

Inside

steppe seven

A CENTRAL ASIAN PANORAMA
WINTER 2009 – 2010

- Editor's Welcome **5** Welcome from the Editor, with map courtesy of Markus Hauser
- Dispatches **6** Back to Grass Roots, by Chris Alexander, Dana Abizaid, Samuel Omans and Alyssa Moxley
- Features **36** A Tale of Two Cities: Kabul and Herat, by Jolyon Leslie and Habib Noori, with photographs by Nick Danziger
56 Anna Akhmatova in Tashkent, by Sian Glaessner and Elaine Feinstein, with photographs by Max Penson
68 From Melons to Madness: Water in Central Asia, Part II, by Alexander Morrison, with photographs by Carolyn Drake
- Culture **13** Events, exhibitions and music around the world
- Books **16** Feature Book Review: *China Western*, reviewed by Steppe
20 Christian Tyler admires *Dragon Fighter: One Woman's Epic Struggle for Peace with China*
21 Gulnara Kasmambetova responds to *Ballad of Forgotten Years*
22 Michael Steen assesses *Murderers in Mausoleums*
22 Christian Tyler discovers *Traces in the Desert* and recognises *Mysteries of the Gobi*
23 Steppe admires the building of *The Aga Khan Museum*
- On the Shelf **24** Great Game literature, by Bijan Omrani
- Fine Lines **30** Rustam Khalfin, by Viktor Misiano
- Food **104** A Pamiri Harvest, with text and photographs by Matthieu Paley
- Regulars **110** Hotel: Silk Road Hotel Bamiyan – A Land of Incongruities, by Llewelyn Morgan
- Steppe Guide **88** Eagle Hunting, by Rebecca Schultz, with photographs by Philipp Engelhorn
- Snapshots **10** Close Shave in Naryn, by Christopher Herwig
28 Suffering, Not Suffrage, by Banaras Khan
102 Hui Mosque, by Carlos Spottorno
- Top Ten **34** Small Embroideries, with text by Nick Fielding
- Last Word **112** Afghans to the Top, as told to Ian MacWilliam

Cover Photograph: A hunter with his eagle, Xinjiang Province, China,
by Philipp Engelhorn