
Notes on M. Fedchenko's Map of Maghian

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going on now at a greater or less rate. This general movement of Circumpolar land having its focus apparently near the Pole, has no doubt been coincident with a corresponding revolution in other physical phenomena, such as climate, the distribution of magnetism, &c. I shall revert to this in a future paper if the Society does me the honour of accepting this one. There is one fact which is very obvious upon which I hope to enlarge, and that is that in the vast area over which we have shown that there are traces of upheaval, there is not, so far as I know, a single volcano. If the ancient theory that volcanoes are due to the eruptive forces of the earth be true, this fact requires explanation. I believe that theory to be entirely false, and that the researches I have been making, of which this paper is the first fruit, enable me to offer a much more reasonable theory of volcanoes.

XI.—*Notes on M. Fedchenko's Map of Maghian.*

By R. MICHELL, Esq.

THE accompanying map by M. Fedchenko is copied from the original in the 'Proceedings of the Russian Society of Natural Science, Anthropology, and Ethnography.' It has been forwarded by the author, together with a brief account of the Maghian Bekship, written from data collected by him during a short journey from Samarcand to Urgat, and thence to Maghian and back to Samarcand by the Zarafshan River. To be more particular, his route was as follows:—

On the 16th of September, 1870 (N.S.), he was at Urgat; on the next day, crossing the Sangy-Djuman Pass, he reached Farap. On the 18th he traversed the Firkok Pass, and was in Maghian. From Maghian, M. Fedchenko made two excursions: one up the Maghian defile to Vachekhna Pass, and another to the Bilga Mountain. On the 21st of September he descended the Maghian Valley to Kastaratch village. On the 22nd he reached Pendjkend, and on the 24th he was again in Samarcand. It was during this short excursion that M. Fedchenko gathered the materials for the accompanying map, showing the hydrography of Maghian.

1. *Maghian*, the central point on this sketch-map, is situated direct to the east of Farap, and almost directly south of Pendjkend, on the Zarafshan, from which it is separated by a chain of mountains. From the lands of Pendjkend Maghian is separated by a mountain, locally called Ulkan-tagh. On the western side Maghian is conterminous with the lands of Farap and Shar-i-



Map of
MAGHIAN
by M. Fedchenko



Sabz; on the south with the Bekship of Hissar, and on the east with that of Kshtut.

It is, at present, impossible to define the line of boundary in the direction of the Emir's territories in this quarter. It is said, however, that this boundary passes along the watershed, and that the Bekship of Maghian includes the entire basin of the Maghian-daria, with the exception of the mouth of the river, where there is a settlement called Sudjana, which belongs to Pendjkend. The basin of the Maghian-daria embraces two large streams: the Maghian and the Shin. Both these streams have their sources in the snow-clad mountains dividing the Maghian lands from those of Hissar.

The Maghian-daria takes its rise in a locality called Hazar-Chashma, or thousand springs. This river's course, which is about 33 miles, is unknown. M. Fedchenko ascended it only 8 miles from Maghian to the Vachekhna Hill. This hill is only a small spur of the Chumakha Mountain; it obstructs the river, and divides it into three streams. Ascending this hill by the road which leads over into Hissar, M. Fedchenko could see about 5 miles further up the valley; beyond that it was hidden behind a mountain projection. M. Fedchenko was told that the river flows direct north all the way to Vachekhna from the Chumakha Mountain. From the Vachekhna Hill the river turns abruptly to the west, and continues running in that direction up to within about $3\frac{2}{3}$ miles of its confluence with the Gurdak. Through this extent of its course the Maghian tumbles in a series of cascades through a precipitous defile. The road lies between immense boulders scattered along each side of the stream, and passes repeatedly from one bank to the other over small bridges. Above Vachekhna the defile is equally narrow, but the road appeared to be better and softer.

After receiving the Gurdak streamlet which issues from the foot of Hazret-Sultan, and joins it on the left, the Maghian-daria turns to the north, with an inclination towards the west. Here it enters a more open country; its right bank is flanked by the high and rugged Dairitch Mountains, and along its right bank is an undulating surface, on which is situated Maghian, with its gardens. This locality represents a hollow, surrounded on three sides by high and rocky mountains, and on the fourth, or western side, by hills of an insignificant height. There are three peaks in the mountains on the south: these are Chumakha, the easternmost; Bilga, and Khirghazan, on the west.*

* This is what M. Fedchenko observes in a note about the Hazret-Sultan Mountain:—"Hazret-Sultan elevates his head behind the middle peak or Bilga. The side of this mountain facing Maghian is a perpendicular wall; towards Shahr-i-Sabz (west) it is sloping, and the Djiny-daria and Ak-daria issue from its

Further on are the spurs of the Shum-Rakhna, and beyond these the passes of Zirak and Pordan, with the intervening Chakyl Mountains. On the north lie the Ulkan-tagh, and on the east the Dairitch Mountains. The hollow thus formed is filled with hillocks detached from the main ranges. Those forming the offshoots of the eastern range of mountains stretch in a regular series as far as the river, and terminate in denudations of various-coloured clays, and of red clay in particular, exactly similar to those tertiary clays so familiar to me in the upper valley of the Zerafshan.

