

Chao Ju-kua's work is dated 1225. In its section on «cotton» (*chi-pei*), it gives no indication of the places where cotton was cultivated. In the description of the various Indo-Chinese countries, cotton is mentioned as being grown in Chiao-chih (=Tongking, *HR*, 46), Champa (*HR*, 48), and probably Cambodia, which produced *mien* cloth (lit. «floss cloth»; *HR*, 53; «probably Siam» in *HR*, 219, seems to be a slip, since Siam is not included among Chao's notices). More is said in the long paragraph on Hai-nan. Not only is *chi-pei* included among the local products (*HR*, 176), but Chao has a paragraph on [*Li*]-*tan* and [*Li*]-*mu* (*HR*, 183, ll. 4-7), analogous to, but not identical with, that of Chou Ch'ü-fei. This paragraph, however, occurs in exactly the same terms in Li Hsin-ch'uan's *Chien-yen i-lai hsi-nien yao-lu* (187, 14-15), which must antedate Chao Ju-kua's work by a few years (cf. *Ssü-k'u* . . . , 47, 37-38); it is probable that both Li and Chao here draw from an undetermined source, perhaps the monograph on Hai-nan which had been written c. 1210 by one of Chao Ju-kua's ancestors (cf. *HR*, 178, 186; we must not lose sight of the fact, however, that the source may eventually have been the *Kuei-hai yü-hêng chih*, since the present editions of this work are only fragments of the original). What is more important, Chao Ju-kua ends his notice on the island with the following words: «The other products are mostly the same as in the Barbarian lands, with the exception of areca nuts and cotton (*chi-pei*) which are there extraordinarily plentiful; the Ch'üan[-chou] traders look principally to these for making profit.» So, in 1225, Hai-nan was the principal source of the export of cotton towards Fu-chien.

Although Chou Ch'ü-fei only mentions «cotton» as grown in Hai-nan, and as grown or woven in some districts of the southern coast of Kuang-tung, and although Chao Ju-kua is silent even on the latter point, several texts prove that, at dates prior to both authors, cotton was already grown not only in Kuang-tung, but in Fu-chien as well.

The earliest is P'ang Yüan-ying's *Wên-ch'ang tsa-lu*, dated 1085 (cf. *supra*, p. 437), in which we read: «Beginning with Min (=Fu-chien) and Kuang[-tung] and more to the south, there is much cotton (*mu-mien*). The local peasants (*t'u-jên*) emulate each other in planting it, and collect its flowers to make a cloth which is called *chi-pei*.» P'ang Yüan-ying goes on to say that this is the same plant as the one described as «*ku-pei* tree» in the *Nan shih* (cf. *supra*, p. 437).

Then comes Fang Cho's *Po-chai pien*, published c. 1125 (cf. WYLIE, *Notes on Chinese literature*, 157; *JA*, 1913, 1, 350; *supra*, p. 438; *Po hai* ed., 2, 5 b; *Tu-hua-chai ts'ung-shu* ed., redaction in 10 chs., 3, 3 b; redaction in 3 chs., 2, 5 a-b). It says: «In Min (=Fu-chien) and Kuang-tung, much *mu-mien* ('cotton') is sowed. The tree (*shu*) is seven or eight feet high; its leaves are like [those of] the 柞 *tso* (an oak, *Quercus serrata* or *Quercus dentata*); it forms a fruit which is like a large water-chestnut (大菱 *ta-ling*; I do not think that *ta-ling* is the name of a distinct species; the *Po-hai* ed. and the *T'u-shu chi-ch'êng*, *ts'ao-mu tien*, 303, *tsa-lu*, 1 b, give 大麥 *ta-mai*, 'barley'; improbable in itself, this reading is rejected by the editor of the *Tu-hua-chai ts'ung-shu*, and it is also *ta-ling* which is given in 1285 in the quotation from the *Po-chai pien* made in Hu San-hsing's commentary on *Tzū-chih t'ung-chien*, 159, 48 a), but of blue-green (*ch'ing*) colour. When autumn is well advanced, it opens and discloses a white floss which is quite downy. The local peasants pick it up, discard the husk, get entirely rid of the black seeds