

the eighth and the ninth centuries by Tibetans. It is hardly probable, however, that these graves have anything to do with the Tibetans.

## LIST OF ANTIQUITIES FROM MIRAN

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|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| K. 13349: 1.     | Small spheroid bead of gilt glass. Diam. 7 mm. Pl. 38: 5.  | K. 13349: 12.    | Small fragm. of light-grey stone-ware.   |
| K. 13349: 2.     | Small bronze fragm., probably from a vessel.   | K. 13349: 13-16. | Two complete and two fragmentary spindle whorls of potsherds.                                      |
| K. 13349: 3.     | Fragm. of small wooden slip (label) with nearly effaced Tibetan characters written with ink on one side. L. 85 mm. Br. 10 mm. (has originally been broader, and has had a suspension hole). Pl. 38: 2. | K. 13349: 17.    | Small rounded potsherd, unfinished spindle whorl.  |
| K. 13349: 4.     | Bottom of wooden bowl, lathe-turned.   | K. 13349: 18.    | Fragm. of a spindle whorl of sandstone. Diam. 37 mm.   |
| K. 13349: 5.     | Sherd from the neck of a red, earthenware jar with a row of impressed dots, and, below that, part of a line of incised Tibetan characters. Pl. 37: 7.  | K. 13349: 19.    | Unfinished spindle whorl made of a round pebble.   |
| K. 13349: 6.     | Sherd of a large earthenware vessel decorated with a straight line and across it a garland incised with a three-toothed instrument. Coarse, red ware. Pl. 37: 8.                                       | K. 13349: 20-22. | Three chips of flintlike stone.  |
| K. 13349: 7-8.   | Two sherds from earthenware jars with a handle emerging from the rim. Red and brownish ware.   | Grave 1.         |  |
| K. 13349: 9.     | Sherd from the rim of a wide, rather big earthenware pot. Brownish ware.   | K. 13350: 1.     | Bundle of dark-brown human hair.   |
| K. 13349: 10-11. | Two fragm. of small earthenware cups (lamps?), light-red and yellow ware.  | K. 13350: 2.     | About half of a wooden comb with coarse teeth and parabolic back. L. 85 mm. Th. 17 mm. Pl. 38: 18. |
|                  |  | K. 13350: 3.     | Ear-ring of plain bronze wire. Diam. 23—26 mm. Pl. 38: 1.  |
|                  |  | Grave 2.         |  |
|                  |  | K. 13351.        | Small fragments of silk fabrics, red, greenish and yellow, in plain weave.                         |

### 4. CONCLUSION.

The three ancient sites discussed in Part IV, Charchan, Vash-shahri and Miran, are situated on the old highway which is called The Southern Road. It skirts all the oases on the southern border of the sand desert that covers the larger part of the Tarim Basin, and connects China and the West. Its first beginning lies hidden in obscurity. From the Chinese records we know of its existence in the early Han dynasty, and it became a significant channel along which the Chinese exported their precious silk and such other articles as were desired in the West. Just as was the case with The Northern Road, this Southern Road remained in use after the abandoning of The Road of the Centre and its importance must then have increased considerably. The attacks of the Huns were a more or less constant menace to the