

The site of our present camp had evidently been a small centre, in Han time, perhaps a fort or an intermediate station on a highway. There were numberless potsherds and bricks, and a whole little brick platform that was dug up by HUANG and CHUANG. It was surrounded by about a hundred bricks bent at an angle. Coins from the period of the Han dynasty were also found. The Chinese were deeply interested in these finds, and carried on simultaneous digging operations in several places.

Finally I instructed LARSON to proceed the following morning with his usual caravan and the wild camels. I was up betimes and witnessed their departure. His staff included WALZ, LIEBERENZ and MÜHLENWEG.

NORIN, HEYDER, BERGMAN, MASSENBAACH and HEMPEL measured out a new base-line in order to check the triangulation. With the aid of the triangles they arrived at the figure 2,504 m. and for the same line with a measuring tape 2,491 m., thus showing a difference of only thirteen meters, a result that caused general satisfaction. There had been the greatest excitement about this result, but our topographers were now easy in their minds.

At two o'clock on August 8th ZIMMERMANN and MARSCHALL arrived with their caravan of twelve camels. They and the student LIU were all in splendid health. The little antelope had travelled in a padded and matted wagon-lit in the form of an empty box. He too was in the pink, and had not suffered in the slightest from the long journey from Camp VIII.

An hour later YUAN arrived alone on camel-back, and together with him and SIU PING-CH'ANG I had a long conference. He was very pleased with his results, and showed his tastefully and well drawn maps, which were now so far advanced that they could be connected up with NORIN's and HEYDER's.

### EXPEDITION BREAKS UP AGAIN

At Camp XIII our ways parted again for some time. NORIN, HEYDER, BERGMAN, V. MASSENBAACH and TING were to continue with their work, coming after at a slower pace than we. YUAN was to hasten on his work and arrive at the Edsen-gol within seven, or at the most nine, weeks. HUANG and the digger CHUANG, at their own request, were to stay behind for three or four more days to continue their excavations at Camp XIII. The rest of the staff were to follow me on the journey westwards.

Not until eight o'clock on August 9th did we set off from camp XIII, where we left NORIN's, YUAN's and HUANG's parties behind. Once started, we rode rapidly over a long slope between two low ridges. On either side of us were erosion-beds, beginning right in the middle of the steppe and with vertical canyon-like walls