

Himalayan Encounters - Hidden Views from 170 Years Ago

The Schlagintweit Drawings in India



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ERNST-REUTER-GESELLSCHAFT
*der Freunde, Förderer & Ehemaligen
der Freien Universität Berlin e.V.*



Exhibition in New Delhi, Dehradun and Nainital in April-May 2026

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PROGRAMME

1. NEW DELHI

India International Centre, Annexe,
40 Max Mueller Marg

21 April (Tuesday) - 28 April (Tuesday) 2026

Inauguration / opening lectures on 21 April

2. DEHRADUN

Doon Library and Research Centre, Dehradun

1 May (Friday) - 9 May (Saturday) 2026

Inauguration / opening lectures on 1 May

3. NAINITAL

CRST Inter College, Mallital, Nainital

12 May (Tuesday) - 18 May (Monday) 2026

Inauguration / opening lectures on 12 May

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CAPTIONS FOR OUTER AND INNER COVERS

Outer cover : *Lamayuru (GR 271)*

Inner cover 1 : *Letter from A. Schlagintweit to A. Humboldt dated Nainital, 17 May 1855*

Inner cover 2 : *Map of Pandit Nain Singh's route from Ladakh to Assam via Lhasa in 1873-75*

Back cover : *Bogapani Bridge (GR 413)*

PAHAR Foundation • Alpines Museum Munchen • Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Munchen

PAHAR's Foreword

When, a decade back, I was invited by Prof. Hermann Kreutzmann of Free University, Berlin to speak on Himalayan Explorations and who took me to Alpines Museum at Munich to speak on Pundit Nain Singh Rawat, I was thinking about listening and knowing more about Alexander von Humboldt and Carl Ritter and contributions of the Schlagintweit brothers to Indian geography, topographic surveys and Himalayan studies. But it was more than that. It was really a new beginning for me and Pahar.

Madam Stephanie Kleidt, who curated, designed and implemented the exhibition, very kindly arranged a meeting in the 'Staatliche Graphische Sammlung' in Munich, where many drawings were kept in high care. I may be among very few or first fortunate Indians, who saw the drawings, sketches and paintings of Nainital and surrounding areas of Kumaon, higher Himalayan scenes and sacred places from the mid-nineteenth century in high quality and original great detail. Though I have seen the Schlagintweit volumes at Survey of India in Dehradun and Sven Hedin Foundation in Stockholm and had the sense of their larger Himalayan documentation.

Immediately a dream started twinkling about how we can do an exhibition of some of these images in our country and present the connection which happened more than one and half century ago. It was really a difficult dream. Continuous involvement and initiations of Hermann and Stephanie made it possible and we are in the first phase organising the exhibitions with opening lectures at three places- India International Centre, Delhi; Doon Library and Research Centre, Dehradun and CRST College/ RST Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, Nainital.

We from Pahar express sincere thanks to 'Alpines Museum', the 'Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen', the Bavarian State Library, members of the Schlagintweit family and the institutions-organisations-sponsors-individuals, who contributed towards hosting the exhibitions in India. We thank Prof. Hermann Kreutzmann, Madam Stephanie Kleidt, Dr. Johannes Erichsen, Stefan Ritter and others in these institutions for such a deep interest and regular support for this exhibition in India.

We are also grateful to I.I.C. and its president Mr. Shyam Sharan, (and others at IIC); German Embassy, Ambassador Mr. Philipp Ackermann, Delhi; D.L.R.C., its Chairman Prof. B.K. Joshi, Hon. Director, Mr. N. Ravi Shanker, Mr. N.S. Napalchyal, Mr. C.S. Tiwari and Mr. Nicholas Hoffland, Mr. Lokesh Ohri (INTACH), Mr. Sanjeev Chopra (VoW), Dehradun; Mr. B.P. Pandey, D.G., RSTUAA, Mr. Anup Sah, Manager/ Mr. Manoj Pande, Principal, CRST College, Nainital. Our sincere thanks to UCOST, Dr. D. Pant and Deptt. of Tourism, Mr. D. Garbyal, Govt of Uttarakhand for supporting the exhibition and associated publications.

Pahar team (Mr. C. Dangi, dealing with all issues regarding exhibition in Delhi, Mr. G. Pande, Mr. A. Upadhyay, Mr. P. Bisht and Mr. H. Pathak) is working behind. Thanks to them and also to Mr. S. Joshi and Smt. Usha Kashyap, who did a lot in a little given time in printing the catalogue and the calendar.

Shekhar Pathak

for Pahar Team

21 April 2026

Acknowledgements

To present the Schlagintweit paintings for the first time in India is due to many coincidences and initiatives in Germany and India. The Schlagintweit brothers and their Indian collaborators have proven a fruitful cooperation during their collaboration, an early example of Indo-German scientific cooperation in the fields of geology, geography and landscape studies. The idea for the Indian exhibition was born in September 2015 when Prof. Shekhar Pathak visited Munich during a symposium highlighting the Schlagintweit expeditions in the framework of a major display of their collected artefacts, masks, ethnographic items, maps, measurements and recordings. The central theme was the display of the Schlagintweit paintings in the context of their expeditions. The paintings had been donated by heirs from the Schlagintweit family to the Alpines Museum in Munich.

On this very occasion Shekhar Pathak represented Indian scholarship during the symposium and was interested to see more of the Schlagintweit paintings and especially the ones from the archives. The art historian Stephanie Kleidt, the mastermind behind curating, designing and implementing the exhibition, arranged a meeting in the 'Staatliche Graphische Sammlung' in Munich where many surprise findings were held in stock. For the first time, he saw drawings of Nainital and surrounding areas of Kumaon from the mid-nineteenth century in high quality and great detail. Immediately the idea was conceived that these paintings should be shown in India to make an interested public and academic institutions aware of the wealth of information that is contained in these images made 170 years ago.

It took more than a decade to implement this idea with exhibitions in New Delhi, Dehradun and Nainital, and hopefully many other places. The efforts of the editors of this volume resulted in small grants from the Free University Berlin, the Ernst-Reuter-Gesellschaft, Berlin, and donations from Schlagintweit family members. All these are gratefully acknowledged. Other institutions and persons were instrumental in implementing the project. It required diplomatic skills and professional determination by all participants from academia and practice, from art history, history and geography, from independent commitment of retirees and people- and student-oriented associations in civil society and institutions from higher learning to convince the keepers and owners of the 'Schlagintweit paintings- the 'Alpines', the 'Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen', the Bavarian State Library and members of the Schlagintweit family – as well as the institutions and organisations hosting the exhibitions in India. The whole team is grateful to all donors and sponsors, hosts and supporters and all invisible activists and professionals contributing in the preparation of the Schlagintweit paintings exhibition project in India.

Dr. Johannes Erichsen, Stephanie Kleidt, M.A., Munich

Prof. Hermann Kreutzmann, Berlin

About the Exhibition

Hidden Views of the Himalayan Belt — 170 Years After

Sketching the Himalayas 170 years ago was an exploratory endeavour strongly embedded in its contemporary thinking, knowledge-generation, geographical curiosity and geopolitical interests. The mid-nineteenth century is characterised by advancements in spatial measurements, geographical surveying, technology development and atmospheric recording instruments. Geographical exploration and scientific advancement were a cosmopolitan affair and the Schlagintweit expeditions are ample proof of such a quest for augmenting existing knowledge. Their endeavour was embedded in the accumulated knowledge from earlier travelogues and manuscripts, historical narratives and tales. The cosmopolitan approach was not limited to knowledge-generation. The expedition teams themselves were composed of people from various backgrounds and origin, the sponsors and clients were not limited to one or the other country.

The innovative techniques of capturing landscapes and environmental features, recording archaeological artefacts and cultural sights had been pencil sketches and water colours, while photography was still in its early stages. The Schlagintweit images, now displayed for the first time in India since their thematic conception 170 years ago, fall into the category of parallel structures of recording, i.e., sketching with pencils, drawing with oil and water colours, and photographing and hand colouring. Their interest in geographical artefacts and features is reflected in the themes of the exhibition. The landscape paintings are covering the whole range of the Himalayan belt from Assam to Baltistan and Ladakh, from the Himalayan rimlands and the Khasi Hills to the Trans-Himalaya, Tibet and Bhutan.

For the foreign explorers new and never seen worlds were opened to their eyes; places of worship were significant locations that attracted numerous pilgrims and visitors whom they admired and met along their routes. The road conditions are reflected in conventional travel of their time, on boats, horseback and on foot, river passages and bridges attracted their attention; the scattered mountain settlements appear as hamlets and isolated dwellings with hitherto unseen construction principles and building techniques in challenging environments.



Fig. 1: Dal Lake by Adolph Schlagintweit, 28 October 1856 (GR 463). Private Property, Munich

The paintings remember us of a Himalayan world (Fig. 1) that has left our perception as the dynamic change in infrastructure, settlement patterns, agricultural technologies and immigration of lowlanders into mountain communities has covered and/or extinguished previous livelihood patterns, habitats and ecological environments. The Schlagintweit expeditions took place just before the Indian Rebellion of 1857 which marks the turning point from colonial East India Company intrusions and occupations to the imperial establishment and domination of British India.

The selection of paintings for this exhibition was guided by our desire to show vanishing worlds that might act as a reminder how fast the pace of change has been and what has been lost on its course. Some artefacts and landscape appearances have survived while other dwellings and natural phenomena are lost for ever. The Schlagintweit brothers (Fig. 2) were inspired by a view of natural features and cultural artefacts that was embedded in their German upbringing and training as well as inspired by their professional mountain experience as geographers and geologists in the European Alps.

