



Drawn by Frank Saddle

Asian Trade Caravans Grind to Halt

Mr. Rahul, an Indian student of Central Asia, served as guide and companion for Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court on the latter's 1951 expedition to the Himalayas. He is now in the United States as a Rockefeller fellow for special studies at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy.

By R. N. Rahul

Written for *The Christian Science Monitor*

One of central Asia's greatest and most colorful trading centers—the meeting place for lonely caravans from central Siberia, northwest China, and the lameries of secluded Tibet—is having difficult days.

Until 1950, the year the Chinese Communists consolidated their hold on the north and southwest, the trading center at Ladakh bustled with the clank of ponies' feet and brisk trading in tea, silk, jute, saffron, shawls, and Yarkandi jade bangles.

Today, the mountain passes leading into Ladakh, and its main caravan center at Leh, are quiet.

The Reds are not as anxious to trade with non-Communist countries.

And the rugged people of these Himalayan foothills have little more than memories of a flourishing past when central Asia knew no frontier barriers or political tariff walls.

Routes Converge in Leh

Early in their history, the people of Ladakh discovered that the barren, bleak and mountainous nature of their land did not promise much for self-sufficiency. They established, therefore, a network of caravan routes for external trade, setting up thereby permanent contacts with the neighboring countries of central Asia.

A string of regular forts all over these regions, now dilapidated or in ruins, afforded protection to traders and travelers against banditry and served as watch posts against smuggling at the same time.

All the caravan routes converged in Leh, whose central position made it an entrepot of central Asian trade.

This unique rendezvous of peoples from India, Tibet, and Turkestan was also the

great terminus of caravans from those far-flung regions. And it was seldom that a Hoshiarpuri caravan went north from Leh or those from Yarkand proceeded south of it.

Merchants and traders who would have been trudging for months along difficult and rough roads over the steppes met in Leh during the summer months and disposed of their pack merchandise, largely by barter, for mutual advantage and convenience.

Yarkandis seldom took their caravan ponies back, but sold them for whatever price they fetched in the Leh bazaar. This was necessary because those powerful animals of fine central Asian breeds used to get sadly out of condition after months over most trying routes, across rough defiles and passes of the Karakoram Mountains.

Variety Is Spice of Goods

Principal articles of Ladakhi trade through the ages have been brocades from Benaras, herbs, imitation pearls, red colored goat-skins from Punjab, saffron and shawls from Kashmir, and spices and sugars for the markets of Kashgar, Khotan, and Yarkand.

Chakmen and kham (superior and coarse khaddar) and cups and bangles of jade travel from Yarkand to Tibet.

Local merchants of Ladakh still carry to Tibet many of the domestic utilities from India—matches, needles and soaps—and dry fruits from Baltistan. Ladakhi merchants also conduct the entire trade between Ladakh and Nepal.

Ever after Queen Victoria sent a mission under Sir Douglas Forsyth to the Court of Yakub Beg in 1875, consequent to the commercial treaty of 1870 between the Governments of India and Kashmir, the British Government in India was always at pains to protect the interests of traders from India in Sinkiang. For Indian merchants had to pay duties on entering or leaving any town in that country in direct violation of Treaty of Tientsin, of June 26, 1858, which enabled Britain *vis-à-vis* India to enjoy all commercial favors granted by China to any other foreign nation.

Problems in maintaining a British con-

sulate resulted in hampering of trade between India and Sinkiang to the advantage of Russian traders, whose government maintained a consulate there and obtained for them rights of free trade in southwestern Sinkiang. But there developed a flourishing trade intercourse with the central Asian countries when the British Government opened its first consulate in Kashgar in the last decade of the 19th century and established a chain of aksakals ("white beard" native trade agents), under the consul general in Kashgar, for dealing with local matters affecting the interests of British subjects in Sinkiang before the civil war of 1933-34.

Last Mission Sent in '50

The presence of the joint British commissioner in Leh bore excellent results. Besides supervising the flow of the caravan trade along the Srinagar "treaty" road and settling all kinds of trade disputes between the Hoshiarpuri and Yarkandi merchants engaged in the central Asian trade, he settled all boundary disputes, on behalf of the Government of India, respecting Ladakh's border with western Tibet. He not only abolished all export restrictions and took of all duties on goods in transit through Leh, but also revived, in order to encourage trade between Kashmir and Tibet, the traditional so-called Lobchak mission, which the vassal ruler of Ladakh used to send to Tibet every three years to exchange and further good will and friendship with the Dalai Lama of Lhasa.

The last such mission was dispatched in 1950. Since then trade with Tibet—like that of Sinkiang—has become channeled more and more toward Siberia.

