

Febr., 1834, 148; the text, as translated here, is that of the T'ang «stone classics» : «The *pei* which lives on land is the 賸 *piao*; the one which is in water is the 蝸 *han*. Great ones are 蚌 *hang*; small ones are 贖 *chi*. The black (*hsüan*) is [called] 貽貝 *i-pei* (or «The *hsüan-pei* is a black *pei*[*i-pei*]»); the *hsüan-pei* is mentioned in the *Wang hui* chapter of the *I Chou shu*, and by Huan K'uan [cf. *infra*, p. 539]). The 餘貳 *yü-ch'ih* is yellow with white streaks; the 餘泉 *yü-ch'üan* is white with yellow streaks. The 𧈧 *pa* (or *p'a*) is wide [in the middle] and pointed at both ends (𧈧 *k'uei*); the 𧈩 *ch'ün* is large and thin (? 險 *hsien*); the 𧈪 *tsé* is small and cylindrical (𧈪 *t'o*).» This text is not always clear, nor even established with certainty : for instance 贖 *chi* and 𧈪 *tsé* are graphically similar, and similarly defined; Kuo P'o's commentary (beginning of the 4th century A. D.) and Hsing Ping's sub-commentary (beginning of the 11th century) are based on a text which gave one and the same character in both cases. On the other hand it is abnormal, though not unique, to have in the *Êrh-ya* two definitions for the same word; the second mention and definition of *chi* or *tsé* may or may not be an early interpolation. The *i* of *i-pei* ought perhaps to be read *t'ai*, since it is certainly the same word as 𧈫 *t'ai* of identical meaning. There are other doubtful forms, and one may hesitate between 蚌 *hang* and 𧈬 *hang*, 貳 *ch'ih* and 𧈭 *ch'ih*, etc. The *han*, given here as the name of a *pei* living in the water, occurs elsewhere (9, 20 b) as the designation of small spiral shells (贏 *lo*). What is clear, however, is that, for the author of the *Êrh-ya*, the *pei* was not necessarily a sea-shell. Nor was it always a univalve (gastropod). The 尚書大傳 *Shang-shu ta-chuan*, written in Han times speaks of «great *pei*» (*ta-pei*) of the lower Chiang (= Yang-tzŭ-chiang) and Huai, which were as big as the felloe of a cart (車渠 *ch'ê-ch'ü*), and *ch'ê-ch'ü* (written 𧈮 𧈯) has become in later times the regular designation of a large bivalve, the mother-of-pearl shell; Kuo P'o says that these «great *pei*» were of the *hang* class. And «great *pei*» are mentioned, on the same occasion, by *Huai-nan-tzŭ* and the *T'ai-kung liu-t'ao*. In Lu Chi's «Memoir on natural history in the Book of Odes» (middle of the 3rd century; see COTTON, p. 474; *Chin-tai pi-shu*, ed., 2 B, 42 a), we are told that large *pei* reached a diameter of one foot (another reading gives «one foot and six or seven inches»); the *Tz'ŭ-yüan* even speaks of *ch'ê-ch'ü* measuring three feet in diameter. In the same *Tz'ŭ-yüan*, *pei* is given as the common designation of both gastropods and bivalves. These various shells were popular enough to have been made the subject of a special treatise, the 相貝經 *Hsiang pei ching*, or «Doctrinal book on the properties of *pei*». Its text however is poorly established and, as we have it, certainly incomplete. It is to be found in different encyclopaedias or *ts'ung-shu* (*T'ai-p'ing yü-lan*, 807, 14 b; *Shuo fu* in 120 ch., ch. 97; MAO Chin's commentary on Lu Chi's *Memoir*, 2 B, 44-45; *T'u-shu chi-ch'êng*, *ch'in-ch'ung-tien*, 156, 3-4; Kao Ssŭ-sun's *Wei lio*, *Shou-shan-ko ts'ung-shu* ed., 1, 5-6; also in one of the enlarged editions of the *Han-Wei ts'ung-shu*, etc.; cf. *Ts'ung-shu ta tz'ŭ-tien*, 4-189); yet none of the editions I have seen seems to have copied the somewhat different passage quoted in *T'ai-p'ing yü-lan*, 941, 1 a. KLAPROTH (*JA*, Febr., 1834, 149) and KARLGREN (*Some fecundity symbols*, 35) have translated part of its descriptions of *pei*, some of the names of which do not occur elsewhere, and may be imaginary (several of these names are now given as scientific designations of various species of *Cypræa*, for instance 委貝 *wei-pei*, 綬貝 *shou-pei*, 浮貝 *fou-pei* (cf. TARANZANO, *Vocabulaire*, I, 372), but they seem to have been merely culled from the *Hsiang pei ching* by modern scholars). KARLGREN