The guiding questions of their time were about the formation of the highest mountain systems on Earth and about clarifying and fixing the locations of known and hitherto unknown places in an exact manner so that reliable maps could be constructed and expand the world view. Scientific challenges were to grasp the monsoonal weather regimes, its influence on agricultural practices, the conditions for travelling and to a lesser degree an enhanced knowledge about the life of mountain dwellers and communities.

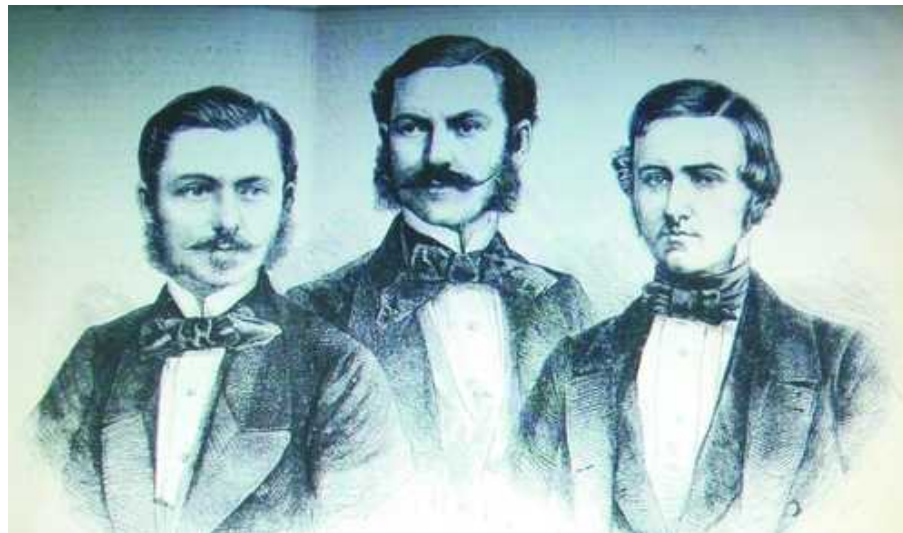


Fig. 2: Robert, Hermann and Adolph Schlagintweit. Source: Illustrierte Zeitung, No. 804, 27 November 1858

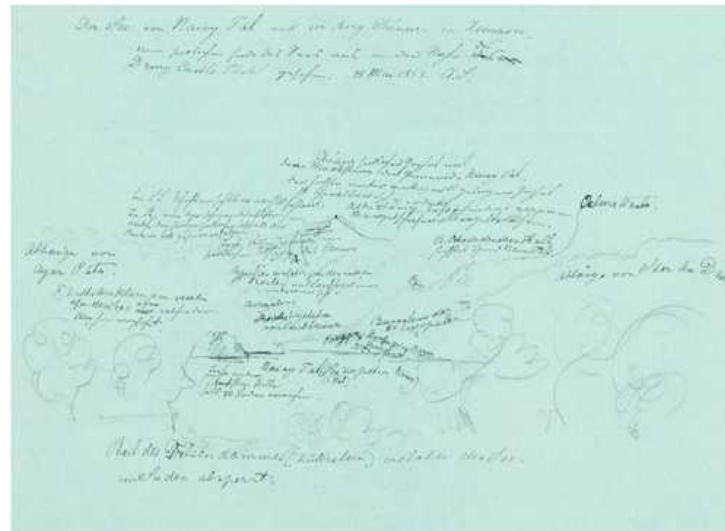


Fig. 7: Sketch of a lost drawing of Nainital by Adolph Schlagintweit, 18 May 1855 (related to GR 414)



Fig. 8: Srinagar and the Dal Lake conceived for the Prussian Court in 1822 by Carl Friedrich Schinkel

The Historical Context of Geographical Exploration

The pioneering efforts of comparative and systematic mountain studies were fostered by its doyen Alexander von Humboldt. He himself had been an active field researcher in cosmopolitan teams operating in Latin America and Europe. Alexander von Humboldt became renowned for his mountain profiles (Fig. 3) that became comprehensive diagrams for grasping its complexities. The ecological layers distinguish between the densely populated and cultivated foothills and rimlands, in the belt above other environments such as forests and pastures appear and form the operating centre of mountain dwellers, higher up treeless and glaciated regions at the upper limit form the limit of the ecumene.

To complement Alexander von Humboldt's empirical and theoretical studies of the 'Kosmos', Heinrich Berghaus published diagrams and maps in an atlas volume, which contains comparative diagrams for the Latin American Andes, the European Alps and the Pyrenees, for the Himalayan region he relied on the works of British botanists.¹ This was the state-of-the-art compendium on mountain studies before the Schlagintweit brothers were commissioned to set-off for India and to enhance the geographical knowledge about High Asia.

Schrader 1859. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 'New York'; Lithograph of Rudolf Hoffmann 1857

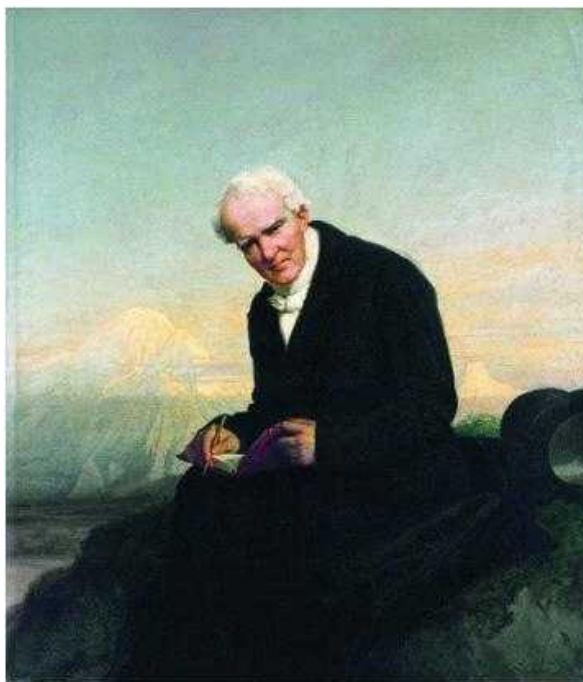


Fig. 4: Baron Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859). Oil on canvas by Julius Schrader, 1859. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The comparative diagrams were published in the map compendium by Heinrich Berghaus between 1845 and 1848; a recent reproduction is found in Heinrich Berghaus (2004). 'Physikalischer Atlas. Frankfurt'/Main: Eichborn, pp. 100-101.

Reflecting on the handling of knowledge, it is important to note that from an academic point of view the work of Alexander von Humboldt and the Schlagintweit brothers provided the foundation for what was to be subsequently called comparative high mountain research.¹ Before their endeavours there was a rather limited library of manuscripts and narratives in foreign languages as well as some travelogues from earlier explorers available spanning several centuries since Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta and Benedict Goes. No systematic and in the best sense empirical fieldwork-oriented material was available; most researchers in the 'oriental sciences' relied on second-hand material laid down in nineteenth century archives.

Alexander von Humboldt (1817); Hermann, Adolphe and Robert von Schlagintweit (1861-1866); Carl Troll (1975).

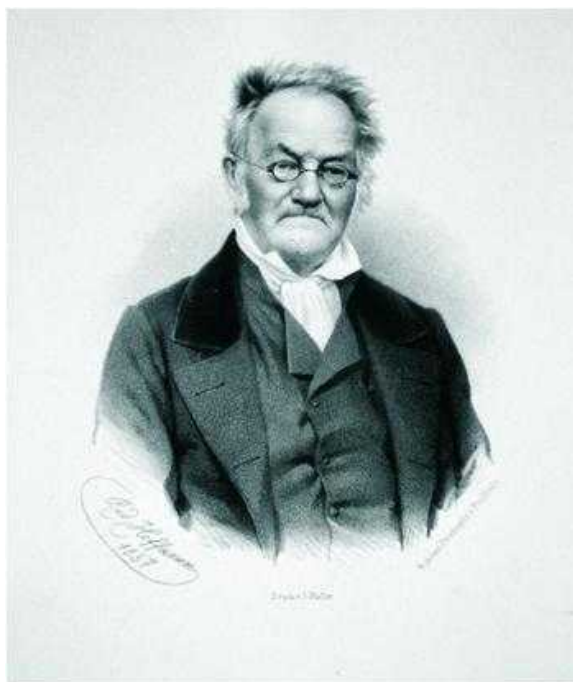


Fig. 5: Carl Ritter (1779–1859). Lithograph of Rudolf Hoffmann, 1857

Alexander von Humboldt's systematic empirical approach inspired his theoretical reasoning and attempt to synthesise knowledge, his ultimate goal was to find a theoretically sound geological or convincing volcanic explanation for the formation of mountains (Fig. 4). Their complex

structures and manifold variations demanded sound recordings of geographic properties in terms of climate and weather conditions, geology and geomorphology, mineralogy, soil composition and vegetation cover.

The Berlin school of geography was complemented by the efforts of Carl Ritter, the great collector of historical and geographical manuscripts (Fig. 5). Carl Ritter augmented Humboldt's conceptual approaches with extensive compilations in Berlin; he collected all literature and maps that were accessible to him, compiled multi-volume tomes of geographical descriptions and cooperated with leading cartographers to produce state-of-the-art maps.¹ Still the access to reliable maps (Fig. 6) was rather limited prior to the Schlagintweit expeditions.

