

In Hañ-čou yellow and bright white grapes were styled *č'u-tse* 珠子 ("beads, pearls"); another kind, styled "rock-crystal" (*šwi-tsin*), excelled in sweetness; those of purple and agate color ripened at a little later date.<sup>1</sup>

To Turkistan a special variety is attributed under the name *so-so* 瑣瑣 grape, as large as *wu-wei-tse* 五味子 ("five flavors," *Schizandra chinensis*) and without kernels 無核. A lengthy dissertation on this fruit is inserted in the *Pen ts'ao kan mu ši i*.<sup>2</sup> The essential points are the following. It is produced in Turfan and traded to Peking; in appearance it is like a pepper-corn, and represents a distinct variety of grape. Its color is purple. According to the *Wu tsa tsu* 五雜俎, written in 1610, when eaten by infants, it is capable of neutralizing the poison of small-pox. The name *so-so* is not the reproduction of a foreign word, but simply means "small." This is expressly stated in the *Pen kin fun yian* 本經逢原, which says that the *so-so* grapes resemble ordinary grapes, but are smaller and finer, and hence are so called (而瑣細故名). The *Pi č'en* 筆塵 of Yü-wen Tiñ 于文定 annotates, however, that *so-so* is an error for *sa-so* 駁娑, without giving reasons for this opinion. *Sa-so* was the name of a palace of the Han emperors, and this substitution is surely fantastic. Whether *so-so* really is a vine-grape seems doubtful. It is said that *so-so* are planted everywhere in China to be dried and marketed, being called in Kiañ-nan *fan p'u-t'ao* ("foreign grape").<sup>3</sup>

The Emperor K'an-hi (1662-1722), who knew very well that grapes had come to China from the west, tells that he caused three new varieties to be introduced into his country from Hami and adjoining territories,—one red or greenish, and long like mare-nipples; one not very large, but of agreeable taste and aroma; and another not larger than a pea, the most delicate, aromatic, and sweetest kind. These three varieties of grape degenerate in the southern provinces, where they lose their aroma. They persist fairly well in the north, provided they are planted in a dry and stony soil. "I would procure for my subjects," the Emperor concludes, "a novel kind of fruit or grain, rather than build a hundred porcelain kilns."<sup>4</sup>

Turkistan is well known to the Chinese as producing many varieties

<sup>1</sup> *Moñ liañ lu* 夢梁錄, by Wu Tse-mu 吳自牧 of the Sung (Ch. 18, p. 5 b; ed. of *Či pu tsu čai ts'un šu*).

<sup>2</sup> Ch. 7, p. 69. This valuable supplement to the *Pen ts'ao kan mu* was first published in 1650 (reprinted 1765 and appended to several modern editions of the *Pen ts'ao*) by Čao Hio-min 趙學敏 (*hao šu-hien* 恕軒) of Hañ-čou.

<sup>3</sup> *Muñ ts'üan tsa yen* 蒙泉雜言, cited in *T'u šu tsi č'en*, XX, Ch. 130.

<sup>4</sup> *Mémoires concernant les Chinois*, Vol. IV, 1779, pp. 471-472.