

According to the *Šu i ki* 述異記, written by Žen Fañ 任昉 in the beginning of the sixth century, "the *mu-su* (alfalfa) gardens of Čaň K'ien are situated in what is now Lo-yaň; *mu-su* was originally a vegetable in the land of the Hu, and K'ien was the first to obtain it in the Western Countries." A work, *Kiu č'i ki* 仇池記,¹ says that east of the capital there were *mu-su* gardens, in which there were three pestles driven by water-power.

The *Si kin tsa ki* 西京雜記² states, "In the Lo-yu gardens 樂遊苑 (in the capital Č'aň-ňan) there are rose-bushes 玫瑰樹 (*Rosa rugosa*), which grow spontaneously. At the foot of these, there is abundance of *mu-su*, called also *hwai fuň* 懷風 ('embracing the wind'), sometimes *kwaň fuň* 光風 ('brilliant wind').³ The people of Mou-liň 茂陵⁴ style the plant *lien-č'i ts'ao* 連枝草 ('herb with connected branches')."⁵

The *Lo yaň k'ie lan ki* 洛陽伽藍記, a record of the Buddhist monasteries in the capital Lo-yaň, written by Yaň Hūan-č'i 楊街之 in A.D. 547 or shortly afterwards, says that "Hūan-wu 宣武 is situated north-east of the Ta-hia Gate 大夏門; now it is called Kwaň-fuň Garden 光風園, producing *mu-su*." *Kwaň-fuň*, as shown by the *Si kin tsa ki*, is a synonyme of *mu-su*.

K'ou Tsuň-ši, in his *Pen ts'ao yen i*,⁶ written in A.D. 1116, notes that alfalfa is abundant in Šen-si, being used for feeding cattle and horses, and is also consumed by the population, but it should not be eaten in large quantity. Under the Mongols, the cultivation of alfalfa was much encouraged, especially in order to avert the danger of famines;⁷ and gardens were maintained to raise alfalfa for the feeding of horses.⁸ According to Li Ši-čen (latter part of the sixteenth century),⁹ it was in his time a common, wild plant in the fields everywhere, but was cultivated in Šen-si and Kan-su. He apparently means, however, *Medicago denticulata*, which is a wild species and a native of China. FORBES

¹ *T'ai p'in yü lan*, Ch. 824, p. 9.

² That is, Miscellaneous Records of the Western Capital (Č'aň-ňan in Šen-si), written by Wu Kün 吳均 of the sixth century A.D.

³ The explanation given for these names is thus: the wind constantly whistles in these gardens, and the sunlight lends brilliancy to the flowers.

⁴ Ancient name for the present district of Hiň-p'ih 興平 in the prefecture of Si-ňan, Šen-si.

⁵ *T'ai p'in yü lan*, Ch. 996, p. 4 b.

⁶ Ch. 19, p. 3 (ed. of Lu Sin-yüan).

⁷ *Yüan ši*, Ch. 93, p. 5 b.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Ch. 91, p. 6 b.

⁹ *Pen ts'ao kaň mu*, Ch. 28, p. 3 b.