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THE ACTIVITY OF PUNDITES IN TIBET AND EASTERN TURKESTAN
(based on the materials of Volume of Turkistan)

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Annotation: The materials of “Turkistan tūplami”, which began its creation in the second half of the 19th century, provides valuable information about not only Turkestan, but neighboring regions of Turkestan, Asian countries, Eastern Turkestan, West China and Tibet, also the activity of British agents – pundites, munshies involved in scientific, political research there.

Key words: “Turkistan tūplami”, pundit, munshi, Tibet, Eastern Turkestan, T.G.Montogomery, Muhammad-Hamid (or Abdulhamid) munshi, Nain Singh, Sir Douglas Forsayt.
INTRODUCTION: In recent years, the studying and researching of “Туркистон тўплами” has led to the need not to study not only Turkestan, but also neighboring regions of Turkestan. The studying of geographical location, population, knowledge of religious, local self government above mentioned regions by europeans, the role of the local indigenous population named Pundit is significant.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: Western scientists and researchers wrote about Pundites in their works. In particular, the American historian Derek Waller, in his work “The Pundits British exploration of Tibet and Central Asia” wrote valuable information about their activities. The term “pundit” was mainly used for local researchers[1.p.22].Muslim local population is also referred to as “munshi”. Munshi (in arabian - secretary) - personal secretary, writer in the East, especially in the Central Asian khanates. Munshies were usually educated people[2.p.132]. Munshies differed from ordinary scribes in that they were scientists and sophisticated people. They are charged with writing and decrees of Khans and Amirs. In most of the historical monuments written by them, those who worked in this post have been nicknamed Munshi as a alias. This indicates that the Englishs has attracted local educated people to their services.

The activity of Pundites in Tibet, Ladak, Bhutan and the Ximalai mountain slopes, Munshies in Central Asia, East Turkestan, Afghanistan was written and the materials of “Туркистон тўплами”also confirmed this. In the second half of the XIX century, Britain’s interest in Eastern Turkestan, Tibet and neighboring regions increased. This led to the need to study East Turkestan, Tibet and its surroundings.

ANALYSES AND RESULTS: The British government began to pursue scientific and strategic study of India and adjoining regions by the beginning of the 19th century, under the leadership of Colonel Lembton in 1803, the establishment of the IndianThrigonametricServicecResearchCenter. And this required English officers
to use other methods of studying adjacent regions[3.p.133]. At the suggestion of the captain of the British administration, the Pundit school at IBTS was organized for the purpose of a scientific strategic study of India’s adjacent regions, which consists of representatives of the Indian and Muslim populations in the foothills of the Himalayas in Dehradun[4.p.25]. The activity of the British in exploring their colonial territories and adjacent regions did not remain aloof from the attention of Russian researchers. In particular, the government of the Russian empire in the second half of the 19th century raised the question of creating a center for the study of the region of Turkestan and neighboring countries. First of all, this was due to the need to study these regions. In the first years of their stay in Central Asia, the Russians, apart from information obtained from newspapers and magazines in the region, did not have any source of information. Any researcher was forced to apply to the Petersburg Library. Taking into account these difficulties, the Governor-General of Turkestan Kaufman addresses the Minister of Public Education, DA A. Tolstov, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Emperor V. Ya. Bunyakov, Director of the Art Library of the Emperor I. D. Delyanov, Director of the Russian of the geographical imperial society F. I. Litke and the head of the headquarters FL Heyden, asks to make copies for the Turkestan library. After that, the Department of Public Education provided Tashkent with 25-volumes of documents from several Russian sources and acts of the archaeological commission as a gift. Copies of 87 different books in Russian, French and German were sent from the Leadership Library of the Imperial-NovorossiyskUniversity.[5.p.141]. Soon, on the initiative of the Turkestan Governor-General in 1867, they began to create the collection “Turkiston volume”. In this collection, as noted above, they collected valuable materials about Turkestan and adjacent regions, like Western China, East Turkestan and Tibet, and Pundit activities in the region. In particular, we can see that the Pundits carried out effective expeditionary activities in the regions of Tibet and East Turkestan, which linked
China and India. The intellectual Pistale, the Muslim Muhammad-Hamid (or Abdulhamid) Munshi, became the first student of the Punditsky school of Captain Montogomery. He learned primitive cartographic methods and knowledge, special small trigonometric devices were made for him. In the summer of 1863, he set off from Ladakh towards East Turkestan to Yarkand through the Karokorum pass. Muhammad lives in Yarkand for about six months and creates secret maps of the region and paths. He also collected information about Russian officials and soldiers around the East Turkestan region. But officials from the King government suspect Muhammad’s activities in Yarkand. Soon Muhammad found out about this, was forced to go back. But difficulties in the way led to his death. The secret cards and information of Muhammad were brought to Captain Montogomery. Including, in the 60-70s of the 19th century, such Indian Muslims from the Punditsky school as Ahmad Shoh, Muhammad Amin, Abdulla Suzha Munshi under the guise of traders collected information on the population, territory and ways of Kashgar and Yarkand regions of East Turkestan and West China, as well as the activities of Russians in the region and local rulers loyal to the British.

