

## TITLES OF THE SASANIAN GOVERNMENT

92. 薩寶 *sa-pao*, \**saδ(sar)-pav*. Title of the official in charge of the affairs of the Persian religion in Si-nan, an office dating back to the time when temples of the celestial god of fire were erected there, about A.D. 621. In an excellent article PELLIOT has assembled all texts relative to this function.<sup>1</sup> I do not believe, however, that we are justified in accepting Devéria's theory that the Chinese transcription should render Syriac *sābā* ("old man"). This plainly conflicts with the laws of transcription so rigorously expounded and upheld by Pelliot himself: it is necessary to account for the final dental or liquid in the character *sa*, which regularly appears in the T'ang transcriptions. It would be strange also if the Persians should have applied a Syriac word to a sacred institution of their own. It is evident that the Chinese transcription corresponds to a Middle-Persian form traceable to Old Persian *xšaθra-pāvan* (*xšçpava*, *xšaçaṣpāvā*), which resulted in Assyrian *axšadarapān* or *axšadrapān*, Hebrew *axašdarfnim*,<sup>2</sup> Greek *σατραπης* (Armenian *šahapand*, Sanskrit *kṣatrapa*). The Middle-Persian form from which the Chinese transcription was very exactly made must have been \**šaθ-pāv* or \**xšaθ-pāv*. The character *sa* renders also Middle and New Persian *sar* ("head, chief").<sup>3</sup>

93. 庫薩和 *K'u-sa-ho*, \**Ku-saδ(r)-γwa*, was the title 字 of the kings of Pārsa (Persia).<sup>4</sup> This transcription appears to be based on an Iranian *xšaθva* or *xšarva*, corresponding to Old Iranian \**xšáyavan-*, \**xšaivan*, Sogdian *xšēvan* ("king").<sup>5</sup> It is notable that the initial spirant *x* is plainly and aptly expressed in Chinese by the element *k'u*,<sup>6</sup> while in the preceding transcription it is suppressed. The differentiation in time may possibly account for this phenomenon: the transcription *sa-pao* comes down from about A.D. 621; while *K'u-sa-ho*, being con-

<sup>1</sup> Le Sa-pao, *Bull. de l'Ecole française*, Vol. III, pp. 665-671.

<sup>2</sup> H. POGNON, *Journal asiatique*, 1917, I, p. 395.

<sup>3</sup> R. GAUTHIOT, *Journal asiatique*, 1911, II, p. 60.

<sup>4</sup> *Sui šu*, Ch. 83, p. 7 b.

<sup>5</sup> R. GAUTHIOT, *Essai sur le vocalisme du sogdien*, p. 97. See also the note of ANDREAS in A. Christensen, *L'Empire des Sassanides*, p. 113. I am unable to see how the Chinese transcription could correspond to the name Khosrou, as proposed by several scholars (CHAVANNES, *Documents sur les Tou-kiue occidentaux*, p. 171; and HIRTH, *Journal Am. Or. Soc.*, Vol. XXXIII, 1913, p. 197).

<sup>6</sup> In the Manichæan transcriptions it is expressed by 呼 \**xu* (*hu*); see CHAVANNES and PELLIOT, *Traité manichéen*, p. 25.