

system, can only be a Sanskritized form *Palūra (cf. *BEFEO*, III, 406; not «Po-lo-lo», and not = «Bolor», as in LENTZ, *ZDMG*, 1932, 27); as the first vowel is not marked in most Arabic transcriptions, we are justified in reading them as Balōr or Balūr instead of Bolor; and it was «Pálor» which was heard by Shaw in modern times (cf. *Y*, III, 42). The country of Balur or Baluristan is again described in his *Ta'riḥ-i-Rašīdī* by Mīrza Haidar, who visited it in 1528 (cf. trad. N. ELIAS and E. D. ROSS, 135, 385). By Baluristan, Mīrza Haidar understands the mountainous tract south of Badaḥšan, south-west of Yarkand, west of Balti, north and north-west of Kashmir, that is to say the valleys of Chitral, Yassin, and Gilgit; N. ELIAS's note on the subject has been quoted in *Y*, III, 42-43, and need not be repeated here; cf. also LENTZ, in *ZDMG*, 1932, 27-28. We must also see Balūr in the 勃律 Po-lü (*Balūr? or Palūr?) of Chinese historical texts of the 8th cent.; there is a Po-lü which is Baltistan and a «Little Po-lü» which is the Gilgit valley (cf. CHAVANNES, *Doc. sur les Tou-kiue*, 149-154). It is true that Mīrza Haidar seems to leave Baltistan out of Baluristan; but the localization may have been viewed differently by others at different dates, and CUNNINGHAM heard the name «Balor» used as a designation of Balti by the Dards of Gilgit (*Y*, I, 178). It might also be supposed that the very name of Balti is connected with that of Balūr, but I do not think that such is the case, as the Tibetan texts distinguish sBal-ti from 'Bru-šal or Bru-ža, and it is Bru-ža which is likely to be the same name as Po-lü or Balūr (cf. LAUFER, in *TP*, 1908, 2-3). In such a case, it is the «Little Po-lü» which would be the true Balūr; and the extension of the name Po-lü to Baltistan might be due to the fact that the Chinese reached Baltistan by way of Gilgit.

Belor seems to be the form used by Polo, as it is given by all the mss.; we must then attribute to a simple coincidence that Fra Mauro should write «Balor» (cf. HALLBERG, 74; the other name quoted from Fra Mauro, «Boler», seems to refer to quite a different place far to the north; see «Bolgara»). As to «Bolor», adopted in YULE's edition, it is devoid of authority. A last form looms up occasionally, that of «Billūr mountains», understood as «Crystal mountains» (for instance in ELLIOT's *History of India*, I, 46, 65, where Rašīdu-'d-Dīn copies Al-Bīrūnī); this is simply a case of popular etymology, and it is also represented by the pseudo-Turkish name «Belur-tagh» still used in *B*¹, 439. Cf. also STEIN, *Ancient Khotan*, I, 6; *Serindia*, 33, 61.

68. BERCA

<i>abarca, barcalor</i> FB	<i>barbarba, burba</i> P ⁵	<i>bargha, berghe</i> TA ¹
<i>abarcha, abracha</i> , VB	<i>barca</i> F, Fr, FA, FB, O, VL	<i>bata, bercu</i> Ft
<i>arbaca</i> FA	<i>barch</i> F	<i>berca</i> F, Fr, t, Z
<i>bacara</i> (?= <i>bolgara</i>) F, L	<i>barcha</i> F, Fr, LT, TA ³ , VA,	<i>bercha</i> F, L, Z
<i>baraba, barba</i> P	VL; R	<i>bracharchan, tharzara</i> V

This is Bärkä, a Mongol name; *bärkä* means «difficult». Bärkä was Jöči's third son. The forms «Bérékeh» of *Bl*, II, 90, 433, 549, App. 54, «Baraka» of Stanley LANE-POOLE, *The Moham- medan Dynasties*¹, 230, and «Bereke» of HOWORTH, II, 113, III, 193, and of *Wy*, LIII, 316, are due