There are three rivers flowing between the mountains above named and the hillocks; the largest of these, to which the natives extend the name of Maghian-daria, and which I shall call the Little Maghian, issues from the base of Hazret-Sultan, and flows at first through a defile between the mountains Bilga and Khirgazan. On emerging from this defile it receives an affluent in the Iziam stream, which takes its rise in the vicinity of Shum-Rakhna. M. Fedchenko did not explore this corner of the hollow in question. In its general features he believes his description to be correct, though there may be a great many particulars which will have to be filled up. After receiving the stream above mentioned, the Little Maghian turns to the north-east, and falls into the Maghian-daria a little below the Kurgan.

The third river flows from the Pordan, and falls into the main stream at the village of Khurmi.

From Maghian the main river somewhat alters its course. It turns off a little to the east, and pursues that direction for about 3 miles. It then deflects further and further to the east, and, passing by the village Geisan, flows direct east, but, having passed this village, it turns again to the north-east, and finally disembogues into the Shin.

All M. Fedchenko's information concerning the Shin was gathered from natives, so that it is very superficial. The Shin takes its rise in the same mountains from which the Maghian

gorges on that side. I believe the accounts of its height to be exaggerated; and, judging by the surrounding elevations, think that it does not rise higher than 15,000 feet. On its northern side its covering of snow seemed to be light and fresh. There had been rain below the day before, and snow had fallen on the heights: yet it may be that the perpendicularity of the northern side of the mountain prevented any great deposit of snow upon it. I failed in my attempt to examine the mountain closer. With great trouble I ascended the Bilga to a height of 9700 feet, when approaching darkness obliged me to turn back. There is no road from Maghian to Hazret-Sultan, and those who make pilgrimages to the mountain proceed up the valley of the Djiny-daria. There is a road leading from Farap, but it passes through the Shahr-i-Sabz village of Shirat, which is likewise on the Djiny-daria. It is believed by the natives that a Saint Hadja-Sultan-Hadja-Daria once took refuge in the mountain, and that he is alive there still. Owing to this legend, the mountain is held in esteem by the people, who go to worship on it."

issues, and runs a course of 40 miles before its junction with the latter. It runs for the most part through a very narrow uninhabited defile, but beginning from within 14 miles of the river's junction with the Maghian there are smooth places suitable for habitation. About 2 miles above this extent begins a series of lakes, produced by the gigantic rocks which obstruct the river. These lakes are eight in number, and bear the collective name of Shtu-kul; some of them, however, are called Rashna-kul and Kuli-Margazar, after settlements in their vicinity. The size of these lakes is insignificant, the second of them going up stream is less even than a third of a mile in length. The views which M. Fedchenko obtained from the Bilga Mountains and from Charbak induce him to believe that several snowy peaks rise along both sides of the defile about this part of the river's course. About $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles above the junction of the Shin with the Maghian, the former turns away towards the west. The river increases very considerably. Up to Kastaratch, for more than 3 miles, it flows through a narrow defile; at this settlement the rocky mountains terminate and the river runs between undulating hills composed for the most part of conglomerate. A little above Charbak the river enters a wide valley between the undulating hills, from which it emerges at Sudjan, where it empties itself into the Zarafshan.

The Maghian Bekship embraces about 1500 square versts, or about 215 geographical square miles, but a very small portion of it is suitable for permanent habitation; these habitable parts are the hollow about the Kurgan or foot of Maghian, the small terraces by the Maghian, Shin, and Yish-darvar rivers and the valleys in the undulating steppe. Owing to the lack of cultivable lands the people of Maghian migrate to the neighbouring bekship of Farap, to sow the luxuriant fields in which that bekship abounds.

The following are the names of the towns, villages, and settlements in the bekship of Maghian:—

1. Maghian, with a fort built upon a rising ground, which is the place of residence of the Bek. The town is situated on the left bank of the Maghian River at its junction with the Little Maghian. Although Maghian was the central point of three bekships, its appearance in no respect differs from that of the poor villages in the mountains. It has no bazaar; not even a single shop. The Mesjid is a common hut made of clay. The altitude of Maghian is 4700 feet.

