

ZEITUNGSBERICHTE ÜBER ROCK

EXPLORING FOR PLANTS

After an eleven months' exploring trip through the jungle of Siam, Burma, Assam and Bengal, Professor J. F. Rock, plant explorer for the United States Department of Agriculture, exhibited recently in a stereopticon lecture before the Botanical Society of Washington the first photographs of the tree *Taraktogenos Kurzii*, which is the source of the chaulmoogra oil, known to a greater or lesser extent for a long time as a remedy for leprosy in its native habitat.

The immediate result of Professor Rock's enterprise was the sending of enough of the seeds to the Department of Agriculture to assure the establishment of a considerable plantation under American jurisdiction. The Hawaiian Government has set aside 100 acres of ground for the purpose. The trees, while they attain great size and age, come into bearing, it is believed, within eight years after the planting of the seed.

Professor Rock, while in Asia, discovered in old Buddhist histories a legend of a Burmese king voluntarily exiled for leprosy about 1,000 years ago who cured himself with the oil and likewise effected the cure of a beautiful young woman whom he afterwards married, founding a dynasty. Because of the inaccessibility of the forests producing the oil, however, no European people made any effort to study and apply the remedy until 1856, and then the British scientists who undertook the work distributed seeds of an entirely different tree, which have not the same curative properties, and it was not until 1899 that the mistake was discovered.

In 1902 investigations were begun by Dr. Frederick B. Power, then Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories of London and now engaged in research work in the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture. Dr. Power and his co-workers isolated some new physiologically active acids from chaulmoogra oil, and the same acids were obtained from the oil of certain species of *Hydnocarpus*. He also prepared the ethyl ester of these acids, in which form the remedy can be injected into the

muscles, and a sufficient quantity can thus be introduced into the system to effect a cure. It is in this form that the oil has been used with the Hawaiian lepers, 200 of whom have apparently been cured.

Professor Rock said that the news of these cures had had the result that persons who had previously concealed their disease came forward and acknowledged being leprosy victims in order to receive treatment. Realizing that worldwide circulation of the fact of these cures would result in a heavy demand for the meagre supply of *Taraktogenos Kurzii* seeds, certain interests in Hawaii arranged with Professor Bock [!] to obtain seeds, from their native source for propagation. The first effort was made in 1919, while Professor Rock was on his way to Java regarding reforestation problems for the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Experiment Station. Because of travel difficulties he was unable to penetrate to the actual source of supply at that time, but sent seeds of the Siamese species.¹

AGRICULTURAL EXPLORER REPORTS FINDING CHAULMOOGRA TREE IN CHINA

Seeds of the tree producing chaulmoogra oil, which recently has been found to cure leprosy, are being brought to Washington by J. F. Rock, agricultural explorer, who is expected to arrive next week. Cables have been received by officials at the Department of Agriculture, stating Mr. Rock has sailed from Honolulu for San Francisco.

Mr. Rock has been in the northern part of China three years, looking for the seeds of the tree. Lately, word was received here of his success. He will also bring specimens of rare plants and flowers to the horticultural bureau.

Chaulmoogra oil has worked many apparently miraculous cures and has been used with signal success in the fight against leprosy in the West Indies and the Canal Zone. Hence officials here await Mr. Rock's return with much interest. It is believed that the tree may be planted in government reservations and the oil used to check the spread of leprosy.²

¹ *New York Times* 14.8.1921

² *The Washington Post* 18.6.1924

SCIENTIST HAS CLOSE CALLS IN WILD CHINA

Joseph F. Rock, of Washington, writes of experiences in Tibet seeking reason for American corn there prior to 1492 – also in quest of blightless chestnut tree for importation.

Joseph F. Rock, Washington scientist, who found the chaulmoogra tree, whose oil is used to treat leprosy, now figures in a series of dangerous adventures and narrow escapes from bandits in China.

Mr. Rock went to the remote Burma-Tibet frontiers of China as head of a National Geographic Society expedition which hoped to bring back numerous plants for American introduction, study the mystery of how American native corn was transplanted there before 1492 and to seek a blight-resisting chestnut tree.

From Likiangfu, China, he writes, under date of June 11:

„I just returned from an exciting trip to the Lachiming salt mines.

Money is dreadfully scarce; paper is useless, as no one will take it, especially up here with all the tribespeople.

I decided to risk it and make a dash for Lachiming, in the heart of the wildest mountain ranges imaginable, to get funds to carry on the work and to see me through to wherever God knows where I will emerge.

