家李希霍芬（Ferdinand von Richthofen，李希霍芬，希望他到亞洲探險之前能繼續深造，然而斯文赫定卻無心于此，而將大部分精力用於籌備第一次探險。1890-91 年，斯文赫定曾去到喀什探險考察（Hedin, 1892-93），成立探查中亞地圖上的空白點。他意識到傳統的探險時代已經終結。

斯文赫定首次探險持續四年，1893-1897。他繪製帕米爾的地形圖之後，踏進“死亡之海”塔拉克馬沙漠。此前他讀過這一地區的最新考古發現，以及在之前旅行者所聽到的有關沙漠埋沒城市的傳說。斯文赫定探查的重點是為研究塔里木盆地的地形變補充資料，而不是考古發現。1895 年 2 月，他到達圖木舒克，瑪爾巴什，後來伯希和在 1906 年揭示其重大意義。1895 年 12 月—1896 年 1 月，斯文赫定從喀什到達和闐。在喀什期間他曾參觀俄國總領事彼得羅夫斯基收集的文物，可能與英國總領事馬禮遜討論過文物。在前往和闐的途中，他記錄幾處遺址，並對陶器碎片和玻璃碎片進行了考察。在和闐，他考察了約特干，從不同渠道獲得 500 多件文物，其中包括一些-live (Hedin, 1898: 78-100; Monteil, 1936: 1938)。在和闐停留將近一個星期之後，斯文赫定又踏上“死亡之海”。在和闐河和克里雅河之間，他發現古代遺址，1900 年斯坦因確認為丹丹烏里克。斯文赫定從這處遺址帶走很多標本物，沿著克里雅河北行，他發現很多遺址，1896 年 2 月上旬，他在地圖上準確地標定哈拉墩。他沒有從這處遺址獲得任何可收集品。首次探險的其他時間則致力於其最初目標——探查西藏北部“未知”區域並繪製地圖。


斯文赫定的第四次探險，也是最後一次探險，持續八年（1927—1935）。這是一次非常成功的探險。考察區域覆蓋內蒙古、新疆及西藏西部。這次斯文赫定探險的是一個由不同國家、不同領域的青年學者所組織的學術考察團。這次探險的目標是地質學及其相關的其他學科，因此斯文赫定還是收穫了人種學家和考古學家隨
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—, Investigation of Silk from Edsen-gol and Lop-nor (Reports: 32), Stockholm 1949.

A full bibliography of Sven Hedin's work is being added to the Sven Hedin Foundation web site (see right). The web site http://www.silkn-road.com/bibliography/hedin3.html offers a partial 2nd annotated bibliography.
The Centenary of the First German Expedition to Turfan
Exhibition and Symposium in Berlin

To commemorate the first German expedition to Turfan in 1902 (see *IDP News 3* — [http://idp.bl.uk/IDP/idpnews3.html](http://idp.bl.uk/IDP/idpnews3.html)), the Museum for Indian Art (Museum für Indische Künste) in Berlin-Dahlem opened an exhibition entitled 'Centenary of the Turfan Expeditions: Art and Cultures of the Silk Road — a Documentation'.

The Museum re-opened last year after extensive renovations and many of the items from the exhibitions are on permanent display in the handsome new galleries, including murals, sculptures in clay, wood and metal, and painted, woven and embroidered textiles, alongside a small selection of the 40,000 manuscript fragments in over 20 languages and scripts. The special exhibition, which opened on September 9, gives access to items which are not normally on display.

A symposium, entitled 'Turfan Revisited: The First Century of Research into the Arts and Cultures of the Silk Road', was organised to coincide with the exhibition opening. Over 100 leading international scholars (see above) convened at the Museum from 8-13 September to share the results of their researches on the manuscripts and paintings from Turfan. The symposium was convened by the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), the Museum of Indian Art and the Oriental Department of the State Library. A special booklet entitled *Turfanforschung*, published to commemorate this event, is available free of charge from BBAW on request and is also mounted on their website ([http://www.bba.de/vh/turfan/index.html](http://www.bba.de/vh/turfan/index.html)).