In the vicinity of Maghian the small villages are called:—

2. Kishlaki. 3. Kshtuti. 4. Fani.

These are not appellative nouns. "Kishlak" or "Ksihlak,"

which means simply village, signifies in this case a certain community. What the derivation of the word is, the natives themselves are unable to explain.

The *Kshtuti* and *Fani* are settlements of people from the bekships so-called.

The gardens and fields surrounding these settlements are also collectively called Maghian; they are scattered over a wide extent, and stretch along the entire courses of the Little Maghian and Iziam rivers.

5. *Khurmi* is situated at a point where the Maghian receives a small tributary. The places above that point of the river are:—

6. *Sor*.

7. *Geisan*, divided into two groups of settlements (*Geisani-bal* and *Geisani-pain*) by a small spring, situated on the right bank of the Maghian.

8. *Nauchamak*, opposite the confluence of the Maghian and Shin on a high hill on the left bank. This is a small settlement composed of four houses, established several years ago by Nurali, a *taksobd* (colonel) in the service of the Emir of Bokhara. The old man, then 84 years of age, settled here with his kin; he cultivates the ground, attends to his little gardens, and but rarely presents himself in Maghian.

9. *Kastaratch*, immediately at the point of the issue of the Maghian-daria from the rocky *Kishlak* defile.

10. *Filmandar*, 2 miles lower.

11. *Charbak*, a large settlement in the wide valley of the Maghian-daria, only $5\frac{1}{3}$ miles from the junction of the river with the Zarafshan.

All the other settlements or *Kishlaki*, with the exception of *Andar* (see further on, 19), lie along the courses of the Shin River and its affluents.

12. *Vagashtan*, the first *Kshilak* on the Shin, $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles above the confluence of the Shin and Maghian.

13. *Shin*, 6 miles higher up; a large settlement of about 100 houses, situated on both banks of the river.

14. *Rashna*, a large settlement of 70 houses, $5\frac{1}{3}$ miles above the last named. Beyond *Rashna* the settlements are very small, being composed of only two or three houses; they are:—

15. *Patrut*; 16. *Nafin*; 17. *Marguzar*. These are in the vicinity of the lakes above referred to, and are the southernmost points of settled life in the *Shin* Valley.

The following settlements occur in the mountains, along a small stream which flows into the Shin at *Vagashtan*:—

18. *Gish-darvar*, a settlement of 80 houses.

And 19. *Andar*, by a small stream running to Varsikanda. This village is 8 miles to the north from Gish-darvar, beyond the Karabel Pass.

The inhabitants of these settlements are said to number about 3000, *i.e.* 2000 in the Maghian settlements and 1000 in those of the Shin.

Filmandar, though situated among the Maghian settlements, is classed with those of the Shin; it was probably established by people from the Shin Valley.

The inhabitants of the bekship of Maghian are all Tadjiks.

2. The bekship of *Farap* occupies the upper waters of the Bashir-su River, which runs into the Shahr-i-Sabz province. This bekship extends 10 miles from east to west, and between 9 and 10 miles from north to south, consequently it embraces about 94 square miles of territory. Its limits are considered on the north the Tuniurliuk Mountains, rising to a height of 8000 feet, which separate this bekship from the Urgut territories. On the south a range of mountains, not 7000 feet high, beyond which, in the valley of the Djiny-daria, are the lands of Kitab. On the east and west this bekship has no natural limits; on the side of the Kitab lands it is bounded by a locality called Bursi-Kazi. Obi-Kishlak, situated immediately opposite, $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles west of lower Musa-Bazar, is also considered its farthermost limit.

On the east the Farap lands do not extend as far as the pass, but only up to the junction of the Khundy and Kandy-Bas streams.

The character of the Farap bekship is very distinct from that of the neighbouring bekship of Maghian. It may be said to occupy a table-land of an altitude of about 6000 feet, with undulating hills covered with a soft rich soil. Several streams flow between these hills, which ultimately unite into one stream, called Farap-daria, within the limits of the bekship and Bashir-su, lower down in Shahr-i-Sabz. The main head branch of this river is the Obi-Khundy, which issues from the Shum-Rakhna mountains, 4 miles to the east of Farap. This stream first runs to the north, and then turns westwards: soon after this turn it receives the Kandy-Bas, which is sometimes called Khudja-Mansur, after a Saint who was buried in the neighbourhood. After receiving the Kandy-Bas, the river continues to flow in the same direction, and passing Farah receives a considerable tributary in the Karataun. Below this it is joined by the Utchkal and Karateghin-su: the last-named river flows from the Sangy-Djuman Pass.

