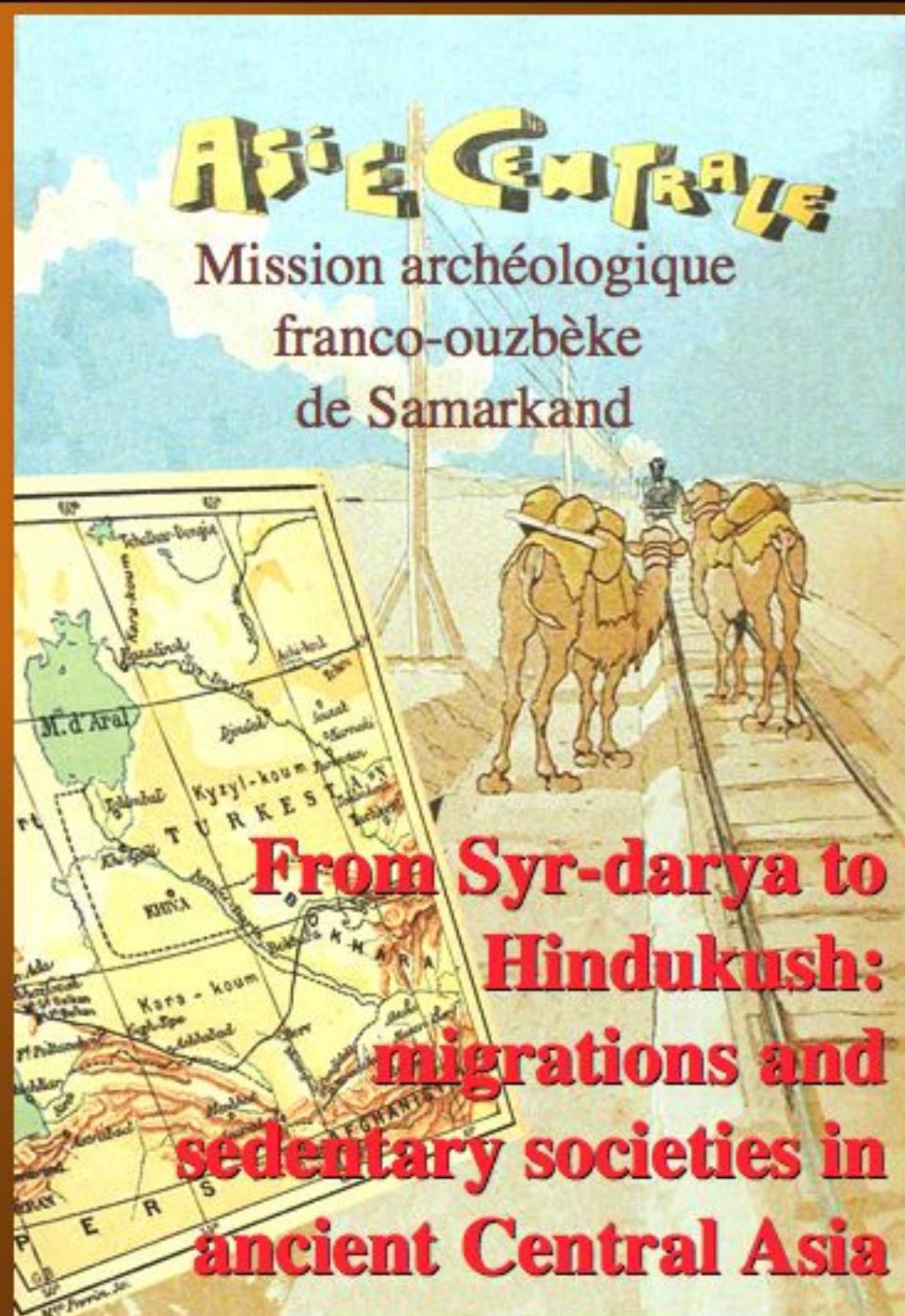




Recent bibliography :

