

Fig. 28. Bronze mountings. a) from the painted basket, b) from Nan-shan-li, c) our No. 34:3. Size 1/3.

and so on. From the Noyan-ola tombs there are at least two specimens of quatrefoil ornaments, one of lacquered leather, the other of wood (Ausstell. chin. Kunst Berlin 1929, Nos. 1256—7)); they were probably some kind of attachments.

The lacquered articles from the Lop desert, as well as those found at Noyan-ola and in Korea, have been manufactured in China proper.

A coiled basket, Pl. 21:1, has also served as a receptacle, and is most likely of local make, though of quite another technique than that manifested in the finely woven grass baskets so common in the autochthon graves. It is interesting to note that none of the latter kind was found in the mass-grave.

#### *Trays etc.*

On the photo Pl. XIII a not less than six wooden trays of rectangular shape and with four short legs can be discerned. In the collection there are only three specimens, besides two loose legs from another two. Some of these objects got lost during the transport from the site to the main camp. Only the specimen shown in Pl. 19:3 has all the four legs preserved in place, but they are also better secured than the rest. On the bottom there is a carving at one end like a roughly shaped heart.

The legs on Pl. 19:2 are straight and plain, those on Pl. 19:1 are thinner in the middle, and Pl. 20:5, all that is left of another tray, is carved after a conventional lion-leg pattern with an originally Western (Iranian?) prototype.

This kind of wooden trays or miniature tables is quite a common outfit in Chinese tombs, especially of the Han dynasty and the period immediately following this. Thus STEIN found many of them around Lou-lan and at Ying-p'an, both rectangular, oval and circular.

In Korea, Japanese archaeologists have unearthed marvellously lacquered tables and trays of this type (Hamada, Pl. LXVIII—LXX; Oba and Kayamoto, Pl. XLII—XLIII). In the C. T. Loo collection there is another lacquered one, ascribed

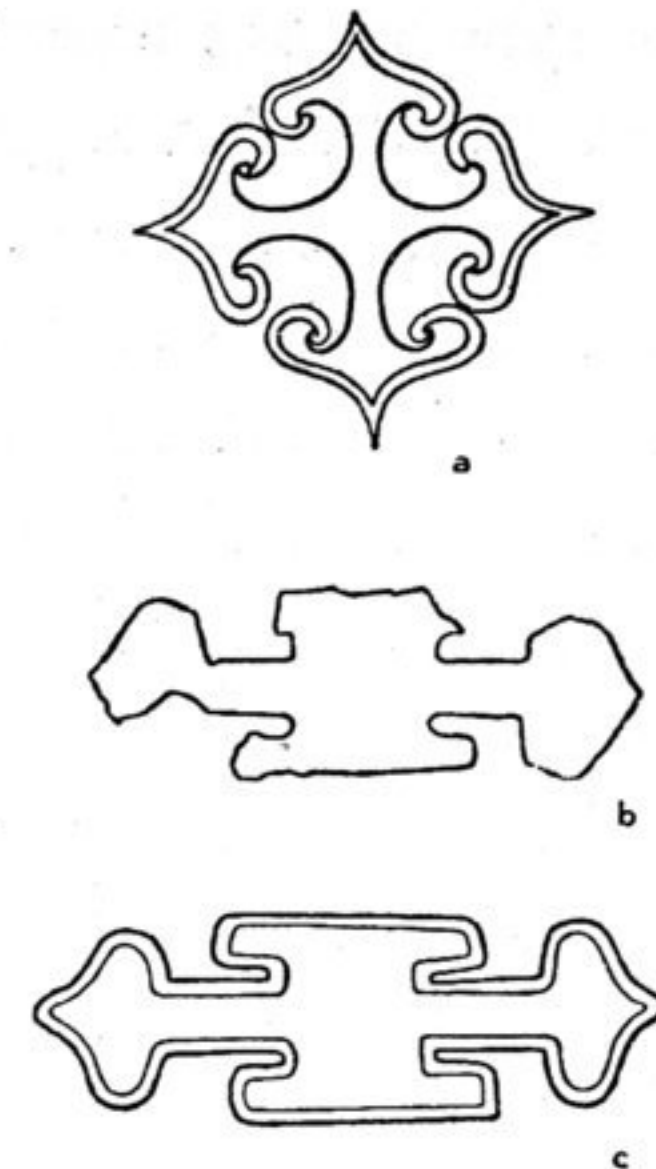


Fig. 29. a) rosette from a Lo-lang box. b) bronze mounting from a box from Nan-shan-li c) from the tomb with the painted basket. 2/3.