I had four Chinese drafts on the Lachiming salt mines from the Tali salt office.

At first the Likiang official refused to give me an escort and said he feared for my life and would not let me go. Finally I said I must have money and I would risk it. He gave me two opium-sodden disreputable wretches of soldiers as escorts. They were simply a nuisance and an expense. They were, of course, only to go as far as the next magistrate, which is at Chien Chican [!].

There I got four soldiers as far as Lauping. Lauping is not on any map, as it is in unsurveyed territory. At Lauping, which is five days west from Likiang, I got five soldiers, and thence we started out through the wildest country imaginable to Lachiming. Dense forests, deep ravines, high mountain passes, the loveliest and weirdest imaginable. I was not afraid going to Lachiming, but I feared the return trip, with about \$ 4,000 in silver in the trunks.

I took seven of my Moso men along and the five soldiers from Lauping besides myself, so we were thirteen persons in all. We reached Lachiming safely and had no trouble to get the money. I had

to go at the end of the month or arrange it so that I would reach the mines on the 1st, which I did.

It is especially at that time that the roads are watched by the brigands, as usually on such dates money is dispatched. I was told at Talifu to arrange to be at the mines about the 1st of the month. It is exceedingly difficult to keep things secret. We had no sooner arrived in Lachiming than everybody knew why we came. I did not stay longer than I had to to prevent the news traveling faster than we did, so I left the next morning with an additional escort from Lachiming. Thanks to the gods I reached Likiang without mishap.

I put four scoundrels into the jail in Lauping, where they got a beating, as they tried to foul me, but I got ahead of them, and so here I am, safe with the cash with which to carry on.

On my trip up the Yangtze and the Yundodye river toward Chungtien I met the grand lama on the road, who informed me that not a house has been left standing in Chungtien. The whole place has been burned and the Chinese official fled to Likiang, where he is at present. Two thousand Tibetan bandits are at Hsiao Chuntien, five days north of Likiang. What will happen no one knows.

I had a letter from the customs commissioner. He tells of the Tengyueh magistrate having been captured by brigands and a ransom is asked of \$ 20,000. It is certainly a problem how to get out of this country without losing one's life or all his belongings. However, our collecting goes on apace as if it were the most peaceful place in the world."³

CREATION PICTURE STORY IN MANUSCRIPTS BROUGHT HERE FROM CHINA BY EXPLORER

Curious religious books of Nashti [!] tribes tell version similar to that found in present Bible. Big collections of bird and animal life made; rust-resisting chestnut will aid industry.

Returning from two years of life with the little known aboriginal Nashti [!] tribe of the Yun-nan province of China, Joseph F. Rock, National Geographic Society explorer, has just brought here original copies, as well as the first known translations, of this tribe's religious

³ *The Washington Post* 1.9.1923

books, which relates a story of the creation similar in many respects to that told in the Bible.

The Nashti is one of about 30 aboriginal non-Chinese tribes living in the province with many of which he came in contact, Mr. Rock said yesterday. He was the only white man on the expedition sent by the society into the province, and had 27 Nashti assistants. One or two of these acted as the explorer's interpreters, conversing with him in Chinese.

The religious book which tells the story of the creation is about 10 inches long and three inches wide, has a red cover with a painted design, and contains several pages of manuscript inscribed in picture writing resembling Egyptian hieroglyphics. It tells of the first man and woman, of the creation of the lands, oceans, and rivers, and relates other events of the beginning of the world, as known to this tribe.

This book and the others he has are believed by Mr. Rock to have been handed down in the tribe from generation to generation, though he does not know their ages.

„Only the priests can read these manuscripts, and as I could not understand the Nashti language, a priest read each section of the picture writing to my interpreter, who, in turn, translated it for me into Chinese“, the explorer said. „The tribes also has another form of writing, which appears to be more advanced, and has some Chinese characters in it, but the priest would not read for me anything in this other writing.“

In addition to these manuscripts Mr. Rock has brought with him hundreds of photographs of the weird religious ceremonies and singular customs of the Nashti tribe, whose mode of life has heretofore been virtually unknown to the civilized world. These are to be published in the National Geographic Society's magazine. Until 270 years ago, when Chinese for a time invaded the territory of the Nashti and neighboring tribes, these aborigines had never had contact with the rest of China, Mr. Rock asserted. He found the Nashti men and women to be black-haired, with brownish skin and some of them rosy-cheeked.

