

very well aware of the fact that the speech of the people of Fergana was Iranian, for he stated in his report, that, although there were different dialects in the tract of land stretching from Fergana westward as far as Parthia (An-si), yet their resemblance was so great that the people could make themselves intelligible to each other.¹ This is a plain allusion to the differentiation and at the same time the unity of Iranian speech;² and if the Ferganians were able to understand the Parthians, I do not see in what other language than Iranian they could have conversed. Certainly they did not speak Greek or Turkish, as some prejudiced theorists are inclined to imagine.

The word brought back by Čan K'ien for the designation of alfalfa, and still used everywhere in China for this plant, was *mu-su* 苜蓿, consisting of two plain phonetic elements,³ anciently *muk-suk (Japanese *moku-šuku*), subsequently written 苜蓿 with the addition of the classifier No. 140. I recently had occasion to indicate an ancient Tibetan transcription of the Chinese word in the form *bug-sug*,⁴ and this appears to come very near to the Iranian prototype to be restored, which was *buksuk or *buxsux, perhaps *buxsuk. The only sensible explanation ever given of this word, which unfortunately escaped the sinologues, was advanced by W. TOMASCHEK,⁵ who tentatively compared it with Gilakī (a Caspian dialect) *būso* ("alfalfa"). This would be satisfactory if it could be demonstrated that this *būso* is evolved from *bux-sox or the like. Further progress in our knowledge of Iranian dialectology

Annam and the Annamese (cf. Čam Yuan or Yuōn, Bahnar, Juōn, Khmer Yuon, Stien Juōn). This native name, however, was adapted to or assimilated with Sanskrit Yavana; for in the Sanskrit inscriptions of Campā, particularly in one of the reign of Jaya-Rudravarman dated A.D. 1092, Annam is styled Yavana (A. BERGAIGNE, *L'Ancien royaume de Campā*, p. 61 of the reprint from *Journal asiatique*, 1888). In the Old-Javanese poem *Nāgarakṛtāgama*, completed in A.D. 1365, Yavana occurs twice as a name for Annam (H. KERN, *Bijdragen tot de taal-land- en volkenkunde*, Vol. LXXII, 1916, p. 399). Kern says that the question as to how the name of the Greeks was applied to Annam has not been raised or answered by any one; he overlooked the contribution of Bergaigne, who discussed the problem.

¹ Strabo (XV. II, 8) observes, "The name of Ariana is extended so as to include some part of Persia, Media, and the north of Bactria and Sogdiana; for these peoples speak nearly the same language."

² Emphasized by R. GAUTHIOT in his posthumous work *Trois Mémoires sur l'unité linguistique des parlers iraniens* (reprinted from the *Mémoires de la Société de Linguistique de Paris*, Vol. XX, 1916).

³ The two characters are thus indeed written without the classifiers in the Han Annals. The writings 牧蓿 *muk-suk of Kwo P'o and 木栗 *muk-swok of LO Yüan, author of the *Er ya i* (simply inspired by attempts at reading certain meanings into the characters), have the same phonetic value. In Annamese it is *muk-tuk*.

⁴ *T'oung Pao*, 1916, p. 500, No. 206.

⁵ *Pamir-Dialekte (Sitzber. Wiener Akad., 1880, p. 792).*