

Tibetan Documents from Chinese
Turkestan. III: The Nob Region

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(Continued from p. 98)

BY the "Nob region" I would for the present purpose indicate generally the stretch of country south of the desert of Chinese Turkestan and lying between "the Śa-cu region" on the east and "the Khotan region" on the west, together with any part of the mountain hinterland to the south. It would thus include, for example, Cer-cen (Calmadana), Charkalik (Nob), and the former Shan-shan kingdom. The documents come mainly from the old fort of Mīrān, which was also, as we have seen, in communication with Śa-cu; there is, indeed, ample evidence of active intercourse between the Tibetan authorities from Khotan as far as Śa-cu and Kva-cu and even further into China proper. In general it is clear that by the routes along the desert edge and otherwise, long journeys, covering many hundreds of miles, were habitual among the populations of the scattered oases and widely separated mountain settlements; in respect of distances they thought in large measures. It is in virtue of apparent importance and frequent mention in the documents that Nob, with its three or four towns, or forts, may be used to symbolize the whole region. The citations may be arranged under the names of the districts or places, which hereafter may acquire a more definite location. The dates are, no doubt, for the most part in the eighth century A.D.

I. TSHAL-BYI

That this name is connected with Nob we have already seen (*JRAS.* 1927, p. 87). Otherwise it has been known only from a mention in one of the Tibetan chronicles relating to Khotan (Rockhill, *Life of the Buddha*, p. 242). At the time of the downfall of Buddhism in Khotan the monks

who abandoned the country and after a toilsome journey found refuge at the Tibetan capital reached Tibetan territory first at a place called Tshal-byi. Whether the name is itself Tibetan or dates from a pre-Tibetan period and is perhaps connected with a personal name Salvi or Saluvi, occurring in the Kharoṣṭhī documents, can hardly yet be considered. The available information is contained in the following documents:—

1. M.I. xix, 001 (wood, 16 × 2 cm., complete; ll. 2 *recto* + 2 *verso* of clear *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ། | . | blon : S tag : b̄zer : gyi : bran : | | Jeḥu : Lho : gzig : |
 bkaḥ . cad . kyis . bcad : de [2] Tshal : byiḥi : mñan : gyi :
 ḥbaṅsu : bsnan . nas . Nob . chuṅu : na . mchis : pa : | bdag .
 Tshal : byi . na : rje : [B 1] blas : ḥtshal : baḥi . tshe : |
 g-yar : por : ḥkhol : du : gnañ : baḥi : gtad : byañ : yañ : skur :
 ba : lags . na : | [B 2] sug : las : phor : deb : ḥtshal : du :
 stsold : pa . | Nob . chuṅu : na : žugs : śiñ . ma . mchisna : |
 Ka . dag [B 3] tu : mchiste : phor : deb : thañ . btab : pa .
 bžin : du : bgyid : du : stsald : ||

[1–2] “A servant of Councillor Stag-b̄zer, Jeḥu Lho-gzig, having been in Little Nob, employed by order (*or* as a punishment, *bkaḥ-cad-kyis-bcad-de*) among the government subjects (*mñan-gyi-ḥbaṅs*?) of Tshal-byi, [2–B 1] I in Tshal-byi at the time of His Excellency’s demand sent a note of instruction requiring him to serve on hire: [B 2] the message was that his handiwork should be cup-making. [B 2–3] As, while *he* was staying in Little Nob, *they* did not come, I sent to him to go to Ka-dag and engage in cup-making in accordance with the order given.”

Notes

1. 1. *Jeḥu* : On this clan name see above, p. 93. *Mñan-gyi-ḥbaṅs* : This is a recurrent phrase of not definitely ascertained meaning. Thus in M.I. xxiv, 0029, we read

། | | *mñan.gi.ḥbaṅs* . | | *Mon.Tshe.skyes.la* . | “To the government servant, the Mon Tshe-skyes.”

bsnan : see below, p. 559.

B 2. *Ka-dag*: Concerning this place see below, pp. 565–8.

2. M.I. i, 3 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 18 × 2.5 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 3 *verso* of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing, partly erased).

[1] ། ། Tshal . byi . Car . chen . na ། ། mthon . khyab . byañ .
 sruñs . pa . ñuñ . śas . śig [2] mchis . pa ། ། bkaḥ . luñ . rñiñ .
 dañ . ། ། khri . sde . gsa[r] . btsugs . kyi . bkaḥ . luñ . dañ .
 sbyar . na [B 1] rts[e] . rgod . lta . bur . myi . na . gis . kha .
 myi . brtan . žiñ . myi . gtor . bar . ḥbyuñ [B 2] . .
 las ། ། mñah . ris . su . ḥkhrug . pa . byuñ . nas ། ། Tshal . byi .
 khams . [s]u . yañ [B 3] ḥbro . cog . lastsogs . ste . ། ། glo .
 ba . riñs . pas ། ། ma . legs . dgu . žig . bgyis .

[1–2] “ In Car-chen of Tshal-byi the northern watch-tower has few defenders. [2–B 1] With regard to the old orders and the orders of the newly appointed authorities, it appears that men should not be sent away, as if in frolic and mirth, without a promise from me. [B 2] From . . . trouble has arisen on the frontier, and in the region of Tshal-byi also there are runaways (*ḥbro-cog* ?). The longheads have committed simply every possible mistake.”

Notes

ll. 2 and B 1. *dañ-sbyar-na* and *ḥbyuñ*: On these phrases see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 79.

mthon-khyab: see below, p. 559.

1. B 3. *glo-ba-riñs*: This phrase has occurred, *supra*, 1927, p. 823. *ma-legs-dgu*: On *dgu* as a sign of plurality see above, 1927, p. 823.

3. M.I. i, 23 (paper; 31.5 × 8 cm.; partly incomplete with loss of two half-lines at the upper right; ll. 8 + 1 *recto* inverted of somewhat cursive *dbu-can* writing: *verso* a different document).

[1] ། ། . ། Guñ . Khri . bžer . gyi . bsñel . byañ . du . sñan .
 sñuñs . pa ། ། Tshal [2] bdag . chag .
 sñun ། ། lañ . myiḥi . sde . las ། ། phaḥ . tshe . bkaḥ . chad .

gyis . kh [3] mthoñ . khyab . na
 bsnand . sor(ñ ?) | | bkaḥ . luñ . las . ḥbyuñ . ba . las | |
 Tshal . byi . [dmag . pon chad . gner . btags . las | |
 sde . kh-] [4] bsor . bsnan . pa | stams . las . {br}i .
 ste | | sñar . žaṅ . lon . ched . po . la . gsold . pa . las | | Tshal .
 byi . mthoñ . khyab . du . sde . spo . bar . gñañ . ste . | [5]
 phyag . rgyas . gthad . nas | | snon . god . ma . thebs . pa .
 tsam . žig | | bdag . chag . pha . bran . myi . spad . l[ñ]a .
 drug . mchis . pa | | spu . gñis [6] kyañ | mthoñ . khyab .
 kyi . skya . pherd . chiñ . no . thog . pa . žig . na | | sde . cha .
 mthoñ . khyab . du . snon . god . thob . žig . par | | Tshal .
 byi . dmag . pon . dañ | [7] spyan . la . gthad . par . chi .
 gñañ | žes . mol . [te] | | rgyal . bu . Bkum (?) . sras . kyi .
 bkaḥs . gñañ . phyag . rgya . [ḥga]žig | brdzañs . na | | gum .
 ba . las . [8] sos . pa . dañ . ḥdra . ste | | bdag . chag . spad .
 ma . gum . tshun . chad | žal . che . mthoñ . du . spogs .
 śiñ . mchis |

Inverted. [9] ☉ | | ḥphrul . gyi . ža . [sña . la] | g-yar .
 žan . [Mtsiñ . sa . Bor . sgaḥi] . mchid . gsol.

[1-2] "For a reminder to Guñ Khri-bžer [letter of] inquiry as to *his* health on the part of us, a staff of old employees (*sñun.lañ.myi?*) in the watch-tower of Tshal-byi. [2-4] Whereas by order in *our* father's lifetime . . . instruction was given for keeping guard as employees in the watch-tower, the Tshal-byi general . . . summarily (*stams-las*) reduced the staff employed in the guard. [4-5] As previously submitted to the great Uncle-Minister, a letter was sent directing a change of staff in the Tshal-byi watch-tower; only compensation (pay?) for the employment was not received. [5-8] We being five or six brothers, *sons of a* father in service, and both families being capable persons carrying on the work (*skya-pherd?*) of the watch-tower, if a letter were sent with orders on the part of the prince . . . , advising that the staff in the watch-tower should receive compensation (pay?) for their employment and that the Tshal-byi general should be pleased to admit us to his presence

(or to take it under his eye ?), it would be as if we had been saved from death. [8] So long as we are still alive, we brothers are confident of seeing a [just] decision.”

Inverted. [9] “To the divine presence: letter-petition of a poor hireling (*g-yar-žan* ?) Mtsiñ-sa Bor-sga.”

Notes

1. 1. *bsñel-byañ*: The phrase recurs in M. Tagh. *a*, iv, 00128.

1. 3, etc. *mthoñ-khyab* (= *khab*): This might be an alternative form of *mthon-khab* (there being not a little indifference as between *n* and *ñ* final), which might mean “high residence, head-quarters”; but the other occurrences of the phrase (see, e.g., above, p. 557, and cf. M.I. iv, 27; iv, 57*x*; xiv, 0012; xxv, 003; xxviii, 0036; lviii, 001) seem to favour the rendering given.

bsnan: This is clearly a form from *snon*, which occurs later in the document; the usual sense being that of “augmentation”, the meaning here may be to employ in addition. Cf. p. 556.

hbyuñ-ba-las: On this phrase see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 823.

1. 4. *stams-las*: The phrase has occurred 1927, p. 838; the exact sense is not certain.

1. 6. *skya-pherd*: Is this a metaphor “pull the oar”?

1. 8. *spogs*: This seems to be = *spobs* “confidence”.

4. M.I. iv, 49 (wooden tablet, fragmentary at right; c. 13 × 2.5–3 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 2 *verso* of ordinary *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ☉ || stod.nas.blon.Ldoñ.bzañ.Lha.sgra.Gsas . . .
 [2] sprñ . ba . dañ . ñams . las | stod . kyi . Dru . . . [B 1]
 Tshal . byiñi . thad . kar . bsñens . par . bla . nas . thug . . .
 [B 2] chad . [nas] | nañ . po . cag [bag ?] . gñis | khog . pas.

[1–B 2] “It having been previously decided (?) from dispatches of Councillor Ldoñ-bzañ Lha-sgra, Gsas . . . above and from reflections that the Upper Dru-*gu* had extended (were apprehended) in the direction of Tshal-byi, [B 2] we two friends”

Note

Concerning the Dru-gu, with whom Tshal-byi is here associated, see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 80 (the Drug-cun), p. 81 (Ha-ža).

5. M.I. xvi, 19 (paper; c. 24.5 × 8.5 cm.; obscure and left lower corner torn away; ll. 5 *recto* in a rather square cursive *dbu-can* writing + ll. 6 *verso*, more rounded).

[1. 4] . . . || Tshal.byi.khri[m] [5] bon.pho[g].pa_{hi}.na.
bran . skyes . ste . s_grol . bar . chad . ces || bde . blon . gyis .
mchid . stsald . nas || stag

B, l. 5. . . . | ña.Klu.len. . . .

