

excessive wind-erosion. Its triangular area is limited to the west and south by the Tārīm and its terminal marshes, and to the east by the salt-encrusted bed of the ancient dried-up Lop sea. Within this area the Kuruk-daryā, 'the Dry River', once fed by the Konche-daryā and partly, perhaps, also by branching beds of the Tārīm river, had its delta during early historical times.

Its water rendered nomadic occupation of the riverine belt in the north possible for the indigenous herdsmen and fishermen of Lou-lan, and along the same belt passed, until the beginning of the fourth century A. D., the ancient Chinese highway from Tun-huang. Its line is marked by the ruins of the Lou-lan Site and those explored by me to the west and north-east of it (D.3). The extension of the Kuruk-daryā delta much further to the south, too, is proved for the same period by the ancient river-bed, traced along the ruined sites which stretch from L. R. to L. K. (C, D. 4).<sup>15</sup>

*Astronomically observed latitudes.*

|   |     |     |     |             |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1906-08. Lou-lan Station, L. A., Camp 124 (Stūpa ruin, near N.E. corner of circumvallation; D. 3) | ... | ... | ... | 40° 31' 14" |
| Camp 125, Lou-lan Site (about half a mile S.E. of temple ruins, L. B.; D. 3)                      | ... | ... | ... | 40° 34' 30" |
| 1913-15. Yaka-yārdang-bulak, Camp 76 (tamarisk-cone near spring; A. 3)                            | ... | ... | ... | 40° 44' 22" |
| Lou-lan Station, L. A., Camp 83 (Stūpa ruin, near N.E. corner of circumvallation; D. 3)           | ... | ... | ... | 40° 30' 57" |
| Örkash-bulak, Camp 248 (near spring; B. 1)  | ... | ... | ... | 41° 59' 13" |
| Singer, Camp 250 (near station A of base, on S. bank of Nullah; B. 2)                             | ... | ... | ... | 41° 27' 57" |
| Ältmish-bulak, Camp 86 (near westernmost spring; D. 3)  | ... | ... | ... | 40° 56' 55" |
| (Camp of 1914, February)  | ... | ... | ... | 40° 56' 43" |
| (Camp of 1914, December)  | ... | ... | ... | 40° 50' 8"  |
| Ästin-bulak, Camp 81 (at E. end of base, on E. bank of Nullah; D. 3)                              | ... | ... | ... | 40° 50' 40" |
| do. (near spring)   | ... | ... | ... | 41° 18' 27" |
| Azghan-bulak, Camp 292 (at spring; A. 2)  | ... | ... | ... |             |

NOTES ON SHEET No. 30 (LOP-NOR)

The surveyed area of the sheet shows the terminal course of the Tārīm, with the marshes usually known to geographers as Lop-nör, as well as the ground extending southwards to the outermost range of the K'un-lun. Most of the routes were followed on both the second and third expeditions with slight variations.

The delineation of the mountainous

<sup>15</sup> Here as in other parts of this ancient delta the direction of the old river-beds has been indicated by rows of symbols for dead trees. These, once growing on the banks of these beds, invariably mark

A descriptive account of my explorations of 1906-07 in the Lop desert and among the ruins of the Lou-lan Site is given in *Desert Cathay*, i. pp. 359 sqq. The ancient topography of the Lou-lan territory and the physical features of the Lop desert, having a direct bearing on the early Chinese route which passed through it, have been fully discussed in Chapter IX-XI of *Serindia*; see in particular, i. pp. 332 sqq., 340 sqq., 349 sqq., 416 sqq. For a preliminary account of my renewed explorations in the Lou-lan region, during the winters of 1914 and 1915, cf. *Geograph. Journal*, 1916, xlviii. pp. 120 sqq., 206 sq.; *Geographical Review* (New York), ix. pp. 11 sqq.

*Corrections.* A. 4. *Chong-köl-satma* to be printed black.

C. 4. Symbols for ancient dwellings at L. M. Site (Camp xcii) should be printed red.

D. 3. 'Lou-lan Site' should be printed red.

ground in the south is adjusted to the stations and intersected points of R. B. Lāl Singh's triangulation of 1913. As a result of the error already referred to in the Notes on the preceding sheet and fully explained by Major Mason in Appendix A, the positions of the triangulated points from those near Toghrak-chap (B. 3) eastwards have been shown in the map with longitude values

their courses, even where partially filled by drift-sand or cut up by wind-erosion. As the map shows, the general direction of these beds south of the Lou-lan site is approximately from N.W. to S.E.