

is not part of the transcription, any more than the word 錦 *kin*, which precedes it in the Sui Annals; but the combination of both *po* and *kin* with *tie* indicates and confirms very well that the latter was a brocaded silk. HIRTH¹ joins *po* with *tie* into a compound in order to save the term for his pets the Turks. "The name *po-tie* is certainly borrowed from one of the Turki languages. The nearest equivalent seems to be the Jagatai Turki word for cotton, *pakhta*." There are two fundamental errors involved here. First, the Cantonese dialect, on which Hirth habitually falls back in attempting to restore the ancient phonetic condition of Chinese, does not in fact represent the ancient Chinese language, but is merely a modern dialect in a far-advanced stage of phonetic decadence. The sounds of ancient Chinese can be restored solely on the indications of the Chinese phonetic dictionaries and on the data of comparative Indo-Chinese philology. Even in Cantonese, *po-tie* is pronounced *pak-tip*, and it is a prerequisite that the foreign prototype of this word terminates in a final labial. The ancient phonetics of 帛疊 is not *pak-ta*, but **bak-dzip* or **dip*, and this bears no relation to *pakhta*. Further, it is impossible to correlate a foreign word that appears in China in the Han period with that of a comparatively recent Turkish dialect, especially as the Chinese data relative to the term do not lead anywhere to the Turks; and, for the rest, the word *pakhta* is not Turkish, but Persian, in origin.² Whether the term *tie* has anything to do with cotton, as already stated by CHAVANNES,³ is uncertain; but, in view of the description of the plant as given in the *Nan ši*⁴ or *Lian šu*,⁵ it may be granted that the term *po-tie* was subsequently transferred to cotton.

The ancient pronunciation of *po-tie* being **bak-dib*, it would not be impossible that the element *bak* represents a reminiscence of Middle Persian *pambak* ("cotton"), New Persian *panpa* (Ossetic *bambag*, Armenian *bambak*). This assumption being granted, the Chinese term *po-tie* (= Middle Persian **bak-dib* = *pambak dīp*) would mean "cotton brocade" or "cotton stuff." Again, *po-tie* was a product of Iranian regions: *kin siu po tie* 金繡白疊 is named as a product of K'añ (Sogdiana) in the Sasanian era;⁶ and, as has been shown, *po-tie* from Parthia

¹ Chao Ju-kua, p. 218.

² STEINGASS, Persian-English Dictionary, p. 237.

³ Documents sur les Tou-kiue occidentaux, p. 352.

⁴ Ch. 79, p. 6 b.

⁵ Ch. 54, p. 13 b. Cf. CHAVANNES, *ibid.*, p. 102; see also F. W. K. MÜLLER, *Uigurica*, II, pp. 70, 105.

⁶ *Sui šu*, Ch. 83, p. 4. Hence **bak-dib* may also have been a Sogdian word.