

the attribution of these antiques may well be correct. It is otherwise with the large fragment of a carved and painted wooden nimbus U.M. 01 (Pl. XIII, XIV), which was brought by Badruddīn Khān and said to have been obtained from Ulūgh-mazār, and which has been shown accordingly in the List below. The conditions observed by me on the 'Tatis' around Ulūgh-ziārat, together with the fact that this area was occupied down to the early Muhammadan period, make it appear unlikely that a relic of Buddhist worship such as this could well have survived there. The carving is painted on the reverse also, which shows that it belonged to a statue detached from the temple wall. The painting on the back represents a seated Buddha and is of interest, as in spite of the faded surface it still shows 'high lights' boldly applied.

On both my previous journeys the visits paid to the string of small oases between Chīra and Keriya had afforded opportunities of observing some recent striking changes in the position or level of the springs that furnish the principal supply of water (*kara-su*) for their irrigation. When recording these variations at Kara-kīr and the Domoko-yār in *Ancient Khotan* and *Serindia*, I pointed out that the displacement of the cultivated area consequent on such changes may furnish a plausible explanation of the peculiar frequency with which old sites in the neighbourhood of these oases have been abandoned at different periods.¹⁷ The observations in question thus claim a direct archaeological interest, and on this account I may briefly record here another instance, which my rapid passage on December 3rd to Keriya town allowed me to notice, of subsoil water coming to the surface in fresh springs and giving rise to a displacement of cultivation.

At Achma, the colony 'newly opened', as its name indicates, some twenty years before on the appearance of the Kara-kīr springs, the area under cultivation had remained stationary since my first visit in 1901;¹⁸ for the number of households, about eight hundred, said to be in occupation of it, had not changed. Nor was any change apparent in the extent of the older and much smaller cultivated area of Laisu which adjoins it on the east. But farther on, when passing through the width of the great Keriya oasis, my attention was attracted by the wide and deep bed, known as Sai-bāgh-yār, which the road crossed to the east of Sisaghlik.¹⁹ It was said to have been eroded three years before by a big summer flood of *ak-su*. The considerable stream formed by the springs whose waters collected in the bed was now being utilized for opening a new colony at Kara-khān, situated some seven miles beyond the northern edge of Keriya cultivation as observed in 1901, and then wholly desert. The advent of this new water-supply was hailed with all the more satisfaction by the people of Keriya that their oasis is otherwise almost wholly wanting in *kara-su* or spring-fed irrigation.

OBJECTS EXCAVATED AT KUDUK-KÖL

Kuduk-köl. 01. Fr. of carved circular wooden halo.

Outer border of flame pattern. Within, narrow bands of alternate seed and zigzag pattern, the bands slightly twisted, cablewise. Within these borders, the upper parts of three Buddha figs. and halo of fourth. The centre one of the three has L. hand raised in Abhaya-mudrā. All face to front, having Uṣṇīṣa, long ears, and nimbus. Hair treated as mass without markings. Carving extremely fine and good. Prob. originally painted. Back plain and convex, with traces of paint. Broken edge seems recent. $5\frac{5}{8}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$. Pl. IX.

Kuduk-köl. 03. Turned wooden finial, as M. Tāgh. c. 06, but slightly elaborated. Tenon central. Very cracked but hard. Remains of pink paint over whole. $8\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{3}{4}''$. Tenon $2\frac{3}{8}'' \times 1\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{7}{8}''$.

Kuduk-köl. 04. Turned wooden finial, vertical section of, exactly similar to Kuduk-köl. 03. Tenon 3" long.

Kuduk-köl. 05. Stucco relief fr., from border of vesica. Band of imbricated lotus petals with flames on outer edge, as *Ser.* iv. Pl. XV, Kha. vii. 001, 004, and *Anc. Khotan*, ii. Pl. LV, D. 11. 55. Colours visible,

see *Serindia*, i. pp. 202 sqq.

¹⁸ Cf. *Serindia*, i. p. 211.

¹⁹ See Map No. 14, D. 3, near the village tract of Pondara.

¹⁷ Regarding the springs which appeared south of Kara-kīr and led to the opening of new cultivation at Achma, cf. *Ancient Khotan*, i. pp. 459, 467 sq. For the formation of the Domoko-yār and the resulting colony of Malak-ālagan,