

west of the sea]. In this country all the domestic animals come out of the water. Some say that they do not only use sheep's wool, but also the bark of trees [vegetable fibre?] and the silk of wild silk-worms in weaving cloth, and the Ch'ü-shu, the T'a-têng, and Chi-chang class of goods [serge or plush rugs?] of their looms are all good; their colours are of brighter appearance than are the colours of those manufactured in the countries on the east of the sea.» Except for «tree-bast» for «the bark of trees» and «[that is, evidently, flax]» instead of «[vegetable fibre?]», LAUFER's translation (*loc. cit.* 103) is practically identical. Yet such a rendering is open to various objections. First of all, HIRTH ought to have written «cloth of West of the Sea». Hai-hsi, «West of the Sea», as expressly stated in the *Wei lio*, was the popular designation of Ta-Ch'in, and it is used in contradistinction to Hai-tung, «East of the Sea», the «Sea» being the Indian Ocean, and particularly the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, *ch'ü-shu* and *t'a-têng* are names of rugs which are to be retained (cf. *supra*, pp. 492 and 447), but there is no such term as *chi-chang*; *chi* is the designation of a woollen carpet, and *chang* means «curtain» or «tent». But, above all, none of the former translators seems to have suspected that 織成 *chih-ch'êng* has two meanings in Chinese; in many cases, it merely means «to weave» (as for instance in the passage on the *lan-kan* cloth of the Ai-lao, *supra*, p. 444). But in ancient times *chih-ch'êng* was also the designation of a particular sort of brocade (cf. the section *chih-ch'êng* in *T'ai-p'ing yü-lan*, 816, 11 a, and the *Tz'ü-yüan*, s. v. *chih-ch'êng*; also *supra*, p. 452). The very construction of the first sentence quoted above implies that *chih-ch'êng* is to be taken there in the latter sense. I think that we must translate it in the same way when it occurs a second time, and it is so understood in the *T'ai-p'ing yü-lan*, which moreover punctuates the passage as I have done. The quotation from the *I-wu chih* which HIRTH (p. 255) found in the *K'ang-hsi tzü-tien* and which would seem to favour another punctuation, with *chih-ch'êng* in its ordinary sense of «to weave», is a distorted and arbitrary combination of part of the passage of the *Wei lio* with a text from the *Nan-chou i-wu chih*, both given independently in the *T'ai-p'ing yü-lan*, 708, 12 b (but this is not the direct source of the *K'ang-hsi tzü-tien*, in which the last sentence ends differently). The whole section of the *Wei lio* on the products of Ta-Ch'in has been in fact very badly translated by HIRTH, and even CHAVANNES has not been too successful in his rendering of the corresponding passage in the *Hou-Han shu* (TP, 1907, 183). I would propose the following interpretation of the Chinese text quoted above: «They have a brocaded (*chih-ch'êng*) fine cloth, for which it is said they use the down (*ts'ui*) of the water sheep (*shui-yang*), and which is called 'Hai-hsi cloth' ('cloth of the West of the Sea [kingdom]'). In that kingdom, the six domestic animals all come out of the water. Some say that they not only use sheep's wool (*mao*), [but] also use the bark of trees or the silk of wild silkworms to make [this] brocade (*chih-ch'êng*). Their *ch'ü-shu*, *t'a-têng* and [other textiles] of the class of woollen rugs (*chi*) and curtains (*chang*) are all good; moreover their colours are brighter than [the colours] of those manufactured in the kingdoms of the East of the Sea (Hai-tung).»

The parallel passage in the *Hou-Han shu* reads as follows (118, 4 b): 又有細布或言水羊毳野蠶繭所作也. HIRTH's translation (p. 41) is: «They further have 'fine cloth', also called Shui-yang-ts'ui [*i. e.* down of the water-sheep]; it is made from the cocoons of wild silk-worms.» CHAVANNES (TP, 1907, 183) renders it: «They have moreover a light cloth which some