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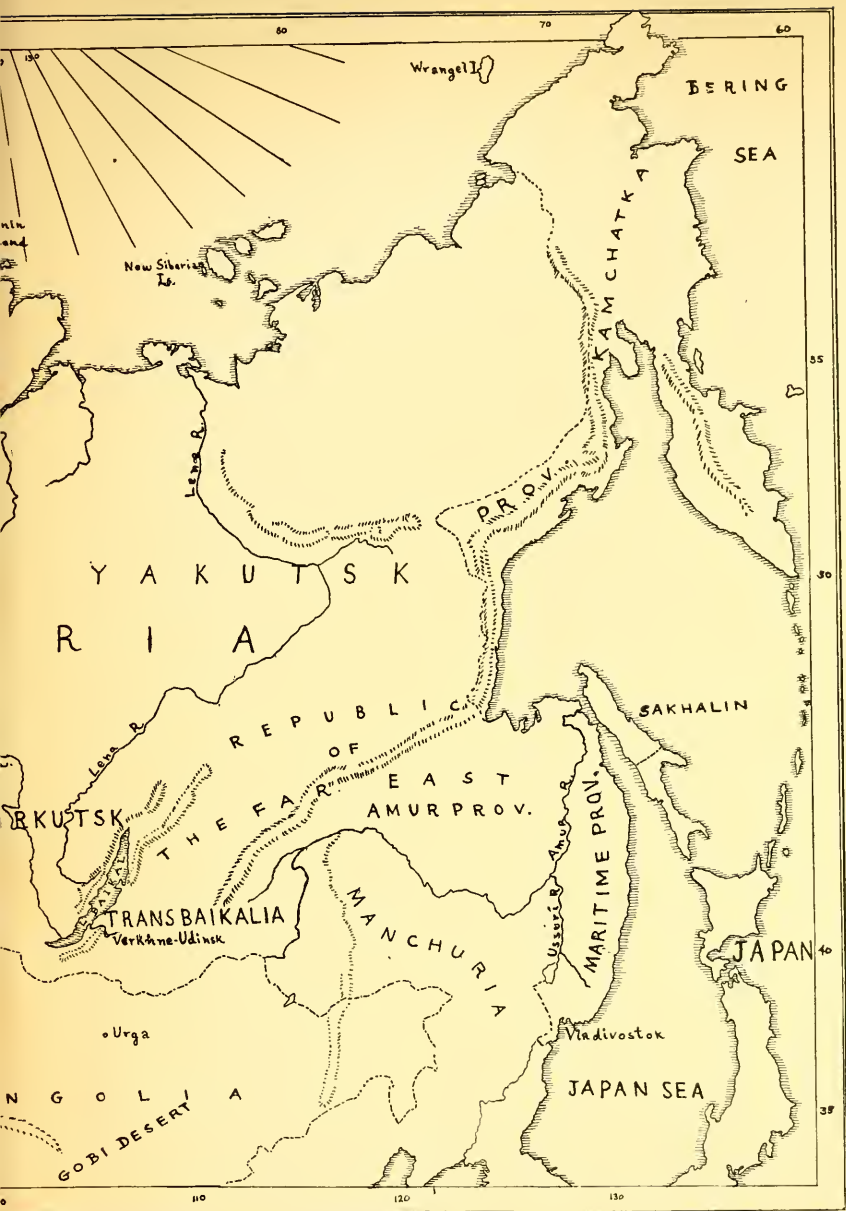
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THE NEW ORIENT IN BOOKS

The Origin and Development of the State Cult of Confucius. By John K. Shryock. Publication of the American Historical Association. New York. The Century Co. Pp. xiv+298. Price \$4.00.

While many scholars have written on the doctrines of Confucius, there has not been an adequate account of the origin and development of the cult. Mr. Shryock has here collected complete and adequate historical sources which consist, for the most part, of imperial edicts and records in the temples. He has followed the development of the cult from its origin in the Han period (before this only the K'ung family offered sacrifices) when sacrifices to the sage were ordered in the schools, through the various periods to the revolution, 1911-1927. The state no longer seems vitally interested in the cult. Yet for 2,400 years Confucius has been a model for men—"a teacher of ten thousand generations."

Religion in Various Cultures. By Friess and Herbert W. Schneider. New York. Henry Holt and Co. 1932. Pp. xxiv+598. Illustrated. Price \$5.00.

This book presents a general survey of the most significant material, gathered from many sources, on religion in its relation to various cultures. After describing some of the religions in primitive cultures, the authors represent in full Shintoism, Hinduism, and Buddhism from the Far East, and the Greek, Jewish and Christian religions of the West. Their aim has been to stress the significance of these religions at different times and places and to clarify their rôle in the life and organization of particular cultures. The excellent exposition as well as the many unusual illustrations make the book most interesting.

Daily Meditation or the Practice of Repose. By Dhan Gopal Mukerji. New York. Dutton & Co. Pp. 40. Price 90c.

Mr. Mukerji here sets forth in detail the technique of meditation; the meditation which brings repose, and also that which brings the individual into closer harmony with the Infinite. In closing he remarks, "At the present time the Oriental thinks he lives by it. Can the modern American do without it?"

The Orient in American Transcendentalism. By Arthur Christy. Columbia University Press. New York, 1932. Pp. xx+382. (\$4.00).

