

Shih-la, *i. e.* Mong. Šira (< Sira), «the Yellow one» (for other Shih-la, cf. WANG Hui-tsu<sup>1</sup>, 26, 3 *a-b*; add the 賈昔刺 Chia Hsi-la = Chia Sira, Chia the Yellow, of YS, 169, 2 *a*, also a name imperially bestowed; for an analogous case, cf. the Mongolian name Qara, «the Black», bestowed by Qubilai on a man of the Liu family, YS, 169, 3 *b*, and the name Čayān, «the White», bestowed on a Tangutan, YS, 120, 1 *a*, and also given to, or taken by, a man from Balkh, YS, 137, 1 *a*). One way out of the difficulty would be to suppose that Kao Hsi was known as Kōkötāi before he was renamed Šira by Qubilai; but, if Kao Hsi's biography be right, the name Šira was given him before 1281, and it is hard to believe that an earlier name should still have been used in 1282 rather than the new one bestowed by Imperial favour.

If Kao Hsi was never known as Kōkötāi, we should look for another man with whom we might identify «Cogatai». The two other officials who play something of the part attributed by Polo to «Cogatai» are 博敦 Po-tun and 張九思 Chang Chiu-ssü (cf. MOULE, *JNCB*, 1927, 27). But Po-tun was a Mongol, and there is no reason why he should have also been known as Kōkötāi. As to Chang Chiu-ssü, he was a pure Chinese, and his biography does not speak of any Mongolian name which had been given him. Among the various Kōkötāi who appear in the *pên-chi* of the YS, one in 1276 was commander-in-chief (*tu-yüan-shuai*) of the Chinese troops (*Han-chün*) serving under the Mongols (YS, 9, 5 *b*); another was one of the officers in charge of lost property (see «Bularguci»), and was pardoned in 1278, when he and some of his colleagues had illegally disposed of some of the property confided to their care (YS, 10, 1 *a*). But neither of them could possibly be Polo's «Cogatai». On the whole, it may be that the true Mongolian name Kōkötāi was misapplied by Polo and, provisionally, I feel inclined to believe that the man really referred to is Kao Hsi.

### 168. COGATAL

*chogatal* VA; R  
*cochobal* VL

*cogatal* F, FA, FB, P, P<sup>5</sup>, VB  
*coghotal* TA<sup>3</sup>

*cogotal* LT  
*gogotal* VA

«Cogatal» is the only reading given by the best mss. for the name of the «baron» who was sent by Qubilai to the Pope with the two elder Polos at the end of their first journey, but it is not known as a Mongol name, and Ross may be right (*RR*, 418) in his surmise that «Cogatal» is perhaps an early clerical error for \*Cogatai, Kōkötāi (see «Cogatai»). None, however, of the Kōkötāi mentioned in Chinese sources can be identified with Qubilai's envoy.

According to most mss., «Cogatal» fell ill and asked to be left behind in a city which TA alone names, surely without authority (cf. Vol. I, 80; see «Alau»). According to VB, the travellers had then marched «twenty days», which have become thirty in Santaella (cf. *Pe*, 17). Only in VL and the texts derived from it (cf. *Pe*, 17, 156, 351), «Cogatal» is said to have died in that city.