

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Travel and Exploration

The history of travel writing dates back to the Bible, Caesar, the Vikings and the Crusaders, and its many themes include war, trade, science and recreation. Explorers from Columbus to Cook charted lands not previously visited by Western travellers, and were followed by merchants, missionaries, and colonists, who wrote accounts of their experiences. The development of steam power in the nineteenth century provided opportunities for increasing numbers of 'ordinary' people to travel further, more economically, and more safely, and resulted in great enthusiasm for travel writing among the reading public. Works included in this series range from first-hand descriptions of previously unrecorded places, to literary accounts of the strange habits of foreigners, to examples of the burgeoning numbers of guidebooks produced to satisfy the needs of a new kind of traveller - the tourist.

Through the Heart of Asia

The French explorer, author and legislator Gabriel Bonvalot (1853–1933) received funding from the French government to lead two expeditions to Central Asia in the 1880s. This two-volume English translation by C.B. Pitman of the French original was published in 1889 and is a richly illustrated account of the second of the two Asian expeditions, in which Bonvalot and the scientist Guillaume Capus attempted to enter Afghanistan. Although the party was detained and sent back to Samarkand upon entering Afghanistan, they refused to concede defeat, as Bonvalot was determined to reach India via a trail believed to run across the Pamir and Hindu Kush mountains. In Volume 2 the party reaches the remote Kingdom of Chatral, but is imprisoned again. Bonvalot uses the confinement to study the customs of the local people, and eventually, with the help of the British authorities, they are released and allowed to continue to India.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Through the Heart of Asia

Over the Pamir to India

VOLUME 2

GABRIEL BONVALOT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2
Gabriel Bonvalot
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108046398

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1889
This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04639-8 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates, which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these images can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108046398

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THROUGH THE HEART OF ASIA

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2
Gabriel Bonvalot
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THROUGH THE HEART OF ASIA

OVER THE PAMİR TO INDIA.

By GABRIEL BONVALOT.

WITH 250 ILLUSTRATIONS BY
ALBERT PÉPIN.



TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY C. B. PITMAN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

LONDON: CHAPMAN AND HALL, LIMITED.
1889.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER IX.

FROM THE AMU TO SAMARCAND.

	PAGE
The ruins—Patta-Kissar—Tents of the nomad and of the sedentary Turkoman —Kakaiti, training—The Kazaks—Remains of an aqueduct—Straw tent —In sight of the mountains—A quarrel—Sorcery—The court of a baffled pretender—Baissounne—At Tchiraktchi—A justiciary—Hope ...	1

CHAPTER X.

THE PAMIR.

General Karalkoff—Project of crossing the plateau of Pamir—We start for Marguilane—No one gives us any encouragement—Choice of a pass— Precautions against cold—The encampment, lights, candles—Fire, and no delay about it—The commissariat department—Kitchen utensils— A pharmacy—The presents—Weapons—Payment in kind, etc.—Minute preparations—Apprehensions—Passes closed—How we prepare to cross the Taldik—Hope	31
--	----

CHAPTER XI.

THE PAMIR (*continued*).

The start for the Taldik—Saying good-bye—Going through the pass—The valley of the Taldik—Bad news from the Alai—No more assistants— Preparing for the combat—Another world—Where are we?—In the snow—The struggle—The “White Sea”—Polar scenery—On the way to Urtak—Shepherds hemmed in by snow—The troop loses heart—A rest—Scaling the Kizil-Art—Upon “the roof of the world”—At last ! ...	69
--	----

CHAPTER XII.

THE PAMIR (*continued*).

PAGE

At Lake Kara-Kul—Some of the men follow, the others are sent back—We remain eight in all—A track—A find—Satti-Kul as a nurse—Numberless wild sheep—The wind—Mount Kol—Tempest in the Kizil-Djek—Abandoned—The Rang-Kul; Kirghiz and Kutasses—Scenery—Negotiations—The mercury freezes—A polar night—Caprices of the temperature—Attempt to stop us—We are on Chinese territory—We do not wait for permission from Kashgar—All aid refused us—How we procure what we absolutely require	106
---	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

THE PAMIR (*continued*).

Hostility of the natives—A friend of Sadik—Upon the banks of the Ak-Su, or the Oxus—News from Kunjut—The Kirghiz make off—A funereal monument—An apparition—A derelict—The debts of Satti-Kul, our guide—His flight—Refusal to assist us or sell us any provisions—Our “brother” Abdullah-Khan—The white slave—An excess of obedience—Abandoned tents—A friend—Enemies—Requisitions—The further end of the Ak-Su valley	145
--	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

TOWARDS THE KUNJUT.

The outlaws—An exile—Wakhan-Darya—Langar—Wakhan types—The Kirghiz want to leave us—Diplomacy—We start for the Kunjut with Wakhis—Difficulties; provisions run short; the Wakhis make off—An unsuccessful reconnaissance—We have to return to Langar—Abdullah-Khan turns up again—We send to fetch the abandoned baggage and Menas, who was looking after them—Exactng attitude of the Kirghiz—The Chinese at our heels, but they are too late—A saint	177
--	-----

CHAPTER XV.

STOPPED IN THE TCHATRAL.