“The excellent councillor having sent a letter to the effect that, there having been a young servant (*na-bran* ?) who has struck the Tshal-byi judge, protection should be given, the soldier . . . The witness (?) Klu-len . . .”

Note

1. 3. *khri[m]-bon-pho[g]-pa_{hi}*: The reading is somewhat uncertain. As regards *khri-m-bon* = *khri-m-dpon* it may be remarked that *dpon* often appears in the documents in the forms *bon* and *phon*. Judges are sometimes mentioned, and it seems that the district Tshal-byi was provided with one. With *na-bran* “young servant” compare *pha-bran* above, p. 558.

6. M.I. xxi, 5 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 15 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ☉ || Tshal.byi.dmag.pon.dan || žin.h_god.kyi.
[riñ] [2] la.gthad.phā.

“Sent to the Tshal-byi general and [as] the price of the land-settlement.”

Notes

1. 1. *dmag-pon*: It appears that there was a “general commander” for Tshal-byi; cf. No. 8, below.

žin-h_god: The phrase occurs below, p. 573.

rin-la-gthad-pha: The reading *rin* (= *rin*) is not quite certain; *gthad-pa* = *gtad-pa* "sent". The *la* seems to do double duty, "to" the general and "for" the price: cf. *rin-du*, p. 568, No. 29. But *rin-la* may mean "during".

7. M.I. xli, 0013 (wooden tablet, c. 8.5 × 2 cm.; ll. 2. *recto* + 2 *verso* of ordinary *dbu-can* writing).

. . . Tshal.byi.hi.ru.dpon.du.bskos.

"Was appointed Ru-dpon (Horn- or Wing-Commander) of Tshal-byi."

Notes

Ru-dpon: The title occurred above, 1927, p. 829.

8. M.I. iv, 10 (paper; c. 10 × 8 cm.; ll. 5 of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[2] | sgyehu.ka.Htshal.byi(?).

[6] . . . dmag.dpon. . . .

"bagman (?), Htshal-byi, . . . general."

Note

sgyehu-ka: See below, p. 569.

9. M. Tagh. a, iv, 00128 (paper).

[l. 2] . . . Tshal.byir.mchis.nas . . .

"having gone to Tshal-byi."

From these passages it appears that Cer-cen was included in Tshal-byi, which according to the other evidence would appear to be rather the hinterland to the south. From the mention of the general and the "horn-commander" it is plain that it was the district of a military unit.

II. NAG-ŚOD, RGOD-TSAÑ-SMAD (Lower Rgod-tsañ), RGOD-TSAÑ-STOD (Upper Rgod-tsañ), KHA-DRO

These are four districts, as is evident from the arrangement of the wooden document, M.I. vii, 0017.

10.	Nag-śod	Rgod-tsañ-smad	Rgod-tsañ-stod
	gro nas	gro nas	gro nas
	(wheat)(barley)	(wheat) (barley)	(wheat) (barley)

Kha-dro

gro nas
(wheat) barley),

clearly a tally intended to record amounts of wheat and barley from the districts. The first three are not infrequently mentioned in connexion with their respective territorial regiments, e.g. in—

(a) 11. M.I. ii, 32.

Nag.śod.kyi.sde.gyab.Lha.ston.

“The *gyab* Lha-ston of the Nag-śod district (*or* regiment),” where *gyab* seems to be a military title occurring elsewhere.

12. M.I. xiv, 76.

| Nag.śod.kyi.sde | skyañ.po.Khrom.rma.

“The *skyañ-po* Khrom-rma of the Nag-śod district (*or* regiment).” *Skyañ-po* recurs below, p. 583.

13. M.I. xiv, 129.

☉ | . | Tshugs.pon.Kha . . . [2] lad.Klu.rton | Byan.
po.Nag.śod.gi.sde | Thre.Mthoñ.rma.

“Captain Kha . . . lad Klu-rton. Cook of the Nag-śod regiment, Thre Mthoñ-rma.”

(Further mentions in M.I. ii, 16; xiv, 67; xvi, 005; xxv, 001. In M.I. viii, 37, we have the *rje-ziñ* “lord’s land” of Nag-śod.)

(b) 14. M.I. viii, 45.

☉ || Rgod.tshañ.smad.gyi.sa.mkhar.la | dor.gsum ||

“To the land-town of Lower Rgod-tshañ three teams.”

(On *dor*, = “team” or “yoke” of oxen (*or* yaks) for ploughing, see *JRAS.* 1927, pp. 817–18. Many of the documents relate to the hiring-out of such teams.)

15. M.I. xiv, 006.

Rgod . tsañ . smad . kyi . sde . Lbeg . rma . Nuñ . žub.

“ Of the Lower Rgod-tsañ district (*or* regiment), Lbeg-rma Nuñ-žub.”

16. M.I. xxvii, 9.

Rgod . tshañ . smad . kyi . sde | tsa . rñu . Khrom . legs.

“ Of the Lower Rgod-tshañ district (*or* regiment), the *tsa-rñu* Khrom-legs.”

(*tsa-rñu* (*or ce-rñu*), apparently an official title, recurs in M.I. xiv, 46 ; xiv, 109*b*, p. 571 below ; xxiii, 009.)

17. M.I. lviii, 004.

☉ || Spoñ . Rañ . slog | Rgod . tshañ . smad . kyi . stoñ . pon . gyi . žiñ | dor . ch[i]g .

“ Land of Spoñ Rañ-slog, thousand-commander of Lower Rgod-tsañ, one yoke.”

It appears herefrom that Lower Rgod-tsañ was a Thousand-district, *stoñ-sde*, and had a *stoñ-dpon*. The term *stoñ-sde*, which perhaps denotes a district of 1,000 estates (as Dr. Prāṇa Nath suggests for similar phrases in India), has been noted above, 1927, pp. 75 and 808. The district is mentioned also in M.I. 003, and M. Tagh. *a*, ii, 0097.

(*c*) 18. M.I. iv, 85.

Rgod . tshañ . stod . kyi . sde | stom . kyañ . Lha . [2] Hbrug . brtsan |

“ Of the Upper Rgod-tshañ district, *stom-kyañ* Lha Hbrug-brtsan.”

19. M.I. xiv, 108*d*.

l. 2. Rgod . tsañ . stod . so . pa . myi . bcu . gsum . mchis . pa .

“ Upper Rgod-tsañ soldiers (police), thirteen men, came.”
(Another mention of Rgod-tsañ in xiv, 124.)

Connected probably with Rgod-tsañ are Rgod-ldiñ :—

20. M.I. xiv, 135.

Byañ . po . Rgod . ldiñ . gi . sde . . . [2] Pyi . sgra [B 1] tshugs . pon . . .

“ Cook, Rgod-ldiñ regiment, P(h)yi-sgra . . . captain.”

21. M.I. iii, 14.

Rgod . ldiñ . gi . rje . žiñ.

“ The lord’s land in Rgod-ldiñ.”

(The phrase “ lord’s land ”, *rje-žiñ*, will recur again below, p. 573 : see also above, pp. 562, 564. and Rtse-rgod (“ Peak-Rgod ”) mentioned below (p. 590).

III. HDZOM-SMAD (Lower HDzom) and HDZOM-STOD (Upper HDzom)

A district HDzom is several times mentioned in the documents, more often, in fact, than would be the case if it were in another region. The name Hbrug suggests (see 1927, p. 68) that it lay east, towards the Śa-cu quarter.

(a) 22. M.I. ii, 25.

HDzom . smad . kyi . sde | Ho . nal . Lha . zo.

“ Of the Lower HDzom district (*or* regiment), the Ho-nal Lha-zo.”

Ho-nal seems to be an official title in M.I. ii, 27 ; vi, 6 ; xiv, 58a ; xxviii, 11, also.

(Other mentions in ii, 37, 38 ; viii, 17 ; xxiii, 009 (*verso*) ; the last a letter from Hbrug-legs to Councillor Stag-bzañ.)

(b) 23. M.I. ii, 17.

HDzom . stod . kyi . sde . Lda . tshoñ . ħbru (?) . Hbrug . btsan.

“ Of the Upper HDzom district (*or* regiment), Lda-tshoñ-ħbru (?) Hbrug-btsan.”

(The HDzom-stod district is mentioned again in vii, 33.)

IV. CER-CEN

One reference to this well-known place has occurred above (p. 557) ; another may be cited, since there are no more.

24. M.I. xxviii, 2 (wooden tablet, complete ; c. 20·5 × 2·3 cm. ; ll. 3 *recto* + 4 *verso* of neat, cursive *dbu-can* writing, in very black ink, partly faded).

[1] ༄ || tse . rje (co . jo ?) . Mtsho . gzigs . dañ . Klu . ħtsho . la | Myes . rton . gsol . ba . | bdag . kyañ . mar . m[*ch*]i . bar .

[2] bgyis.pha.las : | bdag.chag.rje.blas.kyañ.Cer.
 cen . du . chad . pa . skad . kyañ . gdaḥ . na . ḥdir . yañ . boñ .
 bu [3] yañ . slar . da . chuñ . mchis . khre . nas . kham .
 ga . kyañ . mar . myi . phyin . na . mchis . na . | slar . dguñ .
 [B 1] bcu . tshun . chad . tsham . gis . bśol . lags . na . |
 Cer . cen . du . mchi . ḥtshal . ḥam . m[y]i . ḥtshal . [B 2]
 ba . drul . ba . la . žib : mor . rtogs . la . drul : gañ . sña .
 ba . la . myur . du . bskas . ma . sprin . na . rab . tu . myi .
 sman [B 3] ste . mchi . ḥtshal | slag . pa . gchig . spus . ma .
 btsal . na . gtan . myi . sman . te . rin . spus . ci . dbabs .
 b[dag] (bcug ? brlag ?) [B 4] m[tsha]l . dan . dbul . bar .
 ḥtshal.

[1] " To the chiefs Mtsho-gzigs and Klu-ḥtsho : petitioner Myes-rton. [1-2] After I also had made the journey down there was a report that Your Excellency yourself were departing to Cer-cen. [2-B 1] Here the ass (asses ?) had fallen a little behind, so that now a morsel of millet and barley had arrived down here. Subsequently there has been a delay of some ten days. [B 1-3] While considering carefully a letter *inquiring* whether I ought or ought not to go to Cer-cen, I very unfortunately did not send the previous letter which I had written at once : so I ought to go. [B 3-4] Since, if a good robe shall not have been procured, matters (or my husband ? *gtan*) will not be well arranged, please . . . price and quality, as may be arranged, and send it."

Notes

1. 3. *kham-ga* : Apparently = *kham-gaḥ*.
1. B 3. *bskas* : Is this from *bkaḥ* ?

V. KA-DAG

As is noted by Sir Aurel Stein (*Serindia*, pp. 320 n., 454 n.), Mirzā Haidar, in his *Ta'rikh-i-Rashīdī* (Elias and Ross, pp. 10, 52, 64, 406), mentions in connexion with Lob (= Nob) a city named Katak, and tells a story of its having been overwhelmed in a sand-storm. There has been some question concerning the name, which some MSS. give as

Kanak; and Sir A. Stein even thinks that the story is legendary, being based upon the expression *kötek-shahri* "town of dead trees". These doubts must now disappear in view of the references to be cited from the Tibetan documents; but whether the place Kotak-Sheri, located by Mr. E. Huntingdon (*The Pulse of Asia*, p. 387) at a distance of 138 miles from Endere and 264 miles from Lulan, represents the old site and name we have at present no means of determining.

