

BENEDETTO (*B*<sup>1</sup>, 451). As the form is « andaine » in the mss. in Court French, and as the word begins with *a-* in V, Z and R, the agreement of these independent versions leaves little doubt that « andanique » is correct; it is moreover confirmed by the « fer d'andaine » in Huon de Mery, which YULE did not know (cf. *Y*, I, 215).

This « andanique » is plainly the name of a kind of steel, but the origin of the word remains obscure. PAUTHIER's « antimoine ? » (*Pa*, 73) is out of the question, and CORDIER's hypothetical derivation from the name of the Forest of Andaine in the Orne Department of France (*Y*, I, 215) can hardly be taken seriously. RAMUSIO, in his *Dichiaratione*, alluding to the steel mirrors and the « andanico » mentioned by Polo at « Cobinan », says that, through an interpreter, he often inquired from Persian merchants who had come to Venice as to the nature of « andanico », and they all agreed that this was a kind of iron or steel, of which most precious mirrors and swords were made. On this « excellent evidence », YULE came to the conclusion that the real word must be « *hundwānty* », « Indian steel » (with references to JOHNSON, VULLERS and others), which is the reason why he adopted « andanique ». YULE's elaborate note is, as usual, full of most valuable information and makes a clear case of the early renown of Indian steel (on which see COOMARASWAMY, *Hist. of Indian Art*, 34; VALIDI, in *ZDMG*, 1936, 27). I need only add the following remarks : (1) Polo's word is not « andanique », but « andanique ». (2) I find no support for a reading « *hundwānty* »; all the words derived from *هند* Hind are pronounced with *t̄* in the first syllable, and I would read *hinduwānī* (cf. VULLERS and DESMAISONS; in the quotation from the *Šāh-nāmāh* which YULE cites from VULLERS, the latter reads « Hinduwān », not « Hundwān »). (3) We must not give too much weight to the information elicited by RAMUSIO from Persian merchants; the question may have been put in such a way as to suggest the answer, and moreover, these different Persians were in all probability questioned through the same interpreter. But, despite the phonetic difference between *andanicum* (or *andanico*) and *hinduwān*, it remains possible that what the Persian merchants had in mind in giving an explanation was the same word *hinduwān* which has been thought of by YULE. (4) As a matter of fact, Indian steel was so renowned and *al-Hind*, « the Indian », had become such a current designation of it in Arabic that it passed as a name of steel into ancient Spanish as « alhinde », « alfinde », « alinde » (cf. DOZY, *Glossaire*<sup>2</sup>, 142-143). In Fra Mauro's notice on « Cobinan », Polo's « andanique » has been misunderstood and appears as « endego », indigo (cf. *Zu*, 44; HALLBERG, 87); curiously enough, this misinterpretation also connects « andanique » with a word derived from « India ».

Whatever may be the origin of the word, it has been supposed by BRETSCHNEIDER (*Br*, I, 146, and *China Review*, v, 21) that Polo's « andanique » was the same as the *pin-t'ieh*, or « pin iron » of the Chinese (not « pig iron » as in *Pe*, 35). This opinion repeated later by PARKER, has passed into *Y*, III, 19. I cannot here discuss in detail the question of 賓鐵 *pin-t'ieh* or 鑛鐵 *pin-t'ieh*. Polo mentions « steel and andanique » in the chapters on « Cherman », on « Cobinan », and on « Ghinghin talas » (*q. v.*). The first two places are in Persia; the third is north of the T'ien-shan, and, in my opinion, far to the north-west of the Uighur country of Turfan. In Chinese texts, *pin-t'ieh* occurs for the first time in the 6th cent., in reference to Sassanian Persia; later on, *pin-t'ieh* is always mentioned as a foreign product, found mainly in Persia, but sometimes