The Schlagintweit expeditions were part of a movement to gather a wealth of topographical information about the extent of empires and principalities, the topographic location and altitude of cities, oases towns, trading posts, mountain peaks, river valleys, the distribution of ethnic groups and languages etc. As Felix Driver summarised: "... these collections included soil and water samples, wood specimens, rocks, seeds, plants, reptiles and other animals, paper, textiles, religious artefacts and sacred texts. Indeed, if they could have done, they would surely have bottled the very air of India!"² Often, the collectors were overwhelmed by the extent of their material and had only a few clues and theories what to do with the data. They compiled inventories, collected ethnographic specimen, produced water colour drawings, early photographs, topographical sketches and maps. The quality of their activities was strongly linked to the accuracy of recording topographical information, glossaries of vernacular terms and proper descriptions of objects.



Fig. 6: Kumaon section from 'Atlas von Asien', Julius Ludwig Grimm (1833)

The process of structuring the material was leading to what would become geographical landscape studies, in which definitions and their properties were part of a set of mutually understood standardised categories. Earlier on the densely settled lowland regions were the prime target while mountain areas were treated as thoroughfares for caravans, traders and pilgrims. People living there were marginal communities in the periphery. At the same time, their expertise and skills were required for crossing mountains and connecting empires.

In the context of the Himalayas the pioneering work of the Schlagintweit brothers led to the geological distinction of the Karakoram as a separate mountain range from the Himalayas as hinted by William Moorcroft before.³ Soon the 'Indian Caucasus' would become the Hindukush Mountains. The filling of 'blank spots' became an obsession.⁴ The Schlagintweit expeditions were setting the stage for a great effort in which their counterparts from Uttarakhand – among the 'observers' was Harkishen, among the 'collectors' were Luri, Joha, and Mohon Singh from Kumaon, and among the 'interpreters' were Mani Singh, Dolpa Singh and Nain Singh Rawat – provided their logistical and linguistic expertise, received training in various kinds of measurement and research practices.

1. Carl Ritter (1832, 1834); see Carl Zimmermann (1841) for the compiled maps.

2. Felix Driver (2018) : 442; see for the 'zeitgeist' of this exploratory effort Brescius (2018) and Brescius, Kaiser and Kleidt (2015).
3. William Moorcroft and George Trebeck (1841).
4. See Hermann Kreutzmann (2015: 102-112; 2017 : 63-68).

A Collaborative Effort in the 19th Century

The Schlagintweit expeditions had prepared the stage for further systematic enquiries and exploration within British India and beyond. The impact and outcomes would be felt and appreciated in the decades to come. The British authorities realised the importance of ethnographic, geographical and geologic knowledge gathering, the political value of background information and intelligence reports from places beyond their immediate realm in order to prevent intrusions and surprises on the borders of their sphere of influence and to identify commercial opportunities in trade and commodity exchange.

When Thomas Montgomerie set up his group of 'native explorers' after the fatal murder of Adolph Schlagintweit in Kashgar in 1857 and the acceleration of the Great Game it was not surprising that experienced and skilled people such as Nain Singh Rawat would play a central role in route exploration and providing topographical information for the compilation of gazetteers.

From the British intelligence and cartography centre in Dehra Dun Nain Singh Rawat, being a Kumaoni schoolteacher, and Mani Singh, who had gained expertise in surveying when employed by the Schlagintweit brothers, were sent to explore routes, landscapes and communities in the Himalayas and Tibet. Their exploration was directed towards Tibet, and their return journey took two and half years after they had left Dehra Dun in March 1864. Nain Singh Rawat returned to Tibet another three times in the following decade. His work was continued by his cousin Kishen Singh between 1878 and 1882.

The British Intelligence Department titled Nain Singh as 'Pundit Number One' who gained recognition by his superiors as an able and productive explorer. Henry Trotter termed him 'Major Montgomerie's original Pandit' who was awarded the gold Medal/Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1877.¹ None of the Schlagintweit brothers were honoured in the same way as Nain Singh.

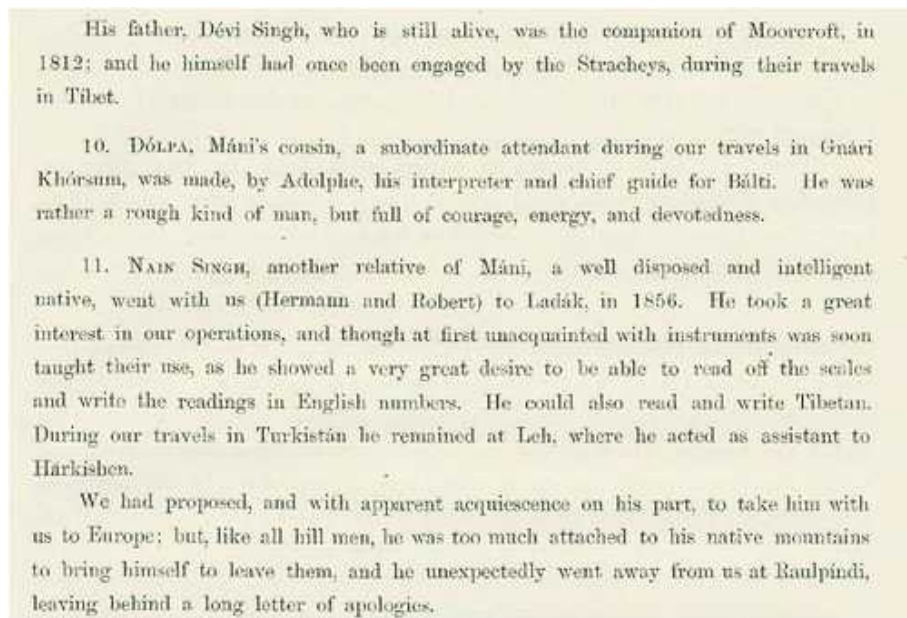


Fig. 9: Cover of the Schlagintweits' 'Results' volumes (1861-1866)

Kenneth Mason appreciated and praised Nain Singh's report as a valuable source providing the cutting edge in the Anglo-Russian contest about Tibet: "By the date of Nain Singh's retirement [1876] the veil had been lifted from Tibet and the surrounding countries. A glimpse had been obtained of the mysterious lands beneath. The quaint lama-ridden people and their customs became known to the world. The recent history, geography, and political conditions of the semi-independent states of Asia were revealed. The carefully compiled reports of both Montgomery and Trotter were of surpassing interest; and when it is realized that only one of all the old explorers could read or write English, and that they were enlisted on pay at Rs.16 to 20 a month, some idea of the debt we owe to those patrons of exploration may be gauged".²

The management of organised intelligence collection and map-making reached a high degree of sophistication and professionalism; its example has often been admired by outsiders and has been covered in a number of publications since. It is mainly told as a heroic tale in which a symbiosis of colonial master and 'native explorer' is contributing to a common good.³ The results of these expeditions and long journeys provided the basic information for gazetteers, route handbooks and selected publications in journals accessible for an interested readership.

1. Hermann Kreutzmann (2017 : 64-65).

2. Kenneth Mason (1923: 438-439); see for Nain Singh's life and work Uma Bhatt and Shekhar Pathak (2006); Thomas Montgomerie 1868; Henry Trotter 1877 ; Hermann Kreutzmann (2017: 86); R. S. Tolia (1992); Derek Waller (1990 : 164).

3. See Jules Stewart (2006); Derek Waller (1990). A more analytical and critical approach is applied by Lowri Jones (2010) and Kapil Raj (2007: 181-234).

Pundit Nain Singh Rawat — Explorer Extraordinaire

5. Pundit Nain Singh Rawat – Explorer Extraordinaire

There has been some work done in the field of history of exploration in Asia. However, Indian explorers of the colonial period are unknown or lesser known as compared to others, even today. Pundit Nain Singh Rawat (1830-1882) was one of the greatest explorers of the 19th century – he did exploration work in Tibet, Central Asia and the Tartary region. He started his career as a coolie with the Schlagintweit brothers and later he worked in the Survey of India as an ordinary surveyor. He soon emerged as one of the pioneers of Indian Surveys. This article has been written in the 150th year of his first Trans- Himalayan expedition.

Nain Singh was originally from Milam village (Johar region of present-day Indo-Nepal border district of Pithoragarh, in the state of Uttarakhand, India). Milam was a Sauka or Johari settlement, situated near the Milam glacier in the higher Himalaya and en route to Untadhura and Kingri Bingri passes which led to Gyanima mart in Western Tibet. His father, Lata Burha or Amar Singh (1795-1848), for personal reasons had to leave the Milam village and settle in a non-Sauka (Bhotia) village named Bhatkura with his two wives (Nitwali and Lakhma Biljwal), near Madkot in the lower Johar. Lata was 24-25 years old at that time.

