

the preceding pages. Accordingly I will quote here Kosloff's latest contribution to the question, leaving out however those parts which have no direct bearing upon the matter.\*

»In an ordinary meeting of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society Mr Sven Hedin, in his character of an active member of the society, delivered an address on the 15th October 1897 on his journey in the Pamirs, Kashgaria, the highlands of Tibet, and to Lop-nor. On the sketch-map, to which the Swedish traveller directed the attention of his audience, the last-named lake was shown one degree farther north than the position which, as is well known, the first European explorer of the Tarim basin, N. M. Prschevskij, fixed for it by accurate astronomical observations.»

»On the map in question, two Lop-nors are represented; of these one, which is based upon doubtful Chinese sources, is given an immense area in the sandy desert, while the other, Prschevskij's Lop-nor, which occupies the deepest salt depression, and the one that stretches farthest north-east, is drawn very small, in fact it is hardly discernible, and — to crown all — is placed in a desert of continuous drift-sand.»

The map alluded to was a copy of Richthofen's map in Delmar Morgan's book; and the reason the Chinese Lop-nor was shown as covering »an immense area» is, that it was so represented on the original map. The only alterations I made in it were to add my own itineraries and those parts of the hydrographical system, especially the lakes, which I saw with my own eyes and to colour blue the portions of the Kara-koschun which are open water and free from kamisch.

Kosloff continues: »As I have myself visited Lop-nor three times, and as on the third occasion, in the winter of 1893—94, my itinerary touched the country of »Lob» on the north, the west, and the south, leaving but a narrow space on the north-east, it was only natural that, on the conclusion of Mr Sven Hedin's address, there should be an eager interchange of ideas between myself and the Swedish traveller with regard to the regions we had respectively explored.»

»I resolved therefore to confirm in black and white the views which I exchanged orally with Mr Sven Hedin with regard to his explanation of the Lop-nor problem; and at the same time to adduce in evidence the testimony of all who have visited the Lop-nor as to what they saw there. Further I will also cite the reply which Prschevskij made to Baron Richthofen, so that the impartial reader may be able to form a clear idea of the present appearance of the Lop-nor, and — without going to the sources, which indeed are not readily accessible to everybody — may be in a position to determine which of the two is right — Prschevskij, who identifies the historical Lop-nor with the existing lake, or Baron Richthofen, who maintains that the old Lop-nor, in agreement with the Chinese maps, must lie considerably farther north than the existing lake.»

In adducing in evidence the testimony of »all who have visited Lop-nor» as to what they saw there, Kosloff, curiously enough, omits the evidence of Carey and

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\* In *Petermanns Mitteilungen*, Ergänzhft 131, pp. 143—149 I have already replied to a portion of Kosloff's essay on *Lop-nor*. It is obvious that, having crossed the Desert of Lop in several directions, I am now in a far better position than I was then to estimate the value of Kosloff's point of view.