

With regard to Obrutscheff's appeal to the Chinese maps, I would beg leave to make the following observations —»

»On D'Anville's map, published in 1737, we do not see any traces whatever of the lakes Tschin-schen-che and Chua-chai-tsi; nor are they shown on the later maps — either on Grimm's of 1833 (which is a copy of Klaproth's), or Jakinf's. They first make their appearance on the Chinese map Dao-tsin-i-tun-jü-tu, published in the year 1864, and from it were transferred, first to Richthofen's maps, and then to others published in Europe, none of the cartographers in question being deterred from inserting these lakes by the obvious impossibility of carrying a caravan route diagonally across a vast sheet of water. From this it results that the fabrication of the lakes in question must be assigned to quite recent times.»

»With regard to the lake of Alak-tschi the matter is otherwise. On D'Anville's map this lake (Alak-nor) is represented as being entered by two nameless river-arms (the Tschijoché and the Ma-ge-tschen). On Grimm's map there are two small lakes, the Altan-nor and the Alak-nor. Finally on Jakinf's maps we have two unnamed lakes, a western one at the mouth of one of the branches of the Bulungir, the eastern at the mouth of the river Ma-ge-tschen, which rises in the springs and marsh of Tschit-sin-chu. This lake really does exist; its immediate vicinity is thickly beset with kamisch thickets, which are at the present time the property of the Mongols, the descendants probably of the Tschigintsis.»

»From the preceding discussion we may deduce the following conclusion, that during the Jüan period, when the Mongols who were settled in the Jü-min region wanted winter grazing for their animals, they cultivated meadows there by leading the water of the Bulungir down by artificial canals to the districts which lay not higher than the level of the river at the high-water period. It is these temporary sheets of water (*sor*) which have found their way into the Chinese maps under the disguise of permanent lakes; while on Jakinf's maps they figure as large but unnamed sheets of water into which one of the branches of the Bulungir empties. Perhaps this is the Chua-chai-tsi, which we have again in the Chinese atlas of Dao-tsin-i-tun-jü-tu.* A long way to the east of this region of periodical inundation we find the actual lake, formed by the inflow of the river Ma-ge-tschen. Although considerably reduced in area, it still exists at the present time; on Kreitner's map it is called Pa-lin-chai. Apart from these, there are no other lakes on the north side of the great highway from Jü-min to Su-tscheo, nor to I think that any can exist there at all.»

»East of An-si, the Dun-chuan cauldron valley (*Mulde*), there exists what might be called the Jü-min valley. North and north-west it is bounded by the mountains of San-sjan-tsi and their prolongation, the ridge of Daban-sjan; on the south and south-east by the offshoots of the Nan-schan Mountains and the Tschit-sin-schan Mountains. East of these last there is a third *Mulde*, which has an

* To this Obrutscheff adds the following correction: »If this is the case, then the lake of Chua-chai-tsi existed on Jakinf's map *before* the publication of the Chinese atlas (1864), so that the 'fabrication' of this lake must be ascribed to Jakinf, whose work was printed in 1851, or 13 years before the publication of the Chinese atlas. For this reason Mr Grum-Grschimajlo omits to give the dates of Jakinf's maps.»