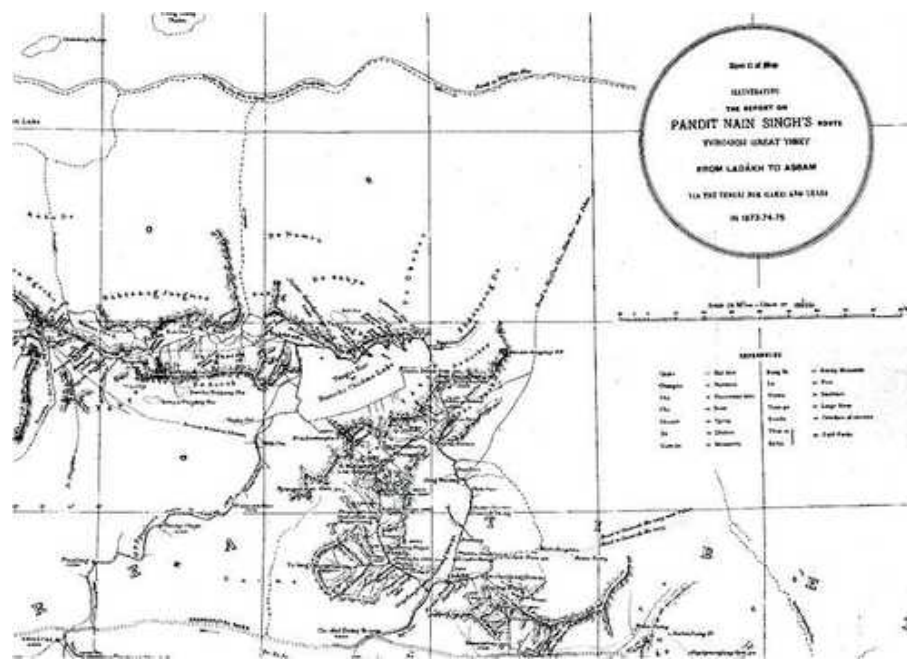


Fig. 10: Map of Nain Singh's survey in Tibet — Lhasa section. Records of Survey of India

He settled here after losing a court case and his ancestral property in Milam. Both his wives committed suicide by jumping in the Gori River. Sauka women rarely did such things. This was in the year 1824; Lata was 29 years old. There was no hope of remarriage because no Johari or Marchha-Tolchha would give their daughter to Lata.

However, in the following year Lata married Jasuli, daughter of Jumal Rana (of Jumma village near Tawaghat in Parganah Askot). His eldest son Samjang was born in 1826, and Nain Singh, on 21 October 1830. While a daughter was born in 1833, the youngest son, Maga, was born in 1836. After giving birth to four children and completing 13 years of married life, Jasuli died in May 1838. She spent all her married life in Bhatkura. In the words of Nain Singh, "his father had to marry for the fourth time to bring up his four children". Lata now married Padima, daughter of Thola Dhapwal of Dhapa village in 1839. From this wife were born Gajraj (1839) and Kaliyan (1841). Kaliyan also became a surveyor in Survey of India.

Actually, Bhatkura, a non-Sauka village, was the birthplace of Nain Singh and he was born from a non-Sauka mother. However, the fourth marriage of Lata with Padima shows that the Saukas had later accepted him. Though he did not get his ancestral property back, the slightly changed attitude of his clan gave him the opportunity to go back to Milam in 1847 after an absence (vanvas) of 27 years, where he died the following year, in social and financial difficulties.

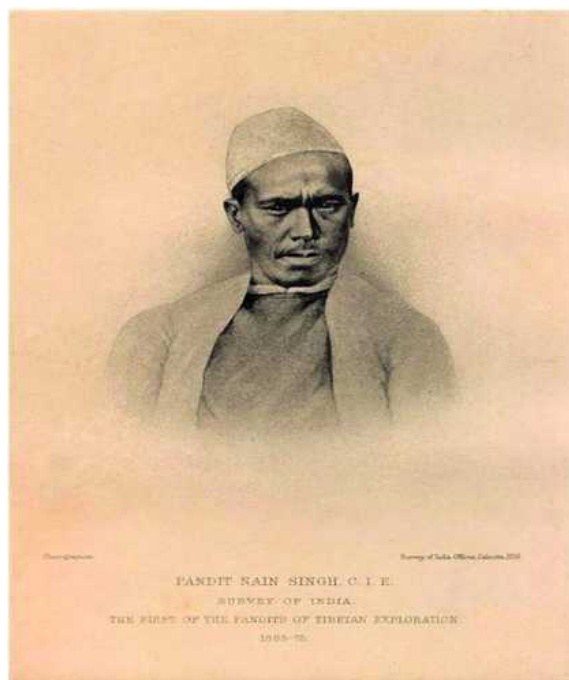


Fig. 11: Pundit Nain Singh Rawat, C.I.E. *Records of Survey of India*, 1915

Back to the roots. Nain Singh in Milam

It was Nain Singh's good fortune, that their father, before his death, was able to bring his family back to their roots. None of Lata's progeny was born in Milam as is claimed by colonial writers. Nain Singh's first diary gives details about his mother, his birthplace, his date of birth and his own difficult childhood. His coming back to Milam also repeatedly reopened old social and family wounds. They (the rest of the Lata family) always reminded the children about what their father had done. Some of the cousins and the villagers neither forgot nor forgave Lata even after his demise. However, it is also true that some of them, like Mani Burha, were sympathetic towards Nain Singh and his siblings.

The Schlagintweit Brothers' Itinerary in India and High Asia

Officially, the Schlagintweit brothers were employed by the East India Company (EIC) to investigate terrestrial magnetism in northern India and the adjacent high mountains, following a proposal by Alexander von Humboldt. This task had been entrusted first to the engineer Charles M. Elliot

in 1846, but had been left unfinished following his untimely death in 1852. Elliot had only been able to map the seas and the southern part of the Indian subcontinent. The Schlagintweits were now to cover the missing, larger northern section.

Unofficially, however, the brothers' expedition apparently was intended to gain more reliable knowledge about the Himalayas and the mountain ranges in the North. This was in line with Alexander von Humboldt's wishes, which were well known in London.¹ Furthermore, the EIC is likely to have recognised the opportunity to learn more about the physical geography of the Himalayas and its foothills as well as the network of passes, routes and trails under the guise of scientific surveys. In any case, the EIC not only supported the Schlagintweit expedition within its own dominion, but also exerted diplomatic pressure on the adjoining states of Kashmir, Nepal and Sikkim to agree to the brother's research in these countries. Kashmir consented to this, whilst Nepal delayed its consent and Sikkim refused outright. Tibet was presumably not contacted because it generally prohibited entry of foreigners.

The Schlagintweits apparently only learnt of this refusal after their arrival in India (Fig. 12). This meant that the entire southern side of the central Himalayas would remain as inaccessible to them as the Tibetan Plateau to the north. Although Hermann was allowed to visit Kathmandu and the surrounding area in 1857, there was no time left for further studies in the mountains of Nepal. The plan, under which Hermann was to explore the eastern and Adolph the western part of the Himalayas, had to be modified.

First, however, the brothers had to link up with the data collected by Elliott in the South. From Bombay, where they set foot on Indian soil on 26 October 1854, they travelled first across the Deccan to Chennai, visiting the British observatory at Kaladghi along the way. Without studying southern India in detail, they travelled by ship to Kolkata, the administrative headquarters of the EIC, in March 1855. From there, after lengthy negotiations and the selection of the British and Indian assistants who were to accompany them, they set off in different directions. In order to explore as many areas as possible, the brothers, from then on, travelled almost always separately. Robert, who had come along as an assistant and was not so experienced, usually accompanied one of his brothers and operated the camera they had brought along. He was also responsible for packing and looking after the collections of all kinds that the brothers gathered or acquired.

In June 1855, Hermann set off northwards to the British part of Sikkim, which, situated between the independent states of Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan, seemed to offer the chance to unobtrusively reach the Eastern Himalayas along the borders. The attempt failed due to the vigilance of the Nepalese border officials. Taking a wide detour, he travelled by boat through Bengal via Dhaka and reached the Khasi Hills in November 1855, and from there Assam. From Guwahati, he undertook a foray into Bhutan to the monastery and administrative centre of Taklung Dzong near Kalaktang (now Arunachal Pradesh), where, however, the powerful Lamas prohibited him to continue his journey to Tawang and Tibet. Hermann therefore returned to Tezpur in Assam and henceforth concentrated his interest on exploring the Brahmaputra, which he travelled up by boat as far as Dibrugarh. In February 1856, he came back to Kolkata, again by boat.

1. In an obituary for Alexander von Humboldt, Roderick Murchison, who as President of the Royal Geographical Society had been involved in the negotiations preceding the expedition, clearly stated this fact in 1859.

Adolph and Robert had already set off in March 1855 towards the North-West, travelling up the Ganga Valley on the Great Trunk Road. Their first destination in April was the British station at Nainital in Kumaon, where they completed their 'establishment' of assistants and gained their first experiences on the ground. In June, they travelled through the Nanda Devi region to Milum, intending to reach Tibet from there. In the Sutlej region, however, they were stopped by a border guard. Following negotiations with the authorities in Daba, they were finally permitted to proceed to the Sutlej and visit the monasteries of Mangnang and Tholing there. They also passed the ruins of the old capital Tsaparang, though without realising its historical significance. A push across the Sutlej took them almost as far as Gartok before they returned to British territory via the Mana Pass, attempting to climb Ibi Gamin on the way. Adolph subsequently managed, in disguise, to return once more to the forbidden Ngari Khorsum and completed his measurements and observations. During this time, Robert travelled on to Garhwal and visited the glaciers and pilgrimage sites at Badrinath and Kedarnath.

As winter was approaching, the two brothers then headed south. Adolph explored the Nilgiri Mountains and the territories of the Maharaja of Mysore and returned by ship from Chennai to Kolkata in April 1856. Robert, on the other hand, parted company with his brother in Sagar and travelled via Benares back up the Ganga to the North-West.



Fig. 12: 'Routes followed by Messrs. de Schlagintweit and their Establishments' (1861 Atlas)

After being apart for more than a year, all three brothers met up again in Simla in April 1856 and coordinated their plans. As the Eastern Himalayas had been explored as far as possible and negotiations with Nepal had still remained fruitless, Hermann was free to undertake further explorations in the North-West. There, the regions of Ladakh and Baltistan, controlled by the Maharaja of Kashmir, beckoned. Turkestan, further north, appeared accessible, too. The teams were therefore reorganised.

In the summer of 1856, Hermann and Robert – the former visiting Lake Pangong en route – travelled along separate routes to Leh in Ladakh and set up base there. For the time of their absence, they installed an observation post, which was controlled by their 'native doctor' Harkishen. From Leh, Hermann visited the Lamaist monastery of Hemis on the Indus, where he was able to acquire important masks from the Cham dance.

