

ginally a Hsi-Hsia name (PALLADIUS, in *Y*, I, 225, was mistaken in believing that the name occurred first under Qubilai); N. A. NEVSKIĪ (*Zap. Inst. Vostokoved.*, 1933, 129-150) has made it probable that it represents Hsi-Hsia \* Ržie-njä, « Black River », the 黑水 Hei-shui of Chinese texts. A road connected Eçina and Qara-qorum, and I agree with PALLADIUS that this is the reason why Polo, having inserted after Kan-chou his digression on Eçina, adds to it his notice on Qara-qorum, a place which he never visited.

The notice in *YS*, 60, 11 *b*, says : « Circuit (*lu*) of I-chi-nai; 3rd rank. Lies 1.500 *li* to the north of Kan-chou. North-east of the city, there is a great marshy lake. North-west, it confines with the Sandy desert (= Gobi). This is the ancient city of 居延 Chü-yen of the commandery (*chün*) of Hsi-hai (« Western Sea ») of the Han. The [Hsi-] Hsia kingdom established there the [seat of the] military district (*chün*) of 威福 Wei-fu. [The place] made its submission in 1226. In 1284, a *tsung-kuan-fu* was established there. » The text goes on with an account, in smaller characters, of the irrigation works undertaken in the region in 1286, including the making of the canal of 合卽 Ha-chi (\* Qazi ? ?).

Eçina still occurs in Mongolian as Isina in the unpublished Sino-Mongol inscription of the Prince Indu (Hindu), dated 1362. It must have been abandoned some time after the overthrow of the Mongols, during the second half of the 14th century, though the name I-chi-nai is found under the year 1490 in 殊域周咨錄 *Shu yü chou tzü lu*, 17, 3 *a*, a rare work by 嚴從簡 Yen Ts'ung-chien, reprinted in 1930.

For finds of Han relics in the region of the Edzin-γol, cf. *TP*, 1932, 264.

## 215. EGIPTE

*egipte* F

*egitto* TA<sup>3</sup>

*egypte* FA, FB

In agreement with the habit of the time, Polo usually speaks of Egypt as « Babilonie » (*q. v.*); he also once mentions Cairo (see « Chaiero »). But in the Prologue, we are told that the two elder Polo, on reaching Acre, found « Teald de Plajence » appointed legate for the Church of Rome « in all the realm of Egipte » (cf. Vol. I, 80). In Vol. I, 23-25, MOULE has explained the chronological difficulties which this information entails; I am concerned here only with the sense which we must attach in the present case to « Egypt ». Whether a legate or not, Theobald of the Visconti of Placentia a certainly wielded great authority in the Holy Land, but he does not seem to have visited Egypt. My opinion is that, by « all the realm of Egypt », we must understand all the territories under the authority of the Mamlūk sultans, that is to say not only Egypt, but also Palestine and a great part of Syria.

The name « Egypt » did not pass into Asiatic languages at an ancient date; its Chinese transcription 埃及 Ai-chi is modern. Shortly before and after our era, the Chinese knew Alexandria (see « Alexandre<sup>2</sup>»), and it is only from the second half of the 12th cent. that Egypt itself is mentioned in Chinese texts; it was then known to the Chinese under the Arabic name of مصر Miśr (cf. Hebrew