

**A GLOSSARY OF  
REFERENCE ON  
SUBJECTS CONNECTED  
WITH THE FAR EAST**

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A Glossary of Reference on Subjects Connected with the Far East by Herbert A. Giles

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A

# GLOSSARY OF REFERENCE,

ON

SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE FAR EAST.

BY

HERBERT A. GILES,

OF H.M.'S CHINA CONSULAR SERVICE.

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*"Why, he's a griffin! He doesn't know a tepo from a tepoy."*

OLD CHINA SAYING.

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## PREFACE.

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THREE years and a half ago, the writer began to note down in a species of commonplace book all kinds of terms, titles, slang, miscellaneous phraseology, etc., etc., gathered from conversation, newspapers, and similar sources, and specially connected in some way or other with the Far East. It then became an agreeable task to arrange these alphabetically for convenience of reference, and to add under each heading an all too brief entry recording some one or more points which it was thought might prove of general interest. This collection is now published in the hope that it will be of use to many among the residents out here, who often wish to know the meaning or application of a word or phrase, but who have not leisure for anything like extended research; also to new arrivals, and to travellers, the number of whom increases visibly every year; and finally, even to those friends at home who devote any part of their time and attention to the affairs of such remote regions.

No efforts have been spared to ensure both accuracy and completeness, though it is hardly anticipated that either of these desirable objects will have been actually attained. Omissions have doubtless been made, and mistakes will probably be found out when too late; it is at any rate satisfactory to reflect that at the present era of widely-extended scholarship in Chinese matters, neither are very likely long to escape detection.\*

There remains only the pleasing duty of acknowledging assistance other than that mentioned under "List of principal authorities consulted." The writer's best thanks are here offered to his brother, A. H. Giles, of Gya; to Dr. Bieber, of Singapore; to Mr. Taro Ando, of Hongkong; to Dr. H. F. Hance, to Baron von Soden, and to Messrs. L. C. Hopkins, A. Roberts, W. H. Clayson, and J. Acheson, of Canton;—to each of whom he is indebted for many useful suggestions and other valuable help.

[NOTE.—The following curious passage occurs in an able article on *The Anglo-Indian Tongue* published in Blackwood's Magazine for May 1877:—

"No man can ever expect to be appreciated in Anglo-Indian society until he has caught up its shibboleth, no matter how great his other accomplishments may be . . . . In Madras the native domestics speak English of a purity and idiom which rival in eccentricity the famous *pidgin* English of the treaty ports in China; and the masters mechanically adopt the language of their servants. Thus an Englishman wishing to assure himself that an order has been duly executed, asks, 'Is that done gone finished, Appoo?' and Appoo

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[\* For a few additions and corrections already made the reader is referred to the *Supplement* and *Errata* at the end of the volumes.]



"replies in the same elegant phraseology, 'Yes, sare, all done gone "finished whole."'"

Now it is partly as a key to the shibboleth of Anglo-Chinese society that this *Glossary* has been designed, though to judge by the opening lines of the above-quoted article, which the writer tells us would be perfectly intelligible in a Calcutta drawing-room, there is no comparison between the phraseological difficulties in the way of new arrivals in the Far East and those to be encountered by the "griffin" who wishes to be appreciated in Anglo-Indian Society. These lines run thus:—"I'm dikk'ed to death! The khansamah has got chhutti, "and the whole bangla is ulta-pulta. The khidmatghars loot "everything, and the masalchi is breaking all the surwa-basans; and "when I give a hukm to cut their tallabs, they get magra and ask "their jawabs. And then the maistries are putting up jill-mills, and "making such a gol-mol ("pompon bobbery" in Japanese Pidgin-English), that I say darwaza band to everybody. But when all is "tik, I hope you will tiff with us." The translation of this is:—"I'm "bothered to death! The butler has got leave, and the whole house is "turned upside down. The table-servants steal everything, and the "scullion is breaking all the soup-plates; and when I order their wages "to be cut, they all grow sulky and give warning. And then the "carpenters are putting up venetians, and making such an uproar, that "I am obliged to say 'not at home' to everybody. But when all is "put to rights, I hope you will lunch with us."

For specimens of terms used in Anglo-Chinese parlance, see *Yüan-ming-yüan*.]

HERBERT A. GILES.

H. B. M.'s Consulate,

Canton: April 10th, 1878.



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