

belong to the later period of the Great Mongol Empire. What do you think?

I agree with you 100 percent. Dr. Bayaraa studied the tombstones in eastern Mongolia and hypothesized that they are from Qubilai's period. This might be true. Many khans were influenced by the culture to the east and brought silk and other materials from there. These monuments tell us about the cultural relations that developed at this time. So, those could be the tombs of lesser khans, perhaps Qubilai's descendants.

Because I am interested in Mongolian anthropology, I have a good collection of materials on Mongolian anthropology and traditional culture. I search for materials that are published abroad about Mongolian culture. I have seen many artifacts with different designs, shapes and patterns. The monuments that you found are more skilfully decorated than they are. I think your discoveries can change Mongolian anthropology and archaeology. The young woman's saddle is simply wonderful and incomparable. I wish you success in your studies. Your book will surprise the whole world. Thank you very much.

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News about Collections

The August Hermann Francke and Hans Körber Collection: Archaeological Finds from Khotan in the Munich State Museum of Ethnography

Ulf Jäger

Gronau-Epe/Westfalen (Germany)

Unknown to a larger public there is a significant collection of archaeological finds from Khotan in the State Museum of Ethnography in Munich, Germany. It is the third largest collection of archaeological objects in Germany from Eastern Central Asia (Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China). The largest is the Turfan Collection of the Königlich-Preussische Turfan-Expeditionen (1902–1914), brought together by the German ethnographers and archaeologists Albert Grünwedel and Albert von LeCoq and now housed in the Museum für Indische Kunst in Berlin. Grünwedel and von LeCoq mainly worked at sites on the northern route of the Silk Roads between Kumtura, Kucha and Turfan itself. The second largest collection of such finds is the Emil Trinkler Collection in the Übersee-Museum, Bremen, collected on the southern Silk Road at Khotan in 1928 by the German geographer Emil Trinkler. Unlike the Francke-Körber Collection, the other two have widely been studied and published (see References).

The Protestant missionary and tibetologist August Hermann Francke (1870–1930) and the sinologist Hans Körber assembled their collection in 1914, shortly before the outbreak of World War I. Both were sent out by the German indologist Lucian Scherman, then the leading Director of the Königlich Bayerisches Museum für Ethnographie in Munich. The vicissitudes of the War and the subsequent fate of all three men help to explain why the collection

was never properly catalogued and published.

Dr. Francke was a well-known tibetologist who had previously worked for the Archaeological Survey of India in Ladakh and published two volumes on his research there. He also contributed transcriptions and translations of Tibetan manuscripts to Sir Marc Aurel Stein's *Ancient Khotan* of 1907. Probably this was the reason Lucian Scherman chose him to collect archaeological objects in the



Fig. 1. Sherd of a dark-green hard-glazed jar showing the head of a camel. Yotkan, near Khotan, 6th-7th c. CE. Cat. no. FK 249. Photo by S. Autrum-Mulzer, Negative No. 18213, copyright © Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde, München, 2006.



Fig. 2. Head of a demon. Stucco. Khotan oasis, 3rd-4th c. CE. Cat. No. FK 213. Photo by S. Autrum-Mulzer, Negative No. 19094, copyright © Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde, München, 2006.

Khotan oasis for the Munich Museum of Ethnography. It seems likely that the Munich Khotan Collection was to be a Bavarian answer to the Prussian Turfan Collections at Berlin. The question is worth further study.

Francke and Körber collected all their finds in the antique markets of Khotan and from Chinese officials there; only a very few items were excavated by them personally. So the provenance of every piece in their collections for the most part can be established only on the basis of the information provided by the sellers or the Chinese officials. Since the collection of the material predated World War I by only two months, the two scholars temporarily stored their collections at the Swedish missionary residence in Kashgar (Kashi). The intention was to ship their carefully packed finds home via the railways in Russian Turkestan.

The two scholars attempted themselves to return to Germany via the normal caravan route south, across the Karakorum Pass

to Ladakh and British India. However, the British arrested them as citizens of Imperial Germany and brought them as POWs to Ahmednagar (Maharashtra State). As soon as they had reached Ahmednagar, both men engaged in correspondence with Lucian Scherman in Munich, in particular with regard to the issue of how to obtain their Khotanese collection from Kashgar and send it home. The correspondence with Scherman fills two large files in the archives of the State Museum of Ethnography in Munich. It took until 1928 with the help of official German diplomacy for the collection to arrive in Munich, some 14 years after it had first been obtained!

Francke was able to leave the British Indian POW camp at Ahmednagar and return to Germany in late 1917, but then was sent off to the front in the Balkans where he was again captured and put this time in a Serbian POW camp. He never would regain his health after the War. He was appointed Professor in Tibetology at the University of Berlin in 1925, and died there unexpectedly on February 16th 1930, at age 59.

Soon after the Nazi takeover of the German government, in 1933 Lucian Scherman had to leave his job as the leading Director of the State Museum of Ethnography in Munich because he was of Jewish descent. He left Germany for Boston (USA) late in 1939 and died there in 1947.

The Francke-Körber Collection has been housed since its acquisition in the Department of Central and East Asian Art at the State Museum of Ethnography, Munich. In the beginning of the 1980s the well-known German Iranist Gerd Gropp from Hamburg University rediscovered the material. In 1974 Dr. Gropp had published the Trinkler Collection in the Übersee-Museum, Bremen. He began to catalogue the Munich

collection but was prevented from completing the work due to his teaching and his research in Iranian studies. Although by then he had retired, in 2003 Dr. Gropp proposed that I should take on the cataloguing project, for which my graduate training provided appropriate background. This suggestion, to which I readily agreed, was endorsed by the leading Director of the museum, Dr. Claudius C. Müller and the Curator of its Department of Central and East Asian Art, Dr. Bruno J. Richtsfeld.

