

# SCIENTIFIC REPORT

## **Digitization of Hedin and Jarring Collections for online access**

**with a grant of 2 million SEK from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond for preparatory work on infrastructure for research, 2011–2014.**

Digitization of materials from Central Asia collections once created by the Swedish scholars Sven Hedin (1865–1952) and Gunnar Jarring (1907–2002) has been initiated in an effort to increase the accessibility of the collections for both the scientific community and the general public by providing possibilities to search the catalogues of the collections and offering accounts of their provenance and contents.

The Sven Hedin Collections comprised by this project belong to the Sven Hedin Foundation at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and to the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm. The Gunnar Jarring Collection of Central Asia publications was formerly owned by the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and hosted for about 10 years by Stockholm University, where it was catalogued and kept as a separate library. One year after the initiation of the digitization project, this collection was donated to the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul. It was transported to Istanbul in March 2012.

Head and responsible leader of the project was Birgit Schlyter, Professor of Central Asian Studies at Stockholm University and Director of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, 2012–2014, with the assistance of Håkan Wahlquist, Curator at the Museum of Ethnography and head of Hedin Collections. Their staff hired for periods of varying lengths, consisted of the following persons: Ann Olsén Ehrnstén, photo archivist, Johan Fresk, Patrick Hällzon, and Azize Güneş, research assistants, Birgitta Kurultay, librarian, Tülin Uygur, library assistant, as well as computer consultants Magnus Johansson, Jonas Lindh, and Lars Larson. From time to time interneees and scholarship holders at the research institute in Istanbul were given specific tasks connected to the project work.

The project work was concentrated on the great quantity of objects to be found in both Hedin and Jarring Collections, namely reports, photographs, maps and drawings from journeys and expeditions to Eastern Turkestan, Mongolia, Iran and Tibet during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as prints – so-called Kashgar prints – published by the Swedish Mission in Eastern Turkestan during the same period. Given this point of departure, data from the different collections could be coordinated for a more comprehensive documentation of individual entities under digitization.

Besides funding from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, the digitization project was substantially supported by grants from The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Sven Hedin and David Hummel Foundations at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Furthermore, the two project leaders conducted their work within the framework of their positions as Professor/Director and Curator, respectively.

## RESULTS OF WORK ON MATERIALS FROM THE COLLECTIONS

### **Hedin Collections at the Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm – by December, 2014**

17.844 Tif image files in high resolution have been created from scanned negative plates, nitrate and acetate films, slides, and paper copies in different shapes.

42 maps and panoramas have been scanned.

780 image files have been transferred to the Carlotta database belonging to the National Museums of World Culture.

10.782 image files have been supplied with metadata originally attached to the images.

70 image files have been published on the website of the Sven Hedin Foundation, <http://svenhedinfoundation.org/>.

Ca 200 image files, photos, maps, and panoramas have been published on the <http://svenhedin.com/> website initiated within the framework of the digitization project.

Ca 2.000 pages from the Sven Hedin archive at the National Archive and the Museum of Ethnography have been scanned.

Ca 300 books, periodicals and offprints from the Sven Hedin Library have been catalogued in a FileMaker database.

Ca 400 files have been created with the names of persons who Sven Hedin exchanged letters with.

### **The Jarring Collection at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul – by December, 2014**

A new database online has been designed and constructed with a domain of its own, [www.srii.se/Jarring](http://www.srii.se/Jarring), and accessible also from the SRII website (under Library).

6.100 book pages have been published on [www.srii.se/Jarring](http://www.srii.se/Jarring) from 85 printed books and pamphlets in 8 different formats: Pdf, Flip-Book, Power-point, Word, html, text, eBook and photo.

Documentation and cross references have been added to files published in the new database.

In addition, ca 1000 digitized pages have been edited and are ready for publication.

40 new books (ca 3.500 pages) have been scanned and are currently edited and supplied with documentation.

Some 100 maps, tables, etc. in folded appendices to digitized works have been scanned and edited for future publication in a special section of the Jarring Collection database.

Almost half of the books belonging to the Jarring Collection at the SRII – all in all about 5000 books – have been registered in the Swedish national library catalogue, Libris.

A catalogue of travel accounts and related literature belonging to the SRII Jarring Collection with ca 350 entries has been published on the new website [www.srii.se/Jarring](http://www.srii.se/Jarring)

## EVALUATION OF RESULTS

Even though just a small part of the huge material from the Eastern Silk Road stored in Swedish archives has been covered, this project provided the basic infrastructure of databases for digitized items. International interest has been greater than expected.

Within the first six months after it had been published in 2014, the website with items from the Jarring Collection in Istanbul ([www.srii.se/Jarring](http://www.srii.se/Jarring)) was visited by people from more than 50 countries around the world. The average number of visits per day was 60 for the first few months of 2015. The standard of accessibility and design has been judged to be high by Google Sweden. During an international meeting at the SRII /Istanbul in April 2015 (see next section), scholars from archives and libraries in St Petersburg, London, Paris, Berlin, Beijing, and Dunhuang were introduced to the SRII Jarring Collection and the digitization work conducted there.