From Leh, the two brothers set off for Turkestan via the Saser and Karakoram passes. To avoid being recognized, they veered off the usual caravan route after crossing the Karakoram Pass and made their way across the deserted plateau to the Karakash River on the southern edge of the Kunlun Mountains. Crossing the crest of Kunlun via the Hindutagh Pass, they were able to look down on Khotan in Xinjiang. From there, they returned to Leh via the usual route. The reconnaissance of the Kunlun Mountains and the insight that the Karakoram was a separate range and part of the main Himalayan watershed later earned Hermann the Russian honorary title 'Sakünlünski', meaning 'pioneer of the crossing of the Kunlun'.

During these months, Adolph travelled via Zaskar and Skardu to Baltistan and Gilgit to study and survey the vast glaciated areas of Mustagh and the adjacent glaciers. Subsequently, he visited the mountains of the Astore Valley in the vicinity of the Nanga Parbat. In October 1856, he arrived in Srinagar for another meeting with his brothers. From there, the three Schlagintweits continued on towards the Punjab.

In Rawalpindi, the brothers learnt that Nepal had finally agreed to their visit. Hence Hermann abandoned his further plans and rushed to Nepal via the Great Trunk Road. In February 1857, he arrived at Kathmandu. He stayed there for almost four weeks, but was unable to reach the high mountains. Having returned to Kolkata, Hermann set off on his journey home in April 1857, travelling via Sri Lanka. In May 1857, he embarked for Europe from the port in Galle.

During this time, Robert was busy transporting the last crates with the Schlagintweit collections overland to Surat, from where they were shipped via Mumbai and Galle to Europe. This afforded Robert a brief last stay in Sri Lanka, where he met up with Hermann again.

What Adolph had planned for the spring of 1857 is not recorded. In any case, he must have decided to return to Europe later than his brothers. He visited the geologically significant Salt Range in the Punjab and then turned towards Lahore. From there, however, he did not explore the South-West of the British dominion, as one might have expected in view of the magnetic measurements, but veered off and turned north again. He passed by Leh and crossed the Karakoram and Kunlun ranges towards the oasis cities of the Silk Road. However, he only reached Kashgar in East Turkestan, where, in August 1857, he incidentally arrived when a Kokandi usurper had taken control who opposed against Chinese rule. The unfortunate German traveller was murdered by Wali Khan Tura who got his companions arrested, enslaved or jailed.¹ Adolph, as an obituary put it, had become 'a victim of his zeal'. Two brothers returned to Germany and Adolph found his grave in Kashgar.

They were later on released and returned to British India and told the tales; see about the murder of Adolph Schlagintweit Hermann Kreutzmann (2025).

PAHAR FOUNDATION • EXHIBITION 2026

Catalogue

of the Exhibition

Schlagintweit Drawings & Photographs in India and High Asia

77 works from the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung & Alpines Museum München

INTRODUCTION



Dal Lake by Adolph Schlagintweit (GR 463)

An official 'General Register' (GR) of the drawings and some photographs was published by Hermann Schlagintweit, in 1859, titled 'Catalogue of Panoramas and Views from India and High Asia'. The GR numbers are essential for precise determination of the motifs. They are included here at the end of each entry. The GR gives dates of recording, which not always seem to be correct.

The first line of the entry gives the original title of the drawing as listed in the GR.

1. The Northern part of the Lake of Kashmir

DAL LAKE, NORTH-EASTERN PART, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Adolph Schlagintweit, 28 October 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper •

Private Property, Munich (GR 463)

This sheet is the 'northern' half of a wide panorama Hermann and Adolph Schlagintweit painted simultaneously, back-to-back, during their brief stay at Srinagar. The views of this most famous lake of all India were probably painted for King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia, whose interest in the lake and the adjacent Shalimar Bagh was certainly known to them.

NAINITAL & ITS MOUNTAINS



Himalaya Ranges from Chiner Peak (GR 417)

Nainital was the place of Adolph and Robert Schlagintweit's first personal experience seeing the impressive Himalayan Range. The brothers stayed at the British Station from mid-April to mid-May 1855, exploring the complex geological structure of the Himalayan region. The explanatory sheets belonging to the drawings document Adolph's scientific ambitions. A prolonged stay on the Chiner [China or Naina peak, 2,615 m] provided a good overview of Nainital and the sequence of peaks resulting in the very first drawing of their Himalayan panoramas.

2. Station and Lake of Nainital

NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND

Photograph by Robert Schlagintweit, 27 April 1855 • Photographic print coloured by Hermann Schlagintweit • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41795 Z; GR 414)*

While his brothers preferred drawing, Robert was a pioneer of the then rapidly developing photography. This image is based on a photograph by Robert which was later coloured by Hermann who never saw this scenery with his own eyes.

3. Lake of Nainital with the Spurs to the Plains

VIEW FROM CHINER PEAK, NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND

Adolph Schlagintweit, 23 April 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Muenchen (Schlagintweitiana III.14, fol. 6; GR 415)*

This is a view from the southern slope of Chiner Peak, with the summits of Lariya Kanta (2,482 m) and Sher ka Danda (2,398 m) to the left. Adolph apparently was fascinated by the abundant vegetation; he documented oaks to the right and a Rhododendron tree and -bushes in the left-hand foreground..

4. Himalaya Ranges from Chiner Peak

THE HIMALAYA FROM NAINA PEAK, NAINITAL

Adolph Schlagintweit, 29 April 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper. Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 417) • *The height of the Chiner peak (2,615 m) and its distance from the high mountain ranges allowed Adolph and Robert a splendid first survey of the Western Himalaya. The 'ChinerPanorama' was the first to be measured, drawn and published in the Schlagintweits' Results volume of 1862 (No. 2, profile 3).*

6. The Chiner Summit from Leria Kanta

NAINA PEAK SEEN FROM LARIYA KANTA, UTTARAKHAND

Adolph Schlagintweit, 9 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Private Property, Muenchen (GR 419)*

The view from the western peak of Lariya Kanta (front) to Sher ka Danda (left) and the Chiner (the massive summit on the right) shows peaks belonging to the same range, but of different geological composition and mineral deposits. Adolph seems to have been intrigued by this puzzle..

8. The Summit Leria Kanta from Sher ka Daanda

LARIYA KANTA SEEN FROM SHER KA DANDA

Adolph Schlagintweit, 16 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, revised with pencil • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 421)*

In the final days of his stay at Nainital, Adolph visited again the peaks overlooking the lake to record different geological rock formations and geomorphological features exposed there.

5. Outer Himalaya from Leria Kanta

VIEW TO THE PLAINS FROM LARIYA KANTA, NAINITAL

Adolph Schlagintweit, 7 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 418)*

The peak of Lariya Kanta (2,482 m) in the west of Nainital presented a good overview over the southern foothills of the Himalaya and the wide plain of the Ganga basin.

7. Cleavages on the southern Slope of Chiner

NAINA PEAK, NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND

Adolph Schlagintweit, 27 April 1855 • Brown wash over pencil on paper • *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Muenchen (Schlagintweitiana III.14, fol. 11; GR 420)*

This seemingly insignificant drawing documents in its upper left quarter, according to the explanatory sheet, cleavages in the rock of Chiner Peak, which were of great geological interest. The foreground is dominated by the oak forest which arose Adolph's admiration..

BALTISTAN & LADAKH



Lamayuru Monastery (GR 271)

Both regions were dominated by Gulab Singh, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, since the Treaty of Amritsar in 1846 when the British gave him a 'carte blanche' north of the Indus. Nevertheless, British influence made him consent with the Schlagintweit brother's explorations in his realm.

9. Tibetan Houses in Leh, in the Northern Part of the Town

HOUSES NEXT TO STAGOPILOG STUPA GATE, LEH, LADAKH

Hermann Schlagintweit, 2. October 1856 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 348)*

At Leh the Schlagintweit brothers saw, for the first time, substantial Tibetan-style houses with multiple storeys, small unglazed windows and flat roofs. According to Hermann's description, Tibetan houses normally had skylights which gave light from above and allowed ventilation during the warm season.

10. The Gonpa or monastery of Lama Yuru in Ladakh

LAMAYURU MONASTERY, ON THE LEH-KARGIL ROAD, LADAKH

Hermann Schlagintweit, 6 October 1856 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 271)*

Lamayuru Gompa is one of the oldest monasteries of Ladakh. Hermann was warmly welcomed by the lamas and entertained with salted butter tea.

11. Hot Springs below Vaka in Dras**MULBEKH HOT SPRING, ON THE MULBEKH RONG, WAKHA VALLEY, KARGIL, LADAKH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 7 October 1856 • Watercolour over pencil and pen on paper, reworked with pencil and pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 596)*

Hydrothermal phenomena were subjects of special interest for the Schlagintweit brothers who visited several hot springs. On his way from Leh to Kargil Hermann learned, passing through the Wakha or Paskhyum valley, about a hitherto unknown hot spring below Mulbekh monastery.

13. The Padum Basin seen from the ancient Moraines of Haptal – Glacier**PADUM IN ZANSKAR, LADAKH**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 27 June 1856 • Watercolour over pen on paper, reworked with pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 512)*

For his approach from Lahul to Baltistan, Adolph followed the route along the Tsarap and Zaskar rivers. He visited Zaskar's capital Padum, located in a wide basin, which had been formed by a prehistoric lake.

