



THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

INDOPHILES · BIBLIOPHILES · ICONOPHILES

INDIA AND TIBET

Sir Francis Younghusband · 1910



THE CUSTODIANS

We do not merely acquire old books. We accept custody of the moments in which civilizations first became legible to one another.

A consequential book survives because successive hands have judged it worthy of care. Its paper carries argument; its binding carries touch; its maps carry former ways of seeing the world. To collect such an object is to enter a chain of responsibility—after its author and printer, after its first reader, before its next.

India and Tibet belongs to this order of cultural asset. It is at once narrative, archive and witness: a book written by the man who stood at the centre of the encounter it records. Its beauty as an Edwardian volume is inseparable from its historical gravity.

The Eye of the Beholder presents books of India not as decoration, nor as trophies, but as instruments of memory. Scholarship establishes their meaning. Connoisseurship recognises their presence. Custodianship carries both forward.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

BASEL · SWITZERLAND

RIGVEDA 1.89.1

आ नो भद्राः कर्तवो यन्तु विश्वतः

Ā no bhadrāḥ kratavo yantu viśvataḥ

“Let noble thoughts come to us from every side.”

A fitting invocation for a book shaped by
borders, rival empires and the difficult
possibility of encounter.

THE MONOGRAPH

A frontier made visible

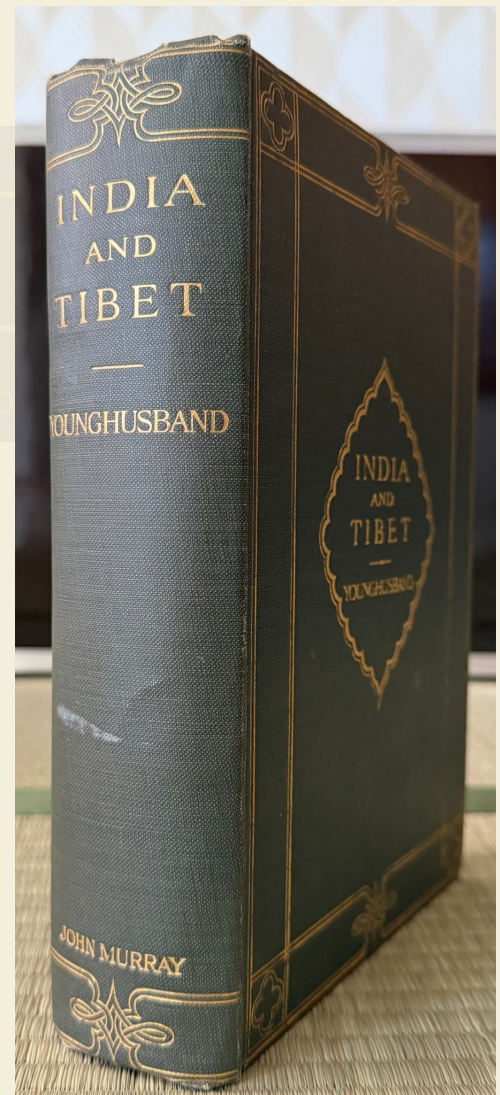
The object, the history, the witness

India and Tibet is the considered testament of Sir Francis Younghusband to the longest and most controversial episode of his public life. Published in London by John Murray in 1910, it surveys relations between British India and Tibet from Warren Hastings's eighteenth-century diplomacy to the political upheavals of Younghusband's own day, and gives a sustained first-person account of the mission to Lhasa in 1903–04.

The book's authority is immediate. Younghusband was not reconstructing a remote campaign from secondary sources. He had crossed Central Asia as a young explorer, worked the high frontier as a political officer, encountered Russian agents in the Pamirs, and led the diplomatic commission that advanced to Lhasa under armed protection. Few books join geography, policy, personality and consequence so completely.

The present copy possesses the qualities that matter in a serious example: the handsome original gilt publisher's cloth remains imposing; the substantial text is complete; and the folding maps—the visual architecture of the argument—are present. Its survival in very good condition allows the volume to be appreciated both as a primary historical source and as a beautifully designed Edwardian book.

This monograph considers the author, the geopolitical theatre, the structure and argument of the work, the evidence of the present copy, and the reasons why India and Tibet continues to command attention among collectors of India, Tibet, Central Asian exploration and the literature of the Great Game.



The object, the history, the witness

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The book in hand

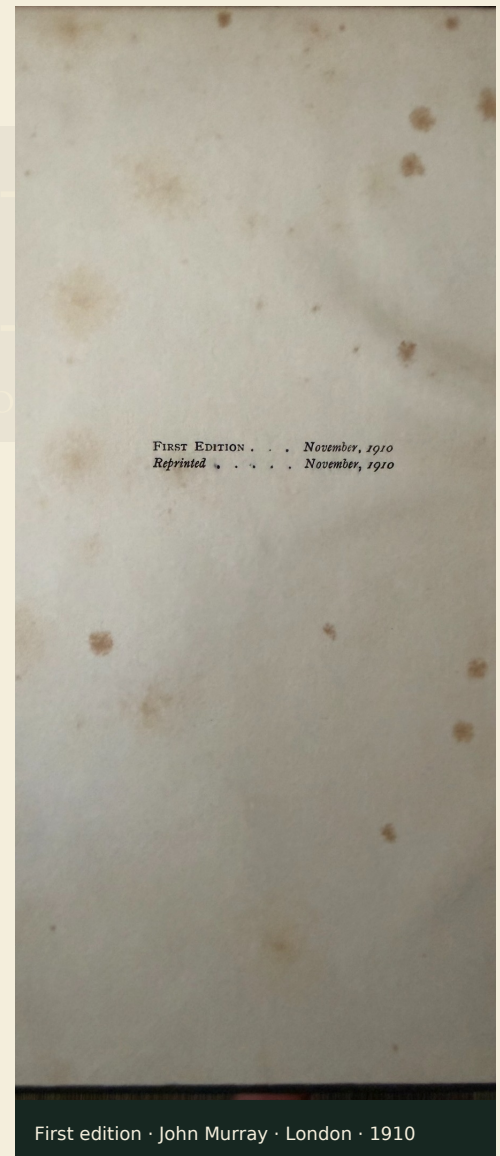
First edition · John Murray · London · 1910

YOUNGHUSBAND, Sir Francis Edward. India and Tibet: A History of the Relations which have Subsisted between the Two Countries from the Time of Warren Hastings to 1910; with a Particular Account of the Mission to Lhasa of 1904. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1910.

