

us to reach a final solution, but, as will be seen further on, Polo's information finds curious counterparts in other sources. As to *so*, it means «rope», «cord», «string», and would be a fitting designation for a «string» of cowries; but it may also, in principle, be a transcription, with a semantic adaptation in the choice of the transcribing character. It has been understood by Chinese scholars as meaning «string»: so the «*Pai-shih lei-pien*» says that, if twenty *shou* (= 80 cowries) made a *so*, it was «because, when reaching that number, [the cowries] could be strung (*kuan*)», and the *Yung-ch'uang hsiao-p'in*, that «*pei* were made into a *so* as cash is made into a 緡 *min*» (*min* is one of the terms used for a «string» of cash). On the other hand, *so* is **sâk*, and passed through a **sâ* stage c. A. D. 1000-1100, before becoming the modern *so* c. 1100-1200; in such a case *so* could be a purely Chinese name, borrowed as *sâ* by one of the native languages c. A. D. 1000-1100, and from that native language retranscribed in Ming times as *sa* in Chinese. A somewhat similar case occurred with the Lolo word for «cotton», *sa-la*, which I take to represent Chinese *so-lo* (**sâ-lâ*; see COTTON, p. 479). If this be right, the fact that the native word for a «string» of cowries was borrowed from the Chinese of c. A. D. 1000-1100 would support the deduction, suggested by the text of the *Man shu*, that in the second half of the ninth century there was not yet a cowry currency in Yün-nan.

The modern lolo language of Yün-nan is of no direct help, since it has taken over, in a modified form, the Chinese names of weights and measures. So in the Ñi dialect the ounce or tael is *ló* < Ch. *liang*; 0.1 of a tael is *ts'ö* < Ch. *ch'ien*; and 0.01 of a tael is *fä* < Ch. *fên*. On the other hand, starting from the old Chinese system of the «string» of 1000 cash which was equivalent to one tael of silver (in fact, it has varied in modern times between 700 and 800 cash), the Lolo use the same words *ló*, *ts'ö*, and *fä* for a «string» of cash, and 0.1, and 0.01 of a «string», respectively (cf. VIAL, p. [10]). As a consequence, *ts'ö* (< Ch. *ch'ien*) is not only 0.1 tael, i. e. one «mace», but also 100 cash theoretically (in fact 70 to 80). Now the *Hsü Yün-nan t'ung-chih kao* (ch. 166) contains a comparative vocabulary of the native languages, in which the Lolo words are quoted from the 夔雅 *Tsuan ya*, evidently a Lolo-Chinese Vocabulary; I do not know its date, nor do I think that it has ever been published independently; it is probably not earlier than the nineteenth century, but the words are often quite different from those given in VIAL's *Dictionnaire français-lolo*. In this chapter 166, 27-28, we read that, in Lolo, «pound» (斤 *chin*) is 己 *chi* (VIAL : *ce*), «ounce» or «tael» (兩 *liang*) is 來 *lai* (VIAL : *lo*), «0.1 ounce» or «mace» (錢 *ch'ien*) is 撒 *sa* (VIAL : *ts'ö*), «0.01 ounce» or «candareen» (分 *fên*) is 他分 *t'a-fên* (VIAL : *fäi*; *t'a* is in fact «one», VIAL : *t'i*; cf. *ta*, «one», in Burmese). All these words are clearly borrowed from the Chinese, mostly in denasalized forms, with one exception : *sa* cannot represent *ch'ien*. But if we remember that, in modern Lolo, the Chinese copper cash has taken over the name *zè-mà* of the cowry, it will appear quite natural that for 100 cash (in fact 70 or 80), the Lolo should have retained the well known name *sa* of the «string» of 80 cowries. In this one case, and owing to the wide diffusion of the word *sa*, the Lolo was spared, at least for a time, from borrowing yet another Chinese term. Incidentally, it must be more than a fortuitous coincidence when Polo makes 80 cowries, i. e. one *so*, equal to one *saggio* of silver, i. e. one *ch'ien*, and in modern Lolo *sâ* (= *so*) is used with the same sense of *ch'ien*. If I am right in my contention, the word *sa*, used instead of *so* for a «string» of cowries in Ming times, probably represents the