

NOTES ON THE MOUNTAINS ABOUT TATSIENTU

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THE article on "The Mountains about Tatsienlu" (*Geogr. J.*, vol. 75, pp. 345-353) deals with the majority of travellers who have been in a position to discuss these mountains, but the names of Potanin, Prince Henry of Orleans, Doctors Tafel and Assmy, Captain Stötzner, General Pereira, L. M. King, and Dr. Heim are omitted. The author also seems unaware that in a biography of the late Dr. Z. Loftis, of Batang, published about 1910, a vivid description of the Tatsienlu Mountains is on record. The present writer published a paper, "The Gangka—a peak in Eastern Tibet" (*J. West China Border Research Soc.*, vol. 3, pp. 157-161) before seeing the article in the *Journal*.

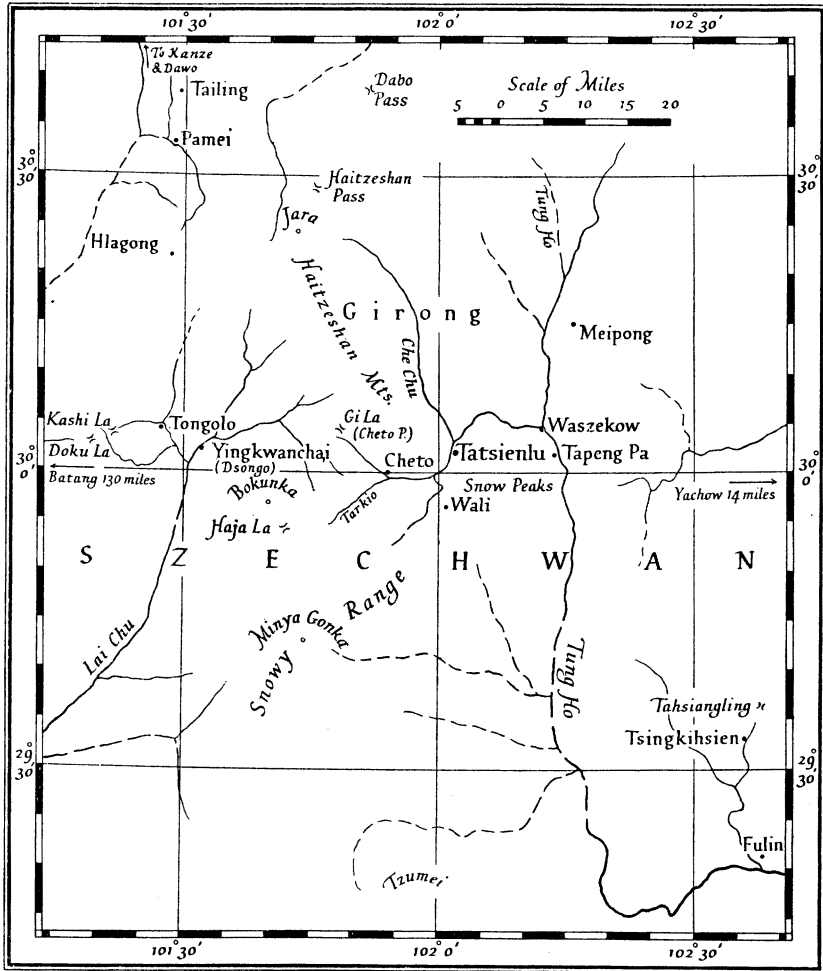
The following comments upon the accounts of the travellers quoted may be of interest. Kingdon Ward's remarks are approximately correct; he is also near the mark when he suggests 20,000 feet for the Tatsienlu Range.

The "Ta Hsiang" of Gordon's account does not mean the "Great Elephant," but the "Premier Pass"; and I know the Tzu Mei more particularly as a col and a non-Chinese hamlet 4 miles south of the Gang Kar lamasery. The name may be loosely applied to some adjacent mountains, but not seriously to any system continuous with the Gang Kar [the "Kunka" of the original article] complex. I do not know of any feature in the locality indicated by the sketch-map that could claim the name "Tzu Mei" (Tibetan: T'si Min). Regarding Gill's account, the Gang Kar is not seen from the valley roads on the T'ung side of the Gi La or Cheto; what he saw when looking back the first time was the short Tatsienlu range. The Ka Ji (Kashi La), 50 to 60 miles westward of Tatsienlu, gives just such a view as Gill describes. But my belief is that he was speaking of the Zhara (Jara) and looking at the Gang Kar!

