

without adequate guidance. The rapidly increasing heat and glare—on March 27 and 28 the air about midday was 88° Fahr. in the shade, though the minimum thermometer had for the corresponding nights still registered 28° and 30° Fahr.—rendered tramps through the sand very trying, and we realized the limitations of the water-supply carried in the tanks when our party was increased by labourers. Hence I felt as glad as my men when the satisfactory conclusion of my task allowed me, on the morning of March 28, to turn back southward to the inhabited area.

Shrine of
Lachin-atā.

En route I passed the desolate little shrine of Lachin-atā (see Fig. 56), where, besides the usual accumulation of poles bedecked with flags, &c., there was a wretched hut sheltering the brackish well about 20 ft. deep. A small open space closely surrounded by high tamarisk-covered cones showed some pottery débris which looked old (for specimens see L. 002). The saint worshipped here is supposed to have followed the fortunes of Maḥmūd Karam Kābulī¹⁰. Within about four miles from Lachin-atā our route reached an area of abandoned fields, the cultivation of which a few generations ago was still remembered in village tradition. Some three miles further on we arrived at the scattered hamlet of Ponak, marking the northern edge of the flourishing oasis of Gulakhma. There for the first time I caught sight of the young green of cultivated fields and orchards.

OBJECTS FOUND AT AK-TAZ SITE.

Objects
from
Ak-taz.

D. K. 004. Bronze finger ring. The ring is made of a flat band of metal, and supports a circular setting in which is a gem apparently made of opaque glass with blue

markings. See Pl. LI.

D. K. 006. Two fragments of terra-cotta. $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$.
 $\frac{3}{4}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$.

OBJECTS FOUND AT UZUN-TATI.

Objects
from
Uzun-Tati.

D. K. 001. a. Bronze hook, or clasp; cast. The form is like a swan's neck. $1\frac{3}{4}''$ long. See Pl. LI.

D. K. 002. f. Two fragments of moulded glass. See Pl. LII.

D. K. 001. b. Cast bronze buckle-like object; open work. $1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{5}{8}''$. See Pl. LI.

D. K. 002. g. Denticular setting with gem (dirty yellow glass). Portion of a finger ring.

D. K. 002. a. Fragment of Chinese porcelain, finely glazed and decorated in blue outline pattern. $\frac{7}{8}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$. See Pl. LII.

D. K. 003. Small objects in metal, glass, porcelain, &c.

D. K. 002. b. Fragment of Chinese porcelain, glazed, decorated with dirty brown, badly fluxed. $1\frac{3}{8}'' \times \frac{7}{16}''$. See Pl. LII.

a. Bronze finger ring, similar to D. K. 004 but with claw (denticular) setting holding piece of flat cloudy-green glass. See Pl. LI.

D. K. 002. c. Fragment of Chinese porcelain, decorated with edge dark yellow; outside, two lines and pattern outlined in black, filled in with fine green. $\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{3}{8}''$. See Pl. LII.

b. Bronze finger ring, similar to D. K. 004, but larger and gem missing. Metal table for gem broken. On outer surface of flat band a raised design in twisted bronze wire laid on in two opposing zig-zags between parallel borders. See Pl. LI.

D. K. 002. d. Fragment of Chinese porcelain, glazed entirely outside with fine turquoise blue. Inside white. $\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{9}{16}''$. See Pl. LII.

c. Table and gem setting of bronze finger ring.

D. K. 002. e. Fragment of terra-cotta, glazed on inside olive green on which black lines. $\frac{5}{8}'' \times \frac{3}{16}''$.

d. Small bronze ring attached to broken bronze fragment, probably of a bell.

e. Several fragments of bronze, and one of iron.

f. Three grape stalks.

g. Small piece of thin bronze wire.

¹⁰ See Grenard, *Mission D. de Rhins*, iii. p. 45, note 5.