Thirty seven boxes of plant and bird specimens were also brought back by the explorer. In this collection are 500 mammal and 1,700 bird specimens, some of them believed by Mr. Rock to be unknown here. He has also obtained in Yun-nan the seeds of 493 different kinds of rhododendron, unknown in this country, and has distributed

many of these seeds in various parts of the United States and England.

Mr. Rock, who returned to Washington Wednesday, after being away nearly three years, was already widely known before he undertook his last expedition, for his finding in northwestern Burma in 1920 and 1921 of the Chaulmoogra tree, which yields an oil used as a leprosy cure. This tree has since been transplanted in Hawaii.

He left in August, 1921, for his expedition to Yun-nan, in the course of which he made his fourth round-the-world trip. He has been active in foreign scientific study since 1913 and in addition to his work for the National Geographic Society is connected with the bureau of plant industry of the Department of Agriculture.

The department is now engaged in cultivating at its nurseries in Bell, Md., seeds of what may prove to be Dr. Rock's most important discovery in Yun-nan, a chestnut tree which resists blight. Thousands of seedlings of such healthy trees, found by the explorer, are now being grown by the bureau of plant industry, and though they are not nut-bearing trees, will provide excellent timber and bark for tanning.

Discovery of these chestnut trees in China is regarded as of great importance to the United States, which, according to Mr. Rock, may be entirely denuded of their native chestnut trees in 20 years as a result of the blight, for which no remedy has been found. It is believed to be caused by a parasite carried from tree to tree by woodpeckers, and once a tree is affected its branches begin to die, and when the trunk of a tree is attacked it dies within a year.⁴

EXPLORER FROM CHINA BRINGS 60,000 PLANTS

J. F. Rock has 2,200 specimens of animals – found blight-resisting chestnut tree

Washington, July 13 (Associated Press). Thrilling stories of adventure and interesting scientific discoveries have been reported to the National Geographic Society by Joseph F. Rock, discoverer of the chaulmoogra tree, that yields a leprosy-combating oil, and leader of the society's expedition into Yunnan, a vast and little explored province in Southwestern China.

⁴ *The Washington Post* 29.6.1924

Mr. Rock, a wellknown plant authority, has just returned to Washington, and in narrating his experinces tells of finding in Yunnan aboriginal tribes who still practice religious ceremonies that pre-date the introduction of Buddhism, and the discovery of a blight-resisting chestnut tree, which, it is hoped, will aid in restoring the diseased chestnut timber crop in the United States.

The explorer brought back from the wilds of the Chinese province some 1,700 specimens of birds, 500 mammal specimens and more than 60,000 plants. He also came into possession of books used by the Nashi, or Moso, priests, containing ancient writing in picture form. The books also antedate Buddhism in China and Tibet and include a story of a great flood.

During his adventures Mr. Rock traversed a hitherto unexplored gorge of the Yangtze River, described as much deeper than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

The crossing of streams presented one of the most difficult problems of the expedition. Mr. Rock and his twenty-three native assistants and pack animals having to be swung across them on single-strand rope bridges. The party also had narrow escapes from bandits along the China-Tibet frontier.⁵

RIVAL OF GRAND CANYON DISCOVERED IN CHINA
Natives still beyond pale of civilization practice rites antedating
Buddhism. 60,000 plant specimens

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⁵ *New York Times* 14.7.1924

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PHOTOGRAPHS RITES IN REMOTE CHINA

Dr. Rock takes color pictures of Lamaian ceremonies rarely seen by white men. Aided by Chinese Prince. National Geographic Society sends five other parties to film Old and New World scenes

Special to the New York Times.

Washington, March 14. — Color photographs of the religious ceremonies of Lamaism, which activities have rarely been seen, much less pictured, by white man, are now being made in China for the National Geographic Society, by Dr. Joseph F. Rock, plant explorer.

Dr. Rock's former explorations in Burma resulted in the discovery of the tree that produces chaulmoogra oil, which is used in the treatment of leprosy, and his more recent expedition into Western Yun-nan and Tibet brought to America the blight-proof chestnut tree and discovered the black rhododendron.

The fact that he had been sent on still another photographic expedition into a remote province of China was announced by the society tonight along with the fact that it had sent five other important photographic expeditions into the field.

Dr. Rock is now the guest of a prince in China in the far Chinese hinterland. A letter received from the explorer by the society says he is enjoying the hospitality of this prince, that the latter is cooperating

⁶ *The Washington Post* 20.7.1924

with the photographic expedition in every possible manner and that they have become fast friends.

