

indeed, has always been more common. Hirth's supposition of a former pronunciation *kok* cannot be accepted; but, even did this alleged *kok* exist, I should continue to disbelieve in the proposed etymology of the Persian-Arabic word. There is no reason to assume that, because paper was adopted by the Arabs and Persians from the Chinese, their designation of it should hail from the same quarter. I do not know of a foreign language that was willing to adopt from the Chinese any designation for paper. Our word comes from the Greek-Latin *papyrus*; Russian *bumaga* originally means "cotton," being ultimately traceable to Middle Persian *pambak*.¹ The Tibetans learned the technique of paper-making from the Chinese, but have a word of their own to designate paper (*šog-bu*). So have the Japanese (*kami*) and the Koreans (*muntsi*). The Mongols call paper *tsagasun* (Buryat *tsāraso*, *sārahan*), a purely Mongol word, meaning "the white one." Among the Golde on the Amur I recorded the word *xausal*. The Lolo have *t'o-i*, the Annamese *bia*, the Čam *baa*, *baar*, or *biar*, the Khmer *credas*, which, like Malayan *kertas*, is borrowed from Arabic *kirtas* (Greek *χαρτης*).² As stated, the Persian-Arabic word is borrowed from a Turkish language: Uigur *kagat* or *kagas*; Tuba, Lebed, Kumandu, Comanian *kagat*; Kirgiz, Karakirgiz, Taranči, and Kazan *kagaz*. The origin of this word can be explained from Turkish; for in Lebed, Kumandu, and Šor, we have *kagaš* with the significance "tree-bark."

I need not repeat here the oft-told story of how the manufacture of paper was introduced into Samarkand by Chinese captives in A.D. 751. Prior to this date, as has been established by Karabacek, Chinese paper was imported to Samarkand as early as 650-1, again in 707.³ Under the Sasanians, Chinese paper was known in Persia; but it was a very rare article, and reserved for royal state documents.⁴

25. Another form in which paper reached the Persians was paper money. It is well known that the Chinese were the originators of

¹ See above, p. 490.

² S. FRAENKEL, *Die aramäischen Fremdwörter im Arabischen*, p. 245.

³ Cf. HOERNLE, *Journal Roy. As. Soc.*, 1903, p. 670. I regret being unable to accept his general result that the Arabs or Samarkandis should be credited with the invention of pure rag-paper (p. 674). This had already been accomplished in China, and indeed was the work of Ts'ai Lun. I expect to come back to this problem on another occasion. With all respect for the researches of Karabacek, Wiesner, and Hoernle, I am not convinced that the far-reaching conclusions of these scholars are all justified. We are in need of more investigations (and less theorizing), especially of ancient papers made in China. There are numerous accounts of many sorts of paper, hitherto unnoticed, in Chinese records, which should be closely studied.

⁴ According to Masudi (B. DE MEYNARD, *Les Prairies d'or*, Vol. II, p. 202); see also E. DROUIN, *Mémoire sur les Huns Ephthalites*, p. 53 (reprint from *Le Muséon*, 1895).