There are only two settlements in this bekship, Farap and Musa-Bazar. The last-named is composed of Upper and Lower

Musa-Bazar. Upper Musa-Bazar is at the mouth of the Utchkal: the lower one is about 2 miles distant. Farap is also divided into Upper and Lower.

The inhabitants of Farap are Tadjiks; those of Musa-Bazar are Uzbegs. The Tadjiks are nicknamed Akkia (crows), from the fact that a member of this community when in the Shin Valley peached upon one of his three brothers who had stolen a goat. For this he was called Akkia (crow, or bird of ill-omen), a sobriquet which attached itself to the three brothers, and which caused them so much annoyance that they removed to Farap. The Uzbegs are of three tribes: Ballas, Kallatai, and Musa-Bazar. Musa-Bazar is called after the latter. There are Uzbegs of this tribe in Shahr-i-Sabz and in the Djiny Valley, where there is another Musa-Bazar Kighilan or settlement.

The Farap settlements consist of a very condensed group of clay buildings, with small courts for cattle; they have no gardens, only a few scattered willow-trees. The inhabitants are said to number about 1500.

We pass now to Urgut, the third component part of the Maghian dominions.

All that M. Fedchenko has to say on the Bekship of Kshtut is contained in a list of the settlements in that bekship; these are:—

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Zir Hissar .. | } Kshtut proper is only a kurgan, or citadel, in which the Bek dwelt, called Kalei-Kurgan, with the three settlements here bracketed. |
| 2. Sari-Kuloli .. | |
| 3. Nignat | |
| 4. Pendjrut | |
| 5. Artutch | } On the Artutch River. |
| 6. Madora | |
| 7. Porbin | |
| 8. Pagna | |
| 9. Zintut | } Up the Voru River, Guitan is in a side valley opposite Vin. Voru is a large settlement. The distance from Voru to the pass to Hissar is 3 tash. |
| 10. Vin, or Vingam .. | |
| 11. Guitan | |
| 12. Gazza | |
| 13. Voru | } Down the Turdjin River, at its junction with the Zarafshan. |
| 14. Chashkat | |
| 15. Turdjin | |
| 16. Ogiliakon | |
| 17. Zaúran | } On a small river flowing from the Karabel Pass. |
| 18. Varzikanda .. | |

The houses number 1000. The inhabitants are all Tadjiks, except in Turdjin and Ogiliakon, where they are Uzbegs or Toorks of the Kaltatui tribe.

ROADS.

The most important road in Maghian is that which leads to Pendjkend: for as there is no bazaar in Maghian, Pendjkend

is the centre of trade to which the people of Maghian take all their produce, and where they buy their bread. The road is open at all times of the year except for four or five days in the middle of winter. When there is a great accumulation of snow on the river side, they pass over the Vachekhna Mountain.

From Maghian the road passes first along the left bank of the river, but at the extremity of the village it crosses over to the right bank. The river is here fordable, but there is a small bridge. It is possible, however, to proceed further along the left bank, as far as Khurmi. Along the right bank the road lies over a very even surface. A road branches off on the right to Shin and to Geisan. The road does not continue long by the right bank, it crosses over to the left side, and following all the bends of the river, passes by Geisan, after which, north of Geisan, it leads to a ford, and emerging again on the right bank, ascends the Vachekhna Mountain. The river here flows in a torrent in a very narrow and rocky bed. The ascent of the Vachekhna is somewhat steep only in one part; on the whole it may be said to be easy. After descending the mountain, the road soon emerges on the Shin at its junction with the Maghian, where it passes over a small bridge. Farther on, as far as Kastaratch, the road runs through a narrow defile along the banks of the river, which is here both deep and rapid. At Kastaratch the road enters a more open country, and passing by Filikandar Settlement, comes out upon Charbak. There, there is a bridge, and the road leads over to the left bank; it runs for two miles through a vale, and ascending, stretches across an open steppe to Sufian. At this place it forms the Araba road to Sudjana.

There is a more direct road than this to Pendjkend, over the Kubi-Chinar pass. It is only 20 miles long, while the first one is $26\frac{3}{4}$ miles; but it is practicable only in the summer, and used exclusively by asses. Besides the road above described there is another road to Shin, passing up the river of that name from its mouth.

The most frequented and convenient road to Kshtut runs through Kastaratch. At this place a road branches off from the one above described, and turning to the Penjkend settlement, called Hudjà-Mahomed-bashara-mazar, proceeds to Zaùran, which is a village of Kshtut. From Shin there is another road through Gishdarvar over the Karabel pass, and through Andar and Zaùran.