Octavo. Original dark green publisher's cloth, upper board and spine elaborately ruled and lettered in gilt with a cusped Indo-Islamic cartouche; with maps and illustrations, including folding maps. The present copy is complete, with all pages, maps and illustrations intact.

Edition statement. The verso photographed in this copy records "First Edition ... November, 1910" followed by "Reprinted ... November, 1910." It therefore belongs to the first edition and to the book's original month of publication, while the same-month reprint notice should be retained in any exact cataloguing of the impression. This is a bibliographically more precise and more credible description than an unsupported claim to the first impression.

The speed of the reprint is itself eloquent. India and Tibet appeared when the subject was not merely exotic but urgent: the Qing advance into Tibet, the Dalai Lama's flight, Britain's reassessment of frontier policy, and the afterlife of the 1904 mission made Younghusband's account a book of immediate public consequence.



First edition · John Murray · London · 1910

THE PRESENT COPY

An Edwardian cultural object

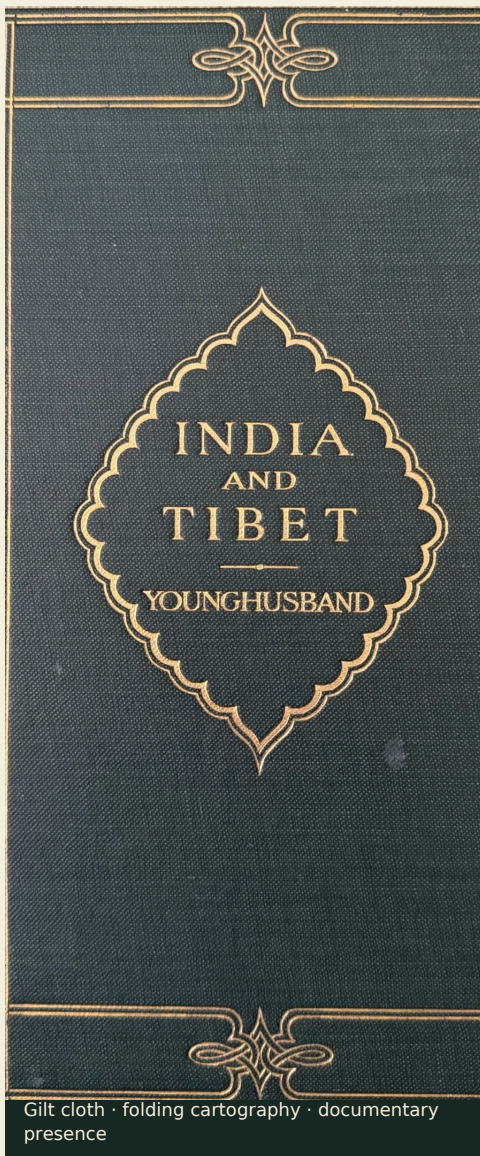
Gilt cloth · folding cartography · documentary presence

The binding gives the volume its first authority. Dark green cloth, taut and finely grained, is animated by a network of gilt rules and corner ornaments. At the centre, the title sits within a cusped cartouche suggestive of the architectural vocabulary through which Edwardian Britain often imagined India. It is a design at once restrained and ceremonial.

The three-quarter photograph shows the strength of the spine and the coherence of the binding as a whole. The gilt remains legible and attractive; the boards retain their dignity; and the volume stands with the physical assurance expected of a substantial John Murray publication. Light, age-consistent wear does not diminish the impression of careful survival.

Inside, the preliminary leaves display scattered spotting and an early ownership inscription. These are visible traces of age rather than concealments, and they should be understood honestly within the assessment of the copy. Crucially, the folding cartography is present and opens to impressive scale. The principal map situates Tibet between India, China and Russia—the entire geopolitical argument of the book rendered in colour and line.

As an object, the copy moves persuasively between beauty and evidence. The gilt cover represents Tibet as an idea; the maps represent it as strategic space; the text represents it as lived policy. The three together give the book its unusual collecting power.



Gilt cloth · folding cartography · documentary presence

CONDITION

Very good

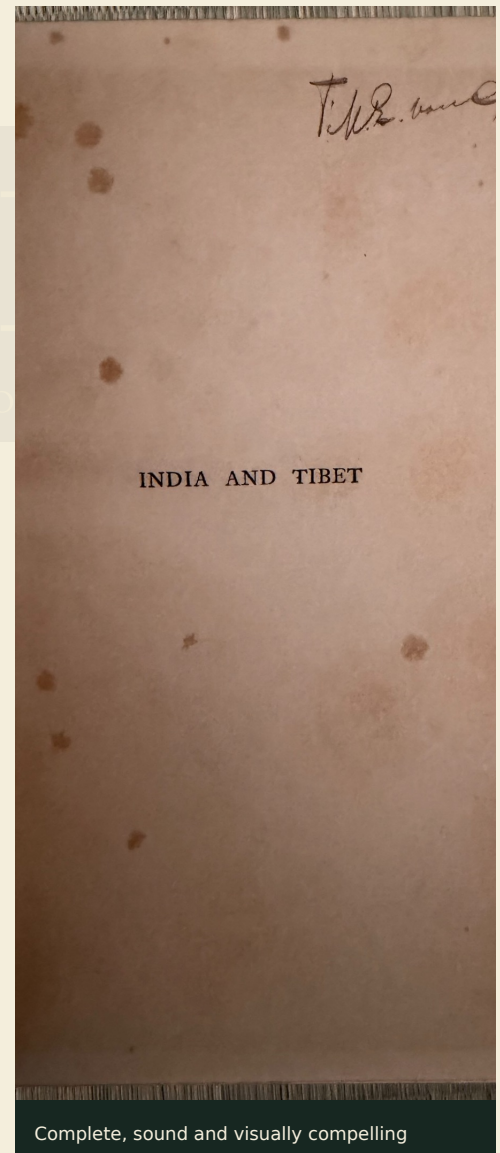
Complete, sound and visually compelling

Condition statement. A very good copy in the original gilt-decorated publisher's cloth. The binding remains sound and imposing, with bright, well-preserved gilt and only light age-consistent rubbing and handling marks. The text block is complete. The supplied photographs show scattered foxing and spotting to some preliminary leaves, together with an early ownership inscription; these features are plainly acknowledged and do not detract from the book's overall strength.

