

by the Tang-ho for irrigation on its alluvial fan accounts for the fertile oasis of Tun-huang. The local resources of this westernmost outpost of China proper were of special importance during the early period when the Lopdesert route, protected in part by the Tun-huang *Limes*, served as the chief line of traffic into Central Asia. East of Tun-huang the flat bottom of the Su-lo-ho valley narrows, and at the starting point of the Hāmi road it is occupied for the most part by the cultivation of An-hsi, the ancient *Kua-chou*. The facilities here for irrigation by the Su-lo-ho are limited, and thus are also the extent and economic importance of the oasis.

Finally in the south extend the utterly barren foothills of the Nan-shan. The

Astronomically observed latitudes.

1906-08. Tun-huang town, Camp 159 (garden about 1 mile S. of South gate; B. 4)	40° 8' 9"
Ruined watch-tower, T. XXVIII, ancient <i>Limes</i> , Camp 164 (C. 4)...	40° 25' 45"
Ch'ien-fo-tung, Camp 178 (monks' quarters near S. end of caves; see <i>Serindia</i> , iii. Plan 42; B. 4)	40° 2' 37"
Kua-chou-k'ou, Camp 181 (near station; D. 4)	40° 22' 7"
An-hsi, Camp 182 (house near temple circ. 1 mile S.W. of West gate; D. 3)	40° 31' 38"
Ma-lien-ching-tzu, Camp 245 (near rest-house; C. 1)	41° 33' 40"
1913-15. Camp 107, about 9 miles to E. of camp (B. 3)	40° 32' 49"
Tun-huang town, Camp 110 (garden about ½ mile outside E. gate; B. 4)	40° 8' 55"
An-hsi, Camp 120 (temple circ. 1 mile S.W. of West gate; D. 3)	40° 31' 56"

NOTES ON SHEET No. 39 (NAN-HU)

The surveyed area of this sheet shows a portion of the extreme western end of the Nan-shan system and possibly its junction with the Āltin-tāgh. Of the morphological connection between the two I am unable to form any definite view. The ground around the small oasis of Nan-hu (A. 1) was explored by me in 1907 and the high plateau above Shih-pao-ch'êng (D. 1) visited in the same year. The survey of the intermediate area was made by R. B. Lāl Singh in 1914.

A description of the Nan-hu oasis, which is of some antiquarian and historical interest as marking the position of the 'Yang barrier' of the ancient Chinese border-line, is given in *Desert Cathay*, ii. pp. 71 sqq. The historical topography and physical features of this ground have been fully treated in *Serindia*, ii. pp. 611 sqq.

outermost chain, immediately south of Tun-huang, is completely overlain by high ridges of drift-sand which have given the town its later name of *Sha-chou*, 'the City of Sands'. Behind this outer hill-chain a wide plateau, mostly bare gravel waste, slopes up towards the well-defined second low range (D. 4) within which lies the small oasis of Tung-pa-t'u. The T'a-shih river coming from the snowy range further south has cut its way through both outer chains in deep narrow gorges.

Corrections. A. 4. Add ancient wall-line between towers T. XXII b and T. XXII c and eastwards to lake-shore.

B. 4. Add symbol of astronomical latitude station at Ch'ien-fo-tung.

The positions adopted for Tun-huang and An-hsi in Sheet No. 38 and the adjusted traverse of the *tāgh-yol* from Mirān to the former place served as a basis for the compilation of the plane-table work. Besides the observed latitude of Nan-hu, the astronomical values for Ch'ien-fo-tung (No. 38. B. 4) and Shih-pao-ch'êng (No. 41. A. 1), places falling just outside this sheet, offered a useful check.

The deep-cut, and for a considerable distance wholly inaccessible, valley of the Tang-ho or Tun-huang river divides the surveyed area into two portions, both closely allied in character. In the western one the great gravel glacis holds a basin with fertile loess soil, and irrigation supplied mainly by subsoil drainage permits limited cultivation here under conditions closely resembling