In the narrative of Szechenyi's Expedition there is again a description of a journey towards the Cheto col. But on, or near, the summit the narrative becomes confused. In the first place, on the Pass there is no vista of specially arresting mountains, and even the higher saddles or lower plateaux would only reveal an ordinary snow-field and a rather poor view of the Zhara. From the Ka Ji however it is possible to admire not only the great rim of the Gang Kar complex, but also an intrusion of serrated peaks which run between the T'ung and the Che Ch'u from the Hai Tzu Shan to Tatsienlu. This may explain the suggested confusion. In any case the most northern peak of the great rim is the Zhara and the southern one the Gang Kar. About 90 miles north of the Gi La, just east of Taofu or Dawo, we have crossed the Yalung-T'ung divide above glaciers and near snow peaks. To the north-west—again perhaps 100 miles—on the left bank of the Yalung is another snow peak, the Kawalori of Coales, which is detached from the snow-clad Kanzè system on the right bank of the same river.

Returning again to Loczy's "Bo Kunka" we find that this name, so pronounced, is the one given to-day in every case where the southern peak is concerned, and this traveller's description, also, is admirable. Evidently Kreitner's "Kunka Range" (literally "Snow Mountains") east-north-east of the main peak is also correct, or nearly so.

The Ajala crossed by Stevens is roughly halfway between the Gang Kar and Ying Kwan Chai. The country representing the more northern part of this division consists of rolling downs with excellent pastures. This is true in the very region chosen for the position of the "Bo Kunka" in the sketch-map. The Chengtu Expedition made its observations not far from the same spot.



Sketch-map of the country around Tatsienlu

Stevens's "Ying Kwan Chia;" and Kreitner's "Dzong Go" are the same place and are the Chinese and Tibetan rendering respectively of the same word.

As regards the name Gangs t'Kar (Kunka), the word as written in the Tibetan script must mean the "White Ice Mountain," a common name for snow-clad peaks in eastern Tibet. In this very region there are three or four "Gangs t'Kars" modified by regional names. Since Dr. Rock's visit the qualifying Minyag has been added to the Gangs t'Kar. The explanation is simple. Dr. Rock came from the south, and his men, catching their first

glimpse of this superb feature, exclaimed: "The Gangs t'Kar of Minyag." But "Bang Gangs t'Kar" (pronounced "Bo Gang Kar") is now as it was in Kreitner's day the local designation. When at the Gang Kar Monastery in 1931 its scholarly abbot gave me, in the Tibetan script, the words "Bang Gangs t'Kar," asserting that they represented the official name. The same applies to the head monastery about 35 miles in a southerly direction on the Yalung side of the mountains.

Rockhill's description applies to the Zhara, and his second suggestion reminds us that the principality through which he passed was at that time officially known as Chag La. "The Mountain of Chag La" therefore is an excellent guess; but I have never heard the word pronounced other than Zhara.

Wilson on the Ta P'ao refers more particularly to the Zhara, but also must have seen the Gang Kar and indeed all the other ranges. Coales alone of all the travellers renders the northern mountain correctly.

The Tibetan names as spoken are, as a rule, widely different from their written equivalents. The Zhara is an exception; but this name has been written wrong by every traveller except Coales, unless we may suppose they use the French, not the English, *j*. While the name of the state and its ruler "Chia" might vindicate Rockhill, a literal translation of Zhara as "the Fence of Helmets" accords well with the topography. For, viewed from the plateaux of Minyag, the Zhara surely suggests a fence or barrier, and one peak is not unlike the ceremonial hat of some Lama cults. It was this peculiarity that suggested to Rockhill the "Horn of China" as a possible explanation.

Mr. Edgar's additions make the list of travellers in the mountains around Tatsienlu more complete, but it does not appear that all have left their impressions on record. Potanin's account is in Russian; Bonvalot's account of Prince Henry of Orleans' journey does not refer to the mountains; L. M. King, Dr. Assmy, and Captain Stötzner have left no easily accessible accounts. A preliminary report of Dr. Heim's visit did not appear until 1931: a note upon it was published in the *Journal* for January 1932 (p. 74). Dr. Tafel's 'Meine Tibetreise' (2 vols., 1914) however contains references to these mountains, which are translated here to complete the record. He was travelling southwards from Kanze, in April-May 1907.

