

Joseph Hackin.

(1886- - 1941)

On April 23rd a brief cable to the Associated Press announced the death of Professor Joseph Hackin and Madame J.R. Hackin in an air crash "somewhere" in England. Science will mourn the death of a distinguished archaeologist and historian of Art, and those who knew him personally mourn a charming man ever willing to guide and assist the numerous research students who flocked to his hospitable study at the Musée Guimet in Paris.

Born at Beevange (Luxembourg) on the 8th November 1886, Hackin's main interest lay in the field of Buddhist Art and Archaeology. He received his training as an Orientalist at the Ecoles des Hautes Etudes in Paris where he attended classes in Sanskrit and Tibetan under the guidance of the late Professor Sylvain Lévi. From the very beginning of his scientific career Hackin had been intimately associated with the Musée Guimet in Paris, It was amidst the rich collections of this unique institution that he found ample scope for his researches in the field of Buddhist Art and Archaeology. He felt powerfully attracted by the Arts of Ancient India and especially by the colourful and highly decorative Buddhist Art of Tibet and Central Asia. During the years preceding the World War of 1914-18, the collections of the Musée Guimet received important additions. The rich collections of antiques and manuscripts brought back by the Mission Pelliot (1906-8) from Eastern Turkestan and Kansu were first deposited at the Musée du Louvre and the manuscripts and prints at the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris. Some of the best paintings on

first in the capacity of
assistant
keeper, and
then director
for

silk recovered from the Walled-up Library of Ch'ien fe-tung in
 Tun-huang (Western Kansu Province, China) were ^{however} (transferred to
 the Musée Guimet where they now occupy a separate hall (Salle
 Pelliet). Almost simultaneously a rich and varied collection
 of Tibetan religious banners or than-kas was donated to the
 Museum by Professor Jacques Bacot, the eminent French Tibeto-
 logist and explorer. It was this environment that inspired
 Hackin. His first published work was however not dedicated
 to India or Tibet, but to the Art of Ancient China. In 1910
 he published in collaboration^a with M. Chang Yi-chu a catalogue of
 the collection of Chinese Paintings preserved at the Musée Guimet
 (Tchang Yi-tchou et J. Hackin: La peinture chinoise au Musée
 Guimet. Annales du Musée Guimet. Bibliothèque d'art du Musée Guimet.
 LV, Paris, 1910). Some of his most important works deal with the
 art of Tibet. In 1911 he published a monograph on the art of
 Tibet basing^{ed} himself on the Bacot collection at the Musée Guimet
 (J. Hackin: L'Art Tibétain (introduction de M. J. Bacot). Paris, 1911),
 and also contributed an article entitled^d "Notes d'iconographie
 tibétaine" in the Mélanges d'Indianisme offerts par des élèves
 à M. Sylvain Lévi, Paris, 1911, pp. 312-328. In 1916 he published the
 important memoir on the representations of the Life of Śākyamuni,
 the Buddha, in the Tibetan iconography, based on the "alita-Vistara"
 (J. Hackin: Les scènes figurées de la Vie du Bouddha dans l'icono-
 graphie tibétaine. Mémoires concernant l'Asie ^{Orientale} Centrale, vol. 11,
 Paris, 1916). Among his other works on Tibetan art ~~we must~~ mention ^{made of} must be
 his lecture at the Musée Guimet "Sur les illustrations tibétaines
 d'une légende du Divyāvadhāna" which appeared in the Annales du
 Musée Guimet, Bibl. vulg. XL, 1914, "Some notes on Tibetan paintings"
 (Rupam, No. 7), "Indian art in Tibet and Central Asia", The India

Society, London, 1925, "A propos d'un article recent sur la peinture tibétaine. Revue des arts Asiatiques, V, 1928, 1, p. 39-40, and his "La sculpture indienne et tibétaine au Musée Guimet", Paris, 1931. Hackin also contributed chapters on Tibetan art in the Encl. Britannica and in the "Asiatic Mythology", ed. by P. Coucheud, New York.

In 1921 the Musée Guimet started the publication of a "Bulletin Archeologique du Musée Guimet", the 2nd part of which, dedicated to the Central Asian and Tibetan Collections (Missions Pelliot et Bacot) of the Musée Guimet contains a Catalogue by J. Hackin of the Pelliot Collection, exhibited in the Salle Pelliot, (paintings and pottery), and a description of the Tibetan paintings of the Bacot Collection, representing the sixty mahāsiddhas (pp. 29-38). Appointed Director of the Musée Guimet, Hackin published in 1923 a Guide-Catalogue of the Museum, dedicated to the Buddhist collections (India, Gandhāra, Eastern Turkestan, North China and Tibet). This useful publication was in reality not a dry catalogue inventory of the Museum collections, but a general survey of the Buddhist Art in India, China, Central Asia and Tibet. Under his guidance the Musée Guimet developed into an important centre of scientific and cultural life of the French capital. Since 1927 the Museum authorities were engaged in the work of reorganization and modernization of the Museum. New halls were added (for example the Salle d'Afghanistan) and the presentation of the collections was thoroughly modernized. In 1935 the Museum was able to mark its fiftieth anniversary amidst new surroundings. J. Hackin did not limit himself to the study of the rich pictorial material brought back to Paris by the Mission Pelliot, he also collabo-

