

SECRET

17 MAY 1949

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nicholas Poppe
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1.

I was born on the 8th of August 1897 at Chefoo (China) and baptized there at the English (Anglican) Church. From 1908 to 1916 I attended the grammar school of the Swiss Reformed Church in St. Petersburg in Russia.

From 1916 until 1921 I attended the Petersburg University and studied the following subjects: the Mongolian language, Manchu, Tibetan, the Turkic languages, the Buddhist philosophy, the history of Central Asia, Ethnology, the Slavonic philology, and the comparative grammar of the Indo-European languages.

In 1934 I was granted the doctor degree.

2.

In 1921 I was appointed assistant lecturer at the Geographical Institute in Leningrad.

1922: Lecturer to the Institute of the Living Oriental Languages in Leningrad and scientific collaborator to the Asiatic Museum of the Academy of Sciences.

1928: Professor to the Leningrad University.

1931: Chairman of the Department of Central Asia of the Institute of Oriental studies of the Academy of Sciences of USSR.

3.

In 1930 I was elected member of the Société Finno-Ougrienne (Finland).

In 1932 I was elected corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR.

Besides, I am a member of the Köyösi Czoma Society (Budapest), of the Deutsch Morgenländische Gesellschaft, of the Mongolian Scientific Committee (Ulan Bator, Mongolia), of the Learned Society of Azerbaijan (Baku, Russia), of the Litterarum Societas Esthonica (Tallinn, Esthonia) a.o.

4.

I made several scientific expeditions:

In 1926:- in Mongolia.

In 1927 - in Mongolia and Manchuria.

In 1928 - in Eastern Siberia.

In 1929 - in Russian Central Asia, Sinkiang, and Mongolia.

In 1930 - in Eastern Siberia.

In 1931 - in Eastern Siberia.

In 1932 - in Eastern Siberia.

In 1933, 34, 35, 38, 39 trips to the Northern Caucasus.

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In 1936 - in East Siberia.
In 1940 (May-July) and 1941 (March-May) in East Siberia.

5.

I possess the scientific and practical knowledge of Russian and Mongolian. Only theoretical knowledge (not speaking) of Turkish, Tibetan, Manchu. Only practical knowledge English (fair), French (good), and German (excellent).

6.

I published more than 160 books and items on various subjects. A complete list can be sent later.

7.

In this paragraph the happenings during the last years will be explained.

In July 1941 I was sent by the Academy of Sciences to Elista, Kalmuk Republic, because it was evident Leningrad soon would be besieged.

From August 1941 till July 1, 1942 I lectured there on Russian and Kalmuk at the Elista Institute and worked as the editor of the newspaper "Leninski Puty" (Leninist Way). There I published several anti-Nazi pamphlets. I was anxious to leave Elista as that town was not safe and could be seized by the Germans. Besides, I was anxious to join the Academy of Sciences partly evacuated to Tashkent. I left Elista in the first days of July 1942 and travelled through the Caucasus to the Caspian Sea in order to cross the latter by steamer. As the disorder on the railways was tremendous I was compelled to stop at the town of Mikoyan Shakhra. In the end of August 1942 all those localities were taken by the Germans. At first I had troubles with the Germans who suspected me of being a Jew but I had my baptismal certificate and as I am of mixed German and Estonian descent I was registered as a "Foreign German" and let alone. I did not work in any German office, etc. As I was asked by the Russian burgo-master to lecture on ethnological subjects for the population I held several lectures on the history of the Caucasus, on the Caucasian tribes, and especially on the Karachais (a Turkic tribe). Later a tribe called "the Mountain Jews" were molested by the Germans. I explained to the latter that they were of Iranian ("Arian") origin but not a Semitic tribe. This preserved them from troubles.

In December 1942 I was deported to Germany and left the Russian soil (Ukraine) in April 1943. I arrived in Berlin in May 1943 and from June 1943 till August 1943 worked at the "Wannsee Institute" (a research centre on Russia). From August 1943 I worked at the Ost-Asien Institute and lectured at the Berlin University. In April 1945 Germany collapsed and since that time I have not worked at all.

All statements made in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 can be proved by documents.

Nicholas H. Poppe

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Curriculum Vitae.

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~~Born~~ ~~1897~~ at Chefoo, China. Father Russian *diplomat, serving at various times in* ~~School General~~ at Tientsin, Chefoo, Mukden and Kharbin.