The tendency of the Chinese Communists has been to discourage free trading from the northwest and southwest territories.

But the bazaars of Ladakh still maintain hope. They long for the day when a dusty caravan of pack animals will come weaving down the streets of Leh. And the merchants of Leh, leaning over their counters, look wistfully at the mountain passes, hoping once again for a brisk entrepreneur trade.



By Russell H. Lens, Chief Cartographer of *The Christian Science Monitor*

Ladakh—Hub of Central Asia's Caravaneers

Leather Adapts to Modern Ways in Rugs, Floors

Today's Designers Change Mood of Classic Medium

By Marilyn Hoffman
Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

New York
Leather, used in unusual and striking ways, is adding a colorful luxury touch to 1953 home furnishings.

In the year ahead you'll be seeing, among other things, leather things in draperies, leather door panels, leather mirror frames, leather waste baskets, leather rugs, leather floors, and wall coverings. And in decorator colors that will make you look, not once, but three times.

In a show called "Leather in Decoration," which has just begun its tour around the United States, the Upholstery Leather Group is illustrating a vast new area of leather uses in the home.

Americans, it seems, had gotten in a rut in their thinking about leather upholstery. Such covering had come to signify the Union Club chair and the public library to too many people. And red, green, and brown comprised the only color range with which most persons were familiar.

Leather Group on Toes

So the Leather Group invited a dozen top-ranking designers and decorators to contribute their ideas on new applications of leather. Members wanted to see what could be done in developing new versions of high-style uses of leather. They wanted to see a new concept of leather, which would lift it out of the club and the library category. Since leather has been used in the home for centuries, and is in itself a lasting and "heirloom" quality material, this didn't seem too much to expect.

The Leather Upholstery Group also is attempting to dissipate the idea that leather is too expensive for most people to buy. While the

Group admits that leather is in the luxury or semi-luxury class, and means a greater initial investment than that for fabrics, it contends that leather makes the wisest long-range investment. Most leather upholstery, given reasonable care, lasts the lifetime of the individual who buys it, the manufacturers claim.

Practical Aspects

The easy-to-care-for qualities of leather upholstery are also being emphasized as an answer to contemporary living. Since practically all upholstery leather sold today is covered by a protective coating, manufacturers warn that it does not have to be treated with saddle soap nor waxed. It needs only to be dusted with a soft cloth, or cleaned with a damp cloth and mild soap.

The strongest visual impression of this show, arranged in 12 room settings, is spectacular color. Here is leather in shrimp pink, Bristol blue, lead quartz, persimmon wood ash, blue spruce, firelight, and many other hues. Leather dyeing has obviously gone into the high-fashion range. One tanner has brought out 150 upholstery colors!

Tooling and embossing have been used, too, in dramatic ways. Tiny gold bees flit over one chair, gold fleurs de lis sit lightly on another, and gold stripes march with distinction down a third.

Some of the unusual applications of leather include Mildred English Deutsch's small powder room in which she uses a Capri blue leather cover on a fruit-wood slipper chair, and a Camille pink leather top on a French console and around a Louis XV pier mirror.

H. W. Grieve designs a man's dressing room with a floor inlaid with heavy sun tan leather, and doors of the same leather. For striking contrast, he covers the day bed and armchair in horizon blue leather.