25. M.I. x, 7 (wood; 19–20 × 2.5 cm., complete; ll. 2 *recto* + 3 *verso* of cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] །། rjo.chos.kyi.mñah̄.bdag.chen.po.la.[skyo?].
 gsolan.rgad(?).gsolte. | | bla.nas.Nob.chu[2]ñuhi.skun.
 mkhar.gzuñ̄.bkaḥ̄.gros.ḥdum.naḥ̄ | | bdag.cag.mthoñ̄.
 kyab.dum | [B 1] ḥbuḥi.steñ̄.du.Ka.dag.gi.mkhar.
 bsel.gyis.bsnan.te.mchis.pa.la | | dgraḥ̄.sde.[B 2]
 [phuñ̄?].po.ches | | sdum.thab.ni.bkum | m[g]o.[d]u.
 ni.rtsas.bcad | | ḥtshal.brgyags.[B 3] bañ̄.doñ̄.ci.
 mchis.pa.ni | | dgraḥ̄s.ḥtshal | | da.ltar.ñams.la.
 bab.ciñ̄. | ḥtshald.

[1] "To the great lord, the magistrate, are submitted sorrow and mirth(?). [1–B 1] Previously in council deliberating the taking of the citadel of Little Nob we on the top of a part of the watch-tower were engaged in guarding the town (*mkhar*) of Ka-dag. [B 1–3] Meanwhile an enemy troop in great force slew our families. First of all they destroyed the harvest (*or* they carried off the things in the houses?). The food and victuals that were in the store-pits the enemy ate. Such a loss having taken place, we report."

Notes

l. 1. [skyo]-gsolan-rgad: The reading is uncertain. We have translated *skyo-gsol-ḥam-rgod*.

l. 2. *skun-mkhar*: Note that Little Nob has a citadel. *mthoñ-kyab*: See above, p. 559.

i. B 3. *ñams*: See below, p. 569. Or = "reflection"?

26. M.I. xlii, 1 (wooden tablet; c. 21 × 2 cm., somewhat fragmentary; ll. 3 *recto* + 3 *verso* of regular *dbu-can* writing, partly erased—for further use of the tablet?).

[1] ☉ | . | sñon . glo | [cag . ra ?]
 žiñ . [m]chis . mchis . pa . las | | rtañi . lo . la | ban . ħde .
 [2] mtshog . gyi¹ . byin . [gi] | .
 [Dru . gu ?] . sba-i b[o]ñ . žes . mchi . nas .
 g[c]es [3] [do] . c[i]g . stagi . [leñ .
 ba . dañ] | bluñ [byuñ ?] . bañ . ħog . tu . | myi . ħdiñi .
 yus . | [B 1] [mchi . nas |
 [i . ħd]i . sbyi (myi ?) . skyugs . las | bdag . gis . mjald ||
 [B 2] de . dpañ . gtan . tshigs . kyañ . gsañ . ba
 las | | lta . . . ñede yus . mjald . pa .
 sgañ (?) [B 3] -u . blar . gsol . te . | gra . tus . Ka . dag . du .
 ħgug . pa . lta . žig | bdag . ñan . [pa . ni] | Nob . chu .
 ñuhi [tsh]al . kha | ħdzin[d] . dañ . yan . lag . ni . ma .
 inchis |

(Apparently referring to some quarrel or suit about a donkey, wherein a *bande* was concerned.)

[B 3] . . after previously requesting the complainants to , the seminary assemblage was summoned, it appears, to Ka-dag. Your humble servant himself wishes of Little Nob. The spokesman [and] his subordinates are not come.

Notes

1. B 3. *gra-tus*: This apparently means “the assemblage (*tus*) of the seminary (*grwa*)” = “the seminary in a body”. It is mentioned again below (p. 584); perhaps it functioned in trials of cases at law.

kha-ħdzind-dañ-yan-lag: In this connexion *yan-lag* seems to mean “those associated with (= Sanskrit *aṅga* ‘member’)” the spokesman; below (pp. 574, 593) we have a “guarantor”, *khas-len*, in place of the “spokesman” *kha-ħdzin*.

27. M.I. xiv, 23 (wood, fragment of a covering tablet, with a cavity for a clay seal; c. 9 × 2.5 cm.; ll. 1 *recto*

¹ *gyi* crossed out ?

(the addressee) + 3 *verso* of ordinary epistolary *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ༄ || thugs.bde.ham.myi.bde.mch . . . [2] Ka.dag. gi . rtse . rje . dañ . žiñ . rtsod . pa : rnam . . . [3] myur . du . ni . Ho . nir . mehi . bañi . rño . myi . . .

[1] "Happy or not happy [2] the chief lord of Ka-dag and those in dispute concerning the fields. . . . [3] unable to go at once to Ho-ni."

28. M.I. iv, 101 (wooden tablet, fragmentary; c. 7 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 3 *verso* of regular *dbu-can* writing, blurred and barely legible).

[1] ༄ | . | Nob.chen.po.na | blon . . [2] bstu (?). bstus . pa . dañ . Ka . dag . nas . . .

"In Great Nob Councillor assembly was assembled and from Ka-dag . . ."

29. M.I. ii, 005 (wooden tablet, fragmentary; c. 17.5 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 2 *verso* of small, regular *dbu-can* writing).

[B 2] | Nob.chu.ñur.khre.khal.gñis.drañs | Ka.dag.khre.las.Lha.chuñ.rta.rin.du.kh[r]al.

"To Little Nob two loads of millet were conveyed. From the Ka-dag millet Lha-chuñ levied for the price of a horse."

Ka-dag was mentioned above (in No. 1, p. 556), and it is further named in M.I. 0077, i, 14; i, 17; iv, 19; xiv, 38, 61a; wherein, however, there is no information. In ii, 40 (below, No. 30, p. 569) a courier of Ka-dag is mentioned.

The place was, as we see, a town (*mkhar*) with a watch-tower (*mthoñ-khyab*) and a chief lord (*rtse-rje*). It seems to have been closely associated with Great and Little Nob, and it was, no doubt, in their neighbourhood. There was a territorial regiment belonging to the district.

VI. NOB-CHE-PO (Great Nob), NOB-CHU-ÑU (Little Nob), NOB-ŚOD (Lower Nob), the HO-BHOĞ (River Nomads?) of Little Nob

Concerning Nob and its "three castles", for which we should probably read "three towns" (*mkhar-sum*), informa-

tion furnished by the documents and elicited by Professor A. H. Francke has been given by Sir Aurel Stein in *Serindia* (pp. 322, 468–9, 1462). The obvious importance of the place or places, especially of Little Nob, which Sir Aurel Stein identifies with Charkalik, may justify a publication in full of the more extensive documents, which also serve to throw light upon the circumstances and life of the time and name some of, no doubt, the leading personages.

30. M.I. ii, 40 (paper, complete; c. 30 × 5 cm.; ll. 3 of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing, clear).

[1] ༄ | . | blon. Hphan. po. rjes || Nob. mkhar. sum. gi. sgyehu. ga. nams. la. sprin. no || bya. dgā. mahi. thog. ci. hdus. pa. dañ [2] hbañs. gyi. ñams. dañ. snams. tshas. gyi. phyi. nas. žib. tu. Stag. G-yu. bzañ. Lha. rtsa. skyes. la. sprin. ba. yin || hdi. na. gthir. gyur. bañ. cen [3] riñs. pa. gchig. Ka. dag. pas. rdzoñ. śig ||

One or more red seal-impressions.

[1] “Sent by Councillor Hphan-po-rje to the *sgyehu-ga* (bagmen?) of Nob, the Three Towns. [1–2] Of the revenue of presents, whatever has been collected, and besides(?) the *ñams* and *snams* (defaults and surpluses?) of the subjects, an exact statement is to be sent later to Stag (Tiger) G-yu-bzañ Lha-rtsa-skyes. [2–3] After a rest there(?) send by a swift courier of Ka-dag.”

Notes

l. 1. *sgyehu-ga*: “bagmen” is a conjecture; see above, p. 561, and cf. *sgyehu* “small bag”.

Nob-mkhar-sum: Here we have the Three Towns of Nob; so too in M.I. viii, 10, which mentions also the various towers(?) of the town boundary (*mkhar.ris.so.sohi.rtse*). The next document will mention the Four Towns.

l. 2. *Stag G-yu-bzañ*: Evidently the local “general” (*dmag-dpon*), who, as in *JRAS*. 1927, p. 70, would proceed to put pressure on the defaulters.

hdi-na-gthir-gyur: Perhaps this means “if there is any

question there" (*hdi-na* "here" = "there", like *atra* in the Kharoṣṭhī documents) from *gti-ba* "to question". Or perhaps *gthir* comes from *sti* "rest".

1. 3. *Ka-dag*: On this place, see above, pp. 556-7, 565-9.

31. M.I. xiv, 109*b* (paper; c. 29 × 19 cm.; ll. 12 of large, rather coarse, cursive *dbu-can* writing + l. 1 (inverted) in a smaller, neater hand).

[1] *dañ* | *rtse . rje . Khrom . bžre . Bzañ . koñ . la[spr]iñ . st[e]* | [*lan . h̄dih̄i*]. *st[o]n . sla . ra . ba . tshes . bchus . Nob . chu . ñur . phyin* [2] *par . rdzoñs . śig . par . mjal . pa . las* | | *h̄phrin . byañ bsgyañ[s] . nas* | *h̄brugi . loh̄i . ston . zla . ra* . [3] *tshes . bchu . bdun . [la] . slar . Nob . chu . ñur . mchis . pa . las* | *khyo(e ?)d̄ . kyis* . *spri[ñ] . ba . la* | *bdag . chag . glo . ba . myi* . [4] *ches . ste* | *Pag . tsa . ni . Klu . rtse . hi . so . pa . la . gtogs . pas* | *Myo . ni . lba . tsha . kheñs . ñi . sú . tsam . gis . Klu . rtser* . [5] *phyin . par . [gtoñ] . žes . mchi . nas* | [*h̄di . slar . na .*] *Nob . chu . ñu . [mkhar . bži]* . *klogs . ma . [s]pu . [mdzad] . m[o]* [6] *mchis . pa . las . thogs . par . gyur . te* | *lan . h̄di . hi . [sto]n . [zla . ra . bañi]* . *tshe[s]* . *bchu . bdun . la . śul . du* [7] *žugs* | *mkhar . bžihi* : [*bla . sña . rjehi .*] *h̄phrin . byañ . nas . ma . g- . bsñu . . btags . gi . glo . ba .* | *myi . ches* [8] *žes . mchi . ba . dañ* | *bañ . chen . Lda . ka . Hwa . lwa . rmas . slañs* | *rdzas . ma . skyes . dañ . tshogsu . . mu . khri . gñi* [9] *kyis . thabs . bgy[i]s . ste . ru . ba . ma . btañ . ba . dañ* | *mkhar . bži . Rma . [sgra] . rje . la . yañ . skad . chig . myi . gtañ* . [10] *h̄di . skad . sprin̄ . bañi . rigs* | *kho . na . gñis . g[lt]os . žes . bañ . chen . Hwa . lwas* | *rtse . rje . blon . Legs* [11] *bzañ . dañ . blon . Rma . sgra . dañ .* | *lta . lastsogs . [tsa . rñu .]* *Guñ . tshal* . *Klus . ma . de . sgya . ro . zigs . legs . gyi* [12] *g-yu(a) . sñar . bkah̄ . [mchid] . bgyis . ste* | *žañ . lon . rnam . kyi . dphañ . rgyas . btab . pañ* [13] *bgyis* .

Inverted: *Lda . ka . Wa . lwa . sug . yig . tshad* .

[1] ". . . sent to . . . and the chief lord Khrom-bžer Bzañ-koñ [to the effect that] it should be sent so as to reach Little Nob by the tenth day of the first autumn month of

this year, after the arrival (*bsgyaṅs* ? = *brgyaṅs* 'arrive in haste' ?) . . . of the missive, we on the seventeenth day of the first autumn month of the Dragon year came back to Little Nob. [3-5] We not being satisfied with what you had written, Pag-tsa, who was associated with the Klu-rtse soldiers, and Myo with some twenty arrogant fellows (*lba-tsha* ?), said 'Give us leave to go to Klu-rtse'. [5-6] Later, as a mistress who was with child (*spu-mdzad-mo*) was come to Little Nob, the Four Towns, they waited. [6-8] On the seventeenth day of the first autumn month of this year they took the road and went saying 'We are discontented with from a missive on the part of the previous chief of the Four Towns.' [8-9] The things required by the courier Lda-ka Hwa-lwa not having been done and quarrelling with (*one another* ?) they did not leave even the tent-coverings and sent not a word to Rma-sgra, the chief of the Four Towns. [10] The courier Hwa-lwa having represented in the presence of the chief lord Councillor Legs-bzañ, Councillor Rma-sgra and the rest, the *tsa-rñu* Guñ-tshal Klus-ma-de and the *sgya-ro* Zigs-legs that 'This ought to be reported. Those two should be looked after', the Uncle-Ministers caused their signatures to be attached."

Inverted: "Hand-signature of Lda-ka Wa-lba."

Notes

l. 4. *Pag-tsa*: This is perhaps for *Pa-tsab*, which occurs in M.I. viii, 53; xiv, 34; M. Tagh. 0583, c. iii, 009, p. 583 below, and often in the *Bstan-hgyur* colophons.

Klu-rtse: See below, p. 587.

l. 5. *mkhar-bzi*: The Four Towns of Nob.

l. 11. *tsa-rñu*: Probably an official title; see above, p. 563.

l. 13. *sug-yig-tshad*: This phrase has occurred before, *JRAS.* 1927, p. 814.

32. M.I. iv, 93b (paper; c. 28 × 11 cm.; discoloured; ll. 10 of black, ordinary epistolary *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ། | | yos . bu . lohi . dpyid . Nob . chuñuhi . rje . žiñ .
 bžeñs . kha . lñar . bgyis . te | žiñ . pa . myi . grañs . kyis . |
 bgo . bar | bkā . g[r]os [2] chad . nas | dbañ . po . dañ .
 žiñ . ḡgod . kyi . riñ . lugs . kyis . sug . las . ḡtshal . baḡi . rtsis .
 mgo . myiñ . smrar . bris . pa | [3] ། | | dbañ . thañ . can .
 dañ | gtan . žiñ . dañ . ra . śul . gcig . kyañ . myi . brtsan . te |
 žiñ . [cuñ . sna] . myi . grañs . kyis . [bgo] [4] [bar] . chad(n) |
 thoñ . bros . [dañ . b]žeñs . dral . bgyid . du . gcig . kyañ . myi .
 gnañ . ste | bžeñs . kha . lñar . bcad . nas . [5] bžeñs .
 ḡtshams . tho . rgya . can . du . bgyi . | | rtsis . mgo . las .
 ḡgal . te | bžeñs . d[ra]l . dañ . thoñ . bros . bgyis . [6] pa .
 žig . mchis . na | žiñ . byeḡu . non . du . bgyis . te | thog .
 blar . bsdu | dños . chad . pa . riñ . res . gcig . gis . gcad . | |
 soso [7] žiñ . paḡi . my[i] . grañs . glu . yig . tu . bgyis . na .
 mkhar . ris . kyi . dpon . sna . la . gtan | log . geod . pa . dañ .
 chab . [8] skam . bgyid . pa . dañ . | dpon . kha . slog .
 pa . dañ | btsan . sbyur (sñur) . ḡdod . pa . žig . mchis . na | |
 sñon . gyi . mkhar . khirms [9] rñiñ . bžin . ḡtshol . cig | |
 žañ . lon . [ched] . po . blon . Dge . bzañ . dañ | | blon . Btsan .
 la . ḡphan . | [ḡdi] [10] rnams . g[sa]r . [du] . ḡdzugs . śiñ .
 lo[g] . mar . gyur . pas | [rtse . rje . Dpe . gžan . dañ . Mña .
 ber (btser ? bder ? bžer ?) . bar . śiñ (žiñ ?) . dar]

Verso : bco . [lña] . bco . lña . dam . śib . [la]s . rtsal . cig . | |

[1] "In the summer of the Hare year the lord's land in Little Nob was made into four partitions. [1-2] Counsel was taken to divide the tillers numerically; and the total of owners and of those who desired work according to the old usage of the land settlement was written down with mention of the names. [3-4] No persons having rights, or agreed lands, or remains of enclosure being confirmed, it was decided to divide the people of the various small lands numerically. [4-5] None being allowed to abandon the plough or to break open the partition, the division was made into five partitions, and the partition boundaries are to be furnished with boundary marks. [5-6] In case of any falling off from the total or of any persons breaking open

the partition or abandoning the plough, thereby violating the division of the tillage, they are to be brought in to the superiors (? *thog-blar-bsdu* ? the yield is to be raised ?). Fines were fixed at rates for the several cases. [6-7] The number of men of the several fields was made into a song and committed to the chief officers of the town boundary. [7-9] If any should be recalcitrant or cause the water to dry up or disregard the officers or desire to alter (*sbyur* ?) what had been fixed, procedure should be according to the old town (fort) law of former times. [9-10] Great Uncle-Councillor Dge-bzañ and Councillor Btsan-la-hphan—these, who were at first appointed, having gone back down, the chief Lord Dpe-gžan and . . . continued the work.”

Verso : “Send by fifteens according to a fixed reckoning (*dam-śib-las* ?).”

Notes

1. 2. *žin-hgod* : “Settling the land” ; the phrase has been noted above, p. 560. *Rje-žin*, pp. 562, 464.

1. 3. *gtan-žin* : = “fixed field” or “established agreement” ? The phrase recurs below, No. 33.

ll. 2 and 5. *rtsis-mgo* : “Total” ; see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 81, and M.I. viii, 64*b*.

1. 5. *tho-rgya* : = “boundary mark”, occurs in other documents (Ch. 79, xiv, 5, etc.).

1. 7. *mkhar-ris* : “Town-boundary” ; cf. p. 569.

33. M.I. xlv, 2 (wooden tablet, c. 13.5 × 2 cm., fragmentary at left ; ll. 3 *recto* + 2 *verso* of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] . . gyas.te || dby[añ.th]añ.can.dañ.gtan.žin.gi.
rnams [2] . . . log.žin.du.bgos.pa.lags | do.cig.ni |
skran [3] . . -r | chun . pa . dag (dgu ?) . bśugs . pas . . .
[B 1] . . [mkh]ar . Nob . ched . po . -is (?) . rje . žin || gi .
mgo . . . n . ni . . [B 2] . . | thebs . pa . dañ | Nob . chuñ .
ñu[hi] . yul . myi . bśugs . pa

[1] . . . “persons having rights and fixed fields

[2] divided into . . fields. Some two were *summoned* (?) . . . [B 1] the lord's land of Great Nob [B 2] the people settled in Little Nob.''

Notes

This document has points of similarity to the preceding, e.g. in the phrases *db(y)añ-thañ-can* and *gtan-ziñ*.

1. B 1. *rje-ziñ* : " Lord's land " ; see pp. 562, 564, above.

34. M.I. xiv, 109a (paper ; c. 29 × 17 cm. ; smudged and discoloured ; ll. 10 of large, rather cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ༄ | . | sbrul . gyi . lohi . dbyar . blon . Mañ . zi[gs] .
lastsogs . pas | | khrom . gyi . hdun . sa . Gtsos . mo . gliñ
[2] du . btab . pañi . lan . la | | mñan . gyi . hbañs . st[en̄ .
bor .] Legs . snañ . las | | Hor . Bañ . Gsas . byin . gyis [3] yib .
ma . thub . pañi . g-yag . sdiñ . gchig . [hgri-sdiñ] . gñis . ste |
Ko . hgoñ . rtug . dañ . sgal . dra . ma . mchis . pa . rad [4]
gsum . mjald . te | | hjal . bañi . dus . ni . lan . hdi . hi . ston .
zla . sol . bor . bañi . ston . zla . hbrin̄ . po . tshes | [5] lña .
la | Nob . chuñur . hbul . bar . bgyis | dusu . ma . phul .
ham | dpañ . rgya . las . hbyuñ . bañi . tshad . ma . thub . par
[6] gyur . na | | gyur . te . Ko . hgoñ . rab . drug . ham | rin .
bla [gla] . thañ . du . myi . sbyor . te | hog . tshoñs . kyi .
thañ . du . dus . sum [7] gyi . dpañ . rgya . myi . htshal . bar | |
Legs . snañ . dañ | khas . len . po . ñan . Ldoñ . koñ . gñis .
kyi . sug . gzi . la [8] gañ . mchis . pañi . skor | nor . phyugs .
dañ . nas . bra[s] . chi . la . bab . kyañ . ruñ . ste | bzuñ .
na . yañ . yus . myi . yal [9] bar . bgyis . pañi . dpañ . la |
rgyal . zigs . Legs . rtsan . dañ . rtsig . Lha . rtsa . skyes . dañ |
[10] gyi . [dpa]ñ . rgya . dan | [kh]o[n] . ta . gñis . kyi . sug .
rgya . dañ . sug . yig . tshad . kyis . btab . pā

[1-2] " In reply to the despatch of Councillor Mañ-zigs and the rest in the summer of the Snake year, at the mart (town) assembly place, Gtsos-mo-gliñ. [2-5] There having arrived from the government servant (*mñan-gyi-hbañs*) Steñ-bor Legs-snañ three travelling parties, the Hor Bañ and Gsas with a *g-yag-sdiñ* (?) and two *hgri-sdiñ* (?) hidden

and not to be found, and Ko-h_goñ without a *rtug* (?) and a *sgal-dra* (load-net ?), the time for making payment is the fifth day of the middle autumn month, being the intercalary autumn month, of the present year. [5-7] Delivery is arranged to be at Little Nob. If delivery is not made at the time or does not reach the amount arising from the attested signature, or if it does, but Ko-h_goñ, not showing agreement in proportion to the six kinds and the prices, does not furnish an attested signature of the three times (i.e. a bill payable at sight) up to the value of the missing merchandize (?), [7-9] then whatever belongings there may be in the hands of Legs-snañ and his guarantor, Nan Ldoñ-koñ, property, cattle and barley and fruit, wherever found, may be seized without right of complaint: [9-10] in attestation whereof the attestation seals of the 'royal eye' (*rgyal-zigs* = *rāja-caksuh*) Legs-rt_san and the *rtsig* Lha-rt_sa-skyes and . . . and the hand-marks and hand-signatures of those two are attached."

Notes

The translation is in a few points uncertain or even conjectural. The general sense is that three persons are conveying merchandize from Legs-snañ, to be delivered in Little Nob. In case of failure of delivery in time or in the right quantities or with bills for what is deficient Legs-snañ and his guarantor may have their whole property seized without right to bring a suit. The agreement is signed by a government overseer, a lawyer (?), and the two persons concerned. The gap in line 9. for a missing name, shows that the document is a draft only.

1. 1. *khrom-gyi-h_dun-sa*: Concerning these assemblies see *JRAS*. 1927, p. 70.

Gtsos-mo-glin: The place is not otherwise known.

1. 2. *mñan-gyi-h_bañs*: See above, p. 556.

Hor: A Turk.

1. 3. *g-yag-sdiñ*, *hgri-sdiñ*: Is *sdiñ* = *rtiñ* "tail" or "end"; *hgri* may be for *hbri* "female yak".

rad: “Caravan” (?), has been already noted (*JRAS.* 1927, p. 820). Elsewhere we have the expression *rad-gos* “travelling-clothes”.

l. 6. *hog-tshoñs*: “Missing merchandize” or “merchandize sold below” ?

l. 9. *rtsig*: Possibly this means “a lawyer”; the same *rtsig* Lha-rtsha-skyes is mentioned in another legal agreement (M.I. xiv, 24).

l. 10. *sug-yig-tshad*: See *JRAS.* 1927, p. 814.

35. M.I. xliv, 7 (paper; c. 31.5 × 9 cm.; ll. 9 of neat, commonplace *dbu-can* script; red impressions of six or more seals).

[1] ༄ || *phag . gi . lo . la* || *žañ . lon . chen . po . blon . Dpal . bzañ . gi . khrom . Nob . chu . ñur . btab . pañi . [lan . la]* || *Rgod . tsañ . stod . kyi . sde . | sñon . skya . boñi . tshe* || *Hu . tañ . Gsas . chuñ . žes . bgyi* [2] *tha . mar . žugs . nas | mtshan . Byañ . cub . bkra . śis . las* || *Gños . Ho . ses . bran . Pho . b[ts]o[n] . . rgya . rgyud . las . myi . rma . ba* || *sug . yig . las . rgya . Phu . tsba . ces . bgyi . ba . dguñ . [3] lo . lña . bcu . tsam . lon . ba* || *sñon . dmag . byuñs . gcig . gi . bar . du . yañ . || ban . de . rje . gol . gyi Ho . ses bgyiste* || *Ho . se . la . gnas . śiñ . hkhhol . ba* || *lo . lan . hdi . la* | [4] *Ho . ses . gthan . du . mjal . te* || *rin . dmar . srañ . brgyad . kyañ . hphral . du* || *ban . de . la . tshañ . bar . stsald* || *Phu . tsab . hdi . gthan . du . Ho . se . dbañ . ba . la* || *žal . mchu . tha . sñad . hdogs . [5] pa . žig . byuñste | brgyaḥ . la . Phu . tsab . ños . śor . par . gyur . na* || *žal . mchu . ci . byuñ . ba . yañ | ban . de . mchi[d . gyi]s . htshal . bar . bgyis . pañi . steñ . du . bran . hdi . tsam . pod . pa . gcig . kyañ* [6] *hphral . du . gthan . tshigs . hdi . su . hchañ . ba . la* || *ban . des . hphral . du . hbul . bar . bgyis* || *ban . de . ma . mchis . na . khas . len* || *dam . goñ . nas* [7] *hbyuñ . bañi . rnams . mchid . kyis . htshal . bar . bgyis . pañi . dpañ . la* || *blon . Stag . sgra | rtse . rje . blon . Stag . Stag . rtsan* || *blon . Dpal . bzañ . . [Dge] . rje | blon . Dge* [8] *bžer . Lha . hbrug . brtsan* || *žin . pon . Stag . bzañ . Lha . spe .*

Ldoñ . phreñ . Mdo . goñ | lastsogs . pañi . dpañ . rgya .
 dañ | — d . dañ . khas . len [9] gyi . sug . rgyas . btab .
 pā ||

Smudges of Seals. Verso : Phu . tsab . kyī . dpañ . rgya . .

[1] “ In the . . . year, in reply to the despatch of the great Uncle-Councillor, Councillor Dpal-bzañ, at the mart of Little Nob. [1–3] From a person of the Rgod-tsañ upper district, who previously, when a layman, was called Hu-tañ Gsas-chuñ, but after entering the community was named Byañ-cub-bkra-śis (Bodhimāṅgala), Gños Ho-se [had hired] a servant stated to be Pho-btson, a man of . . . Chinese family, but in his letters named the Chinaman Phu-tsab, aged about fifty years. [3] Ever since the arrival of an army in old days, the *bande* having been made by Ho-se . . . of the lord’s land (?), he had been in service with Ho-se. [3–4] In the present year Ho-se, having come to an agreement, the price being eight red *srañ*, sent it forthwith to the *bande* in full. [4–5] Phu-tsab, while according to this agreement under the authority of Ho-se, became involved in a dispute at law and, being defeated (?), ran away *to this* side. [5–6] After the *bande* had caused a demand by letter to be made as to what the dispute was, it has been arranged that the *bande* should at once give an equally capable servant to whoever is in possession of this agreement. [6–7] In case the *bande* does not come, it has been arranged that his guarantor shall send by letter all that results from the above decision ; [7–9] in evidence whereof the attestation marks of Councillor Stag-sgra, the head and lord Councillor Stag Stag-rtsan, Councillor Dpal-bzañ-po Dge-rje, Councillor Dge-bzer Lha Hbrug-brtsan, the farmers Stag-bzañ, Lha-spe, Ldoñ-phreñ, Mdo-goñ, and others and the written signatures (hand-marks) of [the *bande*] and the guarantor are attached.”

Verso : “Attestation mark of Phu-tsab.”

Notes

The case seems to be that a certain *bande*, Byañ-cub-bkra-śis, hired out his slave Phu-tsab, a Chinaman, to a

person Gños Ho-se in Ho-se (?), who paid a sum in composition for the slave's services. The slave became involved in legal trouble and fled away to his old master, who after inquiring into the matter engages to compensate Gños Ho-se either by a substitute or otherwise. The signature of Phu-tsab on the *verso* proves that he was with his old owner, the *bande*.

1. 1. *Rgod-tsañ-stod-kyi-sde* : Concerning this district see above, pp. 561-4.

skya-bo : An ordinary man or layman.

1. 2. *thar-mar-žugs-nas* : The reading *mar* is partly conjectural ; the sense must be that of " having become a monk " .

Ho-se : A Chinese place-name, " West of the river," used as the name of the person.

Pho-btson : The name has occurred before, *JRAS.* 1927, p. 828.

1. 3. *rje-gol* : This must be some agricultural designation, since in another document (vol. liii, fol. 37) we have the phrase *rje-gol-skya-bcu* " *rje-gol* ten crops " .

Phu-tsba : Compendious for *Phu-tsab*.

1. 4. *žal-mchu* : Perhaps only apparently = " face-lip " . In the sense clearly of a dispute it occurs in a very analogous document from Tun-huang, appended *infra*, pp. 592-4.

tha-sñad = Sanskrit *vyavahāra* " affair " .

1. 5. *brgya-la* : Apparently = *brgyal-la*, but in the sense of being the loser, recurs similarly in the above-mentioned document (*infra*, p. 594).

steñ-du : " After " ; see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 79.

pod-pa : = *phod-pa* " capable " .

1. 6. — *khas-len* : The gap is, no doubt, for the insertion of the name, as in European legal drafts.

dam-goñ-nas-hbyuñ-bahi-rnams : " The things ensuing from the above decision " recurs in the mentioned document (*infra*, p. 594).

36. M.I. xliv, 0013 (paper fragment, torn and showing gaps ; c. 22 × 9 cm. ; ll. 4 of cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] | [b]dag . mkh(r)ar . goñ . nas [2] . . .

[phya]g . rgya . p[h]o[g . ste] | žiñ . ḥgod . kyi . riñ . lugs .
 dañ . mkhar . bži . bla . dañ | Nob . che . . . [3] . . . Ho-ses .
 gsol . baḥ | bda[g] . [ca]g . Nob . chuñu . paḥi . sdum . pa .
 sar . | Nob . ched . po

“Sent, seal attached, from the upper (eastern ?) town, petition of Ho-se to the messenger of the farm-settlement and the . . . four chief towns (or heads of the four towns and . . . Great Nob. . . . Petition of Ho-se. I at my family residence in Little Nob . . . Great Nob.”

Notes

1. 2. žiñ-ḥgod: See above, pp. 560, 573.

1. 3. sdum-pa-sar: sdum-pa has occurred above, p. 566. On sar see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 558.

37. M.I. xxx, 8 (paper, nearly complete; c. 28 × 75 cm.; ll. 9 *recto* + 6 *verso* (five in a different hand) of neat *dbu-can* writing, rather closely packed and in parts illegible).

[1] [☉ | . | —] sgre . gañ . sgra . la || Khrom . koñ .
 gyi . mchid . gsol . baḥ || mchid . kyis . rmas . na . thugs .
 bdeḥ . žes . [g-yar] . tu . thos [2] te . glo . ba . dgaḥ . žiñ .
 mchis . na || bar . du . thugs . bdeḥam . myi . bdeḥ . sñun .
 gsol . žiñ . mchis . na . bkaḥ . stsald . par . gsol || [ph]o .
 brañ . na . sña . slar [3] pho . ña . dañ . [ḥdrul] . ba . mchis .
 pa[ḥi] . bkaḥ . mchid . [dañ ?] . yul . phyogs . thañ (?) || ||
 žo . co . Zla . bžer . gyi . ža . sñar . ched . myi . nad . phyugs .
 nad . lo (?) [4] ma . mchis | mdad(?) . dañ .
 bañ (?) . soḥi . [rkye]n . ru . yañ . lag . smad . man . chad . la |
 drug . rkya . gchig . la . dñul . srañ . drug . las . [ma] . bab .
 dgun [5] tshun . chad . [spun] . dmag . myi . ḥthu | žes .
 mchi | Skal . ḥkhar . gyi . yi . geḥ . pho . brañ . na . tshal .
 ža . bgyid . pa . ma . mchis || Khrom . [bžer ?] . gyi . bkaḥ .
 mchid . ni [6] blon . Kri (Khri ?) . rma . las . chi . gtsan .
 pa . tsham . du . baḥs || mchid . yi . ge . ḥdi . sprin . ba .
 tsham . na . Mdo . blon . sa . nas . | ḥphar . ma . sum . rol .
 dgu . tshod . chig . mchis . paḥ [7] la | Nañ . goñ . nas .
 myi . bol . dag . chig . mchis . pa . ḥdi . ba (?) | smad . nas . [rjes .

su . gro . kyañ ?] . žes . ni . mchi | gdañ . gsol . du . nuñ .
 ḥchad . myi . gdaḥ | blon . Mañ [8] zigs . la . gtad . ni .
 dños . kyis . gsal . pa . lags . te . gnañ | śi . sos . kyi . [gla] .
 dgra . chud . ma . ḥtshal . bar . gyis . śig . par . ḥdrul . ba .
 las . bkaḥ . nan . ma [9] mdzad . par . gyis . la || ḥdi .
 dag . tu . yañ . stsañ . lo . dgra . nos . pas | [bas . ma] .
 skyes . kyañ . ston . sna . ḥthon . tu . Nob . [śod] . phyogsu .
 gtañ . bar [B 1] ḥtshal . na . | Rmañ . cuñ . gyi . sug .
 las . kyañ . Nob . śod . phyi . ma ¹ . yan . man . tu . mchis .
 pa . ltar . bgyis . śiñ . mchis | |

(The remaining text (inverted) is a letter, in a different hand, from Rmañ-la-skyes and Stag-slebs to Jo-bo Zla-bžer.)

[1-2] “ To . . sgre-gañ-sgra : letter-petition of Khrom-koñ. I was glad to have heard above that, as a letter stated, *you* were happy. Begging to inquire whether in the interval *you have been* happy or not happy, I beg *you* to send *your* commands. [2-5] Report of messengers and missives received in the residence, first and last, and of the district [news]. With the magistrate Zla-bžer there is tidings [*ched* ?] that disease of men and disease of cattle have not ceased (?). . . . In the property of monuments (?) and tombs, down to minor establishments, out of some six crops not more than six *srañ* of silver has been levied. Before winter an army of brethren cannot assemble. [5-6] Letter of [from ?] Skal-ḥkhar : In the residence there is nothing to eat. As for a letter of Khrom-bžer, what has from Councillor Khri-rma, need only be mentioned. [6-8] At the moment of sending this letter there have come from the residence of the Councillor of Mdo three despatches to the extent of nine sides. He states that from Nañ-goñ plenty of men have come : from Smad it is the same. There is nothing to report to *your* divan. Thanks for making now clear what has been sent to Councillor Mañ-zigs. [8-B 1] As regards stringent orders not having been sent by letter that at the price of

¹ *phyi.ma* is crossed out.

life and death the enemy should not be allowed to penetrate, among the people here also, not content with the year's grain having been taken by the enemy, as soon as autumn arrives it is desired to let them in on the Nob-śod side. Rmañ-cuñ's handiwork (or tidings?) has abundantly come to Nob-śod—so it has been made to appear."

Notes

The document reports the substance of news from various sources and not of a cheering character: an epidemic among men and cattle, want of money and food, scarcity of men for the army, encroachment of "the enemy". The places named are Skal-hkhar, which sounds like Khalkha (if conditions of time and place allow), and Mdo, which is clearly Mdo-khams. Who "the enemy" are does not appear. The translation is in part uncertain.

1. 3. *ched*: This seems to mean "tidings".

1. 4. *mdad*: In the sense of a monument to the dead the word occurs in the *Chronicle*, ll. 32, 116.

rkyen = "property" (?). Cf. 1927, p. 837. It seems as if the property of the tombs and monuments was being called into use.

1. 5. *spun-dmag*: "Army of brethren," i.e. of monks (?).

1. 6. *hphar-ma*: "Missive" occurs in M. Tagh., *b*, ii, 0035; *c*, iii, 0025, etc.

rol-dgu: "Nine sides" of paper or wood?

1. 7. *Nañ-goñ*: This might mean "Eastern or Upper Nañ".

Smad: No doubt = Mdo-smad.

1. 8. *śi-sos-kyi-gla*: "Wages of being saved from death."

1. B 1. *sug-las*: This might also mean "tidings".

38. M.I. xxviii, 002 (paper, discoloured and torn; c. 28 × 34 cm.; ll. 19 of rather cursive and scrawled *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ། : ། sbrul . gyi . loñi . dpyid . sla . ra . ba . gnam . stoñ . gi . gdugs . la . ། rtre . rje . blon . Ju . cu[g] . dan .

[2] žañ . blon . skyañ . po . Dbye (Drñe?) . rma . las . bsogs .

paḥi . g-yar . sñar . | yus . bdag . Pañ . tshab . Rbeg [3]
 chuñ . dañ . ldoñ . phrañ . Spra . hu . koñ . gis | riñ . lus .
 kyis | Rlañ . spun . po . spun . dañ . sñon [4] po . spun .
 dañ . phyir (phyis) . spu . Klu . ḥdus . dañ . dañ . Hbe . Myes .
 mthoñ . dañ . Rlañ . phran . Hphan . legs [5] la . stsogs .
 paḥ | glar . bkug . nas | yus . bdag . Rbe . chuñ . la .
 stsogs . paḥ . mchid . nas | [6] bdag . cag . Nob . chu . nu .
 nas | Hor . gyi . mjug . stog . ltañ . sogs . brgyad . puñ .
 cha . gcig | [7] btus . ste . Nob . ched . por . mchis . pa .
 dañ . rtse . rje . las . śiñ . thun . [m]yi . ḥgaḥ . gyar . po .
 bgyis . pa [8] las | śi . thun . gyi . myi . ni . ma . mchis .
 slad . rol . khañ . rul . śeg . žig . žes . mchi . nas | bdag .
 [9] gñis . kyis . kyi . khañ . ru[1] . gcig . bśegs . pa . las |
 khoñ . ta . goñ . na . [sm]o[s] . pa . myi . lña . log . nas [10]
 bdag . cag . gñis . [kh]ye . [tsho]gs | gbug (gbrug ? giug ?) .
 dub . gi . khar . bsdegs . nas | [thabs] . gum . tsam . bgyis
 [11] paḥ | bdag . ñan . [pa] . da . lta . ñan . ñon . khar .
 ba . bgo . la . chags . ste . mchid . yu[s] . [rtso]d . . . ḥdi .
 [lt . .] [12] — Spra . hu . koñ . ni . da . du . spo . na .
 mchis . ñel | bdag . gñis . la . stoñ . sde . gñis . my[i] . rje .
 -o — s [13] dañ . bdag . cag . bka . luñ . stsal . te | dka¹ .
 blas . la . mchi . baḥ | bkaḥ . luñ . sun . phyuñ[s] [14]
 bdag . [c]ag . sma . phag | khrimś . gañ . tañ . ḥbyor . pa .
 bla . ched . po . man . chad . gsol . žiñ . brtsad [15] ḥtshal .
 na . ña . khrimś . bžin . bskron . te . dum (?) . ba . gdab . par .
 gsol . žes . mchi . nas² | khoñ . ta . rna[ms] [16] . . .³
 || kyi . gñahḥi . myiñ . rus . la | Hgreñ . ro . Klu . brtan |
 Khu . Stag . chuñ . dañ | [17] So . nam . legs | Rum
 (Tum ?) . Mtsho . brtsan | Hbriñ . ḥbrug . Spe | Dru . gu .
 Lha . legs . rnams [18] kyi . gña . rgya . dañ . riñ . lugs .
 dañ . dpañ . chen . dañ . khon . taḥ . rnams . kyi . sug . rgyaḥ .
 btab . paḥ . [19] gra . dus . ni . dbyar . sla . ḥbriñ . poḥi .
 ño . la . mchid .⁴ . śagsu . ḥtshal . par . bgyis ||

Five seals illegible.

¹ ḥ erased.

² nas below the line.

³ paḥi . mchid . nas is here crossed out.

⁴ ku here crossed out.

[1-2] “ On the new-moon day of the first spring month of the Snake year, in the presence of the chief lord, Councillor Ju-cug, and the Uncle-Councillor *Skyañ-po* Dbye-rma and the rest. [2-5] The complainants, Pañ-tsab Rbeg-chuñ and Ldoñ-phrañ Spra-hu-koñ, having by messenger engaged on hire the Rlañ eldest (?) brother and elder brother and younger brother Klu-h̄dus and H̄be Myes-mthoñ and Rlañ-phran H̄phan-legs and others, the complainants Rbe[g]-chuñ and the rest write : [5-7] We, having from Little Nob assembled a company of eight porters of the Turks, came to Great Nob. [7-10] Having from the chief lord procured the hire of some stick-gatherers and the stick-gatherers not having come, we were told to break down a ruined house outside. When we two had broken down a ruined house, the five above-mentioned persons, at a time when the children were tired came upon us and ill-treated us almost to the point of death. [11-12] With the sordid clinging to our garments (?) we humble persons make complaint by letter as follows : [12-14] Spra-hu-koñ during his removal here fell ill. The two Stoñ-sdes not to us and sending us to the Bkañ-luñ, we went to the distinguished Dkañ (*sic*). The Bkañ-luñ was biassed and abused us. [14-15] ‘ Law you can have, if you like. In case you desire to complain by petition up to the great Lama (? *bla*), pray take care to summon (?) witnesses according to law. [15-18] As to the names and families of their witnesses, they are H̄greñ-ro Klu-brtan, Klu Stag-chuñ and So-nam-legs, Rum Mtsho-brtsan, H̄briñ-h̄brug Spe, Dru-gu Lha-legs, whose attestation marks and the hand-signatures of the messenger, the courier and of those persons are attached. [19] The seminary assembly has been called by letter for the beginning of the middle summer month.”

Notes

1. 1. *Skyañ-po* : See p. 562.
1. 2. *Pañ-tsab* : See above, p. 571.

l. 3. *Rlañ*: This is, no doubt, a local name, and the *Rlañ-phran* below is “the little Rlañ”. In M.I. iv, 105, is named a Rlañ Klu-stod, and in M. Tagh., c. iv, 0035, we have mention of a Rlañ district or regiment (*sde*). The three brothers seem all to have been named Klu-h_uduś, whence the manner in which they are particularized.

l. 6. *Hor-gyi-mjug-stog*: Is *mjug-stog* for *hjug-ldog*, which seems to have the sense of “obstacles” (= “protection against?”)? But *mjug* occurs elsewhere (= “rear”?).

l. 8. *slad-rol*: “Outside,” as in M.I. xxviii, 0023, *skun-kar-gyi-slad-rol* “outside the fort”. The ruined house was perhaps to be torn down for firewood.

ll. 12–13. *ston-sde* . . . *bkañ-luñ*: “Thousand District” and “Command” seem to be used for the respective officials.

l. 14. *gañ-t(h)añ*: “As much as you like”?

l. 15. *dum-ba*: = *dun-pa*?

l. 17. *Hgreñ-ro*: See above, pp. 86–7.

l. 18. *riñ-lugs*: = *riñ-lus* of l. 3; cf. *JRAS.* 1927, p. 66.

l. 19. *gra-dus*: “Seminary assembly,” no doubt for the trial. See p. 567.

39. M.I. i, 27 (paper fragment, right hand; c. 17 × 16.5 cm.; ll. 4 of rather clear, faint *dbu-can* writing).

[1] . . . žañ . lon . chen . po . žañ . Btsan . sum . sgras |
 [2] Nob . cuñuhi . rtse . rje . rñams . la . sprñ . ño || [3]
dpen . pañi . žo . śa . cher . hbul . ba . dañ || kñams . rgyud .
 mar [4] . . . dgañr || Nob . cuñuhi . mñan . slañs . dañ .
 tñhas . . .

[1–2] “Sent by the great Uncle-Minister Uncle Btsan-sum-sgra to the chief lords of Little Nob. [3] The liberal present of an useful contribution and . . . [4] . . . glad. The government demands of Little Nob and . . .”

Notes

l. 3. *dpen-pañi-žo-śa*: On this phrase see *JRAS.* 1927 p. 75 n. *žo-śa-cher-bul* recurs in M.I. x, 3.

40. M.I. iv, 138 (wooden tablet, partly broken away at left; c. 15.5 × 2.5 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 2 *verso* of ordinary *dbu-can* writing).

[1] 𐎃 || Nob . cu . ñu . ħi . rtse . bla . dañ . rtse . sman .
la || yos . bu . loħi [2] sp[y]id . sla . ra . ba . la || sku .
blaħi . bres | skid (snid ? sdud ?) . bžin . bzañs [B 1] . . .
gsol . te | lag (leg ? dag ?) . dgra . dañ | sogs . mcin . la
[B 2] sman . bris . paħi . gñer . ħsus (ħyus ?) ||

[1] “To the head Lama (?) and head physician of Little Nob: In the first spring month of the Hare year. Begging request the attention of writing a prescription for lag-dgra (?) and sogs-mcin (retention of urine ? *gsog-gcin*).”

Note

It seems as if there were in Little Nob an official “head physician”.

41. M.I. xiii, 12 (paper, smudged and discoloured; c. 30 × 8 cm.; ll. 6 *recto* + 1 *verso* of cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] 𐎃 | . | jo . co . Btshan . ta . dañ | Klu . sgra . la ||
yul . mthoñ . gi . mchid . gsol . ba || slar . yañ . sñan .
sñuñs . gsol . pa . [2] [1]ags | Nob . ched . poħi . Rtse .
rgod . kyi . lo . tañ . phul . baħi . bul | Lha . -hi . l . nod .
ciñ . mchisna | bul . stsald . par . gsol | [3] bdag . cag .
gi . lo . tañ . ci . lus . pa . dañ | boñ . bu(?) . rgyag | li . bal .
pha . re . gañ . žig | ħdi . rnams . sul . du . ħbul . bar ||
[4] blon . Lha . bzañ . la . yañ . gsol . te | spu . bal . ci .
ma . phul . ba | ħdi . bžin . lhag . tshad . ma . mchis |
[5] su . la . žin . mchis . na || bdag . gi . sug . rgya . yañ ||
dños . gyis . gsold . pa . lags . na | de . las . thugs . [6]
mdzad . du . gsol.

Verso : 𐎃 | . | Nob . ched . poħi . byi . ba . loħi . lo . tañ |

[1-2] “To the magistrates Btshan-ta and Klu-sgra: letter petition of the land-overseer. Then he inquires as to your health. [2] In case the receipt for the delivery of the year-levy from Rtse-rgod in Great Nob has come to *your*

lordship's hands, despatch of the receipt is requested. [3-4] What remained of our year-levy, ass, yak, bell-metal, wool (or Khotanese and Nepalese, *Li-Bal-pha*), whatever there was in each case, these in residue I am requesting Councillor Lha-bzañ to supply. [4-5] Of hair and wool there is thus with no one any not delivered remainder. [5] My own signature also I beg now to submit. Attention is requested accordingly."

Verso: "Year-levy of Great Nob for the Mouse year."

Notes

1. 2. *Rtse-rgod*: "Summit Rgod" is probably a part of Rgod concerning which see above, p. 561-4. It is curious that *rtse-rgod* may mean also "mirth and laughter", as *supra*, p. 566.

1. 3. *li-bal-pha-re-gaṅ-ḥig*: I have taken *re-gaṅ-ḥig* as = "whatever there was in each case". But the whole phrase is rather puzzling; compare M.I. xiv, 59, *bal-pho-re-gaṅ-ḥig*, and xxi, 1, *phyiṅ-rgyu-bal-pho-re-gaṅ*.

Summarizing, we may mention in regard to Little Nob that we hear of its "chief lord" (*rtse-rje*, M.I. vii, 27, 76; xiv, 0027; xxvi, 13; xxxii, 13), of its *mgo-rnon* (M.I. vii, 27; x, 3), of its "foreign councillor" (*dgra-blon*, M.I. xxvii, 7), of its "regional chiefs" (*nos-pon*, M.I. xxvii, 7), and its "chief Lama" and "chief physician" (M.I. iv, 138). It is called a "town" (*mkhar*, M.I. xliv, 005) and a "mart" (*khrom*, M.I. xliv, 7). We hear of the "Three Towns" and also of the "Four Towns". Great Nob is a "town" (*mkhar*, M.I. xliv, 2), and it has a "chief lord" (*rtse-rje*, M.I. x, 2, 3, 9; vii, 27) and "lord's land" (*rje-ḥiñ*, M.I. xliv, 2). Sometimes we hear of the "chief lord of Great and Little Nob" (M.I. vii, 27).

VI. NOB-ŚOD (Lower Nob), KLU-RTSE, G-YUN-DRUN-RTSE

42. M.I. i, 24 (paper fragment; c. 11 × 17 cm.; much torn and badly smudged; ll. 17 (?) *recto* + 8 (?) *verso* of cursive *dbu-can* writing, barely legible).

- [A 5] gñer . gyi . khum̄su . myi . ruñste
 [A 9] khrom . Der (?) . ḥa . ra . tshun . cad . skad . sbyi . . .
 [A 13] Mdo . sgral . steñ . du
 [A 14] Klu . rtseḥi . ḥphar . phyogs . dañ
 [B 3] Nob . śod . na . [phyu]
 [B 6] Nob . chu . ñu . yañ.

- [A 5] “ Not proper to perform ”
 [A 9] “ As far as the mart Der-ḥa-ra a rumour ”
 [A 13] “ Up to Mdo-sgral.”
 [A 14] “ beyond Klu-rtse ”
 [B 3] “ in Lower Nob ”
 [B 6] “ Little Nob also.”

Note

Concerning Der-ḥa-ra and Mdo-sgral we have no information. Klu-rtse is mentioned p. 571 above and in—

43. M.I. xxviii, 0021.

☉ | | Klu . rtse . chu . myig . gyi . tshugs . po[n] [2]
 Rtsañ . Spe . sme.

“ Rtsañ Spe-sme, captain of the Spring of Klu-rtse.”

44. M.I. xxviii, 0010.

. . . [2] . . . Klu . rtser . yañ . sprin̄ . ste |

“ To Klu-rtse also a message has been sent.”

45. M.I. iv, 132 (paper fragment; c. 31 × 7 cm.; l. 1 of large, ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ☉ | . | r[ta . ḥi . lo] . la | | s[k]un . [mkh]ar . Nob .
 chu . ñu . G-yuñ . druñ . rtser | skyin (rkyen ?) . gyi |
 [s]un . dpag . spu . tshugs | dkar.

“ In the Horse year at G-yuñ-druñ-rtse in Little Nob fort. . . .”

Note

It looks as if G-yuñ-druñ-rtse were merely a height or tower in the fort itself.

VII. SNAÑ-SDAÑ AND SNAÑ-RTSE

46. M.I. viii, 44 and 43 (two wooden tablets; No. 44, c. 17.5 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 3 *verso*; No. 43, c. 20 × 3 cm.: ll. 3 *recto* + 3 *verso*; ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing, in places rather faint).

[1] ༄ || dpyid . sla . tha . chuñs . tshes . ñi . śu . lñaḥi .
 dguñ . sañs . nas || śul . tu [2] žugs . te || dros . kyis .
 skyes . Tañ . gśor . tu . phyind . par . mchi . la || [B 1] de .
 phan . chad . sña . ra . dañ . phyi . ra . ye . myig . cher . bgyis .
 nas | śul . pho . che [B 2] las . byol . te | ñin . na . rtul .
 dañ . mgo . brtag | mtshan . ni . sgra [B 3] mchom .
 mñand . te | Snañ . sdañ . dañ [43, 1] Snañ . rtse . yan .
 chad . sna . tshod . pas . bsgugs . nas | thabs . sa . gar . bde .
 ba [43, 2] dog . sa . ma . ḥpham . ba . nas | thabs . ma .
 nañs (noñs ?) . par . zind . ciñ . thebs . par [43, 3] ḥtshal .
 cig || Snañ . rtse . gžir . dguñ . lña . bsdad . de . ma . byuñ .
 na | gal . te | [43, B 1] sdiñ . gro . bo . rgyud . du .
 dog . sa . bsgrañs . nas | phyug . maḥi . steñ . du [43, B 2]
 sña . ltogs . na . pa . gnam . ltor (btor ?) . bor . bdab | bun
 (thun ?) . tshod . bgyad . kyañ [43, B 3] gdaḥam || mar .
 ma . śor . ma . thal . ñes . na | rdud (2) . kañ . dañ . sdiñ .
 gro . bo .

[1] “ Taking the road at daybreak on the twenty-fifth day of the last spring month, march so as to arrive at Tañ-gśor by the time it becomes hot. [B 1] Thence onwards be very alert in front and behind; avoiding the high road, look out for dust and heads during the day and during the night suppress sounds and listen. [B 3–43, 3] As far as Snañ-sdañ and Snañ-rtse you will be awaited by an advance party (?); where there is a convenient place for fighting not involving apprehension, be willing to accept a combat if not taken at a disadvantage. [43, 3–] Having halted in the Snañ-rtse territory five days, supposing nothing happens if the followers.

Notes

The latter part of the document is for the present untranslatable, several of the expressions, e.g. *dog-sa* ("narrow place" ? ?), *phyug-ma*, *śna-ltogs*, *gnam-ltor-bor*, being obscure.

44, B 1. *ye-myig*: On this phrase see *JRAS.* 1927, p. 844.

43, 2. *thabs-ma-nans-par-zind-ciñ*: This might be read *thabsam*^o: could we translate "if caught where you must either fight or fly" ?

VIII. STAGU

In M.I. iv, 18, we have a wooden "card" of a certain Stagu G-yu-sgra, i.e. G-yu-sgra of Stagu, and a person of Pug-tshe Stagu, i.e. perhaps Pug-rtse in Stagu, is mentioned in another wooden tablet (M.I. xxvii, 4). The place is, no doubt, the *Stagu-khrom* "mart (market-town) Stagu" mentioned in M. Tagh., a, iv, 00128 (l. 5).

IX. RTSE-HTHON

The *sde*, district (or regiment) of Rtse-hthon, is mentioned in M.I. xvi, 22; and a person Go-hji Spe-rtson is named on his wooden card as belonging thereto (xv, 0012: *Rtse hthon . gi | Go . hji . Spe . rton |*

47. M.I. viii, 58 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 9 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 9 *verso* of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ☉ | . | Hphan . la . brtsan . rmod [2] paḥ | Rtse . hton . gi . žiñ . dor [B] bye (phyed) . dañ . gñis.

"Plougher Hphan-la-brtsan: Rtse-hthon land, one and a half yoke."

Note

The hire of a *dor*, "yoke of oxen (or yaks)," for ploughing is the subject of many of the wooden documents.

48. M.I. xvi, 003 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 12 × 2.5 cm.; ll. 3 of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

- [1] ། | . | G-yu . ston . gyi . rtsa . ñar . du . mos . laḥ
 [2] Rtse . thon . gyi . žiñ . dor . gcig | dor . [phye] . dañ .
 [3] gñis.

“For the ploughing of G-yu-ston, Rtse-thon land, one yoke, one and a half yokes.”

It suffices to mention the possibility that this Rtse-thon may be identical with the Se-to or Se-toñ named in a document previously edited (*JRAS.* 1927, pp. 60–1).

X. RTSE-RGOD

49. M.I. viii, 89 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 17.5 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 1 *verso* of ordinary cursive *dbu-can* writing).

- [1] ། | : | Rtse . rgod . kyī . dkor . blar . dbul . baḥi .
 rigs . pa . las [2] ma . phul . te | bcabs . par . khuñs .
 phyin . dañ . khuñsu . | lus . pa . mchis [B 1] mad . na |
 sña . stsun . du . stsald . par . gñañ ||

“The Rtse-rgod goods, which should have been delivered at first, have not been delivered. If it is true that they have been secretly put in store (?) and remain in store, be so good as to send them at the earliest moment.”

Notes

On Rtse-rgod see p. 586 above.

1. B 1: *sña-stsun-du*: “Before to-morrow?”

XI. BYEḤU-LIÑ

50. M.I. xxviii, 005 (paper, rather poor; c. 27 × 5 cm.; ll. 5 of ordinary *dbu-can* writing, rather clear).

- [1] ། | . | nañ . rje . po . blon . Stag . bzañ . dañ .
 blon . Mdo . bžer . la || | Śañ . Rdzoñ . gi . mchid . gsol .
 baḥ || nañ . rje . po . cag . [2] thugs . rtag . thu . bde .
 ba . dañ . chab . srid . mtho . bar | smon . lam . ḥtshal .
 žiñ . mchis || thugs . pags . mdzad . paḥi . [b]k[aḥ] . drin .
 rab . [che] . ste || bdag . [3] Byeḥu . liñ . du . pyin . nas :
 skyel . ma . yañ . slar . gyur . du . mchi . ba . las || kho . na .
 bro . ḥtshal . pa . dañ || ba . boñ . ñan . pa . yañ | cuñ .

zad . ma . bsti [4] na . | chab . ñam . chuñ . ba . dañ .
 chab . htshal : du : | glo . ba . chuñ . nas . | chuñ . zad .
 thogste | mchis . [pa] . lags nah | | cuñ . zad . hphyis . par .
 gyur . pa [5] bkañ . chad . kyis . myi . gcad . par . thugs .
 pags . chir . mdzad |

[1-2] "To the Home Ministers, Councillor Stag-bzañ and Councillor Mdo-bzer. Letter petition of Śaṅ Rdzoñ: That the two Home Ministers may be perpetually happy and in state exalted is my prayer. The kindness of having given attention also is very great. [3-4] I have arrived at Byeḥu-liñ: the escort also, which fell behind, is coming; what with sickness and poor oxen and asses, taking not even a little rest, with water very short and little hope of obtaining water, it has been a little hampered in its coming. [4-5] We are thus a little late. Be so considerate as not to order punishment."

Notes

Byeḥu-liñ has been noted, upon Professor A. H. Francke's information, by Sir Aurel Stein (*Serindia*, pp. 470 and 480). It is mentioned, as he reports, in M.I. xxvii, 19 (*verso*, recording an assembly, *hdun-sa*, there). Conceivably it is the Yü-ling of the Chinese, placed by Dr. Hermann in the neighbourhood of Dālai-kurghān (*Die alten Seidenstrassen*, p. 99, cf. *Serindia*, p. 296).

XII. GTSOS-MO-GLIÑ

See pp. 574-5 above.

XIII. DOR-TE

51. M.I. lviii, 003 (wooden tablet; c. 17 × 2 cm.; ll. 2 *recto* + 1 *verso* of rather small, cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] zes . žal . mthoñ . nas . sñan . du . gsol . žiñ . mchis | |
 Dor . te . pañi . rtsañ (stsañ) . nas . [2] kyañ . khal .
 grañs . [dañ . sbyar] . nah | mchis . pa . hdra . nah |
 da (?) . duñ . du . yañ . tshugs . tshod [B 1] [bžes . nas .
 śas . žig . ste . žib . du(?) . bka . sprin . ba . gsol . žin . mchis]

“ Beg to report in your hearing when seeing your face. As regards the number of loads from the grain of the Dor-te people also, it seems to have come. If there is anything further that you are expecting, I beg you to send precise orders.”

Notes

In M.I. 0034 we have mention of a soldier or police agent (*so*) of Dor-te (*Dor-te-hi-so*).

XIV. ŚOD

This may be identical, or connected, with Nob-śod.

52. M.I. xxviii, 0024 (wooden tablet, complete; c. 21 × 1.7 cm.; l. 1 of ordinary *dbu-can* writing).

☉ | : | ma . thag . tu . Śod . tu . mchis . na . de . las . cha . myur . du . sprin̄ . bar . gsol |

“ As soon as you arrive in Śod, please send news from there forthwith.”

The nomads of Śod (*Śod-h̄brog*) are mentioned in M.I. i, 41, and the *H̄o-h̄brog* (River nomads?) in M.I. xiv, 108 *d*.

XVI

H̄bri-char-smad (Lower *H̄bri-char*) seems to be a place-name in M.I. xxviii, 7.

APPENDIX

53. *Verso* of Ch. fragm. 82 (c. 28 × 19 cm.; ll. 12 of clear, ordinary, cursive *dbu-can* writing).

[1] ☉ | : | byi . ba . lohi . dbyar . sla . ra . baḥi . no . la | Tshas . stobs . gyi . sde | [2] ☉ | : | byi . baloḥi . dbyar . sla . ra . baḥi . no . la | | Sñin̄ . tsoms . gyi . sde | -e . *Lha* . skyes . gyi . gro[n̄] . [3] nas . khal . gsum . žig | Rgod . sar . gyi . sde | Sag . Dge . legs . gis . sna . g-yar . du . ḥtshalde [4] slar . ḥbulbaḥi . dus . ni . lan . ḥdi . ḥi . ston . sla . ḥbriñ . po . ma . gum . tshun . tshad . bre . byed . bzañ[s ?]u

[5] bgyisde | *dus . gcig*¹ . bre . phul . myi . gcad . par .
dus . gcig . du . Lha . skyes . gyi . sgor . ḥbul . bar [6] bgyis |
*su*² . *dus . der . ma . phul . lam . gya . gyu . žig . ḥtshal . na* |
*gñicig*³ . *la . gñis . su . . .* [7] bsgyur . te | *dños . sgyur .*
dañ . bcas . par . kho . naḥi . sgor . phyi . phy(a)ig . dañ . nañ .
rjes . sug . spyad . rgyab . ḥgo[s] [8] *ci . la . bab . kyañ .*
ruñste | *riñ . lug . su . phrog . na . yañ . žal . cu . tshig .*
kyañ . myi . mchis . bgyi[s] [9] *brgya . la . Dge . legs .*
*bje . ha*⁴ . *gži . la . ma . mchissam* | *rje . blas . bkur . te .*
guñ . chad . du . gyur [10] *na . mjal . gña . kha . len . kho .*
*naḥi . pho . ba ni*⁵ . *dam . goñ . nas . byuñ . bžin . du*
[11] *mchid . gyis . ḥtshal . žiñ . ḥbul . braḥ*⁶ . *bgyis . paḥi .*
dpañ ——— [12] ——— *lastsogspaḥi . dpañ . rgyadañ . sug .*
yig . tshad . gyisbtapba .

[1] “ At the beginning of the first summer month of the Mouse year : district of Tshas-stobs. [2–3] At the beginning of the first summer month of the Mouse year : district of Sñiñ-tsoms. From the village (or house) of Lha-skyes some three loads of barley having previously been required above (*g-yar-du* ? or “ on loan ”) by Sag Dge-legs of district Rgod-sar, as regards the time of rendering it back, it is the middle autumn month of the present year. [4–6] Until death (or until this is effected ? *gum = khums*), half a *bre* is agreed (? *bzañsu* ? as interest) : the delivery of the *bre* is to take place without interruption at one time at the house of Lha-skyes. [6–9] If it is not there delivered, or if trickery is attempted, the amount becomes doubled. Together with the capital (?), whenever at his house a last demand and request for restoration endorsed by the Home Minister shall have been delivered (?), it may be recovered according to the old usage without a word of protest. [9–11] In case

¹ These two syllables crossed out.

² *su* crossed out.

³ *ñi* crossed out.

⁴ These two syllables crossed out.

⁵ *ni* crossed out.

⁶ Compendious for *bar*.

of failure, if Dge-legs is not in [possession of] the land or if through consideration on the part of His Excellency a division is made, then the witnesses to the agreement and the guarantor his elder . . . upon a demand by letter in accordance with the outcome of the above indenture are required to deliver: [11–12] in attestation whereof the attestation marks and written signatures of . . . and the others are attached.”

Notes

The agreement is a draft, as appears from the fact that in l. 1 a different document was commenced, and also from the gaps left in ll. 11–12 for insertion of the names of witnesses, etc. Concerning the phrases *zal-cu*, *dam-goñ-nas-byuñ*, *brgya-la*, we may refer to the notes on the similar document discussed above, p. 578. This instrument comes from the Tun-huang library (it is written on the back of a MS.) and relates to the Śa-cu region.

- l. 1. *Tshas-stobs* : This district has not hitherto been found.
- ll. 2–3. *Sñin-tsoms* and *Rgod-sar* : On these districts see the references in *JRAS*. 1928, p. 97.
- l. 3. *Sag* : On this clan-name see *ibid.*, p. 93.
- l. 4. *bzañsu* : Reading and sense uncertain.
- l. 5. *myi-gcad-par* : This seems clearly to mean “without interruption”; one would have preferred “if the delivery of the *bre* is not carried out”.
- ll. 6–7 . *gcig-la-gñisu* . . *bsgyur* : Cf. *JRAS*. 1927, p. 813.
- l. 7. *phyi-phyi(a)g* . . . *rgyab-hgos* : The rendering is somewhat uncertain.
- l. 9. *bkur-te-guñ-chad-du* : The reading is uncertain.

LIST OF PLACES AND PEOPLES MENTIONED ABOVE

Bye <u>h</u> -liñ, p. 591.	Der- <u>h</u> a-ra, p. 587.
Ce(a)r-cen, pp. 556, 564–5, 567.	Dor-te, pp. 591–2.
Charkalik, p. 555.	Dru-gu, pp. 559, 560, 583.

Gtsos-mo-gliñ, pp. 574-5, 591.

Gyuiñ-druñ-rtse, pp. 586-7.

Hbri-char-smad, p. 592.

Hbrug (Hbriñ-), p. 583.

Hdzom-smad, p. 564.

„ -stod, p. 564

Hgreñ-ro, pp. 583-4.

Ho-hbrog, p. 592.

Ho-ni, p. 568.

Hor, pp. 574-5, 584.

Ho-se, pp. 577-8.

Ka-dag, pp. 556-7, 565-9, 570.

Kha-dro, pp. 561-2.

Khotan, p. 555.

Klu-rtse, pp. 571, 586-7.

Kotak-Sheri, p. 566.

Mdo-sgral, p. 587.

[„]-smad, pp. 580-1.

Mirān, p. 555.

Nag-śod, pp. 561-2.

Nañ-goñ, pp. 580-1.

Nob, pp. 555 sqq., 569.

Nob, Great, pp. 568, 574, 579,
583, 585-6.

Nob, Little, pp. 556, 566-87.

„ -śod, pp. 581, 586-7.

Pug-rtse, p. 589.

Rgod-ldiñ, pp. 563-4.

„ -sar, pp. 593-4.

„ -tsañ-smad, pp. 561-3.

„ „ -stod, pp. 561, 563,
577-8.

Rlañ, p. 584.

Rtse-hthon, pp. 589, 590.

„ -rgod, pp. 585-6, 590.

Śa-cu, p. 555.

Skal-hkhar, pp. 580-1.

Snañ-rtse, pp. 588-9.

„ -sdañ, pp. 588-9.

Sñiñ-tsoms, pp. 593-4.

Śod, p. 592.

Stagu, p. 589.

Tañ-gśor, p. 588.

Tshal-byi, pp. 555-61.

Tshas-stobs, pp. 593-4.

Yü-ling, p. 591.