~~Education~~

- Primary education under private tutor in China. Attended Protestant Reformed Church School at Petersburg, Russia, from 1908 to 1916.
- 1916-17 Served as a ~~war~~ private in the Russian Army.
- 1917-21 Matriculated at University of Petersburg, majoring in Botany and Physics, with a minor in Oriental Languages.
- 1921 Instructor in Geography ~~of North Asia~~ and Ethnology of North Asia at the Geographical Institute, Petersburg.
- 1922 Instructor in Mongol languages at New Institute of Oriental Languages, Petersburg.
- 1923 Appointed Scientific Collaborator of the Asiatic Museum of Academy of Science, Petersburg Univ. under the Dept. of Mongolian Books and Manuscripts.
- 1925 Ass't. professor of Mongolian and Finnish languages and Lit., University of Leningrad.
- 1928 Appointed full professor at Univ. of Leningrad and at Institute of Oriental Languages.
- 1931 Chairman of the Mongolian Dept. of Institute of Oriental Languages. Manager of Mongolian Dept. at the Academy of Science.
- 1933 Received degree of Doctor of Philology from Academy of Sciences and made member of Academy of Science.
- 1933-41 Continued work with the Academy of Science, the University of Leningrad, and the Institute of Oriental Languages until the entry of the USSR into World War Two. During this time, he made the following trips in connection with his work:
 - 1926-41 lectured one month of each year at Buriat ~~with~~ ULANUDE to the Buriat Mongolians in Siberia on the Mongolian language.
 - 1930-37 Visited Moscow twice a month to teach at the Communist University of the Working People of the East—commonly known as Stalin University.
 - 1930-31 Lectured at Crimea University at Simferopol on Turkish languages.
- 1941-42 Lectured on Kalmuk language at University of Elista, Kalmuk region. Worked as a reporter, writing historical articles on the Kalmuk region, ~~with~~ for a Communist Party sponsored newspaper.
- 1942-July Lectured on Russian and Turkish languages at Univ. at Mikoyan-Shakhar, in the Karachay Region in the Caucasus. When this area was overrun by the Germans, the natives destroyed all gov't buildings, schools and documents in an effort to rid the area of all Russian influence.
- 1942-Aug. Moved to Kislovodsk, in the Caucasus and lectured to German soldiers privately for his subsistence. Lectures mainly consisted of language instructions.
- 1943-45 Accompanied German army to Berlin. Lectured on Oriental languages at Univ. of Berlin under a Prof. DONATH. Was later transferred to the WANNSEE Institute, an institute specializing in Russian studies, (and under control of the German Counter Intelligence service). When Institute was removed to Austria, joined the East Asia Institute in Berlin, under Prof. Donath. ~~EEI~~ After surrender of Germany, moved to Bunde, Westphalia, in British Zone.
- 1946-49 Worked with British Intelligence as an instructor at British School of Intelligence for Officers. Was contacted by American officials and promised asylum in the American Zone. Arrived in this country May, 1949. (Presently in Washington.)

source has the following language qualifications:

- a. Fluent in Russian, German, English, French, Finnish, Mongolian, Buriat dialect and Latin.
- b. Very good in Turkish, Manchurian, Tibetan, Tartar dialect, and Uzbek dialect.
- c. Slight knowledge of Chinese, Arabic, Persian, Swedish and Italian.

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* Not true. Wannsee Institute was German Abwehr (MI), but was not controlled by German CI.

Additional Background information:

1. Source states that he has traveled extensively in the following regions of the USSR:
- a. Eastern Siberia, in the IRKUTSK region.
 - b. Mongolia
 - c. Russian Central Asia, between Leningrad and SAMARKIND.
 - d. Mongolian border to Outer Mongolia, between KULJAR AND SHARASUME.
 - e. Area between Leningrad and Buriat Mongolia-extensive exploration of the SELENGA Valley.
 - f. Ural Mountain Area.
 - g. Kalmuk region in the Northern & Caucasus.
2. Source states that he is a specialist on the following areas:
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a. Eastern Siberia | l. Tashkent |
| b. Sinkiang | m. Chita |
| c. Leningrad | n. Simferopol |
| d. Astrakhan | o. Buriat Mongolia |
| e. Ulanude | p. Manchuria |
| f. Kalchik | q. Crimea |
| g. Baku | r. Kalmuk |
| h. Mongolia | s. Samarkand |
| i. Northern Caucasus | t. Irkutsk |
| j. Moscow | u. Kialovodsk |
| k. Moscow | |

3. Source states that ~~backbone~~ the following personalities are well known to him: attached list of same