

Marco Polo's account.¹ YULE comments as follows: "The mines of Lájwurd (whence l'Azur and Lazuli) have been, like the ruby mines, celebrated for ages. They lie in the upper valley of the Kokcha, called Korán, within the tract called Yamgán, of which the popular etymology is Hamah-Kán, or 'All-Mines,' and were visited by Wood in 1838.² The produce now is said to be of very inferior quality, and in quantity from thirty to sixty pud (thirty-six lbs. each) annually. The best quality sells at Bokhara at thirty to sixty tillas, or 12 l. to 24 l. the pud (Manphúl)."³ In the Dictionary of Four Languages,⁴ lapis lazuli is styled *ts'in kin ši* 青金石; in Tibetan *mu-men*, Mongol and Manchu *nomin*.

The diamond is likewise attributed by the Chinese to Sasanian Persia, and I have formerly shown that several Iranian tribes were acquainted with this precious stone in the beginning of our era.⁵ Diamond-points were imported from Persia into China under the T'ang dynasty.⁶

89. The first mention of amber in Chinese records is the reference to amber in Ki-pin (Kashmir).⁷ Then we receive notice of the occurrence of amber in Ta Ts'in (the Hellenistic Orient)⁸ and in Sasanian Persia.⁹ The correctness of the latter account is confirmed by the Būndahišn, in which the Pahlavi term for amber, *kahrupāi*, is transmitted.¹⁰ This word corresponds to New Persian *kāhrubā*, a compound formed with *kāh* ("straw") and *rubā* ("to lift, to attract").¹¹ The Arabs derived their *kahrubā* (first in Ibn el-Abbās) from the Persians; and between the

¹ YULE's edition, Vol. I, p. 157.

² This refers to WOOD, *Journey to the Oxus*, p. 263.

³ See, further, M. BAUER, *Precious Stones*, p. 442.

⁴ Ch. 22, p. 65.

⁵ *The Diamond*, p. 53.

⁶ *Ta T'an leu tien*, Ch. 22, p. 8.

⁷ *Ts'ien Han šu*, Ch. 96 A, p. 5.

⁸ In the *Wei lio* and *Hou Han šu* (cf. CHAVANNES, *T'oung Pao*, 1907, p. 182).

⁹ *Nan ši*, Ch. 79, p. 8; *Wei šu*, Ch. 102, p. 5 a; *Sui šu*, Ch. 83, p. 7 b. The *Sui šu* has altered the name *hu-p'o* into *šou-p'o* 獸魄, in order to observe the tabu of the name Hu in Li Hu 李虎, the father of the founder of the T'ang dynasty. Amber (also coral and silver) is attributed to Mount Ni 尼山 in the country Fu-lu-ni 伏盧尼 to the north of Persia, also to the country Hu-se-mi 呼似密 (*Wei šu*, Ch. 102, p. 6 b).

¹⁰ WEST, *Pahlavi Texts*, Vol. I, p. 273.

¹¹ Analogies occur in all languages: Chinese *ši-kiai* 拾芥 ("attracting mustard-seeds"); Sanskrit *triṇagrāhin* ("attracting straw"); Tibetan *sbur len* or *sbur loñ*, of the same meaning: French (obsolete) *tire-paille*. Another Persian word for amber is *šahbarī*.