<http://claudio.rapin.free.fr>

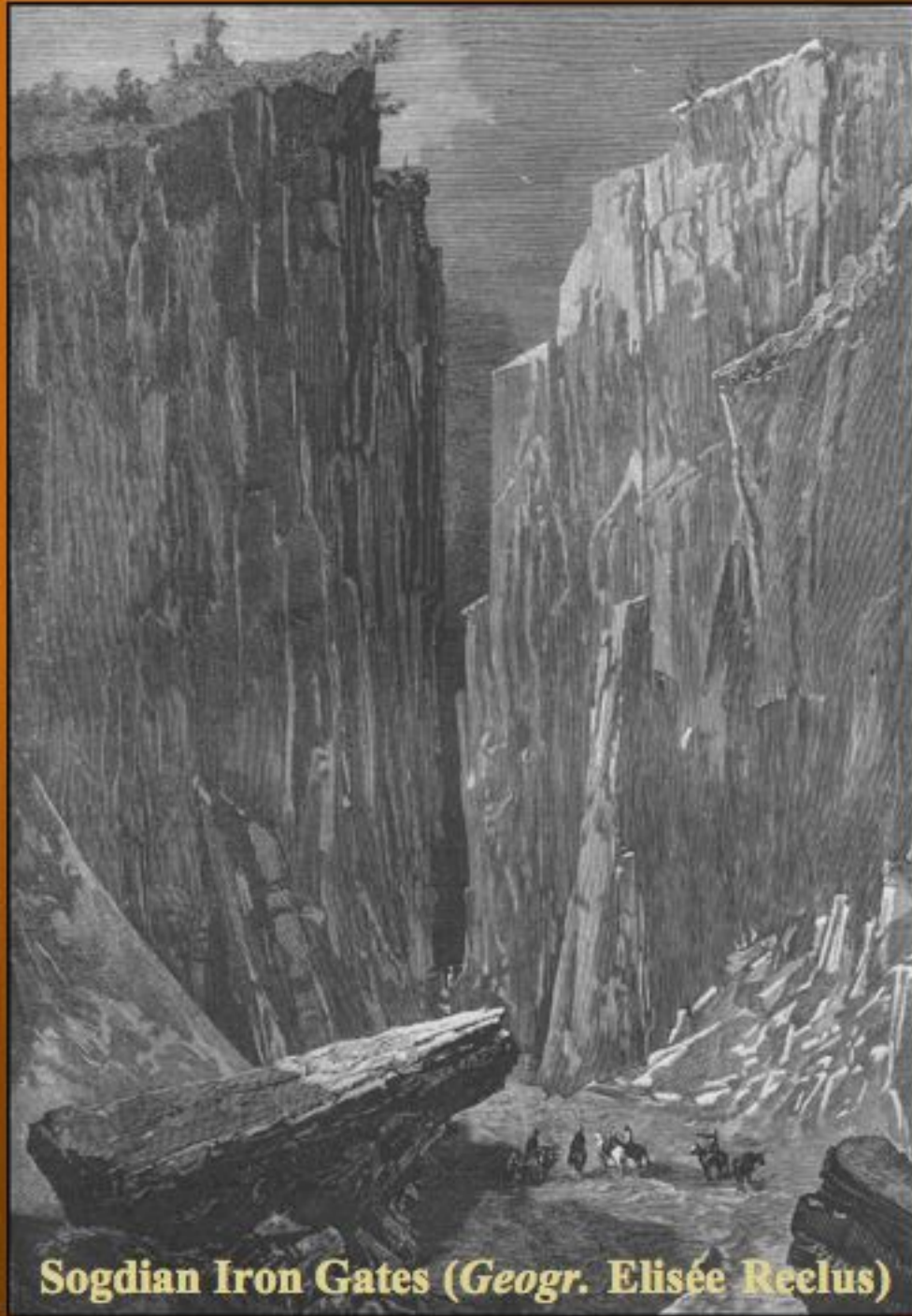
C. Rapin, 2007, "Nomads and the Shaping of Central Asia: from the Early Iron Age to the Kushan period", in *After Alexander. Central Asia before Islam*, ed. J. Cribb & G. Herrmann, Proceedings of the British Academy, 133, Oxford Univ. Press. pp. 29-72.



*The country of
Gog and Magog*



**Central Asia in
the *Psalter map*
(London),
ca. 1250-1260**



Sogdian Iron Gates (*Geogr.* Elisée Reclus)





AI KHANUM (ancient Oskobara [?], then Eucratidia)

Ai Khanum

Hellenistic palace
(middle of the
2nd cent. B.C.)



