

be a product of K'añ (Sogdiana) and Kuča.¹ The fact that this transcription is identical with 𐰽𐰺 we recognize from the parallel passage in the *Pei šī*,² where it is thus written. The text of the Sui Annals with reference to Iranian regions offers several such unusual modes of writing, where the *Pei šī* has the simple types subsequently adopted as the standard. The variation of the Sui Annals, at all events, demonstrates that the question is of reproducing a foreign word; and, since it hails from Sogdiana, there can be no doubt that it was a word of the Sogdian language of the type *navša or *nafša (cf. Sanskrit *navasāra*, Armenian *navi*, Greek *νάφθα*); Persian *našādir*, *nušādir*, *naušādir*, *naušādur*, *nōšādur*, being a later development. It resulted also in Russian *nušatyr*. In my opinion, the Sogdian word is related to Persian *neft* ("naphta"), which may belong to Avestan *napta* ("moist").³

Tribute-gifts of *nao-ša* are not infrequently mentioned in the Chinese Annals. In A.D. 932, Wañ Žen-mei 王仁美, Khan of the Uigur, presented to the Court among other objects *ta-p'en ša* ("borax")⁴ and sal ammoniac (*kañ ša*).⁵ In A.D. 938 Li Šeñ-wen 李聖文, king of Khotan, offered *nao-ša* and *ta-p'en ša* ("borax") to the Court; and in A.D. 959 jade and *nao-ša* were sent by the Uigur.⁶ The latter event is recorded also in the *Kiu Wu Tai šī*,⁷ where the word is written 𐰽𐰺, phonetically *kañ-ša*, but apparently intended only as a graphic variant for *nao-ša*.⁸ The same work ascribes sal ammoniac (written in the same manner) to the T'u-fan (Tibetans) and the Tañ-hiañ (a Tibetan tribe in the Kukunōr region).⁹ In the T'ang period the substance was well

¹ According to Masūdi (BARBIER DE MEYNARD, *Les Prairies d'or*, Vol. I, p. 347), sal-ammoniac mines were situated in Soghd, and were passed by the Mohammedan merchants travelling from Khorasan into China. Kuča still yields sal ammoniac (A. N. KUROPATKIN, *Kashgaria*, pp. 27, 35, 76). This fact is also noted in the *Hui k'ian čī* (Ch. 2), written about 1772 by two Manchu officials, Fusambō and Surde, who locate the mine 45 *li* west of Kuča in the Šartatsi Mountains, and mention a red and white variety of sal ammoniac. Cf. also M. REINAUD, *Relation des voyages faits par les Arabes et les Persans dans l'Inde et à la Chine*, Vol. I, p. CLXIII.

² Ch. 97, p. 12.

³ Cf. P. HORN, *Neupersische Etymologie*, No. 1035; H. HÜBSCHMANN, *Persische Studien*, p. 101, and *Armen. Gram.*, p. 100.

⁴ As I have shown on a former occasion (*T'oung Pao*, 1914, p. 88), Chinese *p'en* (**buñ*) is a transcription of Tibetan *bul*.

⁵ *Ts'e fu yüan kwei*, Ch. 972, p. 19.

⁶ *Wu Tai hui yao*, Chs. 28, p. 10 b; and Ch. 29, p. 13 b (ed. of *Wu yin tien*).

⁷ Ch. 138, p. 3.

⁸ The character *kañ* is not listed in K'añ-hi's Dictionary.

⁹ Ch. 138, pp. 1 b, 3 a.