

with black ring inside and out, pupils vermillion. Inside of lips vermillion, and white tusk protruding from each corner of mouth. Peak of head cracked, and tip broken off. Straw core projects above and below. Length of head 12", with core 16½"; gr. width c. 6". Pl. CI.

Ast. x. 1. 010-II. Two clay figs. of women, standing; soft red fibrous clay, on stick cores. Of heads only front halves remain, detached from cores. R. side of face and L. forearm of 010, and R. arm of 011, lost. Extant arm of each hangs slightly flexed by side. Figs. plump, high-waisted and long-necked, with large heads.

Dress consists of plain close-fitting bodices, open V-shape

from front of neck to waist; long sleeves wrapped round arm and hanging below hand, and skirts hanging straight to feet. Bodice of 010 vermillion with white stomacher; skirt light blue, with sprinkled palmettes in black. Bodice of 011 light blue, stomacher and skirt white. Faces large and full, with oblique eyes, and green patch in middle of forehead of 011.

Hair black, done straight up back, in low roll on forehead, and in two stiff projecting masses on either side of forehead. Topknots, if any, broken off. No jewellery. 010 has black shoes. White paint of faces almost entirely lost. Heavy work, drapery not modelled on back. H. 10¼", with cores 11¼". Pl. CIII.

OBJECTS ACQUIRED FROM ASTĀNA CEMETERIES

Ast. 01. Lacquered wooden tray, shallow, oblong, with slightly curved sides, rounded corners, and narrow fish-tail shaped projections, extending nearly the width, at each end as handles. Shallow concave. Centre rectangle black, surrounded by broad border of red. Extreme edges, handles, and back black. Very graceful shape. No canvas under lacquer, which appears to be applied directly to the wood. Excellent condition. 19¾" × 12½". Pl. XCI.

Ast. 02. Six paste and glass beads; three blue, two green, one yellow. Gr. diam. 7/16". Smallest 1/16". Pl. LXXXIX.

Ast. 05. Turned wood tazza, or pedestal with broad foot, stem tapering upwards, and abruptly broadening into a shallow cup. Painted black, with ornament in white line; round foot a series of six drifting palmettes; round stem a horizontal meander between two lines, a band of small circles below and another of dots above. Drifting palmettes, of which six are present round outer rim of cup. Cup broken at edges. Height 3¾", diam. of cup 4¾".

Ast. 06. Small pottery jar, with ovoid body, flat bottom, and short neck with slightly thickened rim. A two-fly cord twisted twice round neck, and another knotted to it to

make loop for carrying. Grey body, discoloured black, probably owing to oil. Empty. H. 3¾"; diam. of bottom 1¾", of shoulder 3¾", of mouth 1¾".

Ast. 07. Pottery saucer; grey body, hard fired; wide and flat bottomed, no orn. Discoloration caused by decayed food inside. Diam. of rim 6½", of bottom 5½"; h. ¾".

Ast. 08. Paper flag, made of several thicknesses of Chin. MS. pasted together, and painted outside in horizontal stripes of black and white. One side then pasted round sq. stick. Flag apparently incomplete in length. H. 18", length (from stick) 7", stick 20½". Pl. XCIII.

Ast. 09. Inscribed burnt clay slab from tomb. Square; surface painted black and inscr. with 5 columns of Chin. chars., in large clear writing. Chars. first incised and then coloured red; for translation, see M. Maspero's App. A. Good condition. 15" × 15½". Pl. LXXV.

Ast. 010. Inscribed burnt clay slab, from uncertain Astāna tomb, dated A. D. 681. Square; surface covered with layer of buff paint on which are inscribed 11 cols. of Chinese chars. in black, fairly preserved. For translation, cf. M. Maspero's App. A. 14½" × 15". Pl. LXXV.

SECTION VII.—CONCLUSION OF WORK AT TURFĀN

Return of
Lāl Singh.

While our work at the cemeteries of Astāna was proceeding, there were other matters also to claim my attention. On January 23rd I had the relief of seeing Lāl Singh return safely from his explorations in the Kuruk-tāgh region, after an absence of close on two and a half months.¹ I have given an account elsewhere of the important results achieved by him on this occasion, under exceptional hardships and privations,^{1a} and Map Sheets 29, 31, 32 illustrate the extent of the surveys effected by my valiant assistant in that desolate region. It will suffice to mention here that he surveyed a new route to Singer, the only inhabited spot in that vast area of utterly barren hills and plateaus, and then extended a system of triangles down to the salt springs of Āltmish-bulak.

Surveys in
Kuruk-tāgh.

After patiently waiting under very trying conditions for the chance of a break in the dust-haze above the Lop Desert, he obtained from Āstin-bulak a sight of the K'un-lun range some 130 miles to the south. He was thus enabled to connect his triangulation work in the Kuruk-tāgh with what

¹ Fig. 332 shows our small party reunited at Idikut-shahri.

^{1a} Cf. *Memoir on Maps*, p. 36.