

Chinese map of c. 1330 and in the corresponding chapter of YS, 63, 16 b, not under the name of 泄刺失 Hsieh-la-shih as BRETSCHNEIDER supposed (see under «Cielstan»), but under that of 設刺子 Shê-la-tzū in which he saw the Šūlistān (cf. *Br*, II, 127-128). Shih-la-ssū is mentioned c. 1400 (cf. *Br*, II, 145). For the intercourse between 失刺思 Shih-la-ssū (Širāz) and China in the 15th and the first quarter of the 16th cents., cf. *Ming. shih*, 332, 8 b, *Br*, II, 292-294, and add Y¹, I, 286 (T'u Chi's paragraph on Širāz, 160, 24 a, contains several wrong forms).

202. ÇULCARNEIN

chulitame VA

churzanen V

çulcar ne in F, L

culturi VL, S

zul carmain FA

zul carman FB

zulcarnei LT

zulkarnen TA¹, Rzurleai TA³

zulearlle VB

Ar. ذو القرنين Dū-'l-Qarnain, «Master of the Two Horns», an epithet of Alexander the Great (see «Alexandre¹») popularized through its use in the Koran. It is, however, sometimes applied to other people as well. On the term, cf. Y, I, 160-161; NÖLDEKE, *Beiträge zur Geschichte des Alexanderromans* (in *Denkschr. d. k. Ak. d. W.*, Ph.-Hist. Kl., vol. 38 [1890], No. 5, 32-33). Mediaeval authors knew of Alexander's two horns, and gave symbolical explanations of them. For Roger Bacon, they figured the two kingdoms acquired by Alexander, Greece and Asia; another writer said they meant «power and knowledge» (cf. Ch.-V. LANGLOIS, *La connaissance de la nature*, Paris, 1927, 82).

203. ÇULFICAR

çurficar F

oificar VB

sufficar FB

surficar FA

vlficar LT

yufichar TA³

zuefichar V

zuficar P, P⁵, TA¹

zursichar VA

In spite of «Çurficar» in F, Polo must have used «Çulficar», as he uses «Çulcarnein», and LT's «vlficar» supports the correction. The name is of course Arabic ذو الفقار Dū-'l-faqār, vulg. Zulfiqār, «Master of the Vertebrae», the name of a sword taken by Mahomet from an Arab unbeliever; the sword passed from him to 'Alī. The name is fairly common, but Polo's «compains», since he was called «Zulfiqār», cannot have been a Turk from the eastern part of Chinese Turkistan; it is probable that he was a western Turk (from Russian Turkistan or even farther west), who had entered Qubilai's service and who came back to the Court after his three years' stay in the region of the T'ien-shan. It seems to be a safe conclusion that Polo never