rated in the study of the vast number of manuscript remains recovered from the Walled-up Library of Ch'ien Fe-tung in Tun-huang. In 1924 in the Series dedicated to the study of the manuscript material brought back by the Mission Pelliot, he edited and translated a Sanskrit-Tibetan manuscript of the X A.D. (Coll. Pelliot No. 3521), brought back from Tun-huang (J. Hackin: Formulaire Sanskrit-Tibétain du X siècle. Mission Pelliot en Asie Centrale, Série petitin-Octave, vol. 11, Paris. 1924.

But the greatest event of his life was the archaeological exploration of Afghanistan. In 1922 Professor Alfred Foucher visited Kābul and negotiated with the Afghan Government a convention which gave France the right to conduct archaeological explorations in Afghan territory. This was the beginning of the "Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan", which for the last twenty years conducted archaeological explorations in various parts of Afghanistan. In 1923 Prof. A. Foucher was joined by M. André Godard, architect and archaeologist. During 1923 the French archaeologists visited Jelālābād /the ancient Nagarāhāra, the site of the miracle of the Buddha Dāpānkara/, Hadda, Kābul and Bāmīyān with its 12,000 cave temples (11 A.D. - VIII A.D.). The field work carried out during 1922-23 was necessarily limited to a preliminary archaeological survey. Numerous sites with important ancient remains were known to exist, and the directors of the Archaeological Mission had first to *create* a plan of exploration, and *then* establish the importance of the various sites awaiting the spade of excavators. In 1924 the French Mission was joined by J. Hackin who began his exploratory work in Afghanistan by conducting an archaeological survey north of the

Hindukush Range in the vicinity of Balkh (ancient Bactra) and further north in the basin of the Oxus.

In 1930 J. Hackin was placed at the head of the Archaeological Mission, assisted by M. Jean Carl, architect. They continued the work ^ubegin by Mons. & Mme Godard at Bāmīyān, as well as explored the cave temples in the valley of Kakrak, situated in the vicinity of Bāmīyān. Excavations were also conducted in the neighborhood of Kābul, where some 12 km. NW of the Afghan capital, ^{at Khair-khāneh} a temple was excavated - the first brahmanical non-buddhist edifice to be excavated in Afghan territory, in the ruins of which the excavators discovered a remarkable statue of Suryā in white marble.

In 1931 J. Hackin interrupted his researches in Afghanistan to join, in the capacity of archaeologist, the mechanized expedition of André Citroën-Haardt, which unsuccessfully attempted to cross on caterpillar trucks by the Gilgit route into Eastern Turkestan. The difficulties created by the Provincial Authorities of Hsin-chiang ^{from carrying} prevented the expedition ~~to~~ carry out its programme of archaeological excavations and surveys. Hackin was however able to visit some of the sites in the Kucha and Turfan area (Qizil, Bazaklik, Murtuq). The results of his observations were embodied in a monograph entitled "Recherches archeologiques en Asie Centrale" (1931), Paris, 1936, pp. 35, pl. 1-XXVI. (On the expedition Citroën-Centre Asie, see Georges Le Fèvre: La Croisière Jaune. Troisième Mission Georges-Marie Haardt et Louis Audeuin-Dubreuil, Paris, Plon, 1933; Louis Audeuin-Dubreuil: Sur la route de la Soie. Paris. 1935/

In 1932-33 J.Hackin proceeded to the Far East to direct the Maisen France-Japonaise in Tōkyō. During ^{his} stay at the Japanese capital he delivered a series of lectures on the explorations of the French Mission in Afghanistan. These lectures were since published by the Maisen France-Japonaise in Tōkyō under the title of "L'Oeuvre de la Delegation Archæologique Française en Afghanistan (1922-32), Tōkyō, 1933. Very important excavations were conducted during the field season of 1936-37. The field work was directed by J.Hackin, assisted by Mme Hackin, M. Jean Carl, Jacques Meunie and Ghirshman. Explorations were conducted in several parts of Afghanistan. During September-December excavations were carried out in Afghan Seistān, where M.Ghirshman surveyed a number of prehistoric sites. In January the Mission explored the ruins of a buddhist monastery near Kunduz in North Afghanistan. The spring months were spent in fruitful excavations at Begram (ancient Kāpisi, 80 km. north of Kabul), at Shotarak (5 km. east of Begram), and at Fondukistan 9 between Kābul and Bāmiyān). In 1937 the Mission made what may prove to be its most important find. While excavating a walled-up room in the ruins of Begram, the archaeologists discovered numerous objects remarkable for their artistic interest and state of preservation. These objects consisted of some fifty Greek bronzes, goblets and vases in Syrian painted glass (I - IV A.D.), and a considerable number of remarkable ivory plaques, the work of Indian ivory carvers, an art which was extensively practised in Ancient India and of which only a few specimens had come down to us. The Begram plaques exhibit a certain affinity to

