



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Imperial Russian Geographical Society
photographs of Central Tibet, circa 1900

Sarah Ganderup

2012 July 09

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Local Call Number(s).....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Imperial Russian Geographical Society photographs of Central Tibet
Date:	circa 1900
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.76-122
Creator:	Russkoe geograficheskoe obshchestvo
Extent:	50 Mounted prints (platinum)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

The photographs were donated to the Smithsonian Libraries circa 1904, possibly by the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. They were transferred to the National Anthropological Archives in 1976.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Digital surrogates of a similar set of photographs are held by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries.

Other Finding Aids

Inventory available in repository

Preferred Citation

Photo lot 76-122, Imperial Russian Geographical Society photographs of Central Tibet, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

G. Ts. Tsybikov was a Russian-educated Buriat scholar and a Buddhist who made a pilgrimage to Lhasa in 1899-1902. He documented his pilgrimage in photographs and made extensive notes on Tibetan society and politics. In May 1903, he presented his photographs and report to the Geographical Society, which won him the society's Przhevalskii prize. Ovshe M. Norzunov was a Mongolian Kalmuk who also traveled to Tibet as a Buddhist pilgrim, in 1889, 1900, and 1901. Because of their Mongolian heritage, Tsybikov and Norzunov were able to enter Lhasa at a time when Western visitors were barred from the city. Their photographs,

published in the January 1905 issue of National Geographic, are noted for having created the magazine's "hallmark" photographic focus.

Scope and Contents

Photographs documenting Tibetan monasteries, Potala Palace, Tibetan women, cities, and scenery in Central Tibet, including the region's capital, Lhasa. Prints are in a boxed set issued by the Imperial Russian Geographical Society (Russkoe geograficheskoe obshchestvo).

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 76-122

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Buddhist monasteries
- Buddhist pilgrims and pilgrimages
- Buddhists
- Tibetans

Cultures:

- Buddhists
- Tibetans

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

- Norzunov, Ovshe M.
- ᠲᠰᠢᠪᠢᠬᠣᠩ, ᠭᠡ ᠲᠰᠡ. (Gonbochzhab ᠲᠰᠡbekovich), 1873-1930

Places:

- Lhasa (China)
- Tibet (China)