Completeness. All pages, maps and illustrations are present. The folding maps survive intact and retain strong colour. Their presence is especially important: copies offered without a map, with a defective fold, or with an incomplete plate complement lose both scholarly and collector value.

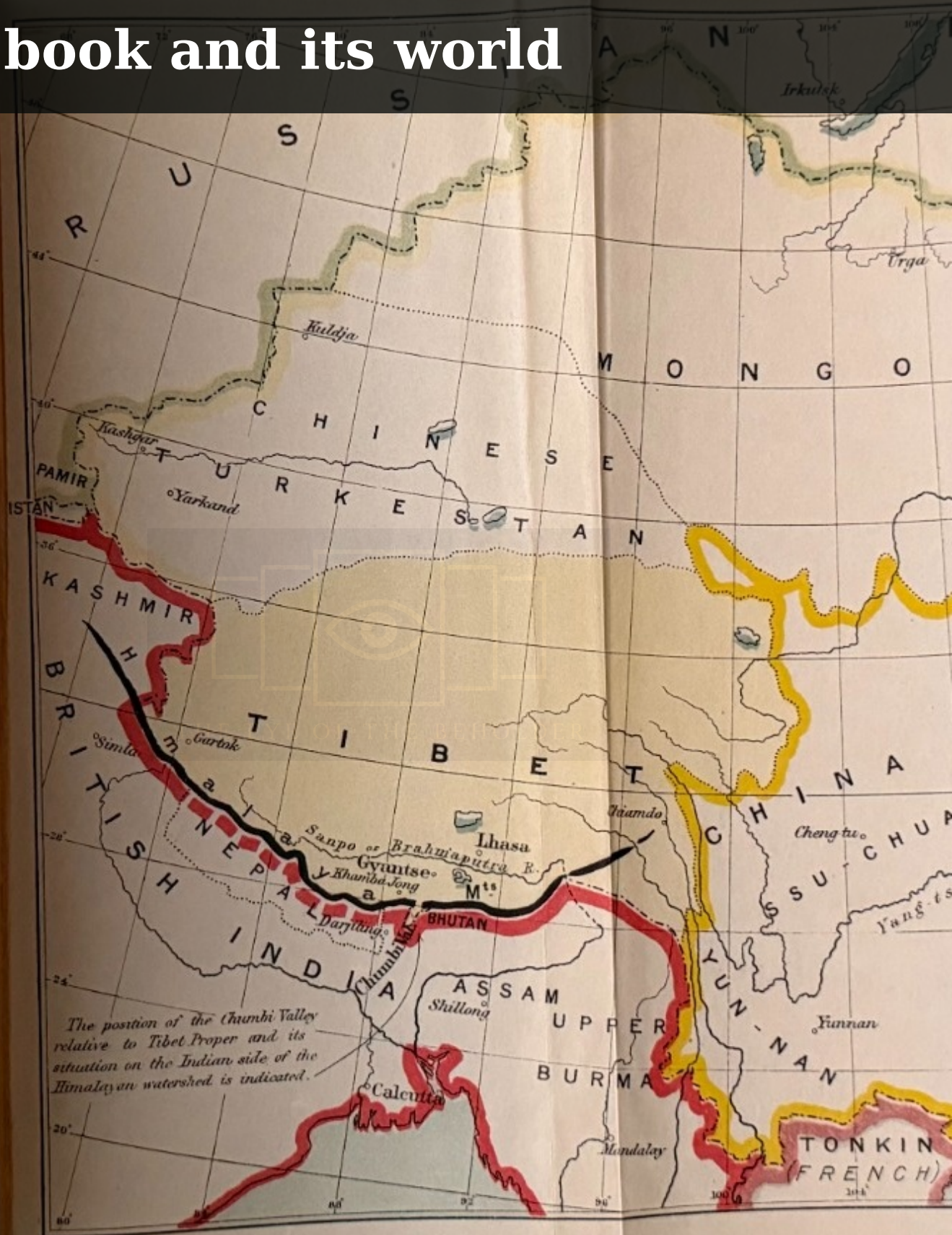
Collector's assessment. The book presents exceptionally well on the shelf and in the hand. Its combination of original decorative cloth, complete cartographic apparatus and a firm text block places it above the compromised copies frequently encountered in the market. For the collector, completeness and honest condition are more consequential than cosmetic perfection.

The result is a copy that can be read, researched and displayed without apology—a first-edition book of real historical weight, preserved in a state commensurate with its importance.



Complete, sound and visually compelling

The book and its world



Original gilt cloth beside the folding map: the object and its geopolitical field.

PROLOGUE

The roof of the world

Tibet before the opening

To Edwardian Britain, Tibet was less a country than a charged absence on the map. It was high, difficult of access, politically guarded and spiritually radiant. Lhasa, seat of the Dalai Lama and centre of a complex monastic polity, had become one of the most resonant forbidden cities in the European imagination.

Yet the notion of complete isolation was always an outsider's simplification. Tibet belonged to networks of pilgrimage, trade and diplomacy that connected the plateau with Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Qing China and the Himalayan regions of India. What Europeans experienced as a closed door was, from Lhasa, a strategy for managing dangerous powers at the edges.

By the end of the nineteenth century, this guarded world had acquired new strategic meaning. British India looked north across Sikkim and the Himalayan passes. Imperial Russia moved through Central Asia. Qing authority in Tibet was asserted, negotiated and often uneven. Rumour travelled faster than reliable intelligence, and in the Great Game an uncertain report could harden into policy.