Prince Choni has placed at Mr. Rock's disposal one of the buildings in the lamasery at his capital, and he is experiencing unusual winter comfort due to the loan by the Prince of a European stove. The explorer has become so well established in this faraway community in the Chinese interior, where few white men have visited, that he is being admitted to the religious ceremonies of Lamaism and is taking photographs.

Because of the unusually colorful costumes used by these Lamas in their ceremonies and the extraordinary opportunity Dr. Rock has to photograph them, he cabled for equipment to make natural color plates of these unusual subjects. With the co-operation of the Chinese Legation in Washington, a consignment of plates with color screens and special lenses was dispatched to him via Peking.

The equipment was specially packed in small boxes within larger ones, so that when the end of the railroad was reached and the boxes were to be transported by coolies or camels, these smaller boxes could be adapted to their packs.

Five other photographic expeditions which the National Geographic Society stated tonight it had sent into the field, are taking pictures in the West Indies, the Balkans, the Russian trans-Caspian sector, Guatemala and the Rocky Mountains. [...] ⁷

EXPLORER RETURNS WITH RARE PLANTS

Dr. Joseph F. Rock, leader of expedition to Tibetan lands, is home.
Valuable data gained

Dr. Joseph F. Rock, famous plant explorer, leader of the National Geographic Society's 1927-1930 expedition to unexplored areas of the China-Tibetan borderland, has just returned to Washington with a noteworthy collection of plant and zoological specimens, and remarkable photographs of lofty, snow-covered mountains, which have been the subjects of much geographic speculation.

Dr. Rock is the man who braved tigers and wild elephants to locate the trees which yield chaulmoogra oil, used in the treatment of leprosy. He found aboriginal tribes in west China practicing pre-

⁷ *New York Times* 15.3.1926

Buddhist religious rites, and obtained for the Library of Congress a complete set of the priceless Tibetan classics from the Buddhist monastery at Choni before it was destroyed last year.

On his last expedition Dr. Rock devoted his first year to exploration of the majestic Konkaling snow peaks northwest of the semi-independent Llam [Lama] kingdom of Nuli [Muli] in the Chinese province of Sacchwan [Szechwan].

These peaks had not previously been visited by any foreigner. They are situated in the territory infested by Tibetan bandits, and the menace of these bandits has made the area too perilous for exploration. The expedition was conducted with the aid of the Muli king who had friendly relations with the head bandit of this lofty stronghold.

Among the mass of valuable scientific data, and photographs of high geographic interest brought back by Dr. Rock, are about 20,000 sheets of plants he collected. Many of these are rhododendrons not previously collected.

While he was in the field he shipped back seeds of 173 species of rhododendron not previously introduced in America; in addition, many other ornamental plants, both herbaceous and wooded.⁸

„MYSTERY“ PEAKS EXPLORED BY ROCK

Strange plants and animals are brought back by leader of Tibet
Border Expedition

Special to The New York Times.

Washington, April 9. — Dr. Joseph F. Rock, leader of the National Geographic Society's expedition to unexplored areas of the China-Tibetan borderland, has returned to Washington with a noteworthy collection of plant and zoological specimens and remarkable photographs of lofty snow-covered mountains which have been the subjects of much geographic speculation.

Dr. Rock is the man who braved tigers and wild elephants to locate the trees which yield chaulmoogra oil, used in the treatment of leprosy; later found aboriginal tribes in West China practicing pre-Buddhist religious rites, and obtained for the Library of Congress a

⁸ *The Washington Post* 10.4.1930

set of the Tibetan classics from the Buddhist monastery at Choni before it was destroyed last year.

On his latest expedition Dr. Rock devoted his first year to exploration of the majestic Konkaling snow peaks, northwest of the semi-independent Lama kingdom of Muli in the Chinese Province of Szechwan.

„These peaks had not previously been visited by any foreigner“, the National Geographic Society stated today.

„In the Konkaling area he traversed the gorges of the Shou Chu, a river whose mouth only had hitherto been known. For eleven days the expedition followed this river toward its source.

Last year Dr. Rock explored another region of Southwestern Szechwan, where he was the first civilized man to see at close range, and the first to photograph the lofty Minya Konka peak, which has so long been a geographic mystery.

Dr. Rock also explored territory between Muli and Tatsienlu, a large stretch of country hitherto unexplored either from a botanical or geographical standpoint. He followed the gorges of the Yatung River which, in one place, are 12,000 feet deep.“⁹

BOTANIST TO LIVE WITH NASHI TRIBE

Hong Kong – Dr. Joseph F. Rock, internationally known botanist, working under the auspices of Harvard University and the United States Department of Agriculture, arrived here from America on July 22 en route to the remote city of Lichiang where he plans to work five years among the Nashi tribe.

