

## 46. BACSI

*bacsi* F, Z, V, L*bachsi* R

*Baqšī*, *baḥšī*, first met in Uighur texts, passing afterwards into Mongolian, found its way, during the Mongol period, into Persian *بخشی* *baḥšī* (for instance *Bl*, II, 405), when it also occurs occasionally in Chinese texts (*pa-ha*[ $\frac{1}{2}$ ]-*shih*, translated by  $\frac{1}{2}$  *shih*, «master», «teacher»); it is even known in Tibetan (Sarat CHANDRA DAS, 177). Although originally an epithet mainly used in reference to Buddhist priests, it is applied in modern Turkish dialects of Central Asia to all sorts of masters, from musicians to quacks and sorcerers, and always with a necromantic implication (cf. SHAW, *Vocabulary*, 40; RADLOV, IV, 1445-1446). This amply justifies Polo's use of the word. It has long been accepted that *baqšī* was derived from Skr. *bhikṣu*, «Buddhist monk» (cf. YULE, *Hobson-Jobson*<sup>2</sup>, s. v. «Buxee»), which is hardly satisfactory from the point of view of phonetics. It is more probable that it was borrowed at an early date from Ch. 博士 *po-shih* (\**pāk-dz'i*), «man of great learning»; cf. LAUFER, in *TP*, 1916, 485-487 (the additional note of p. 552 must be suppressed; the term quoted there from the *Yu-yang tsa-tsu* has nothing to do with *baqšī*), and my remarks in *JA*, 1925, I, 254; *TP*, 1930, 14-15.

## 47. BADASCIAN

<i>badaciam</i> , <i>balaciam</i> , <i>balaciem</i> FA	<i>balascam</i> , <i>balausciam</i> , <i>bau-</i> <i>dascia</i> TA <sup>1</sup>	<i>balassia</i> , <i>ballasia</i> , <i>ballassia</i> VL
<i>badasciam</i> , <i>badausiam</i> , <i>bala-</i> <i>sian</i> F	<i>balascha</i> , <i>bandasciam</i> , <i>ban-</i> <i>dascian</i> TA <sup>3</sup>	<i>balatian</i> FBr
<i>badascian</i> F, Ft	<i>balascia</i> LT, P, V (cor.)	<i>balaxan</i> , <i>balaxiam</i> R
<i>badasian</i> F, Fr, FB	<i>balasciam</i> , <i>bandascam</i> , <i>ban-</i> <i>dascham</i> LT	<i>balaxian</i> Z
<i>badassan</i> , <i>baddasan</i> , <i>balasan</i> , <i>balassa</i> , <i>baldasan</i> <i>balda-</i> <i>siam</i> , <i>ballassan</i> VB	<i>balascian</i> F, Ft, L, Z	<i>baldasciam</i> F, TA <sup>3</sup>
<i>balacia</i> P	<i>balasia</i> , <i>balastia</i> , <i>balaxia</i> , <i>bal-</i> <i>daxia</i> , <i>ballastia</i> VA	<i>baldasian</i> , <i>balesian</i> , <i>balsian</i> , <i>belesian</i> , <i>belestian</i> , <i>sobasain</i> V
<i>balacian</i> FA, FAr, FB	<i>balasiam</i> Fr	<i>baldasya</i> G
		<i>ballaschan</i> Lr
		<i>ballascian</i> L
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<i>balais</i> FA	<i>balasi</i> V, VA, Z	<i>ballascii</i> L
<i>balaiž</i> FB	<i>balassi</i> V, Z; R	<i>pallazi</i> VA
<i>balasci</i> F, LT, TA <sup>1</sup>	<i>balasti</i> G	

The best mss. give both «Badascian» and «Balascian» (with an occasional «Baldasciam» in F, and «Baldascia» and «Baudascia» in TA, reflected in the «Baldasia» of the Catalan Map; cf. HALLBERG, 61-62; add «Balasian» in Fra Mauro). Both forms are theoretically possible (cf. Y, I,