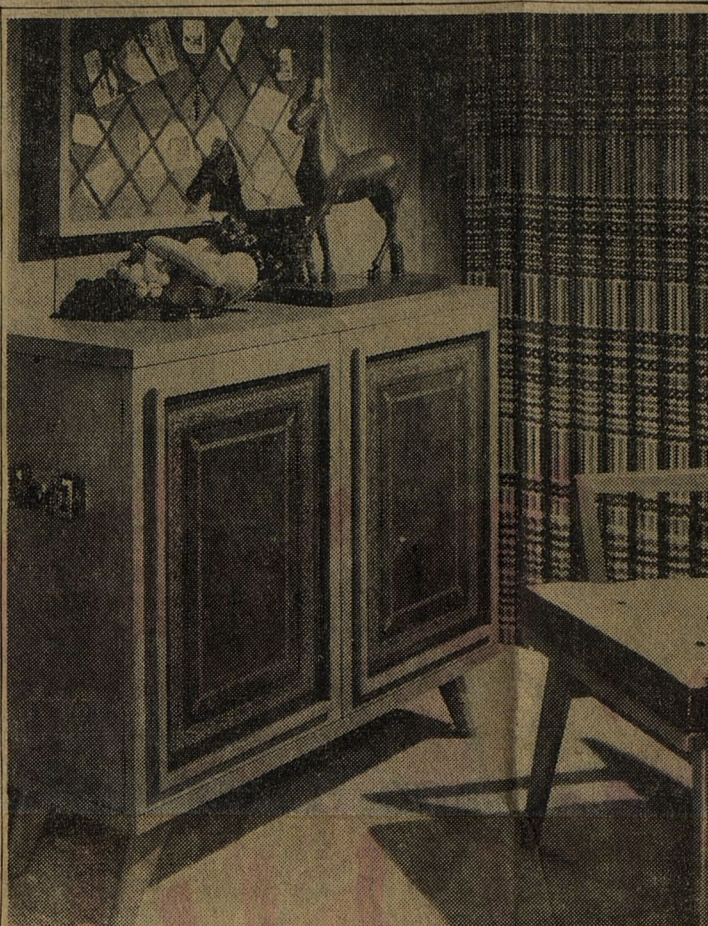
For Professional Office

In a professional office setting, George W. Reinehl also covers a floor in small squares of saddle tan leather. He uses olive green leather on sliding cabinet-door fronts, upholstered chairs, for lampshades, and to mat a picture.

Both Mabel Schamberg and Otto G. Zenke use white leather for door coverings, though Mr. Zenke carries it round the room below the chair rail to form a dado, and makes a leather window valance, too!

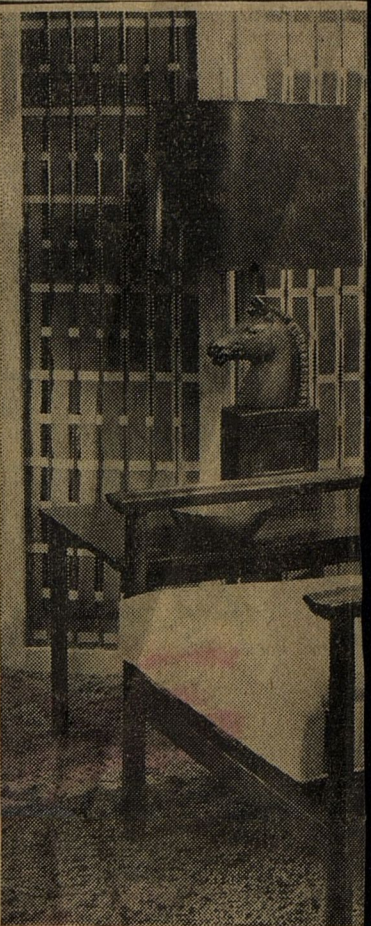
Melanie Kahane places a coffee table topped in lead-black leather and a white leather sofa on an amber beige leather rug in her setting. Fine French furniture is vividly high-lighted with flamingo leather upholstery in Raymond Toucher's room, while Rachel Wade and John B. Wisner spark Directoire furniture with brilliant hues of leather.

"Leather in Decoration" began its tour at W & J Sloane in New York, and will open March 9 at Paine's, Boston. From there it will go March 24 to G. Fox in Hartford, Conn. It will continue on tour during the year including in its itinerary Rochester, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, and Richmond.



Hans van Nes Photos

Above room setting, by Virginia Conner Dick, New York, for "Leather in Decoration" show, features cabinet with blue spruce leather panels tooled in gold, bulletin board crossed with leather thongs, chair covered in wood ash and charcoal-colored leather. Dorothy Liebes drapery of wood strips and leather thongs in wood ash, blue spruce as well as firelight colors.



"Leather in Decoration," which ton, will include this handsome Stephenson, New York. Leather chair, Walnut chair designed for Chair Co. by William Pahlmann of white leather and has gold stripe

Picture Window Curtains Evolve From

Written for The Christian Science Monitor

Most of the new houses built in this country during the past few years are equipped with wide "picture windows." While these wide, gleaming windows admit golden floods of sunshine and give their owners a delightful sense of expanse and spaciousness, they also present a decorating challenge to the homemaker.

When we moved into our new home a little more than a year ago, we had several such large windows to provide with curtains or draperies. Since these windows did not even have shades, the problem had to be met with as much dispatch as possible, for the sake of privacy.

We Did It Ourselves

It would have been easy to call in a professional decorator and order the custom-made draperies we felt we would like. However, the prices quoted to us were many times more than we felt we could wisely spend. We would also have had to wait many weeks while the draperies were being made. We decided that making them ourselves would have been impractical, and we found that the material by-the-yard was expensive.

However, we solved our problem. After a diligent and thoughtful search of the linen departments of our local stores, we selected heavy cotton bedspreads in the desired colors. We found two different types of spreads were ideal for our purpose. One type, of simply woven heavy cotton, came in soft, rich colors, either plain or striped or figured. The other type was a material known as "corduroy chenille," an all-over chenille woven in a simple, plain pattern. Of course this did not have the floral trimming sometimes found on chenille spreads.

