

documents. The paper is in all cases of a thin flimsy kind, closely resembling in outward appearance that of the Chinese documents found at Dandān-Uiliq. With a single exception (D. iv. 6), only one side of the paper is inscribed, probably because the latter was not sized, and hence would allow the ink to pass through. Of D. iv. 6 it may be supposed that its paper, like that of one at least of the Chinese documents (D. vii. 3), which Prof. Wiesner has subjected to microscopical analysis, had received a loading with starch<sup>16</sup>.

Probable  
character of  
Brāhmī  
documents.

Even such cursory examination as was possible on the spot convinced me that these more or less fragmentary sheets could not have belonged to Pōthīs, but had evidently served for detached records of some kind. The cursive Brāhmī writing which they invariably showed was not to be found on any leaf which by its shape or material could be recognized as part of a manuscript book. The impression gained from the outward appearance of these papers has been confirmed by Dr. Hoernle's examination. This shows that they are documents closely agreeing in language, writing, and probable contents with the far more extensive collection of Brāhmī documents described and analysed by him in the second part of his *Report*<sup>17</sup>. Referring to that publication for all details of Dr. Hoernle's painstaking researches, I shall restrict myself here to those antiquarian points which my own observations on the spot may help to illustrate. The manuscript materials in cursive Brāhmī upon which Dr. Hoernle worked, and which comprised no less than thirteen sheets complete or nearly so, besides a large number of fragments, had been derived from purchases made during the years 1895-8 by Mr. Macartney and Captain (now Major) S. H. Godfrey from Badruddīn Khān, the previously mentioned Ak-sakāl of the Afghān merchants of Khotan<sup>18</sup>. Internal evidence of a conclusive kind, which Dr. Hoernle has duly indicated, proves that the whole of the Brāhmī documents comprised in those purchases 'came from the same locality, and even belonged to the same community'. On the other hand, the results of my inquiries at Khotan and the comparison of these documents with my own finds make it appear practically certain that this locality was Dandān-Uiliq, and that the documents described by Dr. Hoernle represent chance finds made by Turdī during his earlier visits to that site. Badruddīn Khān acknowledged from the first that, apart from the ample supply of forged manuscripts and block-printed 'old books' with which Islām Ākhūn had furnished him, all genuine acquisitions of ancient manuscripts had reached him in the form of fragments of leaves or crumpled lumps of paper brought by Turdī and his people. My old 'treasure-seeking' guide himself asserted with equal emphasis and consistency that nowhere else but at Dandān-Uiliq had he and his fraternity ever found ancient 'Khats', and that all of such that he had sold to Badruddīn Khān came from that site. In appearance, material, and, so far as he could judge, in their writing his manuscript finds had always resembled those which rewarded my search at Dandān-Uiliq.

Brāhmī  
documents  
previously  
acquired  
from site.

These statements made by the two persons through whose agency the documents comprised in Dr. Hoernle's collection had reached Kāshgar and Leh, is strongly supported by the evidence of the documents themselves. In paper, writing, and even the crumpled condition in which many of them reached Dr. Hoernle, they show the closest resemblance to my own finds. That their language, which Dr. Hoernle's philological acumen has successfully deciphered, is found

<sup>16</sup> See J. Wiesner, *Neuer Beitrag zur Geschichte des Papiers*, pp. 11 sq.

<sup>17</sup> See *Report on C.-A. ant.*, ii. pp. 30 sqq.

<sup>18</sup> Captain Godfrey's contribution (G. 1) which comprised a number of the documents here under discussion, is said to have been made up of finds made near Kuchā.

But Dr. Hoernle has pointed out that the recurrence in them of the names of the same persons as are mentioned in documents avowedly purchased from Khotan by Mr. Macartney proves a different origin for at least part of that collection. See *Report*, ii. p. 31. Badruddīn regularly supplied antiques to Capt. Godfrey at Leh.