Dr. Rock will proceed to Hanoi, Tongking, and thence by train to Yunnanfu, Yunnan Province, where Nashi tribesmen will be awaiting him.

From Yunnanfu he will go to Lichiang, which is 23 days distant by horseback.

Lichiang is situated at the headwaters of the Yangtse River in the extreme northwest corner of Yunnan. Dr. Rock, who visited the Nashi country twice previously, intends to spend the first six months writing two volumes for the National Geographic Magazine, describing his travels and researches in Tibet.

⁹ *The New York Times* 10.4.1930

The remainder of his stay will be devoted to translation into English of interesting Nashi literature and also to the compilation of English and Nashi dictionaries from ancient Nashi writings.

He also plans to conduct a research of plants of the region for introduction into the United States under supervision of the Department of Agriculture.¹⁰

2 AMERICANS FIRST WHITES TO SCALE HIGH TIBETAN PEAK

25,000-foot Minya Konka is described as pyramid mountain of granite of superb beauty, located in extremely isolated section of China

Minya Konka, Tibetan mountain, which is one of the world's highest peaks outside the Himalayas, is reported to have been scaled by two American explorers, according to news dispatches which have just reached the United States from China. The mountain, which has been seen by only a few white men, was first definitely located, mapped and photographed in 1929 by an expedition of the National Geographic Society under the leadership of Joseph F. Rock.

Many travelers from the East have penetrated the mountain districts of western China and visited Tatsienlu, Szechwan Province, great border gateway to Tibet, but only three or four have ventured farther into an almost unknown region of sky-piercing mountain peaks.

Minya Konka is the dominant peak of the Minya Konka range. It had been seen by only one white man previous to Dr. Rock's visit. Dr. Rock photographed every peak of the range, mapped its jagged slopes and explored them for plants, birds and animals.

He found many peaks in the range rising to an altitude of more than 20,000 feet, and reported to the National Geographic Society that in his opinion Minya Konka itself was close to 25,000 feet high.

Dr. Rock was assisted by guides furnished by a *Living Buddha* of a nearby Lama monastery. The region is so effectively surrounded by lofty mountains that it is cut off for six months of the year by snow-filled passes.

¹⁰ *The Washington Post* 27.11.1932

In his report to the National Geographic Society, Dr. Rock wrote of his first view of Minya Konka:

„The scenery was superb. Indeed, words fail to describe this marvelous panorama, which until I came no white man had viewed from such close range. Seen from my vantage point, Minya Konka appears as a triangular peak not unlike one of the pyramids of Egypt. A light, transparent veil of clouds here enshrouded the very apex of the peak, allowing the contours to be seen.

The walls of Minya Konka are of a blackish gray rock and are apparently granite, as is the entire Djesi Valley, which extends from the northern end of the range to Tatsienlu.

One of the finest peaks overlooking the head of Riuchi Valley and also the Djesi Pass is an enormous snowy mass of great beauty, Reddomain Solo, 23,000 feet in height. This had been mistaken by the missionaries of Tatsienlu for the Minya Konka, which is, however, visible from the Djesi Pass, but only on perfectly clear days, and even then only a small part of its apex proper can be seen.“¹¹

SEEKS GRASSES IN TIBET

American botanist prepares for expedition in November

Special Correspondence, The New York Times.

Shanghai, China, June 3. – Dr. Joseph F. Rock, American explorer and botanist, will leave for Northeastern Tibet next November on an hunt for the seeds of wild grasses which will assist in increasing the fodder production of cattle ranges in Utah and other Western States in the United States. He will also search for fodder grasses that will help in stopping soil erosion.

This next trip, which will require at least a year, is being undertaken at the request of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The exploring party will consist of Dr. Rock, one other American, an agronomist to be sent from Washington, and from twelve to twenty natives of the grasslands west of the upper reaches of the Yellow River.

Dr. Rock once before traversed the grasslands of Northeastern Tibet. He hurried over them during an expedition lasting from early

¹¹ *The Washington Post* 27.11.1932

1925 to late 1927. On that trip he was in quest of new trees and paid no attention to grasses.

