

(Plate XLIV nos. 2 & 3). They are long spatulas slightly curved forward and with a medial ridge only along the front. At the back we find a short and strong point on the lower tip. The guard is formed of downward turned antennae. On the smooth or pointed-arched handle there is a single line above the guard of one example, while on the other, there are double lines inlaid with turquoise. The same semi-precious stone (only in part preserved) decorated the eyes in the two serpent-heads which are seen from above and are identical on both sides. Hinged tongues that can move from side to side hang from the mouths. We do not know in what way the schamanes used this object, but we know of similar Siberian bronzes of the same dimensions. Plate XLIV no. 4 has no rattle, and a handle without inlay or animal-head, but instead a human bust, the arms of which form the guard. Because of the extreme primitiveness of the figure, we consider this Siberian piece to be a work of the II millennium, while the two examples from the northern frontier should be dated earlier, about 1000. That turquoise was still used at this period has been shown by the ear-ornaments on Plate XXXII no. 9. Probably Siberian as well as northern Chinese frontier pieces go back to a still unknown model from regions east of the Steppes.

Objects curved slightly backward, decorated on one side, and which must have had a use similar to that of a spoon (Plate XLIV nos. 5 & 6) also belong to the equipment of the schamane. The smaller piece is crowned with a primitive head on a neck with two creases, while the larger piece has the same form but doubled, above a net of crossed lines. The head-dress is decorated with drops at each side and with beaded bands of the type we saw on scabbards (Plate XL nos. 1-2). We choose the same date for these spoons, the end of the I millennium, a date which corresponds to the primitive form and to the fact that the faces are entirely non-Chinese.

NOTES OF CHAPTER XI

- (1) Oglu.
- (2) Spitzyn, 6), p. 105, fig. 34-36.
- (3) Tallgren, 1), vol. II, p. 32, pl. V, 14-17.
- (4) Tallgren, 1), vol. II, fig. 46.
- (5) Ermolaev.
- (6) Mjalkov, Tallgren, 5).
- (7) Couvreur, 1), vol. I, p. 561.