Younghusband's book preserves this atmosphere: the attraction of a land conceived as remote, the impatience of an empire that wanted direct relations, and the anxiety produced when geography, commerce and security became inseparable.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

THE MAN

Francis Younghusband

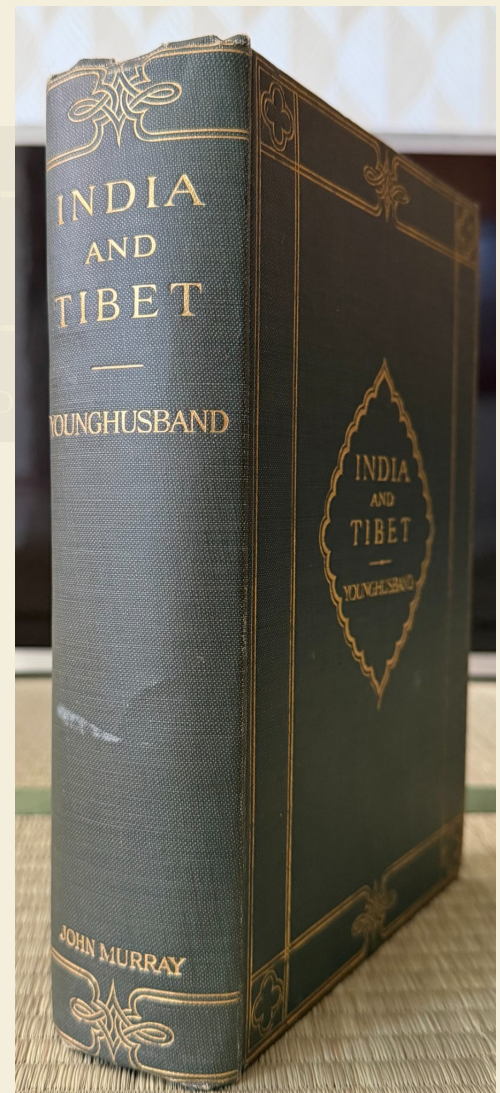
Explorer, officer, envoy, mystic

Francis Edward Younghusband was born in 1863 at Murree in British India and educated in England before entering Sandhurst. Commissioned into the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, he quickly revealed a temperament unsuited to routine garrison life. Distance, altitude and uncertainty were not obstacles to him; they were invitations.

In his twenties he travelled from Peking through Manchuria and across the Gobi, continued through Chinese Turkestan, and forced a route towards India across the Mustagh Pass. The journeys combined exploration, survey, intelligence and personal ordeal. They established him as one of the outstanding young geographers of his generation and earned formal recognition from the Royal Geographical Society.

His later career joined the Indian Political Service to the culture of frontier exploration. He served in Hunza, the Pamirs, Chitral and Kashmir; negotiated with rulers and agents; measured terrain; read intention from movement; and learned the peculiar intimacy of high Asian diplomacy, where two men might dine together hospitably while representing rival empires.

Younghusband's life cannot be reduced to imperial adventure. The same man who advocated forward policy later wrote intensely about nature, religious experience and the unity of faiths. He helped foster the earliest British attempts on Everest and founded the World Congress of Faiths. The contradictions are not incidental. They are the key to his fascination.



Explorer, officer, envoy, mystic

THE GREAT GAME

A contest of shadows

Russia, Britain and the geography of fear

The Great Game was a rivalry conducted through surveys, embassies, rumours, buffer states and the imaginative possession of space. Russian expansion across Central Asia appeared to bring another European power ever closer to the northern approaches of India. British strategists responded by mapping passes, cultivating intelligence and attempting to understand the political loyalties of regions that seemed to sit between empires.

Younghusband became one of the rivalry's emblematic figures. His journeys across the Gobi, the Taklamakan, the Karakoram and the Pamirs were feats of exploration, but they also produced strategic knowledge. A line on a map could reveal an avenue of invasion; a conversation in Kashgar could suggest a new alliance; an unverified report could become the premise of a mission.

Tibet entered this theatre because its isolation magnified uncertainty. Russian contact with Agvan Dorzhiev, a Buryat-Mongol lama close to the Thirteenth Dalai Lama, was read in British India as evidence of a possible Russian opening. The evidence never matched the scale of the fear. But imperial policy often acts not on what is known, but on what cannot safely be excluded.

The map preserved in the present copy makes the structure of that anxiety immediately visible. Tibet lies between the coloured borders of India, China and Russia: geography converted into argument.

AN ENCOUNTER

Brandy in the Pamirs

Younghusband and Grombchevsky

One episode captures the Great Game's strange mixture of theatre and sincerity. In 1889, in the high country near the Yarkand River, Younghusband encountered Captain Bronislav Grombchevsky, the Russian explorer and intelligence officer. Each man knew what the other represented. Each also knew the loneliness of the terrain.

They dined, drank and talked late into the night. The Russian Cossacks displayed their horsemanship; Younghusband's Gurkhas demonstrated rifle drill. Hospitality became reconnaissance, courtesy became performance, and the frontier became a stage on which imperial power could be assessed at close range.

The anecdote matters because it illuminates Younghusband's habits of mind. He was not an armchair alarmist. His understanding of Russia had been formed through physical encounter—with Russian officers, Russian movement and the spaces through which power might travel. This gave conviction to his judgments, but it could also make possibility feel like probability.

When Tibet later appeared to offer Russia a door towards India, Younghusband was psychologically and professionally prepared to see the issue as urgent. India and Tibet is thus not only a history of policy. It is the intellectual autobiography of a frontier officer whose life had taught him that unattended spaces did not remain politically empty.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

CURZON

The Tibetan question

Policy, prestige and the closed door

Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, shared Younghusband's impatience with uncertainty. Agreements negotiated with Qing China in 1890 and 1893 had not produced reliable compliance on the ground. Tibetan authorities rejected boundary arrangements to which they had not been meaningful parties. Attempts at direct communication with the Dalai Lama failed. Reports of Russian contact intensified Curzon's determination to act.

In 1903 Younghusband was appointed head of a Tibet Frontier Commission. Its declared object was negotiation; its military escort made clear that the British government intended the mission to be received. When Tibetan representatives declined to engage on British terms, the commission advanced.