The Northeastern Tibetan grassland areas are inhabited by savage tribesmen, known as the Ngoloks, said to number about 90,000.¹²

AMNE MACHIN

To the editor:

Speaking of the discovery and exploration of the great mountain Amne Machin, on the China-Tibet frontier, in his review of Leonard Clark's *The Marching Wind*, your reviewer Roy Chapman Andrews writes that the undersigned „saw it from a distance of seventy-five miles“. As a matter of fact I explored the Amne Machin range for a whole summer in 1926 for the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard. It was our expedition which published the first pictures of Amne Machin and of the Ngolok, the Tibetan tribes that surround it.

The mountain range was not discovered by General Pereira in the Twenties, as the reviewer said. It had been visited by the Russian explorer Roborowski in the Eighteen Seventies, who published a map of the northwestern part of it. The picture taken from the book and reproduced in the review showing a Ngolok chieftain is inaccurate. It is of an ordinary Tibetan nomad. The Ngolok look very different. And as for Amne Machin being higher than Everest, that is a myth.

Joseph F. Rock, Seattle, Wash.¹³

ANCIENT YUNNAN, TUCKED AWAY IN INNER CHINA,
BECKONS SAVANT FOR ANOTHER PERIOD OF EXILE
Dr. Joseph Rock leaves Saturday for distant and strange land. Plans
to continue studies of language and pictographs

Have you ever desired to „get away from it all?“ Yes? Then give a thought to Yunnan, which is in southwest China and is the primitive retreat to which Dr. Joseph F. Rock will return for another period of self-exile.

¹² *New York Times* 1.7.1934

¹³ *New York Times* 16. 1. 1955

Yunnan, and Northwest Yunnan, where the people live like they did when Christ left Nazareth, where they write by drawing pictures like the Egyptians did – in short, a place which Kipling might have had in mind when he begged to be shipped east of Suez.

Dr. Rock should have a Chinese, or, more specifically, a Nakhi accent, after 12 years of studying the religion and language of the Nakhi (pronounced Nashi) peoples, but instead he still betrays his Viennese nativity when talking. And he talks enthusiastically of the fascinating land of the Nakhis and of his plans to write four volumes on their history, religion, literature and written language.

TO LEAVE SATURDAY

The Austro-Chinese-American has been in Washington only a short time. He returned from China last fall and is to leave Saturday for his adopted East. It will be his fifth trip to China and Tibet since 1923.

An explorer, botanist, zoologist and photographer, Dr. Rock has found time during his years of research to master the written Chinese language and translate the difficult Nakhi pictographs. Or perhaps it is more correct to say that the Tibetan scholar has found time to continue his work as an explorer, botanist, ornithologist, zoologist and photographer.

One of the pictographs tells the story of a couple of lovers of long ago whose sad fate is reminiscent of Romeo and Juliet. Its crude pictures and phonetic markings are translated into the activities of a Chinese maiden who is urged by demons to climb a mountain and hang herself.

TALE STILL LIVES

Some time later, her sweetheart finds her lifeless body hanging from a limb. Her soul, though, is still on the scene and tries to convince him he should join her in death. When he demurs, the soul of his departed lover compels him to end his life.

The Nakhis, reading this bitter tale, believe Kamegyumigkian (the woman) and Ndgibuejulapar (the man) live in the clouds above the mountains to this day, and when lovers end their lives, their souls go to join them.

Dr. Rock again will go back to Yunnan as a \$ 1-a-year-man in the Department of Agriculture, for which he performs botanical

research. On his last visit, which began in 1930 and ended last October, he led a botanical expedition for the University of California and an ornithological expedition for Harvard University.

Although only 50 years old, Dr. Rock doubts whether he will do any more serious exploring in Tibet but intends to locate in Peiping and write his history of the Nakhis, which will be published in London. It is a formidable assignment which he has given himself because the natives do not date their writings. It is fairly certain, however, that their pictographics are upward of 1,500 [!] or 200 years old.

600 VOLUMES IN LIBRARY

The forthcoming volumes also will describe the geography of Eastern Tibet and Western China from Siam to Southwest Mongolia. Jaded Washingtonians looking for new places to go and who are interested in this exotic section of the globe may get further ideas of its character by visiting the Library of Congress and browsing through the 600 volumes of pictographic literature contributed by Dr. Rock when he returned from an earlier expedition several years ago. But they will have to do their own translating. A little practice first on deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics may be helpful.

That Yunnan has its virtues is demonstrated by the fact that two Nakhi boys who accompanied Dr. Rock back to the United States in 1927 were willing enough to return, after a two-month dose of automobiles, subways, pie a la mode and elevators.

They came to study taxidermy, the one, and photography, the other. Now the boys are Dr. Rock's assistants.¹⁴

¹⁴ *Washington Post* 21. 3. 1934