We start for the Wakhan—Carthaginian traders—Sadik and Abdur-Rasul leave us—The Afghans try to detain us at Sarhad—We cross the Hindu-Kush without a guide—Meeting the Tchatralis—This time we are stopped—Our resources exhausted—The Tchatralis—Negotiations—The Anglo-Indian Government intervenes—Forty-nine days at Mastudj—We are released—Hayward—Speedy return	209
---	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
TCHOCHKA-GUZAR	2
GHURAB	3
THE AMU AT TERMIZ	4
RUINS OF THE FORTRESS OF TERMIZ	5
TURKOMAN	7
KAKAÏTI	9
KUM-KURGHANE	11
FROM KUM-KURGHANE TO BAÏSSOUNNE	13
RACHMED	16
MENAS AND HIS HORSE	19
BAÏSSOUNNE	22
DERVISH	24
DERBEND	26
FROM KARAKAVAL TO GUZAR	28
DJAME	29
CEMETERY OF APROSIAB, AT SAMARCAND	31
SAMARCAND, SEEN FROM THE FORTRESS	33
MILKMEN AT KHODJEND	37
BANK OF THE RIVER AT MARGUILANE	38
A FERGHANA WOMAN	40
A LITTLE GIRL OF THE COUNTRY	43
KARA-KIRGHIZ GIRL	45
KARA-KIRGHIZ LITTLE GIRL	47
OSCH, FROM THE THRONE OF SOLOMON	49
MAKMUD	50
SADIK	51
MADI	57
GULTCHA	58

	PAGE
ABDU-RASOUL	59
AK-BASOGA	61
SATTI-KUL	64
DRESS FOR CROSSING THE PAMIR	65
KUMGANE AND TCHILIM	67
EQUIPPED FOR THE ROUTE	69
STARTING FOR THE TALDIK	71
THE FIRST ENCAMPMENT UPON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TALDIK PASS	75
ENCAMPMENT AT PALPUK	79
KARA-KIRGHIZ	81
CROSSING THE ALAÏ	83
ENCAMPMENT ON THE ALAÏ, OPPOSITE PEAK KAUFFMANN	87
CHINESE KARA-KIRGHIZ	90
NIGHT TIME AT URTAK	93
ENCAMPMENT FACING THE KIZIL-ART	95
THE PLOT	97
SATTI-KUL	98
SATTI-KUL HELPING TO COOK	98
THE ASCENT OF THE KIZIL-ART	100
ENCAMPMENT FACING THE KARA-KUL PASS	101
SADIK COOKING	104
STARTING FOR THE KARA-KUL	106
THE KARA-KUL, AS SEEN FROM THE PASS	108
ENCAMPMENT UPON THE KARA-KUL	111
LAGOPEDE	115
SADIK'S CAPTURE	117
KIZIL-DJEK	120
IN THE PASS OF KIZIL-DJEK	123
A HORSE ABANDONED TO HIS FATE	125
ENCAMPMENT AT KAMARA-TAG, BEFORE REACHING THE RANG-KUL	127
ENCAMPMENT UPON THE RANG-KUL, FACING THE TAGHARMA	130
COUTASSES (YAKS)	131
DJUMA-BI	133
KIRGHIZ OF THE RANG-KUL	136
PAMIR HORSE	138
THE PAYMENT	142
ORNAMENTS AND ARKAR HORNS	143
CHATTPUT	145

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

ix

	PAGE
THE START FROM CHATTPUT	147
ENCAMPMENT UPON THE OXUS	152
AK-TACH (WHITE STONE)	154
THE TAGHARMA, SEEN FROM THE OXUS	155
MENAS AND THE KIRGHIZ CHILDREN	156
CEMETERY OF KARA-KIRGHIZ	158
KIRGHIZ WOMAN OF THE PAMIR	159
THE HANGING WALL AT AK-TACH	164
TYPES OF KIRGHIZ KHANS	165
YOUNG ARKAR KILLED NEAR AK-TACH	167
COMING UPON AN ABANDONED OUI... ..	169
CAMP OF KIZIL-KORUM	172
AT THE SOURCES OF THE OXUS	175
MENAS ON THE YAK	176
THE GLACIER OF TCHILAB	177
KARA-KIRGHIZ CHINESE (MALE AND FEMALE)	179
VALLEY OF THE WESTERN OXUS (NORTH-EAST)	182
VALLEY OF THE WESTERN OXUS (EAST)	184
LANGAR	185
THE VALLEY OF TASH-KUPRUK	188
TASH-KUPRUK	189
SADIK HAS A FALL	191
CROSSING THE BALA-GUIZINE	194
UPON THE ROAD TO THE KUNJUT	197
ENCAMPMENT BEYOND BALA-GUIZINE	201
HORNLESS YAK AND CAMEL OF THE PAMIR	203
THE PIR	206
RAHMED	208
ENCAMPMENT NEAR LANGAR	209
WAKHIS	212
AT SARHAD	215
WAKHIS	217
CEMETERY AND HOUSES AT SARHAD	220
THE FIRST TCHATRALIS	222
TCHATRALI	225
MASTUDJ	227
THE METAR	229
VIEW IN THE VALLEY OF TCHATRAL	230
SIAPUCH KAFIR	231

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04639-8 - Through the Heart of Asia: Over the Pamir to India: Volume 2

Gabriel Bonvalot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
TCHATRALI WOMAN AND WARRIOR	232
TCHATRALI	233
TCHATRALI	234
TCHATRALI	235
TCHATRALI SOLDIER	235
TCHATRALI DANCER	236
TCHATRALI	237
TCHATRALI MOLLAH	238
MIGANE AT TCHATRAL	238
KAFIR	239
KAFIR	241
MAN OF YAGUISTAN	242
KASHMIR SCRIBE	243
FORTRESS OF GARKUCH	244
BUNGALOW OF MAJOR BIDDULPH AT GUILGUIT	245
WOMAN OF KASHMIR	248
INDIAN OF KURRACHEE	249