This is the moral and political hinge of the story. A diplomatic initiative moved deeper into Tibetan territory under the protection of a substantial force. The language of frontier settlement coexisted with the realities of invasion. Modern arms confronted inadequately equipped Tibetan levies. At Guru, Gyantse and elsewhere, the asymmetry was catastrophic.

A persuasive catalogue note must resist both hagiography and reduction. Younghusband's courage and ability were remarkable. So were the consequences of the expedition he led. The value of India and Tibet lies partly in this tension: it allows the central participant to speak at length, while requiring the modern reader to read him critically.

CARTOGRAPHY

Tibet between empires



The folding map visualises Tibet's position between British India, China and Russia.

THE MISSION

Across the passes

From Sikkim towards Lhasa

The advance began through the high approaches from Sikkim, a landscape in which logistics could be as dangerous as combat. Thousands of soldiers, engineers, medical staff, porters and animals had to be moved, fed and protected across altitude, cold and distance. The expedition was a technological organism moving into a world that British India knew imperfectly.

Younghusband's role was political rather than tactical command, but the distinction became increasingly difficult to maintain. Negotiation took place in the shadow of force. Delays were interpreted as obstruction; obstruction justified movement; movement created confrontation.

The maps in India and Tibet are therefore not decorative appendages. They are the skeleton of the narrative. Routes, passes, valleys, frontiers and imperial borders explain why events unfolded as they did. A complete copy permits the reader to reconstruct the spatial logic that prose alone cannot supply.

For a collector, the intact folding maps are among the book's most desirable features. Opened across a table, they transform the volume from memoir into strategic archive. Closed within the handsome binding, they remain folded evidence—the geography of a decision waiting to be reopened.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

GURU

The cost of asymmetry

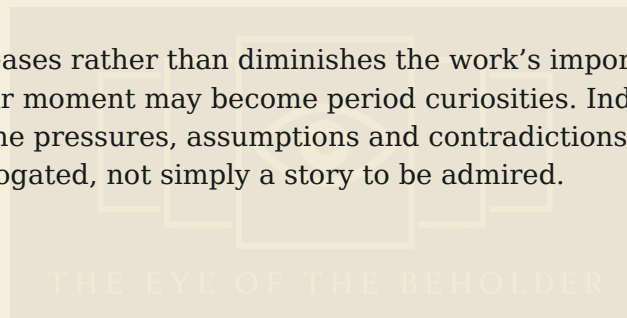
A confrontation that changed the mission

At Guru in March 1904, a tense encounter between the British-Indian force and a large body of Tibetan troops ended in slaughter. Accounts differ in detail and emphasis, but the essential imbalance is beyond dispute: modern rifles and machine guns were brought against men whose weapons and training could not meet them on equal terms.

The episode shadows every later claim of peaceful intent. It also complicates the heroic vocabulary in which imperial expeditions were once described. The road to Lhasa was not opened by diplomacy alone.

Younghusband's own retrospective narrative seeks to explain decisions, intentions and accumulated frustrations. His candour is partial but valuable. He admits mistakes in his preface and insists that his recommendations are personal, not officially inspired. The book therefore occupies the unstable ground between defence, confession and policy argument.

This complexity increases rather than diminishes the work's importance. Books that merely celebrate their moment may become period curiosities. India and Tibet endures because it contains the pressures, assumptions and contradictions of its age. It is evidence to be interrogated, not simply a story to be admired.



GYANTSE AND LHASA

The forbidden city reached

Victory, absence and the Convention

After further resistance around Gyantse, the mission continued to Lhasa. The Thirteenth Dalai Lama had already fled, first towards Mongolia. The city so long imagined as the prize of access was entered in the absence of the figure whose authority had drawn British attention.

The Convention of Lhasa was signed in September 1904. It addressed trade marts, the frontier, indemnity and the exclusion of other foreign powers. Yet the settlement was rapidly modified by metropolitan caution and by the larger diplomatic need to manage relations with Qing China and Russia. Younghusband believed that the personal and political opening achieved at such cost was then abandoned.

That disappointment furnishes the argument of his 1910 book. He presents 137 years of relations as a recurring attempt to establish ordinary intercourse, repeatedly thwarted by fear, bureaucracy, jealousy and isolation. Whether one accepts his prescription or not, the design is intellectually ambitious: the 1904 mission is placed within a history beginning with Warren Hastings and George Bogle.

The result is much more than a campaign memoir. It is a theory of frontier relations written by a man who had tried to force history towards his preferred conclusion.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

THE BOOK

Written after the frontier

From participant to historian

By 1910 Younghusband had left government employment and entered what he called a field of greater freedom. In the preface he emphasised that the book possessed no official inspiration or sanction. He drew extensively on Parliamentary Blue Books, earlier travel accounts and the writings of participants, but the connecting intelligence was his own.

The date matters. The world of 1904 had already shifted. The Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 reduced one dimension of the Great Game. Qing intervention in Tibet intensified. The Thirteenth Dalai Lama's position remained precarious. A narrative intended initially to end with the mission expanded to include developments up to publication.

Younghusband's governing claim is memorable: neighbourly intercourse depends less on dry treaties than on living personalities. In his telling, Bogle's warmth, the failure to sustain relationships, Curzon's determination and the eventual withdrawal from intimacy all belong to one continuous drama.

The book is consequently both archive and advocacy. It organises facts in order to argue for presence, communication and personal agency. It also reveals the imperial assumption that Britain possessed a right to decide how Tibet should relate to its neighbours. The modern reader gains most by holding both truths together.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

ARCHITECTURE

A history in eighteen chapters

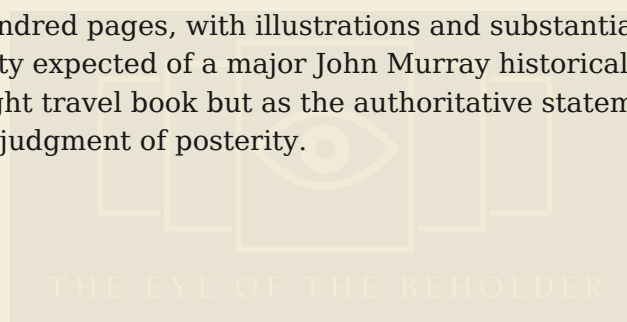
From Bogle to the final settlement

The narrative opens with Warren Hastings's policy and George Bogle's mission of 1774, then follows Samuel Turner's embassy of 1782 and Thomas Manning's extraordinary visit to Lhasa in 1811. These early chapters recover a period when encounter depended upon individual tact, linguistic improvisation and the fragile creation of trust.