Researchers in cultural geography (topographical studies of Central Asia and China) and philology (editing of manuscripts in Old Uighur), to mention just two examples, have been provided with photographic material from Hedin collections made available through work in the digitization project. Digitized material from Hedin collections has been attended to by National Geographic Society for an expedition in the summer of 2015 to Eastern Pamir and the Wakhan Corridor, where “repeat photography” will be carried out on spots photographed and mapped by Sven Hedin in 1894–1895 and 1906.

## COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Contacts with the worldwide digitization network, The International Dunhuang Project (IDP), had been initiated prior to work in the digitization project. In January, 2010, the head of IDP, Curator Susan Whitfield at the British Library, London, and colleagues of hers were invited to a meeting in Stockholm hosted by Professor Birgit Schlyter at Stockholm University and Curator Håkan Wahlquist at the Museum of Ethnography. Plans for the establishment of an “IDP Sweden” and joint applications for research grants were discussed. The Swedish hosts were invited to contribute to the IDP database from Hedin and Jarring Collections.

In the following year the project team visited IDP London and received an invitation to participate in an IDP Business Meeting in Dunhuang, China, scheduled for October, 2011. Two colleagues from the project went to this meeting with a report on the newly-started digitization project in Stockholm. Under the supervision of Håkan Wahlquist, the IDP database has from then on continuously been supplied with digitized material from the present project.

Discussions between the IDP Head Whitfield and Professor Schlyter, then SRII Director in Istanbul, were intensified and Schlyter was eventually asked to host the next IDP Business Meeting after Dunhuang (above), in Istanbul. Whitfield in turn was invited to deliver the 2014 Jarring Lecture at SRII/Istanbul. The Jarring Lecture took place on 14 October, 2014, under the title of “The International Dunhuang Project: Enabling Scholarship on Archaeological Collections from Central Asia through Worldwide Collaboration”. The IDP Business Meeting was held on 22-25 April, 2015, and offered the IDP leadership a good opportunity to present its program and agenda to Turkish scholars and institutions.

In Sweden, cooperation with the Swedish Mission Covenant Church (Missionskyrkan, now part of the Ecumenia Church) has been conducted on a large scale thanks to research assistant Patrick Hällzon, who has also worked part time for the archive belonging to this church. Their archive contains material from the Swedish Mission in Eastern Turkestan overlapping with the collections worked on in the digitization project. When the Jarring Collection arrived in Istanbul in 2012, the scanning equipment needed to be improved. In the meantime, the research assistant could carry out scanning for the Jarring Collection from copies available in the abovementioned archive. Furthermore, from the same archive, the Jarring Collection in Istanbul has received extra copies of prints published by the former Swedish missionaries in Eastern Turkestan still missing in Istanbul.

During her activities as Director of the SRII, Professor Schlyter developed close contacts with the Asian Studies Center at the Bosphorus University (Boğaziçi Üniversitesi) in Istanbul, as a result of which she was affiliated to this research center as a visiting scholar for 3 years, 2015–2017.

#### SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIUMS ORGANIZED BY THE PROJECT TEAM

The following seminars and symposiums were organized in Istanbul and Stockholm by the project team:

Istanbul, 30 September, 2013

The Eastern Turkey Seminar

– with a survey of accounts of Silk Road Traveling in the Jarring Collection at the SRII and an introduction to a weeklong excursion to the western end of the Silk Road in south-eastern Turkey.

Istanbul, 11–14 October, 2014

Cultural Treasures from the Silk Road in Swedish Archives

– a symposium with international guest speakers from London, Berlin and Istanbul and a final program for the 2014 Gunnar Jarring Lecture, to be held for the first time in the midst of the Jarring Collection at the SRII/Istanbul.

Stockholm, 14 February, 2015

I upptäckarens fotspår – Sven Hedin idag [In the footprints of the explorer – Sven Hedin today]

– a half-day seminar for the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sven Hedin.

## PUBLIC LECTURES

During four years of work on this digitization project, 26 public lectures were delivered upon invitation by project leaders Schlyter and Wahlquist and research assistant Hällzon in cities across Europe and Asia: Stockholm, Uppsala, Sundsvall, Göteborg, Malmö, Copenhagen, London, St Petersburg, Istanbul, Izmir, Calcutta, Srinagar, Urumchi, Dunhuang, Hongkong, and Kyoto.

## PUBLICATIONS

12 articles relating to the project were published in periodicals, newspapers, and anthologies. Two conference volumes were edited or co-edited by project leader Schlyter, who also completed a collection of essays during the same period. One book was authored by a scholar, Shogaito, who was not part of the project but who based his piece of work on materials made accessible by the project.

### **Birgit Schlyter**

”Kulturskatter förevigas i virtuell värld” [Cultural treasures eternalized in a virtual world], in *Svenska Dagbladet*, Under strecket, 5 December, 2011.

”Från Istanbul till Dunhuang” [From Istanbul to Dunhuang], in *Dragomanen* 14 (2012).