This is a study and an analysis of Oriental thought in Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott. The task set by the author was "to tell why the Concord men read the Orientals and to what end; and most important of all, the sources from which they took Oriental ideas and ornamentation for some of the classic pages of American literature." Mr. Christy has had access to the libraries used by them and to some unpublished material.

After a general introduction, the book is divided into three parts, Emerson and the Over-Soul, Thoreau and Oriental Asceticism, and Alcott the Propagandist. In conclusion there is an appreciation of the Transcendentalists by Orientals. A Hindu has written that Emerson translated the wisdom of Ancient India into "the language of modern culture." And it is from Thoreau that Mahatma Ghandi "has taken much of his philosophy of civil disobedience."

THE NEW ORIENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE NEW ORIENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA is now completing its first year, and and it can look back upon a successful time during a difficult economic period. At the annual meeting of November 18, the following Officers and Directors were elected:

PROFESSOR JAMES H. BREASTED.....Honorary President
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Six monographs, listed below, have been published. During 1933 we will publish the second series of six monographs as special numbers of *The Open Court*. These monographs will deal with various cultural aspects of the New Orient, and will be edited by leading American scholars.

FIRST MONOGRAPH SERIES PUBLISHED BY THE OPEN COURT

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|---|--|
| January, 1932. The Heritage of Western Asia.
Edited by Professor Martin Sprengling, University of Chicago. | July, 1932. Syria-Palestine.
Edited by Professor A. T. Olmstead, University of Chicago. |
| March, 1932. The Heritage of Eastern Asia.
Edited by Professor A. E. Haydon, Department of Comparative Religion, University of Chicago. | September, 1932. Egypt.
Edited by Professor Halford L. Hoskins, Department of History, Tufts College, Massachusetts. |
| May, 1932. Modern Turkey.
Edited by Professor A. H. Lybyer, University of Illinois. | December, 1932. Arabia.
Edited by Professor Martin Sprengling, University of Chicago. |

SECOND MONOGRAPH SERIES TO BE PUBLISHED DURING 1933

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| January, 1933. Persia.
Edited by Professor Arthur Upham Pope, Director of the Persian Institute. | July, 1933. India.
Edited by Professor Walter E. Clark, Department of Sanskrit, Harvard University. |
| March, 1933. Central and Russian Asia.
Edited by Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator, Department of Anthropology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. | October, 1933. China.
Edited by Dr. Berthold Laufer, Field Museum of Natural History. |
| May, 1933. Japan.
Edited by Professor Quincy Wright, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago. | December, 1933. Northern Africa. |

Those who are desirous of becoming members of the New Orient Society of America are invited to apply for particulars of purposes and privileges of membership to the SECRETARY, CATHERINE E. COOK.

The New Orient Society of America

337 E. CHICAGO AVE.

CHICAGO



VIEW OF A SIDE GLEN, TIBET
— Photograph by Dr. Sven Hedin

Frontispiece to The Open Court

THE OPEN COURT

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NEW ORIENT SOCIETY MONOGRAPH: SECOND SERIES

NUMBER TWO

CENTRAL AND RUSSIAN ASIA

PREFACE

BY BERTHOLD LAUFER

IN PLANNING this monograph it has been my aim to secure the good offices of the best living authorities on the three countries which are here represented. I was particularly fortunate in obtaining the collaboration of Dr. Sven Hedin while he resided in Chicago last year, supervising the erection of the Jehol Lama temple on the grounds of the Century of Progress. Dr. Sven Hedin, incontestably the greatest geographical explorer of Tibet of all times, past and present, has devoted his lifetime to science and research with a stupendous productivity in books and maps to his credit, all of permanent value. No one is more qualified than he to write on Tibet, which is his second home. In the sketch here presented he has outlined with the hand of a master a magnificent fresco painting, tracing the development in the exploration and opening of the land of mysteries, characterizing its geographical features, surveying its history, setting forth and interpreting its hierarchical system with the complex machinery of this priest-government and its relations to China, India, and England.

Mr. Owen Lattimore, author of *The Desert Road to Turkistan*, *High Tartary*, and *Manchuria Cradle of Conflict*, has extensively traveled in northern China, Manchuria, and Chinese Turkistan, and has studied political and social conditions with an open mind and keen observational power. His sketch of present-day Chinese Turkistan is a brilliant and penetrating analysis of intense interest. One of his statements that furnishes food for reflection is that although the currency of the country is worthless, yet its economic condition is remarkably steady, compared not only with China proper but with almost any country in the world and that although backward in every respect, it is probably more stable and contented than any region of equal area in the world. The latest news from Turki-

stan is that it seeks complete independence from Chinese sovereignty; Mr. Lattimore's article gives a clear answer to the why of this movement.

Mr. Lopatin is a young and energetic Russian ethnologist, now living and studying in this country. He has successfully explored the Goldi and Tungusian tribes of the Amur region, and has published many scientific monographs. The vivid picture that he unrolls here before our eyes of the transformation of Russian Asia under Soviet rule will be especially welcome at this moment when our Government seems to be determined to grant official recognition to the U.S.S.R.

I wish to express my warmest thanks to the three eminent scholars for their excellent contributions to this monograph.

A chapter to be devoted to Mongolia was scheduled in the original plan for this monograph. The subject, however, proved too large to be included here. Both Dr. Hedin and Mr. Lattimore have briefly touched on Mongolian problems, and in the monograph pertaining to China the editor will discuss modern cultural movements among the Mongols.