Younghusband then traces the Bengal government's efforts in the later nineteenth century, the 1890 convention with China, failed trade regulations, boundary disputes and Lord Curzon's attempts at direct communication. The mission of 1903-04 occupies the core of the book: Khamba Jong, Guru, Gyantse, Lhasa and the Convention.

The final chapters follow the subsequent settlements with Britain, China and Russia and the dramatic events of 1910. The chronological structure allows Younghusband to transform separate episodes into a single long argument about the costs of isolation.

At more than four hundred pages, with illustrations and substantial folding maps, the volume has the density expected of a major John Murray historical publication. It was conceived not as a light travel book but as the authoritative statement of a participant seeking to shape the judgment of posterity.



BOGLE

The first opening

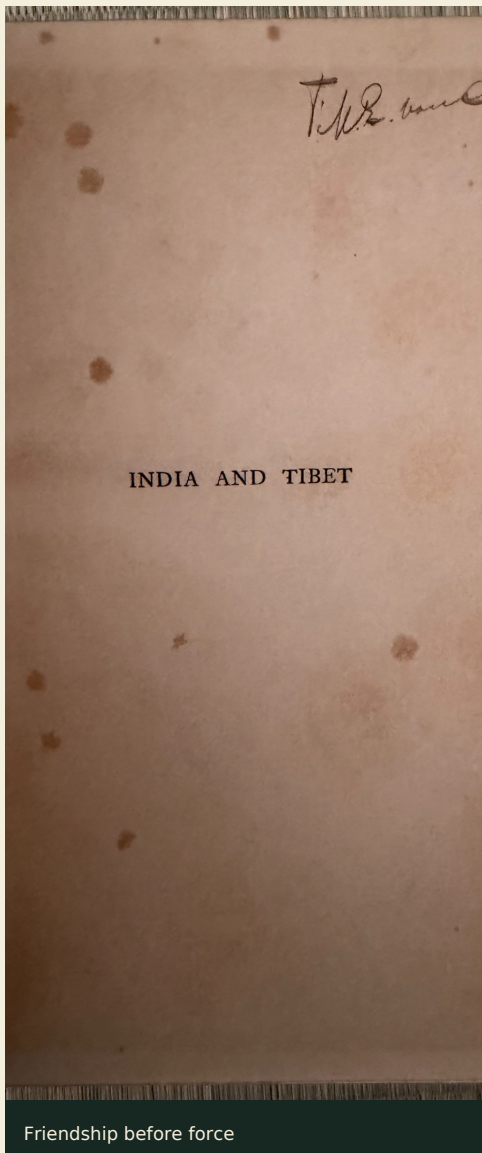
Friendship before force

George Bogle's 1774 mission provides Younghusband with an alternative model of imperial encounter. Sent by Warren Hastings, Bogle travelled to the Tashi Lama and established a relationship marked by curiosity, affection and mutual regard. Trade was an objective, but personality was the instrument.

Younghusband lingered over Bogle because the episode validated his belief that Asian diplomacy required character, patience and human warmth. The famous farewell to Tibet's "honest and simple people" conveyed an emotional identification strikingly different from the hard frontier language of the later mission.

There is also irony. Younghusband celebrated personal diplomacy in a book whose central episode had been inseparable from military coercion. The contrast is part of the work's depth. He appears to recognise that the opening achieved by force could not substitute for the intimacy Bogle had cultivated.

For collectors of Indian and Tibetan history, these early chapters broaden the book's reach. India and Tibet preserves not one expedition but a genealogy of encounters stretching across the life of the British empire in India.



Friendship before force

MANNING

An Englishman in Lhasa

The romance of the inaccessible

Thomas Manning reached Lhasa in 1811, the first Englishman known to have done so. Eccentric, linguistically gifted and travelling through Chinese connections, he encountered a city that later generations of Europeans would imagine with growing intensity.

Younghusband's inclusion of Manning establishes Lhasa as both destination and symbol. The city represented knowledge withheld, diplomacy frustrated and spiritual authority located beyond imperial reach. Each failed approach increased its aura.

By the late nineteenth century, travel literature had made Tibet a theatre of projection. It could be imagined as pure, backward, holy, strategic or threatened—often all at once. The power of India and Tibet comes from its position at the point where the romance of access collided with the machinery of empire.

The present volume retains that double charge. Its gilt binding promises the splendour of a distant world. Its maps and documents disclose the calculations by which that world was entered.



1910

A year on the edge

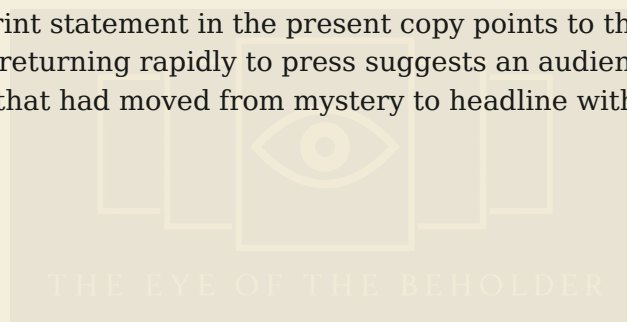
Tibet, China and the end of an era

The year of publication was itself a crisis point. Qing forces entered Lhasa and the Thirteenth Dalai Lama fled to British India. Younghusband extended his narrative to address the newest developments, turning a retrospective account into an intervention in unfolding events.

Within a year, the Qing dynasty would collapse. Tibet would enter a period of de facto independence while the British, Russian and Chinese political frameworks that had shaped Younghusband's analysis changed radically. The book thus appeared at the closing edge of one historical order.

