Tibetan Painted Scrolls - part 1

By Giuseppe Tucci

The work proposed here is the product of adventurous expeditions that the great Marchigian explorer made in Tibet and throughout central Asia. Concerning Buddhist paintings on scrolls or thangka, the "Tibetan Painted Scrolls" (1949)

Giuseppe Tucci was not only the most complete scholar of Oriental disciplines Italy has ever had, but he was also legendary across Asia and internationally renowned as one of the finest Tibetanologists. The work proposed here is the product of adventurous expeditions that the great Marchigian explorer made in Tibet and throughout central Asia. Concerning Buddhist paintings on scrolls or thangka, the "Tibetan Painted Scrolls" (1949), with their 798 pages and 256 colour plates, still constitute an immense patrimony for anthropologists and scholars of Oriental art and culture. Unobtainable for so many years, Mimesis International now puts back into circulation this indispensable work for the study of Tibetan culture. It is a precious testimony of the religious iconography of Tibetan Buddhism, for the great part lost, dispersed or stolen. Volume I of "Tibetan Painted Scrolls" is a vast survey of five hundred years of Tibetan cultural and religious history. Here professor Tucci, a noted scholar of Sanskrit, delineates different Buddhist lineages, their monuments and their traditions, giving a general survey of Vajrayana Buddhism. All these descriptions, since they have failed to survive the Cultural Revolution, are now all the more significant to Tibetan studies. The second part of Volume I is an unprecedented study on Tibetan thangka painting. It is divided in fifteen chapters, among which feature "Symbolical Meaning of Colors and Lines," "To Paint is to Evoke," "Iconometry" and "Consecration of Thangkas".
Tibetan Painted Scrolls - part 2

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The Tombs of Tibetan Kings

By Giuseppe Tucci

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In this precious book, Giuseppe Tucci tells of the funereal culture of the ancient Tibetan civilisation, born on the “roof of the world”. During his multiple expeditions in Tibet, Tucci had the opportunity to visit personally the tombs of their ancient kings and, in this book, he reports with a great wealth of detail their structural, aesthetic and symbolic characteristics; the treasures collected in their tomb, which are able to guarantee, even after the king’s death, the prosperity of the kingdom; the numerous rooms; and the king himself, placed in the centre of the tomb, so as to represent the world’s axis for eternity.
Tibetan Folk Songs from Gyantse and Western Tibet

By Giuseppe Tucci

Echoing through the streets of Gyantse and the valleys of the Western Tibet, these collected folk songs are perhaps Tucci’s most “romantic” work.

In 1949, after his eighth exploration in Tibet, Giuseppe Tucci published a collection and translation of local folk songs, which is presented here. Echoing through the streets of Gyantse and the valleys of the Western Tibet, these collected folk songs are perhaps Tucci’s most “romantic” work. They make transparent, besides the usual scientific rigour, Tucci’ great passion for his beloved Tibet.
Preliminary Report on Two Scientific Expeditions in Nepal

By Giuseppe Tucci

A precious book, in which a great anthropologist and scholar of Oriental studies glimpses, in the Nepal of the 1950s, all the contradictions and ambiguities of this most elusive country.

Even Tucci, who has made five or six expeditions in Nepal, thought it was a difficult country. During these expeditions, made for scientific purposes, Tucci found raucous joy in the bazaars, but also latent anxieties and negative omens in every shape or symbol. Thus, in “Between Jungles and Pagodas”, he wrote that “Nepal is one of the most diverse and complex countries in Asia: rich in colour, but also in suffering.” Under the splendour of temples’ golden domes, chapels have no windows and mystery is kept locked behind closed doors. A precious book, in which a great anthropologist and scholar of Oriental studies glimpses, in the Nepal of the 1950s, all the contradictions and ambiguities of this most elusive country.
The Nakhi Naga Cult and Related Ceremonies - part 1

By Joseph Francis Charles Rock

In this encyclopaedic dictionary, divided into two volumes, Joseph Francis Charles Rock focuses on the diffuse religiosity in the autonomous region of Lijiang, one of the few stopping points in the Middle Kingdom.

Joseph Francis Charles Rock was a great Austrian explorer and botanist. He was one of the few that had the ability to immerse himself completely in the lands inhabited by the magnificent Nakhi, and the first to disseminate in the West documents relative to Nakhi culture. In this encyclopaedic dictionary, divided into two volumes, Joseph Francis Charles Rock focuses on the diffuse religiosity in the autonomous region of Lijiang, one of the few stopping points in the Middle Kingdom. The author spent much time in this area of Tibetan culture in the current South-West of China, where in ancient times ruled the kingdom of Na-Khi. The present work, truly extraordinary and impossible to find, is the result of translations from documents Rock found. They describe religious ceremonies belonging to the Bön tradition, a religion tied to shamanism and animism; it was particularly diffuse in Tibet and in Nepal before the affirmation of Buddhism and, mixing with it, it gave rise to a series of customs and rituals still practiced today.
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At the centre of this research, conducted by great expert on Buddhism and Oriental religions, Giuseppe Tucci, is the mystery surrounding the life of Buddha, his fame and the achievements of his acolytes. We don’t even know his real name, only the appellative by which he was designated: Buddha, “the awakened one”. The work here presented contains Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan texts, each with a summary, introduction, captions and other key tools in English. It reveals the depth and humanity of a philosophy and practice central still now all over the world, and whose origins are lost in the mists of time.
Minor Buddhist Text - part 2
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Chaturman Rai
Himalayan folk-photographer and film-maker
By Martino Nicoletti

The story of Chaturman Rai, a peasant photographer hailing from the Himalayas who, with rudimental instruments and few resources, has captured one of the most remote and seductive corners of Asia. A great testimony of talent and tenacity.

In a remote Himalayan village without electricity or running water, young Chaturman, a shepherd and peasant belonging to the Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group of the Kulunge, has cultivated for many years a passion for photography. Chaturman has been able to appreciate this distant art thanks to the encounter with many itinerant photographers: enigmatic characters that, not until recently, passed through the farthest villages of Nepal as nomad professional photographers. Self-taught and a total experimenter, Chaturman develops his work with rudimental materials, always pressed by everyday necessities. In spite of this, his gaze fixes on one of the most remote and seductive corners of Asia. The resulting images take the surreal to its very limits and can hardly leave anyone indifferent.
Kathmandu

Lessons of darkness

By Martino Nicoletti

A journey through the multiple layers and sides of Kathmandu, the Himalayan metropolis and capital of Nepal. An account, as harsh as it is poetic, of the sacred city that does not surrender to cement.

Based on a series of series of long-term artistic investigations carried out by the author in Nepal between 2006 and 2012, the book is a poetical depiction of the contemporary metropolis of Kathmandu.

Created thanks to a combination of creative writing and photography, the work – absolutely the first on this original subject – is composed by a large series of poetical texts, excerpts from author’s travel journal and a wide selection of B/W photographs taken during the various sojourns in Kathmandu.