

The main objects which had brought me to Ak-su were attained during my five days' stay at the 'New Town', the headquarters of P'an Ta-jên. In the course of this long-planned reunion I was able to thank that valued old Mandarin friend in person for all the effective help which, as Tao-t'ai of Ak-su, he had extended to me in his division, ever since I first entered it at Charkhlik, and far beyond its eastern limits, too. I could also satisfy his unfailing scholarly interest in the results of my labours by showing him specimens of my finds of ancient Chinese records, etc. At the same time P'an Ta-jên's powerful recommendation enabled me to assure all the local assistance which R. B. Lāl Singh needed for the continuous survey he was to carry through the outer T'ien-shan ranges as far as the passes north of Kāshgar. His friendly interest was secured also for Chiang Ssū-yeh, whose devoted services had helped so much towards the success of my efforts.

Stay at P'an
Ta-jên's
head-
quarters.

The inquiries made during my stay at Ak-su failed to produce any information pointing to the existence of old remains within the district. Nor do its early history and topography call for prolonged comments since the essential data available in the Chinese records have already been duly elucidated by MM. Chavannes and Grenard. It is the latter's merit to have first correctly demonstrated that the territory which in the Former Han Annals is described under the designation of *Ku-mo* 姑墨 and is mentioned by the same name also in the Later Han Annals and the *Wei lio* is identical with the present Ak-su.³ The Former Han Annals' notice places it quite correctly to the west of Kuei-tzū, or Kuchā, at 670 li distance, and Khotan to the south 'at a distance of fifteen days' journey on horseback', the very number of marches which I counted between Khotan and Ak-su. The population of 3,500 families indicated seems to bear an approximately correct proportion to the 6,970 families recorded for Kuei-tzū (Kuchā) or the 4,000 given for Yen-ch'i, or Kara-shahr.⁴ Of Wên-su 溫宿, which the same notice puts 270 li to the west of Ku-mo, and which modern Chinese geographical texts and administrative nomenclature wrongly identify with Ak-su, MM. Grenard and Chavannes have shown that it corresponds to Uch-Turfān (Map No. 19. A. 4).⁵

Ak-su the
Ku-mo of
Han Annals.

A passage of the T'ang Annals clearly indicates the identity of the Ku-mo of Han times with the 'little kingdom of Po-lu-chia' 跋祿迦 which Hsüan-tsang reached from Kuchā after having crossed a small desert for 600 li westwards.⁶ Another passage of the *T'ang shu*, in recording a full itinerary from Kuchā westwards to Uch-Turfān (Wên-su) and beyond, mentions the town of Ak-su by the names of *Po-huan* 撥換 or *Wei-jung* 威戎 or *Ku-mo*, and correctly describes its position.⁷ To this string of varying names for the same place must be added the form Chi-mo 𤝵墨, which the first passage of the *T'ang-shu* records as a variant, and the forms *Po-huan* 鉢浣 or *Pu-han* 怖汗, which Wu-k'ung mentions in addition to Wei-jung.⁸ Hsüan-tsang's description of Po-lu-chia, which the T'ang Annals reproduce without adding more than the identity of the 'little kingdom' with Ku-mo, or Chi-mo, is brief. He states its extent as about 600 li from east to west by 300 li from north to south, and the size of its capital as 5 to 6 li in circuit. 'In general characteristics this country and its

Ak-su in
T'ang times.

³ Cf. M. Grenard's observations fully quoted in M. Chavannes' note, *Les pays d'occident d'après le Wei lio*, *T'oung-pao*, 1905, pp. 553, note 1. For the Former Han Annals' notice, see Wylie, *Notes on the Western Regions*, *J. Anthropol. Inst.*, xi. pp. 93 sq.; for the mention in the Later Han Annals, *T'oung-pao*, 1907, p. 208.

⁴ Cf. *J. Anthropol. Inst.*, xi. pp. 94, 101.

⁵ The maps Nos. 19, 23 show that here, too, the bearing and distance indicated are perfectly correct, the latter being about fifty-five miles by road measure from the 'Old Town' of Ak-su and the direction due west to the town of Uch-Turfān.

⁶ Cf. Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 120; Julien, *Mémoires*, i. p. 10; Watters, *Yuan Chuang*, p. 64. The location of Po-lu-chia at Ak-su was correctly recognized already by V. de Saint-Martin; see *Mémoire analytique*, in Julien, *Mémoires*, ii. p. 265.

⁷ Cf. Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 8.

⁸ See Chavannes-Lévi, *L'itinéraire d'Ou-k'ong*, *J. Asiat.*, 1895, sept.-oct., p. 363.

Wu-k'ung travelled to Ak-su from Khotan about A.D. 787, on his way back to China. Obviously he had to make this great detour because the direct route via Lop and Tun-huang was blocked by the Tibetans.