

According to Polo, it was the place of origin of the third of the Magi Kings. Odoric locates at Kāšān («Casan») the place from which the Magi Kings started towards Jerusalem (cf. *Y*, I, 81; *Y*¹, II, 106-107; *W*_γ, 429; HALLBERG, 123-124).

W. JACKSON had supposed that Polo's «Cala Ataperistan» should be identified with Kāšān, but, when he wrote, the name of Kāšān had not yet been traced in Polo himself. JACKSON's view seems no longer acceptable, although «Cala Ataperistan» must have been in the neighbourhood.

Polo says that the Magi, on their arrival, found Jesus thirteen days old; in Odoric, the length of thirteen days for their journey is given only in John the Long's French version, and it has been taken over by Maundeville. But the coincidence of the thirteen days mentioned by both Polo and Odoric is not due to local information; it represents the thirteen days between the traditional date of the birth of Christ (December 25) and the Epiphany or «Jour des Rois» (January 6), both days included.

BENEDETTO (*B*, 25) is surely mistaken when he introduces a spelling «Cashan» into his text of *F*; *sh* for *š* never occurs in the Polian mss.

Kāšān appears, transcribed 柯傷 *K'o-shang* (**Kašang*; for the nasalization of *-ān*, see «Badascian»), on the Chinese map of c. 1330 and in the corresponding list of *YS*, 63, 16*b*; cf. *Br*, II, 112.

Thomas HERBERT mentions at Kāšān, in 1628, a tomb of «Nycador oglan», though no mention of it is to be found elsewhere (see «Negodar»).

132. CENCHU

cenchu R

I agree with MOULE's explanation that this must represent Ch. 千戶 *ch'ien-hu* «chiliarch» (*JNCB*, 1915, 32; 1927, 26-27); that is in exact agreement with Polo's statement that the «Cathayan» whom he calls «Cenchu» «had under him a thousand men». Cf. the similar case of «Vanchu». It is a pity that this explanation should have been ignored in *B*¹, 440, who adopts «Cenciu» instead of the «Cenchu» of *R*, our only source, and thinks that the name represents 張易 *Chang I*, one of the conspirators. But «Cenchu» (where *ch* before *u* = *k*) cannot be reconciled phonetically with *Chang I*; moreover, it was 王著 *Wang Chu* who was the initiator of the plot, and we know from Chinese texts that he was really a *ch'ien-hu*. See «Vanchu» and «Acmat».

133. CHADI, see ESCEQE