

tail. In several places we notice traces of metal that should have been removed after the casting, a carelessness of workmanship that would never be found in the east and which leads one to infer that this article was made exclusively for burial purposes. Although the flatness of the surface gives but little movement to the following piece there still remains an impression of excessive agitation. In Plate XIX no. 4 the curved line of the belly is broken by a loop, and as with the preceding clasps this example is approximately of the year 1000. While in the last four pieces the surfaces have never been free of ornament, the lines have nevertheless had some regular order. But on Plate XIX no. 3 the surface is covered with confused and intersecting lines that are meaningless. The barbarian transformation of this clasp places it in the final phase, the beginning of the II millennium. It may not be superfluous to mention here, that occasionally objects like those described above, may have lost both bar and hook and therefore give the deceptive appearance of being plaques.

The disintegration that we have just noticed in the tiger-form is also true of the fabulous animal that is probably derived from the Han hydra (Plate XIX no. 6), but that has kept little of the original form. The bar starts from the hind-quarters of the animal. There are no legs and the surface is articulated only by ridges, a barbarian method. This reminds us of the tigers decorated more or less in the same way (Plate XIX nos. 1-4), and which agree as well from the point of view of date. The animal of Plate XIX no. 5 has pre-Han elements in the geometric treatment of the jaws and claws, while the middle ridge that takes the place of decoration is borrowed from late ornaments. This piece, therefore, can not probably be of a period before the end of the I millennium.

Game-animals, always more or less naturalistic, are also found on belt-clasps. The roe of Plate XIX no. 7 is connected with the bar in the same way as the tiger, and the body has been simplified to the utmost. Grooves in comma-shape on hooves, ear, joints and in the middle of the body are Sarmatian elements. The small hollows of eye and nostril are most probably derived from Minussinsk. These artistic points are proof of a production of about the middle of the I millennium. The unusual feature of this example is that the customary protuberant button on the back is here replaced by a loop formed by the tail. Sometimes this simple animal-form calls for a later date. The hare of Plate XIX no. 8, for instance, lacks articulation and plastic clearness. The boar (Pl. XIX no. 9) is not shown at rest, but running full speed. These pieces might be of Chinese inspiration if the non-organic arrangement of animal and bar did not evince barbarian workmanship which, however, might be possible even in the T'ang dynasty.

The period around 1000 is represented once more by two examples where geometric elements are used with a natural outline. The yak of Plate XIX no. 10 is certainly well observed. On the middle of the body and on the hind-quarters