15. Indus Valley near Skardo from Gulab Singhs New Fort**OLD FORT SKARDU, BALTISTAN**

Adolph Schlagintweit, September 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 540)*

Coming from Mustagh pass, Adolph turned towards Skardu arriving there on 1 September 1856. Skardu has been an important centre and bazaar in the Karakoram Mountain range.

12. Gushka Dar, left Side of Chandrabhaga Valley**JUNCTION OF CHANDRA AND BAGHA RIVERS IN GUSHAL, SEEN FROM KARDANG MONASTERY, LAHUL, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 13 June 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, reworked with pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 458)*

The drawing's title is misleading, as Adolph never visited the proper Chandrabhaga Valley in the Chenab watershed. On his way from Shimla to Baltistan, he took this view from Kardang Monastery, looking back to the point – deep down in the valley - where Chandra and Bhaga join together to form Chandrabhaga.

14. Valley of the Shayok near Khabulu**THE SHYOK VALLEY NEAR KHAPLU**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 12 July or 1 August 1856 • Watercolour over pen on paper, reworked with pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 527)*

Shortly before Adolph reached Skardu he touched the Shyok river, a major tributary of the Indus. Not far away from its confluence with the Indus at Keris (Keres) Khaplu is located, which was a Balti principality only second to Skardu and played a key role in supplying traders on the barren Shyok route to Ladakh and Yarkand..

ASSAM & KHASI HILLS



Foot of the Khasi & Jaintia Hills from the Surma River

Hermann Schlagintweit pursued the recording of terrestrial magnetism in the North-East of India. During the monsoonal season of 1855, he travelled to one of the oldest British stations: Cherrapunji in the Khasi Hills.

16. Foot of the Khassia- and Jaintia Hills from the Surma River

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS, FROM BENGAL

Hermann Schlagintweit, 20 September 1855 • Watercolour, gouache and chalk on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (24905 Z)*

From Sikkim Hermann travelled to the Khasi Hills in Assam. He started his tour in Siliguri on 15 August 1855 riding on an elephant.

17. The Jaintia Ranges, from the West

VIEW FROM KHASI HILLS TO JAINTIA HILLS

Hermann Schlagintweit, 4 October 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 79)*

Hermann Schlagintweit captured the Jaintia Hills in October, a time of ideal weather with clear skies and pleasant temperatures. The hills are located further to the East from the Khasi Hills and are part of the sparsely populated Meghalaya plateau.

18. Khassia Stone-Pillars and -Tables at Cherrapunji**KHASI MONOLITHIC MONUMENTS AT CHERRAPUNJI, MEGHALAYA**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 28 October 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper •
Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 259)

In the Khasi Hills, Hermann noted monuments made from erect monolithic stones and slabs, reminding him of European prehistoric megalithic monuments. He drew some near Cherrapunji and took measurements: The highest pillar held nearly six meters.

19. Telescopic View of Giants Peak in Bhutan from Gohatti**BHUTAN PEAK SEEN FROM GUWAHATI**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 19 November 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper •
Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 599)

As Hermann Schlagintweit was doubtful whether he could reach Bhutan and the Himalayan region, he began to study and sketch some of the high snowy peaks in the eastern part of the Himalaya from the Khasi Hills. The group of the Dal-la mountains has two outstanding peaks, which the British termed the 'Gemini' (twins).

TRANS-HIMALAYA



View of Toling in the Sutlej Valley (GR 493)

Exploring the Himalayan Mountain range called for inspecting its northern side as well. While its southern slopes were within the realm of the East India Company, political tensions and travel restrictions by the Tibetan rulers barred foreign explorers and traders from entering Tibet. Their only option was to travel in disguise.

20. The Tibetan Slope of the Himalaya in the Environs of the Niti Ghat

NORTHERN SLOPE OF THE HIMALAYA, ZANDA COUNTY, NGARI PREFECTURE

Adolph Schlagintweit, 18 July 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Private Property, Muenchen (GR 474)*

Adolph executed this drawing of the northern slopes of the Himalaya at a time when travel restrictions banned him from proceeding further north. The mountain slopes flanking the old basin of the Sutlej have been carved out by glacio-fluvial erosion guarding the river draining to the right.

21. The Satlej near Camp Dulla Sumda

SUTLEJ, IN ZANDA COUNTY, NGARI PREFECTURE

Adolph Schlagintweit, 31 July 1855 • Pencil, watercolour and chalk on paper. • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41848 Z; GR 480)*

According to the date, the drawing was done at a campsite where the Gyungul river joined the Sutlej. Adolph remained there for some days after the local authorities had agreed to his presence.

22. View of Toling in the Sutlej Valley**THOLING, TODAY ZANDA, NGARI PREFECTURE**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 12 September 1855 • Grey wash over pen on paper, foreground retouched by Hermann • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 493)*

During his short stay in Ngari Khorsum, Adolph visited Tholing, perhaps the most important Buddhist monastery in Western Tibet and the spiritual centre of the early kingdom of Guge. The monastery was badly damaged during China's Cultural Revolution, its remains are found on the left bank of the Sutlej.

24. Bullu, Halting-Place on the right Side of Yarkand River**CHADARTASH, CAMP ON THE WAHAB JILGA IN KARAKORAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 10 August 1856 • Charcoal and oil colour on cardboard • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 564)*

The second halting place or shelter (pulu) beyond the Karakoram Pass en route to Aktagh is Wahab Jilga on the stream of the same name, a tributary in the catchment of the Yarkand River. Next to it was Chadartash, 'the tent stone', identified by the two rocks located in the river bed.

26. Sikander Mokam in the Valley of Karakash**RUINS ON THE UPPER KARAKASH RIVER, AKSAI CHIN**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 19 August 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 573)*

The Leh-Yarkand route is scattered with graves of deceased travellers. In the upper Karakash valley, Hermann was fascinated by a ruin complex called, by his guides, 'Sikander Mokam'.

23. Dervasa Sultan Chuskun, at the Junction of the Kissilab and the Shayok**CAMPSITE DARVAZA SULTAN CHUSHKU, ON THE SHYOK**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 7 September 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 556)*

The Sultan Chhusku (temporary) Campsite is located southeast of the more prominent SaserBrangsa (camp) and part of the section taken during winter on the caravan route from Leh to Yarkand, below the Saser Pass en route to the Karakoram Pass, where one had to cross the Shyok river a second time. The view is taken from the course of a small tributary.

25. Vohab-Plateau in Turkistan, second Camp from Karakorum**WAHAB JILGA CAMPSITE ON THE AFFLUENT TO THE YARKAND RIVER**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 11 August 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 565)*

Vohab Chilgane is a corruption of Wahab Jilga. It was a campsite on the river, called after a small brook.

27. The upper Part of the Karakash Valley from Sumgal**KARAKASH VALLEY NEAR SUMGAL, AKSAI CHIN**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 30 August 1856 • Oil colour over pencil on paper, reworked with pencil, oil pastels and tempera • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 576)*

Sumgal was the name of a camping-ground on the bank of the Karakash River, the last halting place below the ascent to the Hindu Tash Pass of the Kunlun Mountains towards Khotan. The brothers left their companions and luggage at Sumgal and crossed the pass on their own.

PLACES OF WORSHIP



Bahmajar Temple, Kashmir (GR 276)

As natural scientists, the Schlagintweit brothers were only remotely interested in the different religious practices they encountered on the Indian subcontinent. Because of their Catholic upbringing they were suspicious towards Hindu and Islamic rituals. The only exception was Buddhism that in its Tibetan Lamaist expression fascinated them.

Nevertheless, the brothers' interest in water and rivers as important geographical features shaping the landscape and determining by their valleys routes of travel and trade met with Hindu traditional veneration of sources and confluences (sangham) as sacred places.

28. Ruins of a Hindu Temple above Chakotri in Kashmir**BUHANIYAR TEMPLE RUINS, NOWSHERA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 8. November 1856 • Watercolour and pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 270)*

Hermann discovered these remains of an early Hindu temple on the banks of the river Jhelum, some miles above Chakothe and took some measurements. The drawing does not show the real situation with the cell in the middle of the peristyle, but a reconstruction based on sketches..

30. Temple at Kidarnath**KEDARNATH IN THE MANDAKINI VALLEY, UTTARAKHAND**

Photograph by Robert Schlagintweit, 22 September 1855, painted over by Hermann Schlagintweit • Watercolour on photographic paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41792 Z; GR 267)*

From Badrinath, Robert proceeded to Kedarnath, the other important pilgrimage site in Rudraprayag. His prime interest was devoted to the twin glacier at whose mouth the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva had been erected.

32. The Village of Nelong in Gharval**NELONG / NELANG, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 24 September 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41789 Z; GR 341)*

The passage from Thaga La Pass via the village Nelang on the Jadh Ganga river had been on an important trade route from Tibet to India. The traffic was stopped in 1962 during the Indo-Chinese war, when the area was occupied by China and the village evacuated by the Indian Army.

29. Temple at Badrinath, over the hot Springs**BADRINATH, UTTARAKHAND**

Photograph by Robert Schlagintweit, 27 August 1855, painted over by Hermann Schlagintweit • Watercolour on photographic paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41791 Z; GR 266)*

Badrinath, with its famous temple dedicated to Lord Shiva built above the salutary mineral springs, is one of the prime Hindu pilgrimage sites. Returning from their excursion to GnariKhorsum via the Mana Pass Adolph and Robert Schlagintweit visited Badrinath, where Robert took a photograph of the temple.

31. The Gangotri Group from the Nelong Pass**THE GANGOTRI GROUP SEEN FROM THE TAGA LA PASS, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 19 September 1855 • Pen and light wash on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 441)*

The Gangotri Group, the headwaters of River Ganga, was an important destination for Adolph. He first saw it on his return from the second trip to Ngari Khorsum from Thaga La Pass, which he called the 'Nelong Pass') and sketched the view from the South.

