

**THROUGH THE UNKNOWN  
PAMIRS: THE  
SECOND DANISH PAMIR  
EXPEDITION 1898-99**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649721818

Through the Unknown Pamirs: The Second Danish Pamir Expedition 1898-99 by O. Olufsen

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**O. OLUFSEN**

**THROUGH THE UNKNOWN  
PAMIRS: THE  
SECOND DANISH PAMIR  
EXPEDITION 1898-99**



THROUGH THE  
UNKNOWN PAMIRS

61499

*Published at the expense of the Church  
Ministry and the Carlsberg Fund*

*This Edition enjoys Copyright in all  
Countries Signatory to the Berne  
Treaty.*

YASOJ TNAJ

~~52~~  
1904

## PREFACE

THE First and Second Danish Expeditions to Pamir, whereof this book is one of the results, were undertaken at my initiative and under my guidance during the years 1896-97 and 1898-99, the object of both journeys being the exploration of South Pamir from the territory round the river Gund, the lake of Yashilkul and Alitshur Pamir, to the Hindu Kush.

THE FIRST DANISH PAMIR EXPEDITION, which I was able to perform through the goodwill of some private gentlemen,\* lasted from March 25, 1896, to March 1, 1897. We went from Copenhagen through St. Petersburg, Moscow, Vladikaukas and Tiflis to Baku; thence by steamer across the Caspian to Usun Ada, at that time the starting-point of the Transcaspian Railway, and so by rail by way of Merv and Bokhara to Samarkand. Thence the journey was continued by carriage ("tarantas") through Tashkent, Khodjend, Kokand and Margelan to Osh in Ferghana. At Osh I equipped a small expedition with people, saddle-horses, beasts of burden, tents and stores, which in June started from Ferghana to Pamir, and returned to Osh in September. The strength of the expedition was from seven to fourteen men, partly hired Sarts from

\* Count Lerche-Lerchenborg and Director H. Krag, Nestved.

Ferghana, partly Kirghiz from High Pamir and native mountain Tadjiks from those inhabited valleys of Pamir through which we were to pass. The Sart Hamrakul was my interpreter in the Tadjik tongue; I spoke to him in Ottoman Turkish, by help of which the Turkish dialect of the Sarts is quite easily learnt.

The expedition into Pamir went from Osh through the Alai mountains, the pass of Taldyk, the Alai steppe, and the lake of Karakul to the Russian fort, Pamirsky Post, by the river Murghab, whence the adventure was continued by the lakes of Yashilkul, Bulunkul, and the pass of Khargosh, to Vakhan. We worked through Vakhan, Ishkashim, Garan, Shugnan, Roshan, to Kalai Wamar; thence across the glacier-clad pass of Guskom, the river Yashgulam, and the glaciers in the Wandsh mountains to Kalai Wandsh. From Kalai Wandsh we moved along the Pandsh to the town of Kalai Khumb; thence across the pass of Sagridasht to Tevil-darra and Chil-darra, and through the pass of Kamtshirak, to Garm in Karategin. From Garm we went through Karategin and the Alai steppe back to Osh, through the pass of Taldyk. At Kalai Khumb I was met by the Bokhara Beg, Mirza Abdul Kader, who was sent thither to meet me by the Emir of Bokhara, and accompanied me on the Second Danish Pamir Expedition in 1898-99. During the rest of the time through which the expedition lasted we made longer stays, especially at Samarkand, at Bokhara as the guests of the Emir, and at Merv.

It is evident, from the great distance covered during so short a time, that this first expedition must be looked upon as a reconnoitring adventure which was to precede the more elaborate journeyings which are the subject of this book. I found very great difficulties in passing through





LIEUTENANT O. OLUFSEN



Vakhan, and more so in passing through Garan, where we had to pass over innumerable mountain spurs that thrust themselves down to the Pandsh river, for the water of the river was so high that we could not get along the banks, and the glaciers of the Roshan and the Vandsh mountains were very difficult to pass, as we had no assistance but what could be procured at the place itself. In Karategin and at the Alai steppe the expedition had constant downpours of rain and snowstorms to fight against during the whole month of September, so that it was only with the very greatest difficulty that we succeeded in crossing the Alai mountains on our way back to Ferghana.

The results of this first journey, amongst others the first map of Vakhan and Garan, were published in the periodical journal of the Royal Danish Geographical Society for 1897. A collection of ethnographical specimens was brought home to the National Museum at Copenhagen—these were bought partly by the museum itself and partly by a merchant in Nestved, Director Krag, to this end.

THE SECOND DANISH PAMIR EXPEDITION, amongst the members of which were the natural philosopher Anthon Hjuler, Assistant Master of the High School at Randers, and the botanist Ove Paulsen, M.A., I led from Copenhagen on March 23, 1898, bringing it back at the end of November 1899.

The means for the undertaking of this expedition, the object of which was a thorough examination of South Pamir, especially Vakhan and Garan, were granted by the Danish Parliament and the Carlsberg Fund—the Danish Consul, A. Nissen, at Rostoff, Don, and the Danish merchant Paul Mörck in St. Petersburg also contributed to it; whilst Paul Mörck also gave a considerable sum towards the