

Stein mentions the Kara-korum which is a spur from the Mus-tagh-ata, proving that the famous name is not a privilege of the great system of »the Black Gravel«:

After Kukyar the route enters a broad stony nullah, enclosed East and West by low walls of conglomerate, which looked like remains of ancient moraines. Above them to the east towered the snow-capped heights of a great spur known as Karakorum, which projects from Muztagh-Ata southwards.

It sounds surprising, but is no doubt correct, when STEIN tells us that he saw the Kara-korum Range in the region of the Kara-korum Pass, from Guma, which is 148 miles away. »The snows I saw glittering far away over the dark lines of the outer mountains evidently belonged to the main range about the Kara-korum Passes. Distances seemed to shrink strangely when I thought that behind those stupendous mountain ramparts lay valleys draining to the Indus.»¹

In mentioning JOHNSON and DEASY as having contributed to our knowledge of the hydrography and orography of the regions of the Yurung-kash River, we should not forget GROMBTCHEVSKIY and BOGDANOVITCH, though the importance of their exploration never can be compared with that of STEIN carried out ten years later. When Grombtchevskiy in the beginning of January 1890 came from the S. W. and travelled to Issik-bulak, he crossed at 35 km. from that place (37 on Stein's map) Stein's range of mighty K-peaks, and obviously passed a little to the south of Stein's peak of 21,960 feet. Of his experiences on this journey he says:

December 29th (old style) we traversed a very high pass, and travelled down into the basin of the river Yurung-kash. I called the mountain range separating both rivers the Yurung-kash Range, and the Pass the Russian. The pass is not very difficult, but very high According to our guide lower down along the course of the frozen river (Utlak) must needs be a hot spring, at which the water could not freeze. Searching for water we proceeded down the gorge and, at 1 o'clock at night, really reached a spring, after having lost, on this march, six ponies or one fifth of those of the expedition.²

On Grombtchevskiy's map the range of snowy Kwen-lun peaks is clearly marked, though the different peaks are not to be recognized.³

The excursion of BOGDANOVITCH 1890 from Keriya to Khotan, passing Karangu-tagh, covers a large part of STEIN'S route. He travelled up the Karakash River from Dshegetal to Tam-aghil and Koket-sai, continued to Pische, from where he made different excursions to Omtesha, Karangu-tagh and Nisa-darya, and returned over Pische to Buya and over Topecha-davan in Tekelik-tagh to Teremkishlak, Yangi-lenger, and to Khotan, where he met GROMBTCHEVSKIY.⁴

¹ Op. cit., p. 186. Stein visited Guma in the first days of October. When I was there, December 28th and 29th (1895), the sky was nearly everywhere cloudy and no mountains visible.

² *Извѣстія Импер. Русск. Геогр. Оудц.* Томъ XXVI, 1890, p. 327.

³ *Карта Путешествій Б. Л. Громбчевскаго въ Дарвазъ, на Памиръ, въ Канджугъ, въ Раскемъ и въ Северо-Западномъ Тибетъ, въ 1885, 1888, 1889 и 1890 годахъ.*

⁴ *Труды Тибетской Экспедиціи, Часть II.*, p. 24 etc. Cf. his map, *Таб. С. Маршрутная съемка* ibidem, and the general map. op. cit. Vol. I. by M. V. Pievtsoff. — Bogdanovitch calls the great Kwen-lun Range with the high peaks Karangu-tagh. But this is a mistake.