

Spelling of Turkī local names.

form of the name as actually pronounced by the local inhabitants or guides, refraining from any attempt to spell the name in accordance with its presumed correct Turkī etymology. I am aware that this method of record has implied in certain cases obvious inconsistencies.<sup>6</sup> But it appeared the safest in the case of a geographical student like myself who, though an Orientalist familiar with Persian and the spoken language of Chinese Turkistān, does not profess to be a Turkologist. It must also be remembered that the Eastern Turkī spoken in the Tārīm basin and adjacent regions has not evolved a standard literary form, and that any attempt to spell their local names after the fashion adopted in modern literary productions of the Turkish-speaking population of Russian Central Asia and regions further west would very often render them unrecognizable to the people on the spot.

System of transliteration.

In recording Turkī and Īrānian names I have followed the system of transliteration approved by the International Congress of Orientalists and used also, in its simplified Hunterian form, for Indian Government publications. The use of diacritical marks has, however, been restricted to the indispensable minimum. Hence no distinction has been made in the case of words derived from Arabic between the several kinds of sibilants, gutturals, etc., which are pronounced alike by the people of Chinese Turkistān.

Composition of Turkī and Iranian names.

It has seemed to me convenient to separate the component parts of Turkī and Īrānian names, wherever clearly recognizable as distinct words, by the uniform employment of hyphens, and to use these, too, to mark the connection with the names proper of such common terms as *dawān* or pass, *mazār* or shrine, *köl* (also *kol*, *kul*) or lake, etc. I must, however, confess in this matter of hyphens and similar points to occasional inconsistencies, hoping that they will be the more readily excused in view of the prolonged period over which both the original surveys and their cartographic elaboration have extended. Finally, I trust that the convenient brevity and significance of such Turkī terms as *sai* (gravel plateau or stony glaci), *yār* (ravine in alluvial soil), *yārdang* (wind-eroded ridge), and a few others, will be held to justify their use in descriptive entries of the map, even on ground where Turkī is not the local tongue.

<sup>6</sup> Thus the word for 'lake' may appear as the concluding part of local names in the same region as *-kul*, *-kol* or *-köl*; similarly the word for 'hillock' as

*-döbe*, *-debe* or *-daba*; the word for 'mill' at the beginning or end of compound names as *tigharman*, *tüghürmen*, *tüghemen*, or *tügemen*, etc.