

It is most probably Yärkänd which is referred to in the *Secret History* (§ 263), as lying between Kāšyar and Kučā, with the corrupt form 兀里羊 Wu-li-yang, *Uriyang. T'u Chi thought that there was here a wrong reading due to the Chinese text only, and corrected 羊 yang to 羌 ch'iang; he introduced this corrected form, Wu-li-ch'iang = Yärkänd, into his *Mêng-wu-êrh shih-chi* (III, 19 b, 27 b). But the Ms. in Ulān-bātor which preserves part of the original *Secret History* in Mongolian writing gives Üriyäng, so that the misreading -i- instead of -k-, easy in Mongolian script, must have occurred in Mongolian before the transliteration with Chinese characters was made at the end of the 14th cent. The Ms. in Ulān-bātor is very faulty, and no stress can be laid upon its palatalized reading. On the other hand, u- or ü- instead of ya- or yä- cannot be accounted for, so that the whole name, as well as its identification, remain open to some doubt.

Yärkänd is not mentioned on the Chinese map of c. 1330, nor in the corresponding section of *YS*, 63; but the name occurs in other chapters of *YS*. On March 8, 1274, « thirteen water postal relays (水驛 shui-i) were established at the two cities Khotan and 牙兒看 Ya-êrh-k'an (Yärkän [d]), and two land postal relays (陸驛 lu-i) [were established] to the north of Sha-chou (see 'Saciou') » (*YS*, 8, 3 b). On June 1 of the same year, « an Imperial edict was issued to calm and comfort (*anwei*) the cities of Khotan, Ya-êrh-k'an (Yärkän[d]) and Kāšyar » (*YS*, 8, 4 a; in *Br.* II, 48-49, [this is wrongly connected with a grant made on the same day to the families of soldiers fallen at the siege of Hsiang-yang]). These measures may have been taken in connection with the revolt of the Prince Hoqu, which must have taken place in the region of Khotan at about that time (see « Badascian»). Another form is 押兒牽 Ya-êrh-ch'ien (*YS*, 120, 7 a; *Br.* I, 234). According to BRETSCHNEIDER (*Br.* II, 47), Yärkänd is « repeatedly noticed » in *YS*, and generally the transcription is Yeh-li-ch'ien. But I find the latter form only once, in the 也里虔 Yeh-li-ch'ien of *YS*, 180, 2 (*Br.* I, 162), where the identification with Yärkänd is only probable.

Although Yärkänd had real importance in Ming times and even, for a period the length of which is not fully established (see « Cascar »), was the capital of the western part of Chinese Turkestan, there is no notice on the place in the *Ming shih*. A bare mention of the name, transcribed 牙力干 Ya-li-kan, occurs, however, in the Ming itinerary incorporated in the *Pien-chêng k'ao* of 1547 (Peiping National Library ed., 8, 7 b; cf. *China Review*, v, 235, where BRETSCHNEIDER translates the same text from later sources).

From the middle of the 17th cent. to the middle of the 18th, the forms used in Chinese transcription were 葉爾奇木 Yeh-êrh-ch'i-mu (*Yärkim) and 葉爾欽 Yeh-êrh-ch'in (*Yärkin); cf. *Hsi-yü t'u-chih*, 18, 1 a; *Br.* II, 310. Ch'i Shao-nan (1707-1768) adopted an abnormal 也勒七目 Yeh-lo-ch'i-mu in his *Shui-tao t'i-kang* (cf. *Hsi-yü shui-tao chi*, I, 16 b). All are Mongol forms, in which the palatalized second syllable has reacted on the first, in agreement with the rules of Mongol euphony; on the other hand, alternations of final -n and -m are of frequent occurrence in Mongolian. « Yärkin », which must have originated at the time of the Kalmuk domination in Chinese Turkestan, accounts for RENAT's « Êrken » and UNKOVSKIĬ's « Erkan » (in this last form, Russian e- is of course pronounced ye-).

At the time of the Chinese re-conquest of Chinese Turkestan in the middle of the 18th cent., a new form was adopted, 葉爾羌 Yeh-êrh-ch'iang, transcribed in Mandchu, Mongol, and Kalmuk writings as Yärkyäng or Yerkyeng, in Tibetan as Yer-khyañ, in Turkī as يركند Yärkäng; a gloss