

34. ASCIAR

<i>aciar</i> FA	<i>aschar</i> V	<i>astiar</i> VB, R
<i>arziar</i> FB	<i>asciar</i> F, TA ¹ , Z	<i>sciar</i> TA ³

This must represent an original *Ašar, which remains unidentified. In Polo, *-sci-* is simply *-š-*; this practically excludes *āscar* < Skr. *āścariya* of Y, II, 374, and also Bernier's «*achar*», which CORDIER quotes (Y, II, 374) from a ms. note found amongst YULE's papers, but which, from the translation given, must be **ačar* < Skr. *acala*, «motionless», «immovable».

35. ASIDIN SOLDAN

<i>asendi soldan</i> V	<i>asidin soldano</i> R	<i>sedin soboan</i> VB
<i>asidin soldan</i> F, FA, FB		

I can only agree with the general opinion that this must be Ghiyāthu-'d-Dīn (γiyāθu-'d-Dīn) Balaban of Delhi (1265-1286). I write on purpose «Balaban» instead of the usual «Balban», as I think Balaban in the correct form of that Turkish name; cf. «Balaban» in BRÄTIANU, *Actes des notaires*, 341. «Balaban» means «falcon»; cf. KUUN, *Codex Cumanicus*, 129; RADLOV, IV, 1494; BANG, *Türk. Briefe*, II, 247; we must also, I think, read Balaban, and not «Balbân» or «Belbân», when this same name occurs in the history of the Mamluk sultans of Egypt. But it is surprising that Polo, generally so accurate in his transcriptions, should not have found a more nearly exact spelling for Ghiyāthu-'d-Dīn, and his «Asidin» looks more like 'Izzu-'d-Dīn. The form «soldan» for *sulṭān* is common in the Middle Ages, and accounts for the title «soudan» then given in French to the sultans of Egypt; cf. YULE, *Hobson-Jobson*², s. v. «Sultan».

36. ASSASSIN

<i>asasin, asesinz</i> Fr	<i>assasini</i> VA, P	<i>harcassis</i> FB
<i>asasini</i> VA	<i>assassini</i> L, LT, VL	<i>hasisins</i> FA
<i>ascilcinç, asciscinç</i> Ft	<i>assessini</i> TA ^{1r}	<i>sassinum</i> Z
<i>asciscin, asescin, asisim</i> F		

I am only concerned here with the word itself; for particulars concerning the Assassins, see «Mulecte» and «Old Man of the Mountain».

Although F never has an *a* in the second syllable, the «*assasini*» of VA may be almost as correct a form as «*asciscin*»; the question is mainly one of etymology.