”Svenska Forskningsinstitutet i Istanbul – en mötesplats i Eurasiens mitt” [The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul – a meeting-place in the heart of Eurasia], in Lundén, Thomas (ed.), *Sverige utanför – svensk makt och dess spår i utlandet. Ymer: Svenska sällskapet för antropologi och geografi*, vol. 135 (2015), pp. 177–200.

*Utsiktsplats Istanbul: Berättelser från turkfolkens värld* [Viewpoint Istanbul: Accounts from the Turkic world], Stockholm: Atlantis 2015.

(editorship and chapter) *Historiography and Nation-Building among Turkic Populations*, Papers 5, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, Stockholm 2014.

”From the Private Library of Gunnar Jarring and His New Eastern Turki Dictionary”, in *Kashgar Revisited* (see next entry).

(editorship together with Ildiko Bellér-Hann och Jun Sugawara:) *Kashgar Revisited: Uyghur Studies in Memory of Gunnar Jarring*, Leiden: Brill (forthcoming).

### **Håkan Wahlquist**

”Xiaohe Mudi eller Ördeks nekropol - En arkeologisk fyndplats i Taklamakanöknen och dess svenska förhistoria” [Xiaohe Mudi or the necropolis of Ördek – An archaeological site in the Taklamakan desert and its Swedish connection], in *Kinarapport* Nr 1/2011, pp. 6-14.

Wang, Xiao-Ming, Xie Guang-Pu, Li Qiang, Zhije J. Tseng, Gary T. Takeuchi, Wang Ban-Yue, Mikael Fortelius, Asta Rosenström-Fortelius, William R. Downs, Zang Chun-Fu and, Wang, Yang: “Early Explorations of Qaidam Basin (Tibetan Plateau) by Birger Bohlin –Reconciling Classic Vertebrate Fossil Localities with Modern Biostratigraphy”, in *Vertebrata Palasiatica* Vol.49:3 (07/2011), pp. 285-310  
Chinese abstract: Bulin zai Qinghai Chaida pendi de zaoji gongzuo jilu – jingdian jizhuidongwy huashi didian yu xiandai dicing kuanjia de jieyi.

“Sven Hedin och den IX Panchen Lama – tre möten, tre fotograferingar och deras historiska kontext”  
[Sven Hedin and the IX Panchen Lama – three encounters, three snapshots and their historical context], in *Kinarapport* 2014:3, ss.12-17.

### **Patrick Hällzon**

Journey, Place and Pilgrims: Situating Contested Religious Practice among the Contemporary Muslim Uyghur of Central Asia with the Mazar as a Point of Reference. Unpublished M.A. Thesis. Department of Oriental Languages, South and Central Asian Studies. Stockholm University, 2012.

”Med kameran i hand: betraktelser från Svenska Missionsförbundets arbete i Östturkestan”, i, *Kinarapport* [With the camera at hand: reports from the Swedish Mission Covenant Church in Eastern Turkestan], no. 2, 2014, pp. 4–13.

”Mazar Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Swedish Missionaries in Eastern Turkestan ”, in Sugawara, Jun (ed.), *Studies on Islamic Sacred Sites in Central Eurasia*, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Press. Fuchu (in press).

### **Masahiro Shogaito**

*The Uighur Abhidarmakośabhāṣya Preserved at the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm*. Turcologica 99 Harrassowitz Verlag Wiesbaden 2014.

### **Tülin Uygun**

“İsveçli Gezginler Türk Dillerinin ve Orta Asya Türklerinin İzinde” [Swedish travellers in the Central Asian Turkic world], in *Aydınlık*, 3 June 2014.

“Uygurların Tarihi ve Kültürel Mirası İsveç’te” [History of the Uighurs and their cultural legacy in Sweden], in *Aydınlık*, 10 June 2014.

## **VISIONS AND FOLLOW-UPS**

The prerequisites in terms of equipment, routines, technical know-how and databases have been secured for continued work on digitizing materials in the renowned Swedish collections from the eastern Silk Road system.

At present, work in the Jarring Collection will go on for some more time thanks to new grants from the Royal Academy of Letters and a decision by the Rector of Stockholm University allowing the project leader, Professor Birgit Schlyter, to continue her digitization and research work in Istanbul. Two research assistants from the digitization project, Patrick Hällzon and Azize Güneş, will be engaged for future digitization and editing. Two book projects (editing and publishing with commentaries) are included in the current project: *An Eastern Turki – English Dialect Dictionary* compiled by Gunnar Jarring from the mid-1960s till the end of his life in 2002, and a grammar of Eastern Turki (Uighur) by the missionary Magnus Bäcklund from the first few years of the 1900s.

For continued work on Hedin collections new applications for grants have been initiated by the project leader Håkan Wahlquist, since the summer of 2013 retired curator but still president of the Sven Hedin Foundation and in charge of and coordinator of Hedin collections.

Istanbul, 20 May, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Birgit Schlyter', written in a cursive style.

Professor, head of *Silk Road Studies in Memory of Gunnar Jarring*, 2015–2017,  
with affiliation to Asian Studies Center, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul