

moulded and sand-ground ornamentation of the large fragment of a glass vessel, E. Fort. 0011 (Plate XXXVI), resembles Roman work of the first to fourth centuries A.D. and suggests importation. The abundance of glass at this site, as compared with the Niya ruins, is certainly a notable feature and one for which I am unable at present to suggest a satisfactory explanation. It is all the more noteworthy because we have seen above that the earlier settlement at Endere must belong to a period when the Niya Site was still occupied.

It is left for me to describe the structural remains which on two successive excursions I was able to survey in what may at present be considered the extreme south of the site. The most striking among them was the ruin of a fortified post, small but of massive construction, which Mihmān, my Endere guide, knew by the name of *Yalghuz-oi*, 'the isolated structure'. It proved to be situated just three miles to the south of the Stūpa, amidst closely set tamarisk-cones. These account for the difficulty Prof. Huntington, its first Western visitor, experienced in finding the ruin.⁷ It was built in a solid square with walls of stamped clay, about eight feet thick at the base. A projecting rectangular bastion guarded the single entrance from the south, as seen in the photograph, Fig. 82, and the plan (Plate 21). Owing to the protection against erosion which was offered by the situation of the ruin and in particular by the immediate vicinity of the big tamarisk-cone seen on the left in the photograph, the walls had suffered comparatively little damage and still rose to eighteen feet or so in most places. On the outside of the walls the outlines left by forms which were used for stamping the *pisé* (now known as *sighiz* in Turkī) could still be made out, with a length of about three and a height of two feet. Just as in the walls of the ancient walled 'town' near the Stūpa, single courses of bricks or else shapeless clay lumps intervened horizontally between the stamped clay layers. But though clearly visible from a distance in the higher portions of the walls these brick courses were too effaced on the surface for exact measurement in places where access was possible. The top of the north wall and of the bastion bore in parts scanty remains of a parapet about one foot thick and apparently built with bricks of the same width.

Ruined post
at south end
of site.

The interior court, measuring about forty-eight feet square, was completely bare, except for accumulations of straw and dung, mainly of horses, left undisturbed just under the lee side of the east wall. Along this wall the steps leading up to the top from the south-east were still distinguishable. Within the entrance of the court three posts of Toghrak wood, once flanking the inner gate, still stood upright to a height of about eight feet from the original floor. On clearing the débris which filled the gate, we came upon some well-carved pieces of timber which the men from Niya recognized as of mulberry and *Elaeagnus* wood. So cultivation at the time of this little fort's construction was proved. But I searched in vain for definite archaeological evidence as to the period of its occupation. The solidity of the whole structure gave an impression of antiquity which I felt from the first rather instinctively, without being able to support it. But that this impression had some basis in fact was revealed to me more than half a year later when I surveyed an ancient fort of almost the same plan and appearance, T. XIV (Figs. 183, 184), along the Tun-huang Limes, and ascertained that it marked the position of the Yü-mên Gate of Han times on the early Chinese route from Tun-huang to Lop-nōr.

Interior of
fortified
post.

The structural peculiarity above noticed, of brick courses introduced between the layers of stamped clay, might be adduced to support that impression; for it is seen also in the walls of the ancient 'Sipil' to the north-east of the Stūpa. But I am inclined to attach even more importance to the fact, noticed below, that some small and much-decayed dwellings found in the close vicinity of this fortified post proved to have been built with bricks which showed exactly the same measurements as those of the datable structures E. VI, VII, belonging to the earlier settlement. That the fair

Indications
of early date
of post.

⁷ Cf. *Pulse of Asia*, p. 215.