

spread to Central Asia (Tibetan *deb-t'er*, Mongol *debter*, Manchu *debtelin*).¹

The use of parchment on the part of the people of Parthia (An-si) has already been noted by the mission of Čaň K'ien, who placed it on record that "they make signs on leather, from side to side, by way of literary records." It is accordingly certain that parchment was utilized in Iran as early as the second century B.C. There are also later references to this practice; for instance, in the *Nan ši*,² where it is said that the Hu (Iranians) use sheep-skin 羊皮 as paper. The Chinese have hardly ever made use of parchment for writing-purposes, but they prepare parchment (from the skins of sheep, donkeys, or oxen) for the making of shadow-play figures. The only parchment manuscripts ever found in China were the Scriptures of the Jews of K'ai-foň, which are also mentioned in their inscriptions.³

26. Most of the Chinese loan-words in Persian were imported by the Mongol rulers in the thirteenth century (the so-called Il-Khans, 1265-1335), being chiefly terms relative to official and administrative institutions. The best known of these is *pāizah*, being a reproduction of Chinese *p'ai-tse* 牌子, an official warrant or badge containing imperial commands, letters of safe-conduct, permits of requisition, according to the rank of the bearer, made of silver, brass, iron, etc. They were taken over by the Mongols from the Liao and Kin,⁴ and are mentioned by Rubruck, Marco Polo,⁵ and Rašid-eddin.

27. Titles like *waň* 王 ("king, prince"), *t'ai waň* 太王 ("great prince"), *kao waň* 高王 ("great general"), *t'ai hu* 太后 ("empress"), *fu žen* (Persian *fuč'in*) 夫人 (title for women of rank), and *kuň ču* 公主 ("princess") were likewise adopted in Mongol Persia.⁶ Persian *jinksānak*, title of a Mongol prefect or governor, transcribes Chinese *č'en sian* 丞相 ("minister of state").⁷

28. From Turkish tribes the Persians have adopted the word *toγ*

¹ *T'oung Pao*, 1916, p. 481.

² Ch. 79, p. 7.

³ Cf. J. TOBAR, *Inscriptions juives de K'ai-fong-fou*, pp. 78, 86, 96 (note 2).

⁴ CHAVANNES, *Journal asiatique*, 1898, I, p. 396.

⁵ YULE's edition, Vol. I, p. 351, which consult for a history of the *p'ai-tse*; see, further, LAUFER, *Keleti Szemle*, 1907, pp. 195-196; ŽAMTSARANO, *Paiza among the Mongols at the Present Time (Zapiski Oriental Section Russian Archæol. Soc., Vol. XXII, 1914, pp. 155-159)*.

⁶ E. BLOCHET, *Introduction à l'histoire des Mongols de Rashid Ed-din*, p. 183; and Djami el-Tévarikh, p. 473. Regarding the title *waň*, see also J. J. MODI, *Asiatic Papers*, p. 251.

⁷ Cf. my notes in *T'oung Pao*, 1916, p. 528.