exhausted long ago. Thus Pliny and the ancient Chinese agree on the fact that amber was a product of India, while no amber-mines are known there at present.[1] Amber was formerly found in the district of Yuń-č'ań in Yün-nan, and even on the sacred Hwa-šan in Šen-si.[2]

G. JACOB[3] has called attention to the fact that the supposition of a derivation of the Chinese word from Pahlavi *kahrupāī* is confronted with unsurmountable difficulties of a chronological character. The phonetic difficulties are still more aggravating; for Chinese *hu-p'o* 琥珀 was anciently *gu-bak, and any alleged resemblance between the two words vanishes. Still less can Greek *harpax*[4] come into question as the foundation of the Chinese word, which, in my opinion, comes from an ancient Šan or T'ai language of Yün-nan, whence the Chinese received a kind of amber as early at least as the first century A.D. Of the same origin, I am inclined to think, is the word *tun-mou* 頓牟 for amber, first and exclusively used by the philosopher Wań Č'uń.[5]

Uigur *kubik* is not the original of the Chinese word, as assumed by Klaproth; but the Uigur, on the contrary (like Korean *xobag*), is a transcription of the Chinese word. Mongol *xuba* and Manchu *xôba* are likewise so, except that these forms were borrowed at a later period, when the final consonant of Chinese *bak* or *bek* was silent.[6]

90. Coral is a substance of animal origin; but, as it has always been conceived in the Orient as a precious stone,[7] a brief notice of it, as far as Sino-Persian relations are concerned, may be added here. The

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[1] Cf. *Ts'ien Han šu*, Ch. 96 A, p. 5 (amber of Kashmir); *Nan ši*, Ch. 78, p. 7.

[2] Cf. *Hwa yo či* 華嶽志, Ch. 3, p. 1 (ed. of 1831).

[3] *L. c.*, p. 355.

[4] Proposed by HIRTH, China and the Roman Orient, p. 245. This was merely a local Syriac name, derived from Greek ἁρπάζω (In Syria quoque feminas verticillos inde facere et vocare harpaga, quia folia paleasque et vestium fimbrias rapiat.—Pliny, XXXVII, 11, § 37).

[5] Cf. A. FORKE, Lun-heng, pt. II, p. 350. This is not the place for a discussion of this problem, which I have taken up in a study entitled "Ancient Remains from the Languages of the Nan Man."

[6] For further information on amber, the reader may be referred to my Historical Jottings on Amber in Asia (*Memoirs Am. Anthr. Assoc.*, Vol. I, pt. 3). I hope to come back to this subject in greater detail in the course of my Sino-Hellenistic studies, where it will be shown that the Chinese tradition regarding the origin and properties of amber is largely influenced by the theories of the ancients.

[7] The proof of the animal character of coral is a recent achievement of our science. Peyssonel was the first to demonstrate in 1727 that the alleged coral-flowers are real animals; Pallas then described the coral as *Isis nobilis;* and Lamarck formed a special genus under the name *Corallium rubrum* (cf. LACAZE-DUTHIERS, Histoire naturelle du corail, Paris, 1864; GUIBOURT, Histoire naturelle des drogues, Vol. IV, p. 378). The common notion in Asia was that coral is a marine tree.