The Sven Hedin Foundation

Sven Hedin, upon his death in 1952, left his entire scientific and personal estate to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in the form of a foundation, namely 'The Sven Hedin Foundation'. This owns the copyright to all his books and texts, photographs, films, drawings, maps etc. The Foundation's aim is to take care of and augment the collections, and to organise and keep them available for research. It is also to continue publishing the results of Hedin's expeditions, primarily the final one.

Hedin's collections are housed in various museums most of which are in Stockholm. The National Museum of Ethnography houses the ethnographic and archaeological material (including the manuscripts) and they all belong to the museum. Hedin's library, maps, photographs, films, drawings, and personal belongings are all deposited there. The Museum of Natural History owns the botanical, zoological, geological and other related collections. The enormous personal archives are deposited with the National Archives, though some parts of them are still kept with the National Museum of Ethnography.

A web site ([http://www.etnografiska.se/hedinweb/index.htm](http://www.etnografiska.se/hedinweb/index.htm)) for the Hedin Foundation is slowly being developed. One of the intentions is that it will provide a comprehensive but always augmentable and correctable research guide to the worldwide collections related to Sven Hedin and his long career as explorer, scientist and public figure.

Contact details:
The Sven Hedin Foundation
National Museum of Ethnography
Box 27140
SE-102 52 Stockholm, Sweden
email: hwq@etnografiska.se
Publications

Histoire des Marchands Sogdiens
E. de la Vaisière, E.
(Bibliothèque de l’Institut des Hautes Etudes Chinoises, 32), Collège de France, Paris 2002
415 p. + 8 pl. + 6 maps + 2 folded maps (Zerafshan valley and Sogdian trade in China) 4 indexes: proper names, geographical names, subjects, sources, and a 42 page bibliography ISBN 2-85757-060-0:
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Mongolie du Nord-Ouest, Tsagaan Salaar/Bala Oigor
(Memoires De La Mission Archeologique Francaise En Asie Centrale, 6)
E. Jacobson, V. Kubarev, D. Tseveendorj
Tsagaan Salaar/Bago Oigor, in the Altai Mountains of Bayan, is the largest petroglyph site in Mongolia. The text of this publication is also in English and Russian.
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Buddhist Manuscripts in the Schøyen Collection
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Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW)
Berlin 2002, 40 pp. ills., free on request
To order:
BBAW, Jägerstrasse 22/23, D-10117
Berlin, Germany
email: zieme@bbaaw.de
http://www.bbaaw.de/vh/turfan/index.html

Central Asian Art: New Revelations from Xinjiang
Dr P. Banerjee
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Conferences

Details of conferences organised in China and Chinese publications are given in the IDP Chinese newsletter (in Chinese). If you wish to be added to the mailing list to receive this additional publication please tell IDP (contact details p. 8).

The Central Asian Studies Society
3rd Annual Conference
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
17-20 October, 2002
For details contact:
Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia
University of Wisconsin, 210 Ingraham Hall
Madison, WI 53706 USA
tel: +1 608 262 3379
fax: +1 608 265 3062
e-mail: creeca@infll-institute.wisc.edu
http://www.wisc.edu/creeca/
Additional information about past and forthcoming CESS Annual Conferences is available at the CESS website:
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/cess/

Conservation of Ancient Sites on the Silk Road:
2nd International Conference on the Conservation of Grotto Sites
Dunhuang, Gansu Province, China
August 25-29, 2003
For details contact:
Kathleen Louw
The Getty Conservation Institute
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA
tel: 1-310-440 6216
e-mail: klouw@getty.edu
http://www.getty.edu/conservation/

Mongolia and the International Community
(Annual Meeting of the Mongolian Society)
New York, USA
27-30 March, 2003
(in conjunction with AAS)
Members of the Mongolian Society should submit proposals for 20-minute papers, sending an abstract by December 10, 2002 to:
Dr. Alicia Campi, Panel Chair
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e-mail: usmagcampi@aol.com
tel/fax: +1 703-451-6456.
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The Interaction between Land and People in Central and Inner Asia
The Ninth Annual Conference of the Central and Inner Asia Seminar
University of Toronto, Canada
23-24 May, 2003

Project News

The IDP Database Goes International
We are delighted to announce that the four Dunhuang manuscripts in the collection of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, Ireland, are now online on the IDP Interactive Web Database (search under specific search for ‘CBL*’) following a collaboration between the CBL and IDP. We would like to thank the CBL for their help.

