

deported; see « Naian »), whereas the name used by Polo does not seem to be Chinese. The main centre of deportation was in fact at Nu-êrh-kan, and I have little doubt that Nu-êrh-kan actually is the place meant by Polo.

The location of Nu-êrh-kan is well established. It lay east of the Amur, near the mouth of the river (cf. GIBERT, *Dictionnaire*, 676, where, however, the forms of the name given for the Yüan period are in Ch'ien-lung's « reformed » spelling, and perfectly valueless). Most of the ancient texts concerning Nu-êrh-kan (with the exception of the important one in the *Cho-kêng lu*) are mentioned in the *Beiträge zur historischen Geographie der Mandschurei* published under the supervision of SHIRATORI (cf. the index in II, 544).

It was in 1272 that a Mongol official, who had been sent to subdue the island of Sakhalin, reached « the land (*ti*) of 斡兒哥 Nu-êrh-ko » (*Yüan wên lei*, 41, 32 a); Nu-êrh-ko is certainly the same as Nu-êrh-kan, with which I think we must also identify the 訥里干 No-li-kan occurring in a text of 1308 (*ibid.* 41, 32 b). On September 23, 1320, an official named I-lien-chên (Mong. Iränjin < Tib. Rin-chen, « Great Jewel ») was bamboed and banished to the land (*ti*) of Nu-êrh-kan » (*YS*, 27, 4 b-5 a). The *YS* mentions (59, 3 b) the gerfalcons which fly from beyond the sea and are caught and offered as tribute by « the natives of Nu-êrh-kan ». In the *山居新話 Shan-chü hsin-hua* (ed. *Chih-pu-tsu-chai ts'ung-shu*, 11 a-b), dated 1360, the author, Yang Yü, speaks of a man of Hang-chou who was a friend of a certain native of Hsin-ch'êng; and when the latter, in 1333-1334, was banished to Nu-êrh-kan, the Hang-chou man showed so much devotion that he accompanied his friend as far as 肇州 Chao-chou (in Manchuria; see « Barscol »). T'ao Tsung-i's *Cho-kêng lu*, written in 1366, contains (8, 5 a) the following paragraph on « dog-relays » (狗站 *kou-chan*, Mong. **noyai-jam*; on these « dog-relays » and the dog-sledges, cf. *TP*, 1904, 398; *Br*, I, 129; *Y*, II, 481-483) : « North of Kao-li (Corea) is [the region] which is called 別十八 Pieh-shih-pa (< Turk. Beš-balıq, 'Five Cities'), which in Chinese means 'Five contiguous cities' (連五城 *lien-wu ch'êng*; this can only be another designation of the 五國城 Wu-kuo-ch'êng of the Chin, the region of Manchuria where the Sung Emperors Hui-tsung and Ch'in-tsung died in exile; cf. GIBERT, *Dictionnaire*, 696-698; SHIRATORI, *Beiträge*, II, 140-147). The criminals who are banished to Nu-êrh-kan are obliged to pass through this region. It is extremely cold, and even the sea freezes. The ice sets in the eighth month and does not thaw before the fifth or sixth month of the next year. People walk on it as if treading on even ground. Every year the 'moving Grand Secretariat' (*hsing-shêng*) of 征東 Chêng-tung ('Subduing the East'; the 'moving Grand Secretariat' of Chêng-tung was established in 1283 in Corea, then abolished, and re-established in 1299 and 1321; cf. *YS*, 63, 13 a; 91, 2 a; 208, 7 a-b; also *YS*, 28, 5 a, s. a. 1323; but already in 1273, the official who reported on the advance to Nu-êrh-kan in 1272, was a Chêng-tung *chao-t'ao-shih*, this being an office of which nothing else is known except its bare mention in *YS*, 63, 13 a; cf. SHIRATORI, *Beiträge*, II, 334) details officials to Nu-êrh-kan to distribute victuals to the prisoners who are scattered there. These officials use cars of the official relays (*chan-ch'ê*), every one of which is drawn by four dogs. The dogs are well aware of the feelings of men. The postal relays (*chan*) have regulations for the rations of the dogs; if these are reduced, the dogs will bite their masters and not leave them until they are dead.» I do not know when these « dog-relays » were first started; but on July 22, 1295, ten silver ingots in paper-money were