

Iranian colonies outside of Iran proper, those of Sogdiana and Turkistan, played a prominent part. We know the Sogdian word for the pomegranate, which is written *n'r'kh*, and the reading of which has been reconstructed by R. GAUTHIOT¹ in the form **nārāk(a)*, developed from **anār-āka*. This we meet again in Persian *anār*, which was adopted in the same form by the Mongols, while the Uigur had it as *nara*. At all events, however, it becomes necessary to restore, on the basis of the Chinese transcription, an ancient **riu*, **ru*, of some Iranian dialect. This lost Iranian word, in my opinion, presents also the foundation of Greek *ῥόα* or *ῥοιά*,—the origin of which has been hitherto unexplained or incorrectly explained,²—and the Semitic names, Hebrew *rimmōn*, Arabic *rummān*, Amharic *rūmān*, Syriac *rūmōnō*, Aramaic *rummāna*, from which Egyptian *arhmāni* or *anhmāni* (Coptic *erman* or *herman*) is derived.³

(4) 若榴 *žo-liu*, **zak* (yak, n'iak)-*liu* (*riu*). This hybrid compound, formed of elements contained in 2 and 3, is found in the dictionary *Kwan ya* 廣雅, written by Čaň Yi 張損 about A.D. 265.⁴ It is also employed by the poet P'an Yo of the fourth century, mentioned above.⁵ Eventually also this transcription might ultimately be traced to an Iranian prototype. Japanese *zakuro* is based on this Chinese form.⁶

While the direct historical evidence is lacking, the Chinese names of the tree point clearly to Iranian languages. Moreover, the tree itself is looked upon by the Chinese as a foreign product, and its first introduction into China appears to have taken place in the latter part of the third century A.D.

In my opinion, the pomegranate-tree was transplanted to India,

¹ Essai sur le vocalisme du sogdien, p. 49. Cf. also Armenian *nrneni* for the tree and *nurn* for the fruit.

² The etymologies of the Greek word enumerated by SCHRADER (in Hehn, Kulturpflanzen, p. 247) are so inane and far-fetched that they do not merit discussion. It is not necessary, of course, to hold that an immediate transmission of the Persian word took place, but we must look to a gradual propagation and to missing links by way of Asia Minor. According to W. MUSS-ARNOLT (*Transactions Am. Phil. Assoc.*, Vol. XXIII, 1892, p. 110), the Cyprian form *ῥυδία* forbids all connection with the Hebrew. It is not proved, however, that this dialectic word has any connection with *ῥόα*; it may very well be an independent local development.

³ V. LORET, Flore pharaonique, p. 76. Portuguese *roma*, *romeira*, from the Arabic; Anglo-Saxon *rēad-æppel*.

⁴ This is the date given by WATTERS (Essays on the Chinese Language, p. 38). BRETSCHNEIDER (Bot. Sin., pt. I, p. 164) fixes the date at about 227-240.

⁵ *T'aň lei han*, Ch. 183, p. 9.

⁶ Written also 若榴. E. KAEMPFER (*Amoenitates exoticæ*, p. 800) already mentions this term as *dsjakurjo*, vulgo *sakuro*, with the remark, "Rara est hoc coelo et fructu ingrato."