the Mathurā school (II A.D.), and according to Hackin belong to the Pre-Gupta period, of which little ^{was} ~~is~~ known up-to-now. (On the Begram plaques see the preliminary reports of the finds ^{by J. Hackin} (which appeared in the Revue des Arts Asiatiques, XII,1 (1938) - "Les travaux de la Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan, Compte-rendu Sommaire, Sept.1936 -Aout,1937"; Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology, vol.XII for the year 1937 (Leyden,1939), pp.30-33,pl. IX,X;also " Recentes trouvailles archéologiques de style pré-Goupta" in the "Arts Musulmans Extrême-Orient" (Histoire Universelle des Arts, Paris, Colin,1939), pp.283.

At Shotarak, M. J. Meunie excavated a buddhist temple which had been mentioned by the famous Chinese buddhist pilgrim Hsüan-tsang in the VII A.D.. The excavations yielded numerous buddhist sculptures /III-IV A.D./.

At Fandukistan, M. J. Carl excavated the ruins of a buddhist monastery with frescoes in Central Asian styles /VI-VII A.D./, perhaps the work of Central Asian artist-monks.

These excavations in Afghanistan have immensely enriched our knowledge of the so-called greco-buddhist school of Gandhāra (I B.C.- IV A.D.), and have revealed the existence of a late Buddhist art with a strong Iranian (Sassanian) influence, which the French archaeologists call irano-buddhist (IV-VII A.D.), and which possibly represents a branch of the great Central Asian Buddhist Art.

So far only buddhist sites have attracted the attention of archaeologists in Afghanistan. We feel sure that future excavations will yield numerous finds of the great Central Asian nomadic art.

The work of the Mission which continued at Begram in 1939-1940, was interrupted by the present War, and the departure of Professor and Madame Hackin for England. The results of the several expeditions conducted by the French Mission are published in a series "Mémoires de la Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan". Four volumes of this Series, dedicated to the excavations at Bamiyān, Hadda and Khair-Khāneh have already appeared, and others are in preparation. The finds of the various expeditions are divided between the Museum in Kābul and the Musée Guimet, the most important finds going, naturally, to the Museum in Kābul, the considerable extension of which has been recently announced in the Press.

In recognition of his exploratory work, Professor Hackin was elected Corresponding Membre of the Institut de France

Besides his numerous and manysided duties as Museum director, and Head of an archaeological Mission, Hackin found time to conduct courses in Indian art and archaeology, ⁱⁿ Tibetan and Central Asian art at the Ecole du Louvre in Paris.

In our days of strife and upheavals, losses are numerous and cruel, ^{all} and ^{are} the more cruel they ~~seem~~ when difficult to replace among the not too numerous band of scientific and cultural workers.

J. Kacim: - The westward extension of Sasanian
motives. Bul. Am. Inst. Pers. Arch. IV, p 5ff.

Repartition des monnaies anciennes
en Afghanistan, J. As. CCXXVI, p 287-292.

J. Kacim: L'art bouddhique de la
Mésopotamie et l'origine de l'art
gréco-bouddhique. Bul. archéologique
publié par la section historique de
l'Académie afghane. fasc. I, Kabul,
1927 (Persian and French text).

" Archaeological Explorations of the neck
of the Khair Khanah (near Kabul).
J. Ind. Soc. III, 1, p 23-35. -

Kacim: Sanizân - Tokyo, 1922 in Japanese
(Summary of a lecture
delivered in the Imperial
Univ. of Tokyo.)

Les fouilles de la Délégation Arch.
Française à Hadda (Afghanistan)
Mission Foucault-Jodard-Barthoux (1927-8)
RAA. 1928 pp. 66-76 -

Hechin: The Colossal Vedicas at Dāmiyān;
their influence on Buddhist
Sculpture.

Eastern Art, vol. 7, pp. 107-116.

J. and R. Hechin: Le site archéologique de
Dāmiyān. Guide du visiteur
Paris, 1934.

Hechin: Sculptures grecs-bouddhiques du Kapiśā -
Monuments et Mémoires publiés par
l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres
(Fondation Piot), vol. XXVIII, 1, Paris 1925/6.

The work of the Mission, continued at
 Bezean in 1839-40, was interrupted
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Mémoires de la Délégation Archéologique -

- vol. II. A. Godard, J. Godard, J. Hackin! -
Les Antiquités Bouddhiques de
Dāmiyān. Paris. Van Oest,
1928 -
- vol. III. J. Hackin et J. Carl: Nouvelles
Recherches Archéologiques
à Dāmiyān. Paris Van Oest, 1932.
- vol. IV. J. Barthoux: - Les Fouilles de Kadda,
I (Stupas et Sites.) Paris,
Van 1933.
- III. Figures et figures (1930)
- vol. V. J. Hackin & J. Carl. Recherches archéologi-
ques au col de Khan Khavah
près de Kaboul. Paris. 1936.
- Hackin-Carl. Dāmiyān (Conclusions) -
(en préparation) -