"Once over the Heka pass, there are two routes to Tatsienlu from Dawo [the Taowo of the 1/M sheet]. . . . The western route which I followed leads over debris-strewn terraces, which are dissected by numerous streams, but yet belong to a common elevated surface of 4000-4250 metres. I experienced fine weather, and the peaks of Dschara re (Zarsun) and the Hai tse schan massif, which lay on my left hand, were a magnificent spectacle for two days. The main summit rose about 2000 metres above the track. Far to the south, the great holy mountain of Bogungga, well over 6000 metres, beckoned, while to the west, towards Li-tang, high steppes (4000 metres) stretched to the far-distant horizon. No soaring peak or summit attracted one's attention in that direction. Fine meadow land covered an old, interminable penepain, upon which myriads of yaks might browse. . . . This is Minyag" (vol. 2, p. 200).

Dr. Tafel gives (vol. 1, p. 193) two panoramic photographs of "Dschara re" (Jara) from the west at 4100 metres, and from Dabo pass on the east. The first

may be compared with Nos. 4 and 6 of Mr. Stevens's sketches. There is also a distant photograph of "Bogungga re" opposite p. 192, vol. 2.

Other travellers in the Tatsienlu region are the Indian surveyor, A. K., Mr. E. Colborne Baber, and Sir Alexander Hosie.

The remark that Gill was probably confusing Jara and Kunka is difficult to accept, as Gill marks them both distinctly on his route map.

Mr. Edgar's conclusions confirm those to be drawn from the travellers' narratives collected in the original article in the *Journal*, that the "Bokunka" of Kreitner and the "Minya Gonka" of Stevens are the same peak, but that it lies farther south than the position given by Kreitner.

The *Alpine Journal* for May 1933 states that Messrs. Terris Moore and R. Burdsall made the first ascent of "Minya Koonka" on 28 October 1932. They approached from Tatsienlu, but found the eastern slope impossible, and ultimately ascended the north-west ridge, establishing a light camp at about 21,500 feet. From this camp the final ascent was made. The weather was very fine, but the party suffered much from frost-bite. The summit is given as *circa* 24,000 feet, as against Kreitner's 7600 metres (24,900 feet).—ED. G. J.

THE WORLD-MAP OF PIRI RE'IS, 1513

DIE VERSCHOLLENE COLUMBUS-KARTE VON 1498, in einer Türkischen Weltkarte von 1513. By PAUL KAHLE. *Berlin and Leipzig: Walter de Gruyter & Co.* 1933. 10 × 7 inches; 52 + 9 pages; facsimile maps. M.5

THE recent discovery, in the Serai Library at Constantinople, of the western half of a world-map drawn in 1513 by the noted Turkish Admiral Piri Re'is, would in any case have been of interest to students of early maps, but it has even greater claims to attention from its author's statement that for the new lands in the west he had followed a map by Columbus himself. Of original maps in which the new western discoveries were shown, not one has survived which is the actual work of the navigator, so that if Piri's statement can be trusted, we have in his map a new side-light, if nothing more, on the ideas of the Genoese on the scope and meaning of his discoveries.

It was in October 1929 that Professor A. Deissmann, then engaged in researches in the Serai Library, called the attention of Dr. Paul Kahle, of Bonn—a Turkish scholar who had for some time been busy with the publication of a previously known work of Piri Re'is, of which the first part appeared in 1926—to the existence of the map in question, and his interest in it was at once aroused. In the known work of Piri—elaborate sailing directions for the Mediterranean, with which as an active seaman he was thoroughly familiar—the author states that he had previously drawn a world-map depicting the newest discoveries, and that he had offered it to Sultan Selim in Cairo. This must have been in 1517, the year of the Turkish Conquest of Egypt. The newly found map bears an inscription stating that it was drawn by Piri Re'is at Gallipoli in 1513, and there could be no reasonable doubt that it represented a part of the map given to the Sultan in 1517. (No trace can be found, unfortunately, of the eastern half, which, it is suggested, may have been taken by Ali Ekber when sent to China by Sultan Selim to collect information about that country.) Dr. Kahle made a careful study of the map and soon reached the conclusion that the Columbus map used by its author was no other than the lost map sent by the navigator to Spain in 1498.