

UNIVERSITY OF MILAN EXPEDITION TO SEEK ANCIENT TIBETAN ARTEFACTS

An Italian expedition leaves from Napoli for Bombay today on their way to the Himalayas. The undertaking will explore an area of southern Tibet that is the site of the ancient kingdom of Gungthang hoping to discover its lost capital Jiwakhar. In the fourteenth century Jiwakhar had rapidly grown to be the most important city in all of Western Tibet ruling an area that extended far across the border of the present day kingdom of Nepal, itself now closed to westerners. However, within 100 years the city had somehow fallen from prominence and it is hoped to find reasons for this as yet unexplained decline.

The party is under the leadership of Professor Roberto Anzalone, Head of the Department of Asian History at the University of Milan and a worldwide authority on the Tibetan civilization. It is hoped to be the forerunner for a larger scale expedition that will be mounted next year. This marks the first time that Europeans have tried to reach this remote and forbidding province.

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