This proximity gives the first edition unusual documentary energy. It was not written after the consequences had settled. The author was arguing while the meaning of Tibet remained open.

The same-month reprint statement in the present copy points to the intensity of interest. A work of such scale returning rapidly to press suggests an audience eager to understand a region that had moved from mystery to headline without losing its aura.



CARTOGRAPHY

The argument in colour

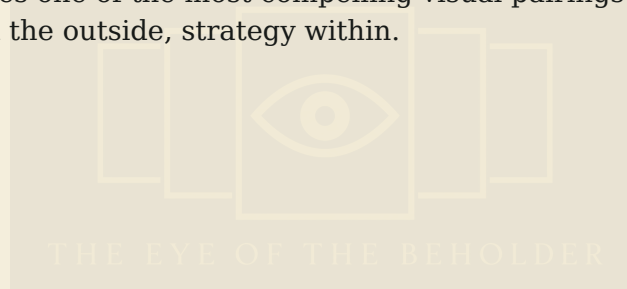
Tibet between India, China and Russia

The principal folding map is among the most arresting features of the copy. China is edged in yellow, British India and connected territories in red, and Russia's southern expanse in green. Tibet occupies the centre as a plateau between powers, its strategic vulnerability made instantly intelligible.

Maps persuade by appearing neutral. Yet every border, colour and label belongs to an interpretive system. The title—showing the “relative position of Tibet to China Proper, India & Russia”—announces the geopolitical question around which the book is built.

The map also rewards contemplation as an artefact. Its folds retain the memory of use; its scale interrupts the codex; its opening turns a private act of reading into a physical survey. It is easy to understand why complete copies with intact maps carry a premium.

In the present copy the map remains intact and strongly coloured. Its conjunction with the gilt binding creates one of the most compelling visual pairings in Edwardian books on Asia: ornament on the outside, strategy within.



AFTER EMPIRE

The explorer becomes a seeker

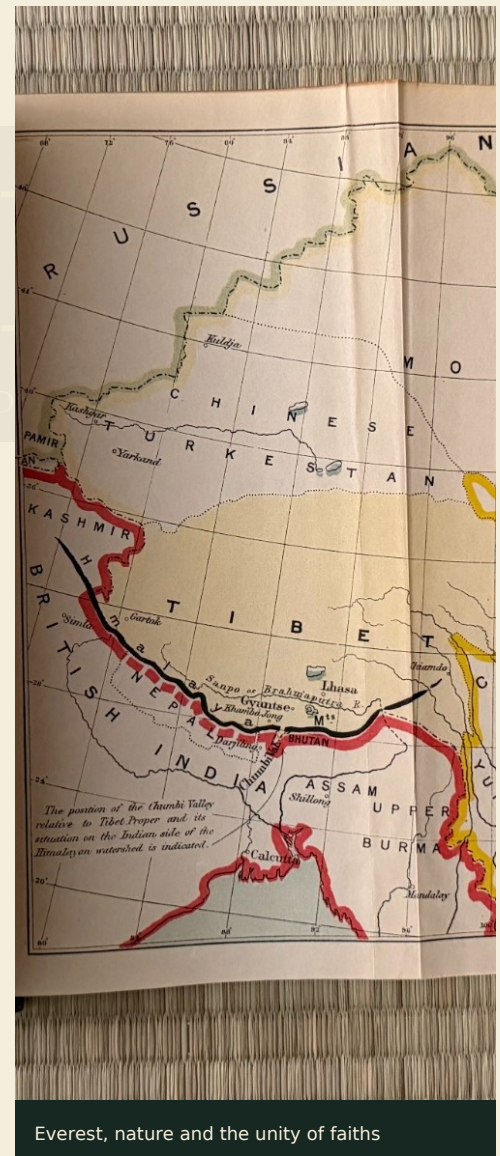
Everest, nature and the unity of faiths

Younghusband's later life enlarged the paradox already visible in his Tibetan experience. As President of the Royal Geographical Society from 1919 to 1922, he helped create the institutional momentum behind the early British expeditions to Mount Everest. The road to the mountain passed through the diplomatic geography he knew so well.

But the frontiers that increasingly occupied him were inward. He wrote about natural beauty, religious experience and a living universe. He described a mystical expansion of consciousness after leaving Lhasa—an experience difficult to reconcile with the violence of the road that had taken him there, yet central to his own understanding of his life.

In 1936 he founded the World Congress of Faiths, dedicated to encounter across religious traditions. The former imperial envoy became an advocate of spiritual fellowship. His ideas could be eccentric, speculative and grandiose; they were also evidence of an imagination that refused to remain contained by one career.

This later trajectory makes India and Tibet more than the work of a conventional imperial official. It belongs to a life that moved from exploration to coercive diplomacy, from geopolitics to mysticism, and from the Great Game to the pursuit of religious unity.



Everest, nature and the unity of faiths

OTHER WORKS

A life written across genres

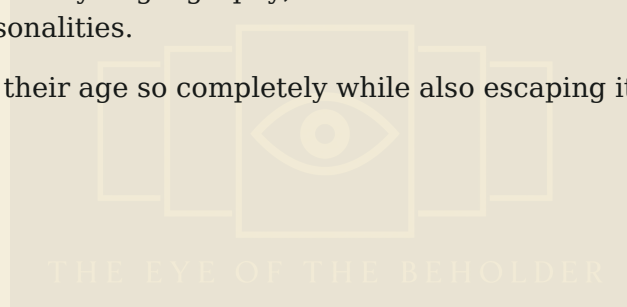
Exploration, Kashmir, Everest and belief

Younghusband's bibliography is unusually broad. *The Heart of a Continent* (1896) established his reputation as a writer-explorer through its account of journeys across Manchuria, the Gobi, Chinese Turkestan, the Pamirs and Hunza. *Kashmir* (1909), illustrated by Edward Molyneux, joined landscape, history and aesthetic response in one of the classic books on the region.

India and Tibet is the political centre of the oeuvre. Later books such as *The Heart of Nature* (1921) and *The Epic of Mount Everest* (1926) reveal his turn towards beauty, transcendence and the symbolism of high places. *Life in the Stars* (1927) and *The Living Universe* (1933) carried his speculation into cosmic territory.