33. Bhagiratti Valley below Mukba**BHAGIRATHI VALLEY BELOW MUKHBA, NEAR GANGOTRI, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, September 1855 • Pencil, Indian ink and watercolour on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41797 Z; GR 439)*

This drawing of the uppermost part of River Ganga – perhaps done at Harsil a few miles down from Gangotri – suggests that Adolph visited the famous pilgrimage site. Unfortunately, there are no precise dates, drawings or references for such a visit.

34. *Buddhistic wooden Temple near Simla***TARA DEVI TEMPLE, IN THE VICINITY OF SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Photograph by Reinicke, painted over by Hermann Schlagintweit, 29 April 1856
 • brown watercolour on photographic paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41803 Z; GR 265)*

The temple on a hill top near Shimla is seen in the photograph used by Hermann, which shows the building in its original 18th-century form with much less decoration. It is interesting to learn that Hermann qualified this Shimla temple as 'Buddhist'.

36. *Interior of the Lama House at Saimonbong in Sikkim***SALAMBONG, WEST OF RANGPO, WEST BENGAL**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 15 June 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper •
Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 262)

Hermann captured this room in a lama's house above Salambong serving ceremonial purposes with many details. The house was the residence of an influential lama.

35. *Interior of the Buddhistic Temple at Mangnang***RUINED MONASTERY MANGNANG GOMPA, WESTERN TIBET**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 11 August 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper •
Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41842 Z; GR 269)

On their way back from Gartok Adolph and his brother Robert visited the Buddhist monastery in Mangnang and its temple. The ceiling of the rather dark and poorly decorated room was supported by wooden beams.

37. *Trespon, Village in the Suru Valley***TRESPONE, SOUTHWEST OF KARGIL, LADAKH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 9 October 1856 • Pencil and watercolour on paper •
Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41824 Z; GR 345)

Islamic institutions were rarely mentioned in the Schlagintweit records, though they were prevalent in India. Near Kargil, in the Muslim-dominated West of Ladakh, Hermann discovered a small mosque which seemed worth a description and illustration.

HOUSING & SETTLEMENTS



Kashmiri Houses at Srinagar (GR 336)

About one tenth of Schlagintweits' drawings depict rural settlements, hamlet dwellings and technical buildings. Most of them show different types of make-shift buildings rarely conserved until today.

38. Garro Timber-House in a Settlement North of Goalpara

GOALPARA, ASSAM

Hermann Schlagintweit, February 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, revised with pencil • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 307)*

The Garo community is part of the major Tibeto-Burman linguistic group of Assam. They are acknowledged for the fact that land titles are matrilineally transmitted.

39. Khassia Houses at Cherra Punji

CHERRAPUNJI; EAST KHASI HILLS, MEGHALAYA

Hermann Schlagintweit, 29 September 1855 • Watercolour and pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 311)*

The drawing combines three forms of construction for humid regions like the Khasi Hills. In fact, Cherrapunji is among the stations with the highest rainfall on Earth.

40. Khassia Houses and Compound, Morlung**probably MAWPHLANG, W OF SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 19 November 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, revised with pencil • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 315)*

The house, apparently situated in an isolated place, seems similar to the timber house attributed to the Garo. Interesting is the strong fence protecting the house against intrusions from wild and domestic animals..

42. Village Mangeldai, Central Assam**MANGALDAI, DARRANG DISTRICT, ASSAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 21 December 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 82)*

On his way from Guwahati to Bhutan, Hermann passed Mangaldai on the Brahmaputra. Impressed by the frugal and fragile style of the hamlet, he stated: “the houses, built from woven reed with a few posts of bamboo or timber and covered with masses of reed, belong to the simplest buildings one may find ...” Hermann’s drawing shows the system of posts and woven filling, with verandas on both sides..

44. Mishmi Houses on Majuli Island**MAJULI, river island in the Brahmaputra, JORHAT DISTRICT, ASSAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 2 February 1856 • Pencil on paper, grey and black watercolour • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 321)*

The Miri (Mishing) are the second largest community and predominant in East Assam, to which the large Majuli Island belongs. Dikshit and Dikshit (2014: 384) stated: “A people of Tibetan stock, the Miris acted as intermediaries between the people of the hills and the plain and worked as a channel of communication ... monopolizing much of the trade.

41. Naga Compound, on the upper Noh Dihing**DIYUNG RIVER, NAGALAND**

Lieutenant Adams and Hermann Schlagintweit, March 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 320)*

The Noa Dehing is an affluent of the Brahmaputra in Nagaland. Hermann delegated the visit of this region to his British assistant, Lieutenant Adams, who seems to have participated in the architectural research.

43. Udelguri Village, near the Bhutan Himalaya**UDALGURI, DARRANG DISTRICT, ASSAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 31 December 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 84)*

Udalguri was a village in the Bhutan Duar with a British Fort to control the Dhansiri valley as an important passage to Bhutan. The domestic buildings were similar to those of Mangaldai, built directly on the swampy soil.

45. Outpost ChongtongChauki, British Sikkim**(CHUNGTONG, NE OF DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 7 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41783 Z; GR 329)*

From Darjeeling, Hermann visited this police outpost in the hill station’s vicinity. The description as ‘British Sikkim’ is misleading as Darjeeling belonged to Bengal and not the Kingdom of Sikkim.

46. Lepcha Houses in the Settlement near the "Junction", Darjiling**DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 12 August 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41777 Z; GR 323)*

The Lepcha are the principal autochthonous community of Sikkim and the Darjeeling hills. Hermann remarked that their houses were even less solid than those seen in Assam: "In Sikkim one sees only wooden poles, mats and basket-like wickerwork.

48. Tollhouse in the Nepal Tarai**RAXAUL, BIHAR, BIRGUNJ, NEPAL**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 9 February 1857 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 299)*

The Indo-Nepali border at Raxaul-Birgunj was the principal border long before Nepal was connected to roads. It is not clear whether this official building belonged to the East India Company or to the Nepalese government.

50. Street of Native Houses in Fatigarh**FATEHGARH; UTTAR PRADESH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, April 1856 • Watercolour and chalk over pencil on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41751 Z; GR 300)*

Fategarh on the Ganga was an important military garrison with a small town. Hermann documented the simple cubical houses made from brick or mud lined along the road.

47. Bengali Barrack-Houses at Sigauli**SAGAULI/SUGAULI; BIHAR**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 6 February 1857 • Pencil on paper, grey wash • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 298)*

Sigauli is the place where in 1815 the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal fixed the future boundaries; a British station with a small garrison controlled the access to the Kathmandu Valley. The regular disposition of the barracks reflects British military architecture, though the construction with walls of woven organic material follows the local tradition adapted to the climate.

49. Subedar's House and Temple near the Bishnat Bridge, North of Kathmandu**BISHNUMATI RIVER, KATHMANDU**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 2 March 1857 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 332)*

Most probably this is the Dallu bridge connecting Kathmandu with Swayambunath Stupa; the path leads through intensive rice cultivation. Nowadays this has become an urbanised area of Kathmandu city.

51. The Goba's House at Pangkong in Nubra

Hermann Schlagintweit, 29 July 1856 • [PANAMIK, NUBRA VALLEY, LADAKH] • *Watercolour over pencil on paper*

Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (24911 Z; GR 350) Hermann described this house on the route from Leh to the Karakoram Pass as the dwelling of a great landowner and 'Goba', the elected head of the village. It was situated outside the village, a massive main building and two lower wings with flat roofs and a walled compound, quite common architecture of the arid regions north of the main Himalayan ranges and in Tibet.

52. Kashmiri Houses at Srinagger**SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 1 November 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 336)*

The hamlet is located on a hilly, dry place. The storage rooms are separate from the main house, in whose basement, in an area with clay walls, livestock was kept.

54. Reed Huts at Pashkiun in Kashmir**PASHKYUM VILLAGE, WAKHA VALLEY, SOUTHEAST OF KARGIL, LADAKH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 15 October 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 337)*

Hermann mentions such huts as frequent occurrences in the mountains south of Kashmir: “miserable huts, of the most simple construction, rough houses of unhewn timber, or huts built from stone and moss with reed roofs, or completely from reed in a conical form [...]”. The huts resemble two types of shelter in a pastoral settlement.

53. Kashmiri Houses, Village Sukne**SOKHNIZ/SUKNIS IN THE MARU WARDWAN VALLEY, KASHMIR**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 14 October 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, revised with pencil • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 338)*

Hermann saw this remote village east of Srinagar. The modest houses are part of a small hamlet where limited farming and logging is done.

BRIDGES



Cane Bridge over the Bogapani, Khasi Hills (GR 317)

Hermann Schlagintweit was one of the first explorers to document the highly developed bridges in the Himalaya in great detail whose remains and traditions today are estimated as eminent parts of cultural heritage.

55. Suspension Bridge over the Sutlej at Toling

THOLING, TODAY ZANDA, NGARI PREFECTURE, CHINA

Adolph Schlagintweit, 8 [?] September 1855 • Pencil wash and some watercolour on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41843 Z)*

The bridge spanning the Sutlej upstream of Tholing of uncertain age and still existent, combines the traditional cantilever bridge used in the Himalaya with the suspension type: the middle of the bridgeway is suspended from two strong iron chains fixed to the massive bridgeheads. The bridge was revisited by Nain Singh in 1865 who recorded the legend that Alexander the Great was its founder.

