

bling those of an Indigofera (*lan*); and in the same work¹ this plant is referred to Qarā-Khoja 火州 under the name *yañ ts'e*. Also the Ming Annals² contain the same reference. The plant in question has been identified by D. HANBURY with the camel-thorn (*Alhagi camelorum*), a small spiny plant of the family *Leguminosae*, growing in Iran and Turkistan.³

In the fourteenth century, ODORIC of Pordenone found near the city Huz in Persia manna of better quality and in greater abundance than in any part of the world.⁴ The Persian-Arabic manna was made known in Europe during the sixteenth century by the traveller and naturalist PIERRE BELON DU MONS (1518-64),⁵ who has this account: "Les Caloieres auoyêt de la Mâne liquide recueillie en leurs montagnes, qu'ils appellent *Tereniabin*, a la differēce de la dure: Car ce que les auteurs Arabes ont appellé *Tereniabin*, est gardée en pots de terre comme miel, et la portent vendre au Caire: qui est ce qu' Hippocrates nomma miel de Cedre, et les autres Grecs ont nommé Rosée du mont Liban: qui est differente à la Manne blanche seiche. Celle que nous auons en France, apportée de Brianson, recueillie dessus les Meleses à la sommité des plus hautes montagnes, est dure, differente à la susdicte. Parquoy estant la Manne de deux sortes, lon en trouve au Caire de l'vne et de l'autre es boutiques des marchands, exposée en vente. L'vne est appellée Manne, et est dure: l'autre *Tereniabin*, et est liquide: et pource qu'en auons fait plus long discours au liure des arbres tousiours verds, n'en dirons autre chose en ce lieu." The Briançon manna mentioned by Belon is collected from the larch-trees (*Pinus larix*) of southern France.⁶ GARCIA DA ORTA⁷ described several kinds of manna, one brought to Ormuz from the country of the Uzbek under the name *xirquest* or *xircast*, "which means the milk of a tree called *quest*, for *xir* [read *šir*] is milk in the Persian language, so that it is the dew that falls

¹ Ch. 24, p. 6, of the original edition; and Ch. 24, p. 30 b, of the edition of 1744.

² Ch. 329 (cf. BRETSCHNEIDER, *Mediæval Researches*, Vol. II, p. 192).

³ The plant is said to occur also in India (Sanskrit *viçāladā* and *gāndhārī*; that is, from *Gāndhāra*), Arabia, and Egypt, but, curiously, in those countries does not produce a sugar-like secretion. Consequently it cannot be claimed as the plant which furnished the manna to the Israelites in the desert (see the *Dictionnaire de la Bible* by F. VIGOUROUX, Vol. I, col. 367). The manna of northern India became known to the Chinese in recent times (see *Lu č'añ kuñ š'i k'i* 盧長公史隙, p. 44, in *Ts'in čao t'añ ts'un šu*).

⁴ YULE, *Cathay*, new ed., Vol. II, p. 109; CORDIER's edition of Odoric, p. 59.

⁵ *Les Observations de plusieurs singularitez*, pp. 228-229 (Anvers, 1555).

⁶ FLÜCKIGER and HANBURY, *Pharmacographia*, p. 416.

⁷ C. MARKHAM, *Colloquies*, p. 280.