

COPY

The Editor  
The New-York World Telegram  
125 Barclay Street  
New-York City  
U.S.A.

Jan. 18th 1933

Dear Sir,

With reference to an article in your issue of August 12th 1932, entitled "A Savant Goes Native to Learn About Tibet", as Dr. Koelz was in the employ of this Institute during the period covered by this article, I shall be obliged if you will correct certain inaccurate statements that have been made in the article and if you will kindly inform me how these statements were made to you, because they are liable to damage this Institute in its relations with the Government of India.

So far as we are aware Dr. Koelz never went beyond British Territory and we should like to be informed where he crossed the Tibetan border.

Yours faithfully,

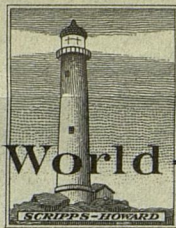
Sgd A.E. Mahon, S.D.O.

Colonel I.A.,



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# New York World-Telegram



LEE B. WOOD  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

February 15, 1933.

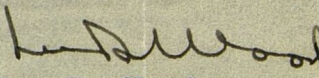
Colonel A. E. Mahon,  
Himalayan Research Institute  
Roerich Museum,  
Naggar, Kulu  
Punjab, India.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of January 18th, the article entitled "A Savant Goes Native to Learn About Tibet", which appeared in the World-Telegram of August 12th, 1932, was furnished us by the Associated Press and in printing the article we had every reason to believe the information was correct.

We are referring your letter to them and requesting that they reply to you.

Very truly yours,

  
Lee B. Wood.

LBW:Z  
Cc: AP



A SAVANT GOES NATIVE TO LEARN  
ABOUT TIBET.

Tibet, the land of the highest mountains and the first skyscrapers, still is virgin country for the scientist and antiquarian, according to Dr. Walter N. Koelz, American explorer and naturalist, who spent two years gathering science and art materials north of the Himalayas.

Heretofore only British scientists have worked in the Himalayan country the Associated Press reports, and even they have not penetrated far beyond the borders of English controlled territory adjacent to Northern India.

Dr. Koelz went to Tibet in 1930 to collect biological materials for the Roerich Himalayan Research Institute. He passed the farthest British outposts and "went native" for the purpose of gaining firsthand knowledge of the country. He dressed in native costume and ate barley pancakes and other Tibetan fare.

The people north of the Himalayas accepted the young American like a brother, lost their camera shyness and posed for pictures, helped him gather plant and animal specimens and willingly sold him art materials at reasonable prices.

Dr. Koelz had a Tibetan prince for his travelling companion. Together they shot ibex and ovix ammon, swam their horses across the dangerous waters of the upper Indus and helped them over the highest passes of the Himalayan mountains, 20,000 feet above sea level.

As a result of his two years of labor Dr. Koelz was able to bring back to America probably the richest collection of educational material ever taken out of Tibet by one expedition. He brought back paintings which represent a lost art of hundreds of years ago, ancient Kashmir shawls, hand-wrought personal ornaments of silver and semi-precious stones and thousands of zoological and botanical specimens.

Dr. Koelz formerly was connected with the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology as a fish and bird specialist. He was naturalist of the Donald MacMillan polar expedition in 1925.

"The people of Tibet have many customs which would seem unenlightened to the average American", Dr. Koelz said in telling of his experiences. "For example, they are absolutely unable to understand why we should change our style of dress each year when it is so much more logical to maintain the same styles.

"I found the people of Tibet very hospitable. Even the poorest beggar is never turned away. In trade they like to bargain, but they willingly give away half of their food to any one who needs it.

"They are a healthy people. Smallpox is the only important disease in Tibet."

"Their resources are few and there is little pasture for their livestock so it has been necessary to restrict population. Only one son in each family is allowed to marry. This applies even to royalty. The unmarried sons share their brother's wife, and family squabbles are unheard of.

"Girls who do not obtain husbands cut off their hair and retire to monasteries to pray for their relatives.

"There also are many Buddhist monks in Tibet and countless monasteries. Monks and nuns live in the same monasteries and scandals are rare."

No one can question that Tibet is the land of the first skyscrapers, Dr. Koelz believes. The king's palace at Leh, capital of Ladakh in Western Tibet, is a nine-story structure several hundred years old. There is a thirteen-story palace at Lhasa, home of the Dalai Lama of Tibet.

"Banditry is a recognized and honorable profession in Tibet", Dr. Koelz



said, "so the monasteries, which contain most of the portable wealth of the country, are strongly fortified and situated so they can be defended against attacks. But the Tibetans have the knack of locating their monasteries and palaces so they will be recognized as works of art!"

It is considered disgraceful in Tibet to make any sort of journey without carrying something. So any one who is walking your way will carry part of your belongings without charge. It gives them social standing. Horses and other beasts of burden are used only on relatively long journeys. For short trips everything is carried by humans. Of course there are no roads, and wheeled vehicles are unknown.