

of »Badashan» and of his journey from »this little country» to the Pamier. And he has given a splendid description of the wild sheep that still carries his name. As to the discussion regarding the road taken by Marco Polo when crossing the mountains which are the neighbours of the Kara-korum, I have to refer the reader to Vol. VIII of this work.<sup>1</sup>

Years ago I explained my hypothesis that the Tang-la in the far east of Tibet, belongs to the same great system of folds as the Kara-korum.<sup>2</sup> From the northern side of the Tang-la System, one of the principal feeders of the Yang-tse-kiang, the Murui-ussu or Murus-ussu takes its origin. This river, which was crossed by PRSHEVALSKIY, had already been made famous by Father HUC on his memorable journey in 1844—1846.<sup>3</sup> If my assumption that the Tang-la is the continuation of the northern fold of the Kara-korum is correct, Huc has crossed the whole eastern part of this system, for, as shown in Vol. III, p. 158 *et seq.*, he has also crossed the eastern regions of the Transhimalaya. The reason why I mention him in this connection is that Marco Polo seems to have had some knowledge of this river, or at least have heard its name. The place in Marco Polo alluded to, runs as follows:

»After riding those ten days you come to a river called Brius, which terminates the province of Caidu. In this river is found much gold-dust, and there is also much cinnamon on its banks. It flows to the Ocean Sea.»<sup>4</sup> To this Sir Henry Yule has the following explanatory note: »The name given to the river, in this part of its course, is (Mong.) Murui-ussu, or Murus-ussu, the Winding Water, and (Tib.) Di-chu, or Bhri-chu, the River of the (tame) Yak-Cow, from one or the other of which, Marco Polo seems to have taken the name Brius, which he gives to the river in Yun-nan.»<sup>5</sup>

This river Murui-ussu or Bri-chu, Dre-chu, Di-chu, which, according to Huc, is also called Polei-Tchou, or River of the Lord by the Tibetans, has also been mentioned by ORAZIO DELLA PENNA, who knew it from information given by SAMUEL VAN DE PUTTE, and styled it as »un grandissimo fiume, chiamato Bic'iu».<sup>6</sup> KLAPROTH has identified this Bic'iu with the Bri-chu or Murussu.<sup>7</sup>

In Vol. I, Chapter IV, I have dealt with the Arabian geographers and their knowledge of Tibet. To what I quoted there regarding the remarkable journey of

<sup>1</sup> Yule: *The Book of Ser Marco Polo*. Third Edition. Vol. I, London 1903, p. 171 *et seq.* — Cp. my Vol. VIII, and map.

<sup>2</sup> *Scientific Results* . . . Vol. IV, p. 545, 575, 596, 605 *etc.*, and map, Pl. 69 *ibidem*.

<sup>3</sup> Huc says of it: »Nous quittâmes la grande vallée de Bayen-Kharat, pour aller dresser notre tente sur les bords du Mourouï-Oussou. Vers sa source, ce fleuve magnifique porte le nom de Mourouï-Oussou (eau tortueuse); plus bas, il s'appelle Kin-Cha-Kiang (fleuve au sable d'or) . . . .» *Souvenirs d'un voyage* . . . . Tome II, p. 219.

<sup>4</sup> Yule: *Marco Polo*, Vol. II, p. 56. *Vide* also note p. 67 *ibidem*.

<sup>5</sup> Introductory Essay in *The River of Golden Sand* by Capt. William Gill. London 1880, p. [33].

<sup>6</sup> *Vide* Vol. III, p. 25 *supra*.

<sup>7</sup> *Nouv. Journ. Asiat.* Tome XIV, p. 177 *et seq.*