56. Living Cane-bridge below Cherra [Punji]

West of CHERRAPUNJI, KHASI HILLS, MEGHALAYA

Hermann Schlagintweit, 6 November 1855 • Watercolour and gouache on paper Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 213) Hermann met 'living root bridges' in the Khasi Hills. They were plaited from living aerial roots of gum trees, thus avoiding rotting.

57. Cane-Bridge over the Bogapani, Khassia Hills**MAIRANG, KHASI HILLS, MEGHALAYA**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 10 November 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper, Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 317) • *This spectacular cane bridge is located near Mairang in the Khasi Hills, west of Shillong. Hermann Schlagintweit crossed it on his way back from Cherrapunji to Guwahati. A foot-bridge built as an arc from fresh bamboo, supported by posts near the ends and fixed by ropes.*

59. The Erosion of the Satelej at Vangtu Bridge**WANGTU, KINNAUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 6 June 1856 • Oil colour over pencil on paper, reworked with charcoal and oil crayon • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 446)*

A much-frequented bridge representing the cantilever type traditional in the Himalayan highlands was built at one of the most impressive locations where a tributary flows into the Satelej River near Wangtu: From the bridgeheads protruded multiple layers of beams support each other; the gap between both ends is spanned with long beams. The present drawing of the bridge is not correct, as we can learn from comparison with two photographs by Samuel Bourne (1863).

58. Bambu-Bridge at Ranigodaun**BAMBOO BRIDGE AT RANIGODAM, ASSAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 14 November 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41740 Z)*

According to the drawing's date, Hermann saw this small bridge at the border of the Khasi Hills, southwest of Guwahati. The bridge is located at Ranigodam where the cultivated land with paddy fields reaches the edge of Rani Forest, here ended regular traffic and the journey had to be continued on foot.

60. Bridge of Boats over the Satelej near Phillaur**BRIDGE CROSSING THE SUTLEJ NEXT TO PHILLAUR, PUNJAB)**

Hermann Schlagintweit, January 1857 • Pencil, charcoal and watercolour on paper (reduced image size) • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 181)*

Hermann saw this bridge at Phillaur on the Satelej. Pontoon bridges had advantages over stable bridges when the river was constantly shifting its course or water levels were periodically rising and falling.

HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT



Muro La Glacier (GR 441)

Hermann and Adolph Schlagintweit were trained as state-of-the-art glaciologists in the European Alps. During their travels in Asia, the Schlagintweit brothers restricted themselves mainly to general remarks about the occurrence of glaciers and glaciation. Only in some regions did they find time for more detailed descriptions of glaciers and nival conditions. When Adolph tried to find the main divide of the Karakoram Mountains he came in close contact with its glaciers. The observations and measurements of Adolph Schlagintweit pioneered subsequent global research in glaciology.

61. Snow Peak “H” from Tonglo

TONGLU PEAK, DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

Hermann Schlagintweit, 11 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 601)*

After Hermann got no permission to cross the border to Nepal, he tried to approach the important Himalaya Singalila range on the Darjeeling-Nepal border. On 7 May 1855 he started with his establishment first to the Tonglo, with 3,036 m one of the higher peaks of Singalila ridge.

62. The Mer de Glace of the Milum Glacier

MILUM GLACIER, UTTARAKHAND

Adolph Schlagintweit, 20 June 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 611)*

Adolph Schlagintweit began his scientific studies of the Milum glacier on 16 June 1855. He started at the terminus of the glacier not far away from the habitations in Milum village.

63. *The Nanda Kath Range and the Pindur Glacier***NANDA KHAT AND PINDARI GLACIER, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 29 May 1855 • Oil colour over pencil on paper, reworked with oil pastels and tempera • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 605)*

In the summer of 1855 Adolph Schlagintweit and his brother Robert visited Kumaon and Garhwal. Adolph reached the catchment basin of the Pindari Glacier surrounded by magnificent steep rock faces and snow-covered peaks of Nanda Khat (6,611 m).

65. *The Nanda – Devi Group from Shem Kerik***NANDA DEVI NATIONAL PARK, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 9 June 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41800 Z; GR 609)*

Nanda Devi is located in the centre of the mountain range seen from the Pindari Valley beyond Milum. Bhotiya respect the mountains as the seat of the goddess Nanda Devi who is prominent in many legends and folk tales.

67. *The Pantangsa Glacier in Nubra***NUBRA, LADAKH**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 1 August 1856 • Pencil, watercolour and chalk on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41838 Z)*

On their way to Yarkand, Hermann and Robert Schlagintweit set off from Changlung on 31 July 31 1856. The path crossed the pass, after which they reached the bottom of the Nubra River valley.

64. *The Pindur Glacier in Kamaon***PINDARI GLACIER, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 30 May 1855 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 606)*

Adolph followed the route uphill on top of the glacier. This offered him a magnificent view of the glacier and its course.

66. *Environs of Mana Pass***MANA PASS, ABOVE BADRINATH, UTTARAKHAND**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 5 September 1855 • Watercolour over pen on paper, reworked with pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 619)*

After Adolph and his brother Robert got no permission to cross the border to Tibet, some days later Adolph made another attempt to reach the mountain range between the Sutlej and the Indus watersheds. He left his campsite at the northern foot of the Mana Pass where he captured the environments leading to Tibet.

68. *The Mustak Pass bearing North***MUZTAGH PASS, BALTISTAN**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 22 August 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 635)*

The Western Muztagh Pass (5,370 m) was the hub of Adolph's most favoured glacier ensemble combining the highest Karakoram peaks such as K2 (8,611 m) and offering a challenging traverse of the mountain barrier from Skardu and Askole in Baltistan to the Sarpo Lago Glacier and Yarkand in Xinjiang. Impressed by its sheer beauty he realised its physical and logistical obstacles.

69. Ste – Ste Glacier between Brahaldo and Shigar**SKORO LA GLACIER, BRALDU, SHIGAR**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 29 August 1856 • Watercolour over pencil on paper, reworked with pencil and pen • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 641)*

Returning from the Muztagh region southwards, Adolph used a direct route from Askole close to the Braldu river on his way to Shigar, crossing the Skoro La pass. The coloured sketch of the Ste Ste glacier – probably called so after the village Testay at its lower northern end – is dated to the very day he camped at the Skoro La (29 August).

HIMALAYAN RIVERS



Brahmaputra from Ogri Hill, Tezpur (GR 155)

70. Brahmaputra from Ogri Hill, Tezpur

UPPER BRAHMAPUTRA NEAR TEZPUR, ASSAM

Hermann Schlagintweit, 24 January 1856 • Oil colour on thick paper (reduced image size) • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 155)*

Hermann's impressive panorama is taken from a hill overlooking the river bank. The Brahmaputra is sweeping along in a bed of enormous width, having cut its course into the floodplain.

71. View of the Brahmaputra, near the southern end of the Moling Hills

Not identified; UPPER BRAHMAPUTRA, ASSAM

Charcoal on paper • Hermann Schlagintweit, 1855 • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 161)*

Hermann's sketch shows the Brahmaputra occupied in its centre by a granite rock. Large sandbanks are deposited above the rock and although changing with every high-water season they are covered with cane jungle.

72. Mouth of the Tista, near the Village of Sharpur**TEESTA, NEAR CHILMARI, RANGPUR DISTRICT**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 16 February 1856 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 164)*

One of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra is the Teesta which originates in the Eastern Himalayas. Flowing to the South it cut a deeply incised gorge through the hills east of Darjeeling.

74. Village Bishnath with burning Jangl in the distance**BISHNATH GHAT**

Hermann Schlagintweit, February 1856 • Watercolour and gouache on paper • *Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41736 Z; GR 158)*

In Bishnath (Vishwanath) about 42 km upstream from Tezpur Hermann Schlagintweit captured on paper the exciting sight of a burning forest (jangal). The smoke from the fire was visible from far away.

76. View of the Ganges near Fatigarh**FATEHGARH, UTTAR PRADESH**

Adolph Schlagintweit, 9 April 1855 • Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41745 Z; GR 178)

From Calcutta Adolph and Robert Schlagintweit travelled westward following the Ganga upstream from Allahabad to Bareilly via the garrison town Fategarh, where they reached during the hot pre-monsoon season. Here their interest was focused on the north Indian alluvial plain in which the Ganga took a prominent role as a river and a traffic line.

73. Granitic Hills near the Kulong River, Naugong District**KALANG RIVER, NAGAON, ASSAM**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 12 February 1856 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 154)*

Kalang River has been a secondary tributary of the Brahmaputra. It flows in a former bed of the meandering Brahmaputra stream and diverts from the present river close to Tezpur and re-enters the Brahmaputra twenty kilometres east of Guwahati.

75. The Ganges opposite Bagatchi, Central Bengal**GANGA NEAR GHULIYAN, WEST BENGAL**

Hermann Schlagintweit, 9 April 1855 • Pencil and watercolour on paper • *Alpines Museum Muenchen (GR 171)*

Travelling from Calcutta to Darjeeling Hermann used the postal service (palki dak); the Ganga had to be crossed by ferry on his way from Berhampur to Malda. It was his first encounter with the sacred river.

77. Plain of the Ganges between Fatigarh and Kaladungi**GANGA, UTTAR PRADESH**

Adolph Schlagintweit, April 1855 • Staatliche Graphische Sammlung Muenchen (41743 Z; GR 60)

Adolph's watercolour shows the typical characteristics of an ephemeral river that has left the steep mountains and releases the load of suspended matter in the plain mountain rim. The Ganga flowing through the hills and plains of the United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh) is a prime example for this phenomenon.

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Map of Pandit Nain Singh's route from Ladakh to Assam via Lhasa in 1873 -75



Bogapani bridge near Mairang (GR 317)