

merchant they met on the way, he succeeded in charting the route through large parts of Tibet. His maps provided the only definitive information on these parts for almost half a century, when the next British party was able to reach Tengri Nor. This last journey had taken its toll on his health, also impairing his vision. He continued for a few years to train other Indians in the art of surveying (and spying), and did a highly commended job of it, too.

Nain Singh's name, and feats, could now be made public after years of secrecy. In 1876, his achievements were announced in the *Geographical Magazine*. The awards and recognition soon started flowing in. On his retirement, the Indian Government honoured

him with the grant of a village, and 1000 rupees in revenue. The Paris Geographical Society, having heard of his feats, sent him a gold watch (according to Montgomerie, 'not a very handsome watch, but the Society is not rich, and they meant to pay N.S. a handsome compliment')<sup>2</sup>. The crowning achievement came in 1876, when the Royal Geographical Society honoured him with a gold medal as the 'man who has added a greater amount of positive knowledge to the map of Asia than any individual of our time'<sup>3</sup>.

Although Nain Singh got the recognition he deserved late in life, it is difficult to imagine what drove such a man to carry out arduous and dangerous work like this, under conditions of near-

impossibility, all for a starting salary of rupees twenty a month!

1. Hopkirk, P., *Trespassers on the Roof of the World: The Race for Lhasa*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1983, pp. 276.
2. Waller, D., *The Pundits - British Exploration of Tibet and Central India*, University Press of Kentucky, Kentucky, 1990.
3. Wilford, J. N., *The Mapmakers*, Knopf, New York, 1981, pp. 414.

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## MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

### Environmental Management for Nuclear Establishments and Chemical Industries

Date: 25-26 September 1999

Place: Mumbai

Themes include: Environmental management in nuclear establishments; Environmental impact assessment and legislation; Eco-friendly liquid/solid waste management; Management of clear air.

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### Challenges and Prospects of Plant Pathology in the Coming Millennium and the Zonal Chapter Meeting of Indian Phytopathological Society

Date: 30-31 December 1999

Place: Lucknow

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