Over the next year more manuscripts, paintings and artefacts from both large and small collections will be going online, starting with the manuscripts and paintings in the Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library at the University of California, Los Angeles and the Freer Gallery, Washington, and continuing with the material from the National Library of China. Sponsors are sought to enable us to accelerate this work (see below).

The website will be relaunched in October with more functionality including a full site search. On November 11 the Chinese IDP web site will go online based at the National Library of China (http://idp.nlc.gov.cn). There will inevitably be some disruption to the web site while these changes are taking place and apologies in advance for this.

Sponsors Sought — UCLA Alumni?

The digitisation of manuscripts from smaller collections, as exemplified by the Chester Beatty Library, is comparatively costly as it necessitates the preparation of 5 x 4" colour transparencies of the whole of the manuscript, recto and verso. Smaller institutions do not usually have resident photographers nor suitable photographic equipment to do this work in-house and must therefore employ an external photographer. Once the transparencies are received by IDP they have to be scanned and manipulated by our expert staff and all the relevant data input onto the database.

IDP has no specific funds for this and relies on schemes like ‘Sponsor a Sutra’ and ‘Supporting Membership’ to make this work possible. If you would like to sponsor a specific manuscript or painting from one of the smaller collections then please contact IDP. At present we are specifically looking for funds for the manuscript at the University of California at Los Angeles. The funds would directly cover the costs of preparing the EKTAs and the digitisation work. You would receive acknowledgment on the web database. Forthcoming collaborations include the Freer Gallery and University of California at Berkeley, among others. Details are available on request.
New Member of Staff

IDP is very pleased to welcome Dr Imre Galambos as new Project Manager in charge of networking and international collaborations, including the China project (replacing Colin Chinnery). His post is generously funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Dr Galambos has recently completed his PhD at the University of California at Berkeley with a dissertation entitled ‘The Evolution of Chinese Writing: Evidence from Newly Excavated Texts (490–221 BC)’. He studied Chinese for several years in Tianjin and also has considerable computing and programming experience (he is pictured fourth from left in photograph below).

Collaborations

Imre Galambos and Susan Whitfield visited the National Library of China (NLC) in June to discuss the Project and to start to make arrangements for the launch of the Chinese NLC IDP web site on November 11. A full report of the work of the China Office is given in the Chinese newsletter, published alongside IDP News and available on request. The URL of the Chinese website will be: http://idp.nlc.gov.cn.

Susan Whitfield and Imre Galambos visited the Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, in August to discuss possible collaboration under the auspices of the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (CCK), Taiwan. Professors Chu Yun-han and Wang Ch’iu-kuei, President and Vice-President of CCK respectively, were welcomed by the Institute and the Hermitage.

Greg Bearman of NASA met with Susan Whitfield and Jonathan Jackson to discuss IR photography.

Zuzsanna Gukasci and Jason BeDuhn, both Manichean specialists, visited to look at some Stein fragments.

Professor Fang Guangchang from the Institute of Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, completed his two month stay at the British Library which was part of his work on the catalogue of Buddhist fragments from the Stein Second Expedition material, (Or.8210/S.6981 onwards), volume 1 of which has already been published. His visit was funded by the Sino-British Fellowship Trust.

Sun Liping from the National Library of China visited the International Dunhuang Project at the British Library in August.

Other visitors to IDP over the past four months include Tim Yeo MP (UK opposition culture spokesman), a group of academics from Seattle, the Swiss National Librarian Jean Frederic Jauslin, Keith Knox, a specialist on IR imaging, and Michael Gray, curator of the Fox Talbot Museum.

Gandhari woodslips

Digitisation of the Gandhari woodslips in the Stein collection was completed and the remainder of the thousand images will be online very shortly. The images were prepared at the request of Professor Lin Meicun and will all be published in the forthcoming catalogue of woodslips from Loulan and Niya in Kharoshthi script. Digitisation was funded by the Institute for Niya Studies, Bukkyo University.

IDP News is edited and designed by Susan Whitfield; Picture Editor, Vic Swift.

For further details about IDP or to be added to the free mailing list contact:

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http://idp.bl.uk (English)
http://idp.nlc.gov.cn (Chinese)

Please send contributions or comments to the above address.