

The occurrence of ruins beneath the lake waters was noted by Semenov in his journey in 1857. He was told of the remains of an old city under the lake, about half a verst from its northeast shore (1858, 360). Other travelers make similar reports, but nothing definite seems to be known. We were shown a square brick, about 10 inches on a side and 2 inches thick, that was said to have been dredged from these ruins. Mr. Huntington was told, on the good authority of General Korolkof, at Przhevalsk, that the ruins can now be seen on the lake bottom "in

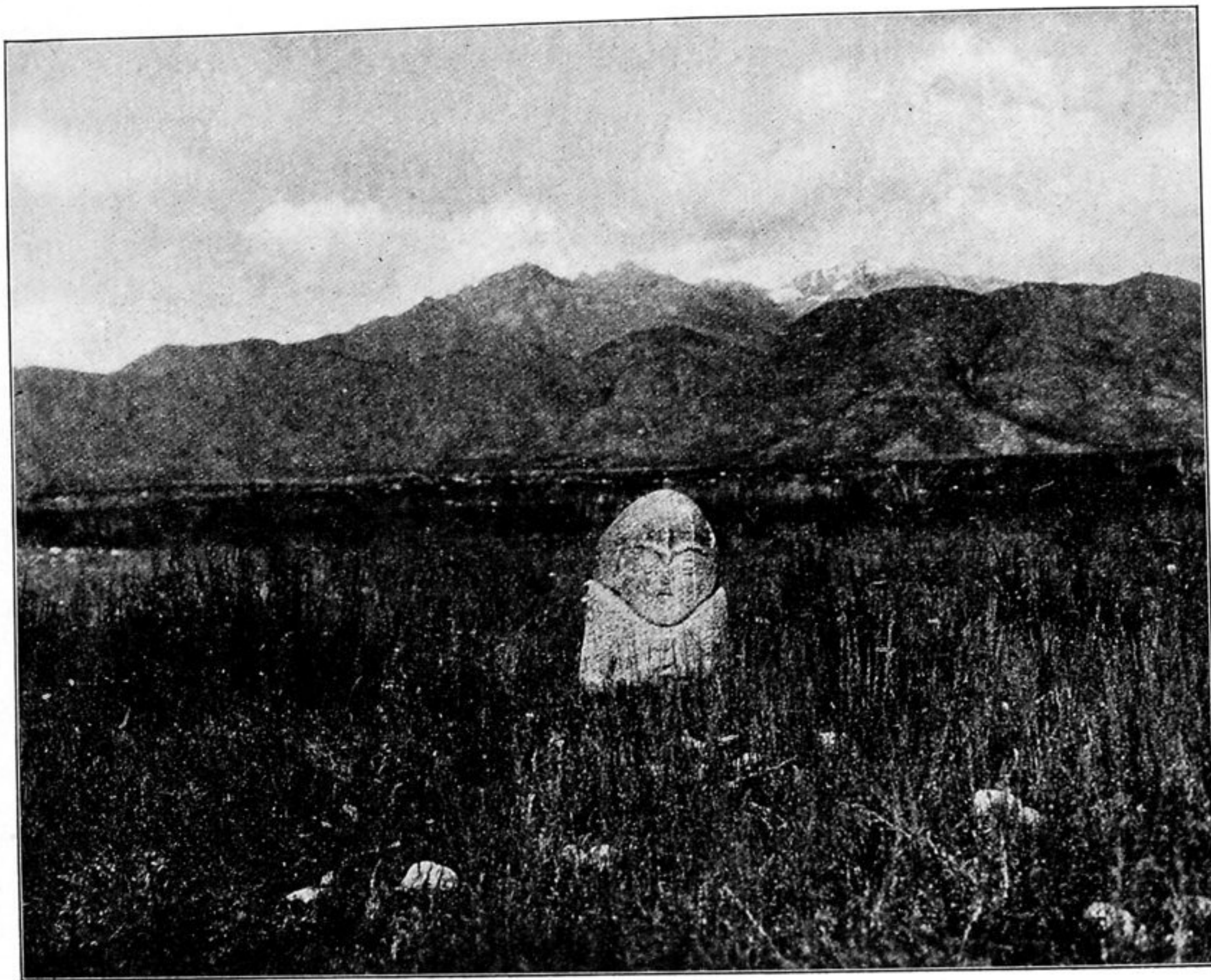


Fig. 80.—A Carved Stone on the plain at the east end of Issik Kul, looking south.

water of considerable depth." There is no direct evidence to determine the date of the period of low water during which the houses now submerged were built; but Mr. Huntington points out that brick houses are presumably of more modern construction than cobblestone walls, and hence that the submerged houses were probably built during a low-water stand, after the high-water stand recorded in the 30-foot beach. The fact that the bricks can be seen on the lake bottom, not yet buried by silts, points to the same conclusion. The lake ought to be carefully sounded and dredged.