

advanced in his direction and he shot one of the lovely creatures, a male with a pair of beautiful antlers.

My stay has again been longer than I had intended. Ljo's (the interpreter's) stubborn refusal to accompany me any further and the failure of all attempts at persuasion have placed me in a very awkward position. To-day a final effort is to be made through one of his compatriots. If it fails, I will start without an interpreter and hope to find one in Qulja or, perhaps, in Urumchi, though this seems unlikely. — To my surprise, when I arrived, I found some letters from home at last, the earliest dated August, the latest November, the explanation being that although the envelopes were addressed »Russian Turkestan«, some bright post-office official had despatched them via India. This explains why I have had no news from Finland for months.

1907
January 25th.
Kashgar.

It seems curious to be back in Kashgar after spending a few months in the south, practically without seeing a European except my Cossack. It felt almost like returning to a centre of civilisation with the numerous duties of lively social intercourse. How different from my impressions when I first arrived, on August 30th last year. I renewed my former acquaintanceships with real pleasure and I cannot but feel grateful to the whole of the European colony for the reception accorded me. The Swedish colony had received an addition in the person of a young lady, Miss E. Nordqvist, a lively and bright Swedish girl whose cheerfulness was infectious. Central Asia seems to have a depressing effect on those who live there. A certain gloom seems to mark the European residents. I am afraid that Miss Nordqvist's joie de vivre will not be able to withstand this atmosphere for long, though I sincerely hope that her silvery laugh may win the day.

I was able to supplement my ethnographical collections considerably and must express my acknowledgments to Mr E. L. Högberg for the great help he gave me. My Sart collection now amounts to about 400 specimens; it could, of course, be enlarged, but this would be difficult for anyone not living on the spot.

My new cook, who seems to be a good fellow and willing, though he has very little idea of how food should be cooked, is being trained by Mrs Törnqvist. I am looking forward with some uneasiness to the result, once we have started. It would be annoying to have lived for a couple of weeks on a brace of eggs in the morning and some boiled milk at night, if nothing were gained by it! However, thanks to invitations to dinner I have at various times been able to enjoy a decent meal, to which, I must confess, I attach a certain value in this place. At a Russian Christmas party at the house of Kolokoloff's son I even attended some private theatricals. — In addition I have been able to have some repairs done to my equipment, develop a lot of films, make a clean copy of my map and devour any number of newspapers. Most important of all, I have had my camera mended. Thanks to the unusual cleverness of the Russian consul we got it open and after the broken screw had been replaced by a rivet, it works again. This will not only enable me to take photographs on the way to Aqsu, but to go on from there direct to Qulja without troubling about my main luggage which is already at Kucha (Qarashahr).

Winter seems to be coming to an end. The last few days have been beautifully sunny