

regions as Dsungaria, Tian-shan, Eastern Turkestan, and Kwen-lun, though they had been crossed and seen by several travellers. How utterly they are missing is best seen by the fact that the Siberian Ob and the Indian Ganges have their sources in one and the same range. In a corner between two ranges N.W. of the source of the Ganges sufficient room has, however, been found for Tibret forsan et Tobrot.¹

Only a year after Sanson d'Abbeville's map of Tartaria had appeared, or in 1655, Father MARTINI published his Atlas of China which marks a perfect revolution in the European conception of the far eastern empire.² We have to direct our attention only to the frontispiece map: *Imperii Sinarum nova descriptio*, of which Pl. XXXI is a part. To begin with, the course of Hwangho, or Croceus flu.,³ has been much corrected, and the river takes its rise in two lakes, Sosing and Singsieu, as is indeed the case.⁴ West of Hwangho the Koko-nor makes its appearance under the name Mare nigrum Sinis Cinghai. The Chinese name of the Blue Lake is Tsing-hai, so *cæruleum* or *cæsium* would perhaps have been more adequate than *nigrum*, in a country with many Khara-nor and only one Koko-nor. However, the existence of the lake on the map proves that Martini has never confounded the Koko-nor and the Chiamay lacus, which sometimes occurred in later years. He does not reject the latter, which he calls Kia L., for he had no reason to disbelieve its existence.

Xamo desertum he identifies with what the Europeans used to call Desertum Lop. To the north of the sand desert he has Samahan Tartariæ sive Samarcandæ Pars, which is surprising. And south of the same desert is Tibet Regnum. Then follow Kiang Regnum and Vsvçang Regnum all of which belong to the western countries of Si-fan.⁵

As regards the situation of Tibet, Martini has given a new impulse to the development of European knowledge. And still he has a very uncertain conception of where it really is. On his map he places it in the Koko-nor district which we know is inhabited by Tangut and Mongol tribes. But in relation to Martini's Koko-nor it is to the S.W. as is correct. Speaking of the country Laos, or the N.W. part of Siam, which he correctly places east of Arakan, Father Martini quotes the manuscript of Father LERIA, in whom he has great confidence, and who, during his mission travels, had visited Laos, and found it inundated by its rivers in summer. »For when the snows of the mountains of Tibet, — I (Martini) believe that he (Leria)

¹ Probably misprint for Tibbet and Tobbot.

² Novus Atlas Sinensis a Martino Martinio soc. Iesv descriptus, . . . 1655.

³ »fluvius Hoang nomine, Croceum aut luteum dico, id enim Sinice sonat, à colore» . . . (Martini, p. 14).

⁴ »Ortus Hoang fluvii est inter Australes montes Quenlun, quos incolæ Otunlao vocitant.» Otunlao must be the Odontala of the Mongols, specially as Martini relates that the water comes up in more than hundred springs.

⁵ In an article: Relation de la Tartarie Orientale, Father Martini says: »Les Chinois disent que ce Royaume (Si-fan) est borné par les montagnes de Min, & par la Rivière Jaune qui y passe. Ces montagnes ont beaucoup d'étendue, & se joignent enfin à celles de Quenlun, qu'on nomme autrement les montagnes Amasées, d'où la Rivière Saffranée (Hwangho) tire son origine.» Recueil de Voyages au Nord, Tome III, Amsterdam 1715, p. 163. This is an extract from the Latin text in his atlas.