Fig. 48. Figure incised on the wooden bucket Pl. 32:2, Charchan. Nat. size.
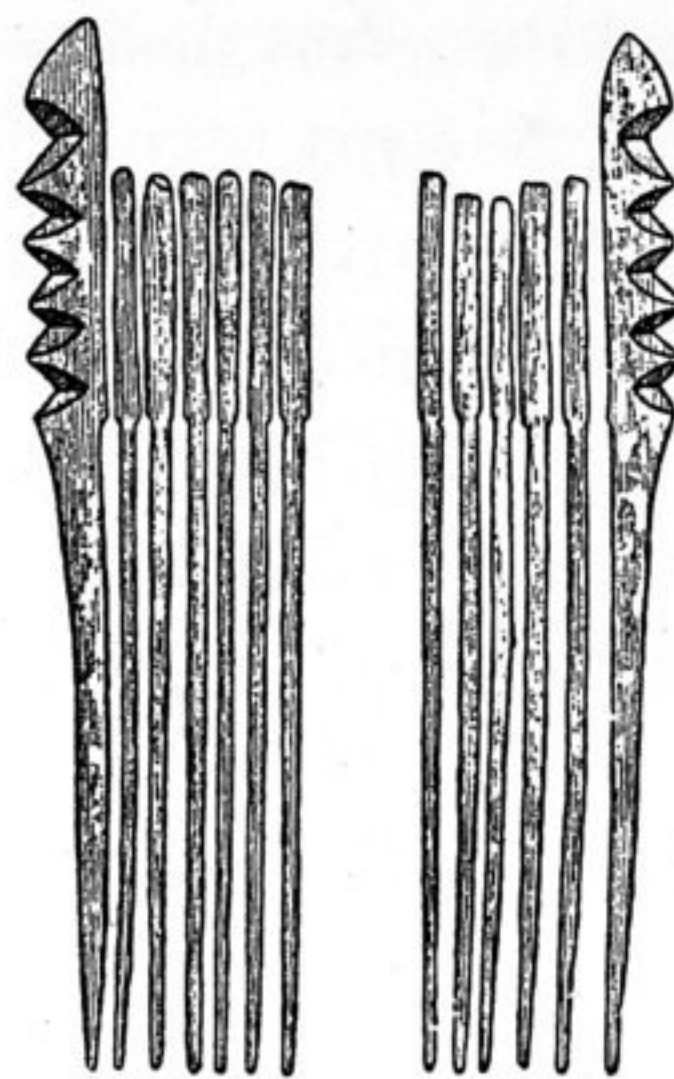

Fig. 49. Reconstruction of the remains of a wooden comb. Charchan, Grave 6. Half size.

0050) and another from Inner Mongolia in the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm (K. 10204:6); these latter are more elongated.

Pl. 33:1 is of a type quite common in Inner Mongolia. I myself picked up a specimen in a ruined house of the Sung or Yüan dynasty near Khara-khoto at the lower Edsen-gol river, and in MFEA there are five similar buckles obtained in Kuei-hua or in Inner Mongolia. (K. 11003:1372 and 1383, K. 11233:13, K. 11283:38 and 40). Hardly any of these last mentioned had any tongue, but the one from Charchan may have had one. There is always the possibility, however, that this type was never used as a true buckle for fastening two ends of a strap, but that it was hanging on the lower edge of the belt (or other strap) and used for attaching other objects in the same manner as on the girdle in the Korean Gold Crown Tomb (Hamada & Umehara, Fig. 33). A modern development of this type is to be found among the silver fittings that the Mongols carry on their girdles, and where they suspend their cinderbox, knife and chopsticks etc. It is no doubt a non-Chinese contrivance developed among the Central Asian nomads.

The bronze fitting Pl. 33:4, to join the strap-end with the rear side of the buckle, has a parallel from Khotan (Stein 1928, Pl. X, Badr. 0168). Pl. 33:5 has probably been used in the same way.

Small pendants, rings and beads of bronze were also purchased in Charchan, Pl. 33 and 34. The bronze seal or signet Pl. 33:12, is identical with some specimens purchased by HEDIN in Khotan on one of his earlier journeys and now published by MONTELL (Montell 1938, Pl. V:1—3), who suggests that this type of intaglios was the arms or sign of a religious sect or a group of monasteries. Referring to a Khotan signet found by GRENARD he considers them as reminiscences from the Nestorian time. I should like to draw attention to the similarities between this type

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