The project should result eventually in a monograph on the collection's history, to be published in the series *Beihefte des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde München*. To date approximately 85% of the planned chapter on the history of the 1914 expedition to Khotan is complete. Some additional information is needed, especially on Dr. Francke's contacts with Profs. Grünwedel and von LeCoq and with Sir Marc Aurel



Fig. 3. Standing Buddha. Oasis of Hanguya near Khotan, late 4th-6th c. CE. Stucco. Cat. No. FK 547. Photo by S. Autrum-Mulzer, Negative No. 18212, copyright © Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde, München, 2006.

Stein, which may have involved planning for another expedition to Khotan.

In December 2005 I was able to organize the Francke-Körber Collection according to modern principles. The ca. 2000 archaeological finds have been arranged in more than a dozen categories, which include: fine Yotkan-ceramics, subdivided into smaller groups such as ornamented sherds, handles in certain animal-forms, the well-known monkeys and camels, etc. (Fig. 1); household ceramics; imported ceramics; china; lamps and incense-burners; spinning-weights; geological specimens of ores and stones for jewelry; carved statuettes of semi-precious stones and jade (nephrit); seals and gems in stone and metal; objects made of marine shells and mother-of-pearl; playing-cubes; buddhist terracottas; buddhist stuccos (Figs. 2, 3); and coins (Kushan, Sino-Kharoshthi, *wushu* coins, other Chinese coins from the Han to Ming Dynasties, early islamic coins).

While comparative analysis has only begun, the first results of it are interesting. For example, there are links between the ceramics of Khotan in the collection and their analogues in locations such as Bactria, the buddhist complex of Kara Tepe (Uzbekistan) and even early medieval Sogdia. Some pieces, such as certain miniature vessels made of terracotta and metal, are similar to ones found in the Northern Caucasus, for example in the tombs of Moshchevaia Balka. Certain of the bronze objects which are possibly belt ornaments can be found from the Ordos to Western Turkestan. This can be explained by the influence of nomadic invaders in Khotan in pre-islamic times. Such comparative analysis will be extended to include new finds from Xinjiang.

The manuscripts of the Francke-Körber Collection fill two large files in the museum's archive

and include buddhist texts as well as other private and official documents, in Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan. They will be sent to experts of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin for modern philological and historical analysis.

Completion of this cataloguing and the publication project is contingent on the author's receiving funding, since the work currently is incidental to his employment in a non-academic field. He has applied to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in Bonn; any other support which may be forthcoming will advance international scholarship on the ancient history and culture of the Silk Roads.

About the Author

Ulf Jäger was educated at the Universities of Münster/Westfalen and at Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany. He received his Ph.D. in 2003 at Münster University in Archaeology and Ancient History. His dissertation, "Horsemen, Mounted Warriors, and Horse Nomads between the Rhineland and Korea: On the Late Antique Riding Culture between East and West in the 4th-8th Centuries CE. A Contribution to the Synthesis of Ancient History and Archaeology," has been published in German in the series *Beiträge zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Mitteleuropas* (Weissbach; Langenweissbach: Beier & Beran, 2006). His specialization is the archaeology and cultural history of pre-islamic Central Asia. He may be contacted either by e-mail <jaeger-u@versanet.de> or at his home-address: Dr.phil.des Ulf Jäger, Bergstrasse 8, D-48599 Gronau-Epe/Westfalen, Germany.

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Digital Collections: New Additions to Silk Road Seattle

Thanks to the support of the Silkroad Foundation, the work of Lance Jenott and valuable contributions of material by others, some significant new additions have been made to the collection of educational resources available through the Internet on the website Silk Road Seattle. Those already familiar with the site might note that it has a new URL or electronic address: <<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad>>. Should you still have the old address bookmarked in your browser, it will take you automatically to the new one. Here are highlights of the new material, which can also be readily accessed from the New Additions button on our opening page:

- A new section on Silk Road Geography with an introductory essay and a set of image galleries featuring landscapes of Eurasia.
- Under "Museum Collections>Featured Museums," the addition of hundreds of new images. Most of the images have captions which include where possible references to published catalogues and further information. The additions are for the following museums:

State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

* Over 975 images, a good many being recent color photographs, among them: an excellent selection of the early Inner Asian nomad materials, especially from the Pazyryk burials, an extensive collection of Sasanian silver, Islamic ceramics and much more.

* We have digitized and posted the largest part of the images in Smirnov's magnificent 1909 portfolio, *Eastern Silver (Vostochnoe serebro)*.

* images and a pdf file of the complete English text from Boris Marshak's *Sogdian Silver (Sogdiiskoe serebro)* (1971).

*images and a pdf file of the complete text of Camilla Trever, *Excavations in Northern Mongolia (1924-1925)* (1932) on the first Noin Ula excavations.

State Historical Museum, Moscow. Photographs include many of early Central Asian material and of Golden Horde (Mongol) material.

Extensive additions to our previously posted collection of images from the *National Museum of Mongolian History*, Ulaanbaatar. The selection includes much Xiongnu material, quite a few images of the recently-excavated Bilge Qaghan treasure, and a substantial collection from the period of the Mongol Empire.