In particular, they established active diplomatic ties with the state of the ruler Ettishahar Yakubbek, created by emigrants from the Kokand Khanate in East Turkestan. The expedition of Douglas Forsyth to Kashgar in 1873 was important. The expedition included Indian Muslims pundits. They were instructed to collect information on trade routes, a map of the region, population. In 1874, together with Gordon Trotter, Biddal, Stolichko, students of the Pandits schools Munshi and Kshen Singh were sent to New Gisar and Pamir[6.p.99]. We can note that the pupils of Pandit schools and munshi were also involved in expeditions and diplomatic journeys organized by the British.

Usually the information collected was first studied by the English military in India and sent to the English journals of the English Royal Society, the Asian
Society. Naing Singh was considered the most prominent representative of the Punditsky school. N. Singh from 1874 to July 1875, the year of March, in connection with the special assignment of the Indian Large Trigonometric Service, was sent to the study of an unidentified Tibet. Even before this expedition began, Nain Singh was considered an active participant in a number of other similar expeditions [7. p. 53]. Including, N. Singh in 1856-1857-s accompanied German travelers (Schlagweid) to Ladakh and Kashmir.

Later he continued to work in the Department of Education. In the years 1858-1863, he worked as a teacher and leader in the school of his native Milam. In 1865, N. Singh was called up for another expedition. At this time he was 30 years old and the head of this expedition was Major Ettuala Smith.

Nain Singh studied intelligence and mapping skills for 2 years in Dehradun. In the same year, Nain Singh and his relative Mani Singh set off. They conducted their activities under the hidden name. Nain Singh was named “1-Number”, “Main Pundit” or “GM” [9. p. 26]. This expedition was commissioned to collect information on political and trade relations in the territory from Lhasa to Gartok. Nain Singh and Mani Singh managed to join the large merchant caravan as traders. In order to avoid suspicion of locals and traffickers, Nain Singh pretended to be a sick person and collected cartographic information for 1 year before reaching Lhasa. Nain Singh lived in the holy city of Buddhism Lhasa for 3 months, he collected valuable information about the location of the territory, water supply, religion and the city of Lhasa. Naing Singh In April 1866, as part of the caravan, Ladakh came back [8. p. 7]. In July 1866, he himself went off on an expedition. Although he was captured by the locals, he managed to escape.

This shows that pupils from Pandit schools were trained even in emergency situations. The studies of Nain Singh provcd the inaccuracy of the map of Tibet,
published in 1717 in the Paris atlas D-anvil. And this further increased the interest in unidentified Tibet. For a trip to Lhasa in 1865–1866, Nain Singh was awarded a gold hand watch. After a successful expedition in 1865–1866, Montogomery in 1867 sent three Pundits, Nain Singh, Mani Singh and Kalyana, to the gold mines of Tibet.

But these Pundits, who managed to reach the hinterland of Tibet, were captured by the local nomadic population. After the talks, Naing Singh agreed to leave one member hostage (Money Many). Kalyana was sent to explore the top Indus. And Nain Singh himself went to Thok Dalunga and as a result of his efforts, he discovered a precious metal weighing 0.9 kg. Soon in 1868, the head of Montogomery, James Walker, sent the reports of travel Nain Singh to the editorial board of the Royal Geographical Society. Information about the secret activities of the Pundits were also consecrated in other publications.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that this successful expedition led to an increase in interest in the Pundisi schools and the education of the Pundits not only by Montohomery, but also by the ruling circles of the British. The above mentioned Nain Singh was also one of the most active students of the Pandit schools. Attracts the attention of the information and reports of Montogomery on Western Tibet. The memorandum of his expedition of 1871–1872 to Lake Tengri Nur (Namcho) presents valuable materials about the region. In particular, during these years, one Pandit group began to uncover unidentified territories in the north of the Tibetan water basin in the upper part of the Brahmaputra.[10.p.315-349]

In the Tengri Nur Lake Report it is written: Tengri Nur was named Buex Kul, sometimes Nam-Osmon, Cho-kul or Sky Lake and is very large, about 50 feet long, 16-25 miles wide. The lake was filled with 2 large and several small rivers; the water in it was tasteless and quickly froze[11.p.315-349]. As a result of the expedition, he collects valuable materials about Lake Tengri Nur, the surrounding areas, the
monasteries of the city of Lhasa and the activities of Lama. The names of the Pundits of the expedition were not indicated in this memorandum. This was due to the fact that the Pundits' personalities were hiding, or because the information of some Pundits was not officially issued, and the other side that the information was secret and important (about gold mines, important dry roads). Nain Singh, Mani Singh, Kushen Singh, Ahmad Shoh, Muhammad Amin, Abdulla Suzha, Muhammad-Hamid Munshi constitute an exception to this list. Information about the Pundit expeditions was published in the Royal Geographical Society and these data were under the scrutiny of Russian officers. And this we can see in the Turkestan collection. The Turkestan collection is characterized by the interest of the Russian Empire in the study of Terkestan and neighboring regions

**CONCLUSION** In conclusion, it should be noted that the studies of the British in East Turkestan and Tibet were greatly expanded, while the British widely used the services of local Indians and Muslims. As mentioned above, they are found in official publications as pundits. Pundit activities are regularly covered in the magazines of the Royal Geographical Society. And this was under the attention of Russian researchers, and first of all military.

For this reason, the information found a place in the Turkestan collection. We can distinguish two groups of students of Punditsky English schools: 1-group Pundits - Hindus, 2-group Munshi, that is, local Muslims. The Pundits were also instructed to find allies for the prospect of plans to map the trade caravan routes, places of gold mines, plans for Eastern Turkestan and Tibet.

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