Gargoyle with
the shape of a
theatrical mask



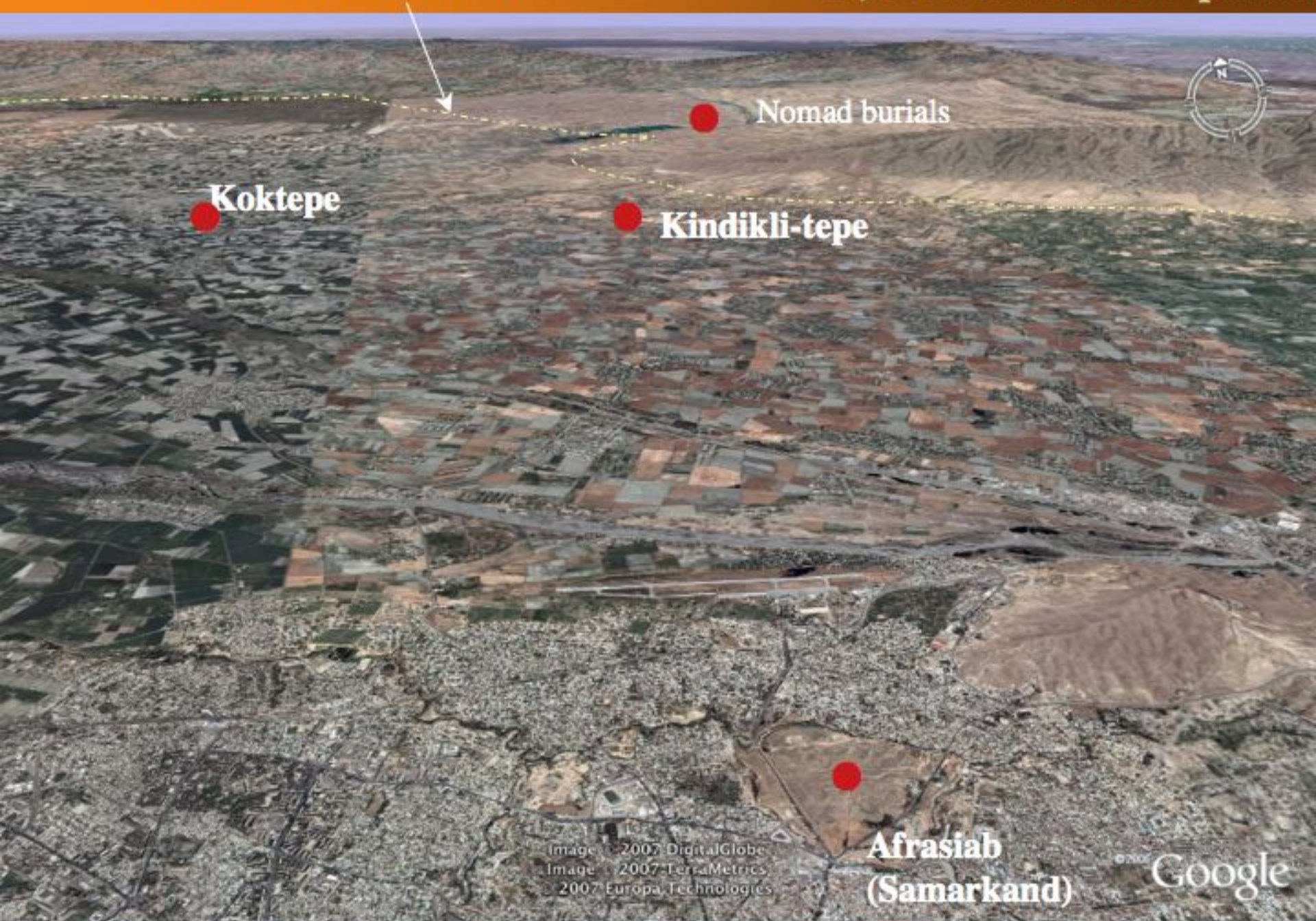
Corinthian capital

Mosaics in the palace



Limit of the steppe territories

• A) Pre-Achaemenid period





Koktepe (end of the 1st mill. B.C. - 1st cent. A.D.)



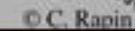
Koktepe II : Sacred precinct destroyed by nomads around 500 B.C.

Skunkha, king of the Scythians with pointed caps captured by Darius I : the plunderer of the pre-achaemenid city of Koktepe ?



Ritual pits dating back to the foundation of the Zoroastrian platform (around 500 B.C.)

