

concerning Kāshgar. From the time of the Former Han Dynasty, when the states of Central Asia were first opened up to the political influence of China, down to the T'ang period the region of the present Kāshgar was generally known by the name of 疏勒, read *Su-lê* or *Shu-lê* (according to Wade's transcription)². The name *Sha-lê* 沙勒 is given to Kāshgar in the accounts of the journeys of the pilgrims Sung Yün, Kumārajīva (circa 400 A.D.), Fa-yung (420 A.D.), Dharmagupta (circa 593-595 A.D.) and Wu-k'ung; the latter's itinerary distinctly records the identical application of *Sha-lê* and *Su-lê*³.

In Hsüan-tsang's *Hsi-yü-chi*, and in a passage of the T'ang Annals evidently reproduced from it, we meet with the name *Ch'ia-sha* 佉沙 (transcribed *K'ia-cha* by Julien, *K'in-cha* by M. Chavannes, and *K'a-sha* by Dr. Franke), in which it is impossible to mistake the phonetic rendering of some form connected with the present Kāshgar⁴. The name of the town *Chia-shih* 迦師, transcribed *Kia-che* by M. Chavannes and *K'a-shih* by Dr. Franke, which the same passage of the T'ang Annals refers to as the residence of the king of Kāshgar, is evidently also closely related in origin⁵. Earlier attempts to reproduce that old local name may be recognized in the *Ch'i-sha* 奇沙 of the pilgrim Chih-mêng (circa 404 A.D.), and in Fa-hsien's *Chieh-ch'a* 竭叉, which, by M. Chavannes' brilliant and convincing analysis of the itineraries of these two pilgrims, have been shown to be identical with Kāshgar⁶.

Mediaeval
names of
Kāshgar.

The form Kāshgar itself is attested in Muhammadan sources from the earliest period when the Arab conquest reached this part of Central Asia⁷. Spelt and pronounced in a variety of fashions (as *Kāshghar*, *Kāshgar*, *Qāshqar*, &c.) in accordance with the phonetic latitude allowed by Turkī languages in respect of certain consonants⁸, this name has continued in sole use ever since Eastern Turkestan was lost to the T'ang dynasty at the close of the eighth century. Chinese records subsequent to that period invariably designate the territory and town by transcriptions of the name Kāshgar, though its identity with the earlier *Su-lê* was never lost sight of by the learned in China⁹.

Chinese
etymologies
of name.

That the several names of so important a territory should have formed the subject of learned etymologies and conjectures both in the East and in the West can scarcely surprise us. Two early attempts to account for the name *Su-lê* (or *Shu-lê*) are found in Chinese Buddhist texts, and have recently been discussed at considerable length and with much critical care by

² The various Chinese designations of Kāshgar have been critically discussed in Dr. O. Franke's paper 'Kaschgar und die Kharoṣṭhī,' *Sitzungsber. der kön. preuss. Akad. der Wissenschaften*, Berlin, 1903, pp. 184 sqq.

The form *Su-lê* or *Shu-lê* is found also in an interesting notice of the three great routes connecting China with the West, which goes back to the information collected by P'ei Chü (circ. 605-606 A.D.) and which Baron Richthofen, *China*, i. p. 530, note, has extracted. The form *Liu-la*, given in this extract as the name of Kāshgar, is, according to the information kindly supplied to me by M. Chavannes, based upon a misreading of the usual 疏勒.

³ Compare Chavannes, *Voyage de Song Yun*, pp. 23, 54, 57, 62, and *L'Itinéraire d'Ou-k'ong*, p. 26.

⁴ Compare Julien, *Mémoires*, ii. pp. 219, 509; Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, pp. 121, 339 (where the pronunciation *K'ia-cha* (Ch'ia-sha) is quoted from K'ang-hsi's Dictionary); Franke, *Sb.P.A.W.*, 1903, p. 186.

⁵ See Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 121; Franke, *Sb.P.A.W.*, 1903, p. 186.

⁶ Compare Chavannes, *Voyage de Song Yun*, pp. 54 sq. also below, chap. III. sec. iv.

⁷ The capture of Kāshgar by the Arab general Qotayba, in 715-716 A.D., is recorded by Ṭabarī (tenth century), and references to Kāshgar are found in other Muhammadan authors from the tenth century onwards; compare Bretschneider, *Mediaeval Researches*, ii. pp. 45 sq.

⁸ For these variations of spelling compare Shaw, 'Vocabulary of the Turkī language,' in *J.A.S.B.*, Extra No. 1878, p. 164; also above, note 1.

⁹ See for such transcriptions (*K'o-shih-ha-li* in Yüan shih of 1369 A.D., *Ha-shih-ha-rh* in Ming Annals of seventeenth century), Bretschneider, *Med. Researches*, ii. pp. 148, 245; also the modern Chinese records extracted in Ritter, *Asien*, v. pp. 409 sqq.