

Kamchatka, and the Amur region, and flowers upon the melting of the snow in early spring.¹ According to the *Pen ts'ao kan mu*,² the plant is first mentioned by Č'en Ts'an-k'i of the T'ang period as growing in the country Hi 奚, and came from Nan-tuñ 安東 (in Korea). Li Ši-čen annotates that by Hi the north-eastern barbarians should be understood. Wañ Hao-ku 王好古, a physician of the thirteenth century, remarks that the name of the plant was originally *hüan* 玄 *hu-su*, but that on account of a taboo (to avoid the name of the Emperor Čen-tsuñ of the Sung) it was altered into *yen-hu-su*; but this explanation cannot be correct, as the latter designation is already ascribed to Č'en Ts'an-k'i of the T'ang. It is not known whether *hu* in this case would allude to the provenience of the plant from Korea. In the following example, however, the allusion to Korea is clear.

The mint, 薄荷 *po-ho*, *bak-xa (*Mentha arvensis* or *aquatica*), occurs in China both spontaneously and in the cultivated state. The plant is regarded as indigenous by the Chinese, but also a foreign variety is known as *hu pa-ho* (*bwat-xa) 胡菝藳.³ Č'en Ši-liañ 陳士良, in his *Ši sin pen ts'ao* 食性本草, published in the tenth century, introduced the term *wu* 吳 *pa-ho*, "mint of Wu" (that is, Su-čou, where the best mint was cultivated), in distinction from *hu pa-ho*, "mint of the Hu." Su Suñ, in his *T'u kin pen ts'ao*, written at the end of the eleventh century, affirms that this foreign mint is similar to the native species, the only difference being that it is somewhat sweeter in taste; it grows on the border of Kiañ-su and Če-kiañ, where the people make it into tea; commonly it is styled *Sin-lo* 新羅 *po-ho*, "mint of Sinra" (in Korea). Thus this variety may have been introduced under the Sung from Korea, and it is to this country that the term *hu* may refer.

Li Ši-čen relates that Sun Se-miao 孫思邈, in his *Ts'ien kin fan* 千金方,⁴ writes the word 蕃荷 *fan-ho*, but that this is erroneously due to a dialectic pronunciation. This means, in other words, that the first character *fan* is merely a variant of 菝,⁵ and, like the latter, had the phonetic equivalent *bwat, bat.⁶

¹ HANBURY, Science Papers, p. 256.

² Ch. 13, p. 13.

³ The word *po-ho* is Chinese, not foreign. The Persian word for "peppermint" is *pūdene*, *pudina*, *budenk* (Kurd *punk*); in Hindi it is *pūdīnā* or *pūdīnēkā*, derived from the Persian. In Tibetan (Ladākh) it is *p'o-lo-liñ*; in the Tibetan written language, *byi-rug-pa*, hence Mongol *jirukba*; in Manchu it is *farsa*.

⁴ See below, p. 306.

⁵ As Sun Se-miao lived in the seventh century, when the Korean mint was not yet introduced, his term *fan-ho* could, of course, not be construed to mean "foreign mint."

⁶ In *T'oung Pao* (1915, p. 18) PELLLOT has endeavored to show that the char-