

KARABACEK and HOERNLE.¹ Let us assume for a moment that the premises on which this speculation is based are correct: how could the Uigur, Persians, and Arabs make *kāgaḍ* out of a Chinese *kok-či* (or *dzi*)? How may we account for the vocalization *ā*, which persists wherever the word has taken root (Hindi *kāgaḍ*, Urdu *kāgaz*, Tamil *kāgidam*, Malayalam *kāyitam*, Kannada *kāgada*)?² The Uigur and Persians, according to their phonetic system, were indeed capable of reproducing the Chinese word correctly if they so intended; in fact, Chinese loan-words in the two languages are self-evident without torturing the evidence. For myself, I am unable to see any coincidence between *kok-či* and *kāgaḍ*. But this alleged *kok-či*, in fact, does not exist. The word *ku*, as written by Hirth, is known to every one as meaning "grain, cereals;" and none of our dictionaries assigns to it the significance "mulberry." It is simply a character substituted for *kou* 構 (anciently **ku*, without a final consonant), which refers exclusively to the paper-mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), expressed also (and this is the most common word) by *č'u* 楮. The *Pen ts'ao kan mu*³ gives the character *ku* 穀 on the same footing with *č'u*, quoting the former from the ancient dictionary *Ši min*,⁴ and adding expressly that it has the phonetic value of 構, and is written also 構. The character *ku*, accordingly, to be read *kou*, is merely a graphic variant, and has nothing to do with the word *ku* (**kuk*), meaning "cereals."

According to Li Ši-čen, this word *kou* (**ku*) originates from the language of Č'u 楚, in which it had the significance "milk" (žu 乳); and, as the bark of this tree contained a milk-like sap, this word was transferred to the tree. It is noteworthy in this connection that Ts'ai Lun, the inventor of paper in A.D. 105, was a native of Č'u. The dialectic origin of the word *kou* shows well how we have two root-words for exactly the same species of tree. This is advisedly stated by Li Ši-čen, who rejects as an error the opinion that the two words should refer to two different trees; he also repudiates expressly the view that the word *kou* bears any relation to the word *ku* in the sense of cereals or rice. According to T'ao Huñ-kiñ, the term *kou č'i* was used by the people of the south, who, however, said also *č'u č'i*; the latter word,

¹ *Journal Roy. As. Soc.*, 1903, p. 671.

² According to BÜHLER (*Indische Paläographie*, p. 91), paper was introduced into India by the Mohammedans after the twelfth century. The alleged Sanskrit word for "paper," *kāyagata*, ferreted out by HOERNLE (*Journal Roy. As. Soc.*, 1911, p. 476), rests on a misunderstanding of a Sanskrit text, as has been shown by Lieut.-Col. WADDELL on the basis of the Tibetan translation of this text (*ibid.*, 1914, pp. 136-137).

³ Ch. 36, p. 4.

⁴ See above, p. 201.