It is possible to proceed from Maghian to Kshtut by another, although a very difficult road. This road from Maghian first trends to the south along the Maghian River as far as the base of the Vachekhna (upper) Mountain, where it crosses by a bridge to the left bank of the river and ascends the valley to

the Charraga pass. From this pass it runs down to Rashna Settlement, crosses the Shin River, and opposite to Patrut it again ascends a defile to the Angari-mash pass, whence it descends to the Voru rivulet through the Archamaidan and Sarmat defiles.

There is a road from Maghian leading to the Hissar territories, through the defile of the Maghian-daria. The pass over the water parting is, however, very difficult: the road descends to the Hissar fort, or Kurgan, called Seri-djui. There is also from Shin a road to Hissar over the Sibisrukh pass, whence it leads to Khorat. Both these routes are extremely difficult, owing to the passes and to the bad condition of the roads in the narrow gorges, where they are obstructed by immense fragments of rock. For this reason they are used exclusively for driving cattle purchased by the people of Hissar in Maghian.

The road from Kshtut to the Voru defile, and over the double Dugdan pass, which emerges on the Hissar village of Karatagh, is, on the other hand, described as a very easy one. It is used by the people going to the bazaar in Bash-Hissar (the capital town of the Hissar Bekship), where the people of Kshtut buy their bread.

The following are the roads into Farap, known to M. Fedchenko:—

1. From Urgut through Sangy-djuman (or Rocking Stone). This is the main road of the inhabitants of Farap; it takes them to the bazaar at Urgut. It leads from Urgut through Gous and by Gish-duvan. From the latter place it leads up an easy ascent of a small mountain spur; it proceeds up and down over this spur, and at last runs up a most difficult ascent, zigzagging over bare rocks. Further on, the road again, along the skirts of the mountains, descends to a rivulet, and approaches the principal pass. Although the ascent is steep, it is not difficult. The road leads across a very coarse sand, between sand-mounds scattered over the mountain-slope. At the foot of this last ascent, a track leads directly off to Maghian. The Sangy-djuman pass was but lately considered the point of limitation between the Farap Bekship and the country occupied by the Russians; the people of Farap maintained a picket here. The descent is very sloping and leads down a spur on the right side of the Karateghin ravine. Approaching the Farap-daria the road crosses the Karateghin-su. From here it is not more than two-thirds of a mile to Upper Musa-bazar. The road proceeds for about two-thirds of a mile more along the Farap-daria; it then runs over a bridge across the Karatash and leads uphill, descending again into the valley to Farap. In its present condition this road is practicable only for horsemen and pack-

horses, but it might easily be made suitable for wheeled carriages.

2. From Pendjkend over the Arzanpai pass, which is very difficult for horses; asses alone are driven over it.

3. From Kital over the Cha pass to the south of Farap. This road is very easy, and the inhabitants consider it a distance of only *one tash* (5 miles?) to the first Kital settlement.

4. From Kital to the Bashir-su valley.

5. From Maghian over Pordan pass.

6. From Maghian over Zirkak pass. From Farap the ascent is insignificant and (only 1000 feet) gradual. The descent to Maghian is at first steep, it then runs down a small spur, and along the bottom of a vale, in front of Maghian, the road emerges on an open place. This road is, on the whole, very easy.

XII.—*Notes on Seistán.* By Major-General Sir H. C. RAWLINSON, K.C.B., President R.G.S.

[Read, January 27th, 1873.]

THE province of Seistán is so little known, and is of so much political interest at present as a debateable land between Persia and Afghanistan, that I venture to supplement Sir F. Goldsmid's paper by a few notes on the ancient history and comparative geography of this part of the East.

It has been well stated that, "if we look at the character of the physical geography of Central Asia, we observe everywhere a conflict, as it were, of the forces of nature, which may well remind us of the struggle between the principles of good and evil that was the dominant creed of the old inhabitants of the country. The desolation of the desert is brought face to face with the beneficent influence of the mountain-ranges. Where the streams bring down the mountain detritus, and deposit a thin coating of soil, the sandy waste withdraws for a space before advancing cultivation; but it re-asserts its supremacy immediately the influence of irrigation is withdrawn."* Seistán is a good illustration of this law of nature. It is dependent entirely on the River Helمند. The alluvial soil, duly supplied with water, is fertile in the extreme; but, if the water from the river is cut off, the country becomes a barren waste, and is soon again covered with sand. In ancient times, when the Arian colonists first settled along the Helمند, it is

* 'Quarterly Review,' No. 240, p. 487.