

NOTES ON ARCHEOLOGY.

Brief mention has already been made of the ruins and mounds on the plains. They are further considered in reports by other members of the expedition. The following notes concern localities that were visited on the journey from Andizhan to Issik Kul.

MOUNDS ON THE (EASTERN) KUGART TERRACE.

Near the terminal mass of the great landslide of the (eastern) Kugart, on the high terrace plain over the Kirghiz bridge, we saw 20 to 30 small mounds, from 20 to 25 feet in diameter and from 3 to 5 feet high, made mostly of earth, with cobbles from the terrace and small angular blocks from the landslide. Smaller mounds, from 5 to 8 feet in diameter and 4 feet in height, were made wholly of stones. No chipped stones were found near them. No such mounds as these were seen in the summer camps of the Kirghiz, and hence we ascribe them to some earlier people.

STONE CIRCLES NEAR SON KUL.

On the gently inclined piedmont slopes that descend to the southeast shore of Son Kul, a mile or more from the lake, we found a row of stone circles. Our guide said they marked the camp of a powerful khan who used to occupy this district, but the Kirghiz are not to be trusted in such matters. The circles were nine in number, unevenly spaced, but set on a nearly north and south line, bearing N. 8° W. magnetic. They are 11 or 12 feet in diameter, each one containing eight stones from 3 to 5 feet in diameter, all of granite from the mountains a mile or more to the south. The fourth and eighth circles have been disturbed. The general arrangement of the stones is indicated in fig. 79, which shows the lateral displacement of the fourth and fifth circles, and indicates the distance between the successive circles, as determined by pacing. A standing stone, rising 4 feet above the ground, is set in a 15-foot circle of small stones, 60 feet east of the ninth circle. North or northeast of the row of circles, 28 small gravel mounds occur within a few hundred feet, and a 5-foot standing stone is seen by the trail 500 or 600 feet to the west. A mile or more to the east there are several earth mounds, 5 or 6 feet high and from 30 to 50 feet in diameter. Four of them are nearly on a N. 12° W. (magnetic) line. The others are placed irregularly. No chipped stones or flakes were found by any of the circles or mounds. Two standing stones on a mound on the plain northeast of Son Kul have human faces rudely carved in outline on a flat surface. Regel makes mention of similar monuments (1879, 414).

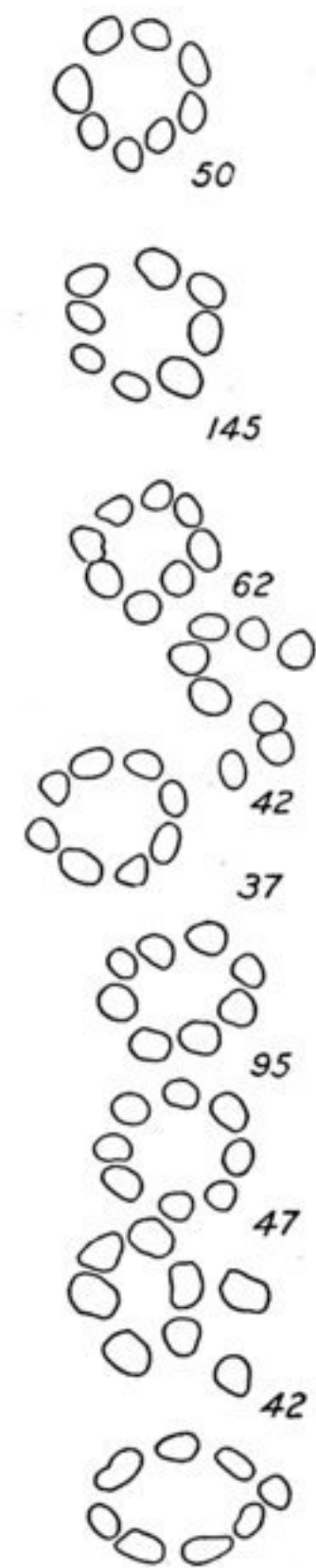


Fig. 79.—Stone Circles near Lake Son Kul. The distance in feet between the circles is indicated in figures on the right.