Two Types Selected

We used the heavy cotton ones in our bedroom and study. The corduroy chenille type were for the living and dining rooms.

The man of the family put up brackets and sturdy one-half inch metal rods cut to the exact length of the windows. These rods may be found in drapery departments. We chose the sturdiest ones available. If such rods are too long and not strong enough, they tend to bend in the center and must then be supported there by an extra bracket.

We sewed neat metal rings at evenly spaced intervals along

the longest edges of our bedspreads, and slid them onto the rods. We were delighted to find that it was not even necessary to adjust the lengths. They were exactly right, gracefully touching the floor. They slid across the rod to close, at night, and tastefully framed our lovely views by day. Since "picture windows" are placed at standard

heights in most houses these days, it is likely that few homemakers would find that they had to alter the length of spreads to make this type of "draw drapery."

In the year since we hung ours, we have enjoyed them for many reasons. They do not detract from the outdoor scenery because they are so simple. We

Quick Tricks for the Kitchen

Written for The Christian Science Monitor

Hearty Frankwiches for the Teen-Age Crowd—Be sure to plan on seconds when you make these broiled sandwiches for hungry teen-agers; you may even need thirds! You'll need frankfurter buns, which you split down the center and toast. Split frankfurters also and put a half on each toasted bun half. Cover with shredded cheese—use plenty. Sprinkle bacon bits (cook your bacon partly and cut into snips with scissors) over the cheese. Season with mustard or, to be different, with oregano or thyme. Broil to melt cheese and blend flavors. E. R. J.

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McCarthy Awaits Reply

By the Associated Press

Washington

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (R) of Wisconsin and his Senate Investigations Subcommittee are set to learn the reply to their demand for a look at the loyalty files of two State Department employees.

Similar requests from congressional groups have often been rejected, but the issue has not been faced squarely since President Eisenhower assumed office.

The McCarthy effort to subpoena the files of two men could involve the President himself, but the senator said in an interview he thought that "is unlikely—the new team in the State Department has shown its desire to cooperate."

The answer—a State Department "yes" or "no" to the McCarthy demand—is expected at a hearing in the subcommittee's investigation of the Voice of America—the nation's overseas propaganda radio.

There was no indication what action the subcommittee would take if its demand were rejected.

Truman Veto Cited

Former President Truman and a number of his predecessors turned down similar congressional requests, on the ground

that Congress had no right to demand confidential documents of the Executive Department.

Mr. Truman's order denying Congress access to loyalty files has not been revoked by Mr. Eisenhower.

Senator McCarthy said that if the State Department yielded in the cases of two men whose loyalty records he wants, it would not necessarily set a precedent.

His demand for the files topped a day of televised testimony which swirled about the head of Reed Harris, No. 2 man in the International Information Administration, which runs the "Voice." Mr. Harris was its acting chief until Dr. Robert L. Johnson came in March 3 as the new boss.

Protesting that the inquiries were "unfair," Mr. Harris conceded that a book he wrote in the early 1930's defended believers in Marxism—those he termed "communists with a small 'c.'"

'King Football'

Mr. Harris insisted he regrets having written the book, "King Football," and said he now disagrees with many of the views it expressed. The subcommittee ordered him to reread the book, note what parts he now disagrees with, and submit a report on March 9.

It was Mr. Harris who touched off the move to seize loyalty files of Theodore Kagan and Edmund Schechter. He testified he had authorization to testify that they "have been investigated... and have full clearance as to loyalty and security."

That statement seemed to contradict testimony given the subcommittee in New York by James F. Thompson, another "Voice" official. Mr. Thompson said he "assumed" the two men had been rejected for "Voice" jobs for security reasons. Both Mr. Kagan and Mr. Schechter, now working for the United States High Commissioner for Germany, denied that they had been.

Roy Cohn, general counsel of Senator McCarthy's subcommittee, said he had learned of a memorandum written by an Edward Macey, whom he described as the "Voice's" New York personnel man, supporting Mr. Thompson's testimony.

Reports Called For

Senator McCarthy called for official reports on both Mr. Kagan and Mr. Schechter, and ordered "the supporting documents" subpoenaed from State Department files. He added that any high-echelon official who said "no" to the request should come before the subcommittee and explain why.

His order came after Mr. Harris named John W. Ford, "Voice" security officer, and Arthur A. Kimball, its assistant management administrator, as sources of his testimony about the disputed pair.

Senator McCarthy promptly called in Messrs. Ford and Kimball, who pleaded they were forbidden to disclose what they had told Mr. Harris. Senator McCarthy ordered them to go back, check with a superior, and tell anyone who vetoed his request

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