Collectors may therefore approach the 1910 volume from several directions: the literature of exploration, Anglo-Indian political history, Tibet, the Great Game, mountaineering, the history of geography, or the evolution of one of Britain's most unusual imperial personalities.

Few authors embody their age so completely while also escaping its expected categories.



COLLECTING

Why this book matters

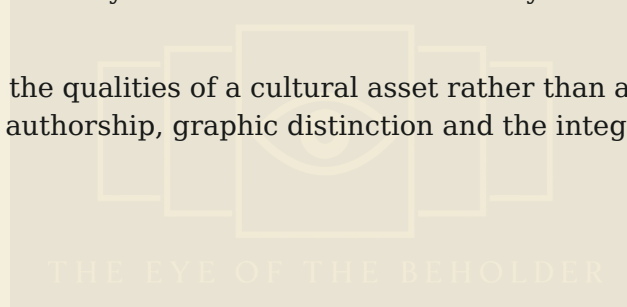
Primary source, beautiful object, complete copy

The most desirable historical books combine consequence, authorship and presence. India and Tibet meets all three tests. It treats events that reshaped the Himalayan world; it was written by their central British political participant; and it survives here in a decorative original binding with the essential maps and illustrations intact.

Its audience is correspondingly broad. Collectors of Tibet value the first-hand account and the cartography. Collectors of British India recognise it as a major statement of frontier policy. Students of the Great Game find in Younghusband a participant whose whole career was formed by imperial rivalry. Collectors of exploration encounter the rare figure who crossed the map before helping to redraw its political meaning.

Condition is decisive. The ornate cloth is vulnerable to fading, rubbing and loss of gilt; folding maps are easily torn, detached or lost. A complete, sound and visually strong copy is therefore substantially more desirable than a merely bibliographically adequate example.

The present copy has the qualities of a cultural asset rather than a shelf-filler: historical gravity, recognisable authorship, graphic distinction and the integrity required for serious custody.



RARITY

Desirability within the market

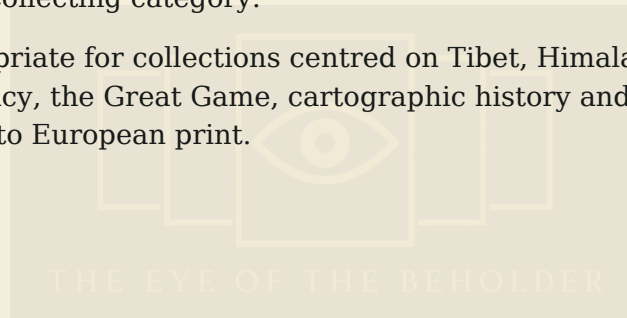
The premium belongs to completeness

India and Tibet is obtainable in institutional collections and appears periodically in the antiquarian market, but examples vary sharply. Later reprints, modern facsimiles, rebound copies, faded cloth, defective hinges and missing or damaged maps must not be confused with a complete first-edition copy in attractive original condition.

The present example is particularly appealing because its identity is coherent. The original publisher's design remains legible and handsome. The map apparatus survives. The volume is complete. Its signs of age are visible and intelligible rather than structurally disfiguring.

For the connoisseur, rarity is not simply the number of surviving copies. It is the scarcity of copies possessing the full combination of edition, completeness, binding and visual presence. On that more meaningful measure, a very good copy with intact folding maps occupies a stronger collecting category.

It is especially appropriate for collections centred on Tibet, Himalayan exploration, Anglo-Indian diplomacy, the Great Game, cartographic history and the transmission of Asian geographies into European print.



THE CUSTODIAN'S VIEW

A book that holds its contradictions

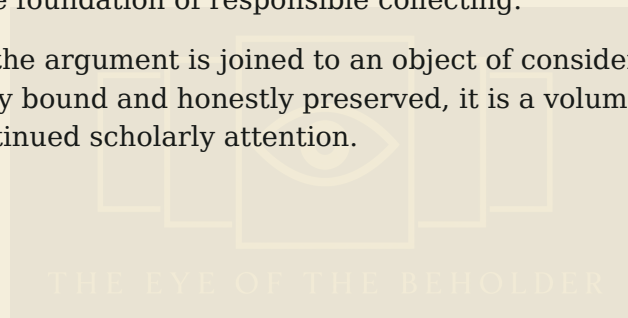
Recommended without simplification

The temptation with Younghusband is to choose between admiration and condemnation. The more serious response is to refuse the simplification. He was an explorer of extraordinary physical courage, a perceptive student of personality, an imperial actor capable of grave misjudgment, a gifted writer, a promoter of Everest and a restless religious seeker.

India and Tibet holds these contradictions in durable form. Its prose argues for the author's understanding of events; its omissions and emphases reveal the limits of that understanding; its maps display the strategic imagination of empire; its material beauty testifies to the prestige attached to the subject.

To acquire the book is not to endorse every policy it defends. It is to preserve a primary document through which the making of modern Himalayan history can be examined. That distinction is the foundation of responsible collecting.

In the present copy, the argument is joined to an object of considerable visual authority. Complete, attractively bound and honestly preserved, it is a volume worthy of a focused collection and of continued scholarly attention.



NOTES

Sources and further reading

A concise scholarly apparatus

Primary source. Francis Younghusband, *India and Tibet* (London: John Murray, 1910). The full title, contents, preface and chapter architecture have been checked against the 1910 text available through Project Gutenberg and digitised institutional copies.

Historical studies. Patrick French, *Younghusband: The Last Great Imperial Adventurer*; Charles Allen, *Duel in the Snows*; Peter Hopkirk, *The Great Game*; Alex McKay, studies of Tibet and the British Raj; archival and image resources of the Royal Geographical Society; Parliamentary Blue Books cited by Younghusband.

Bibliographical note. The present copy's photographed edition leaf is the controlling evidence for its impression statement: "First Edition ... November, 1910 / Reprinted ... November, 1910." The catalogue accordingly identifies it as the first edition, same-month reprint.

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