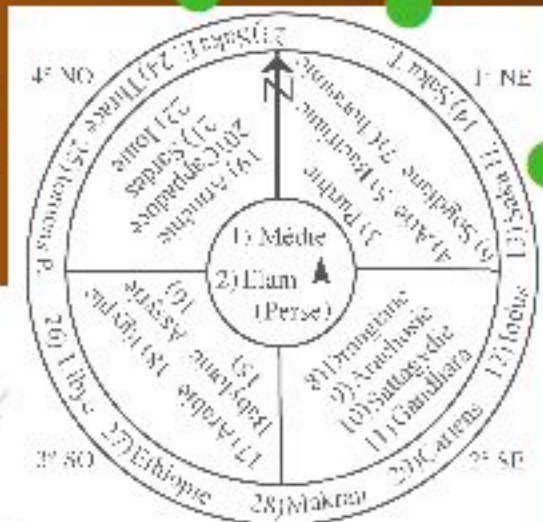
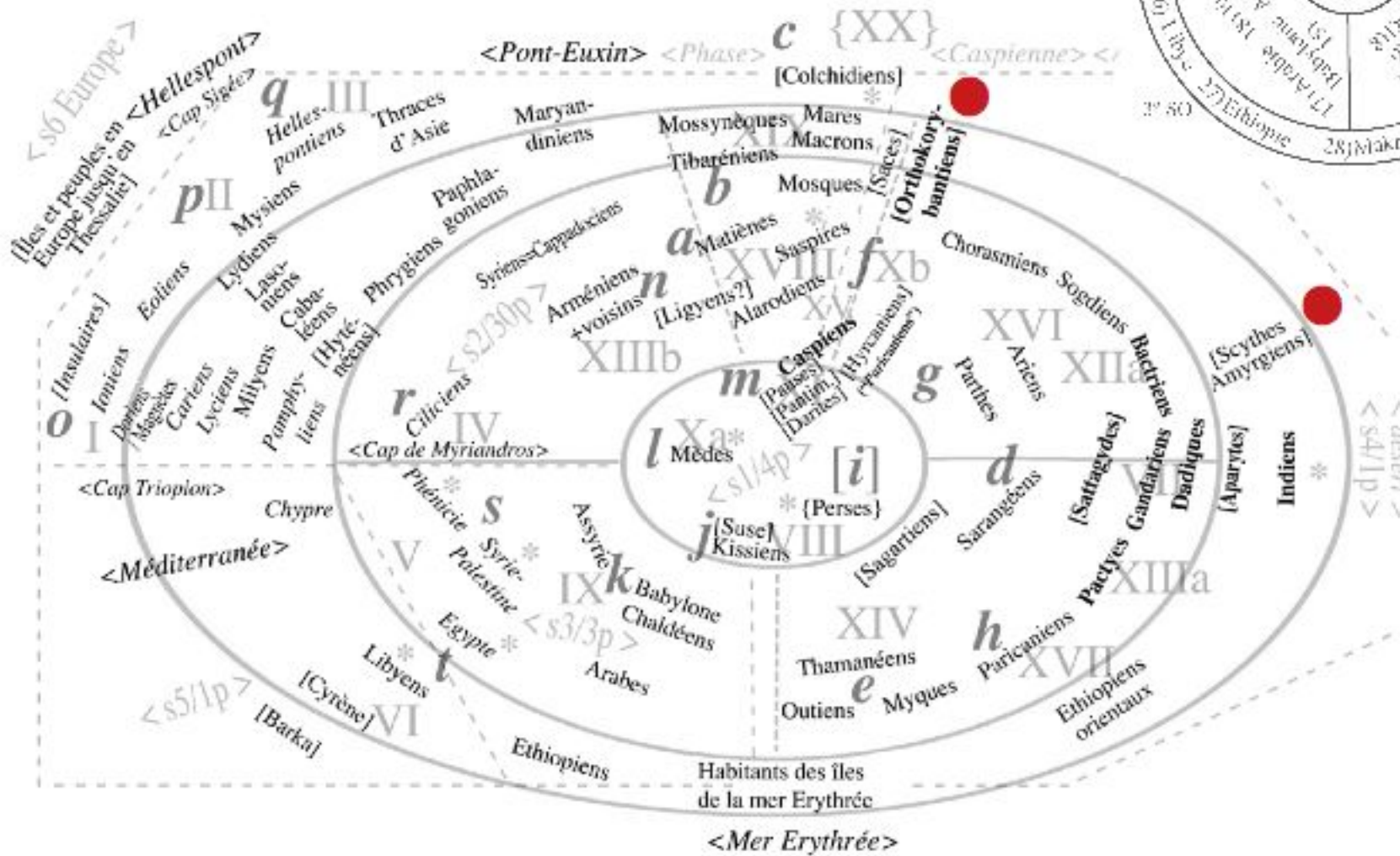




Maps of Asia around 500 B.C.

Reconstruction of the Achaemenid map of Darius I

Reconstruction of the map of Hecataeus





• B) Achaemenid period

**Koktepe : early Iron Age
'palace' and nomadic pits filled
with ceramics in the Achaemenid period
(5th-4th cent. B.C.)**



Koktepe, Palais
(Age du Fer et époque achéménide)

plan: E. Kurkina, C. Rapin (2004)

Route of Alexander the Great in the atlases (330-324 B.C.)

• C) Hellenistic period

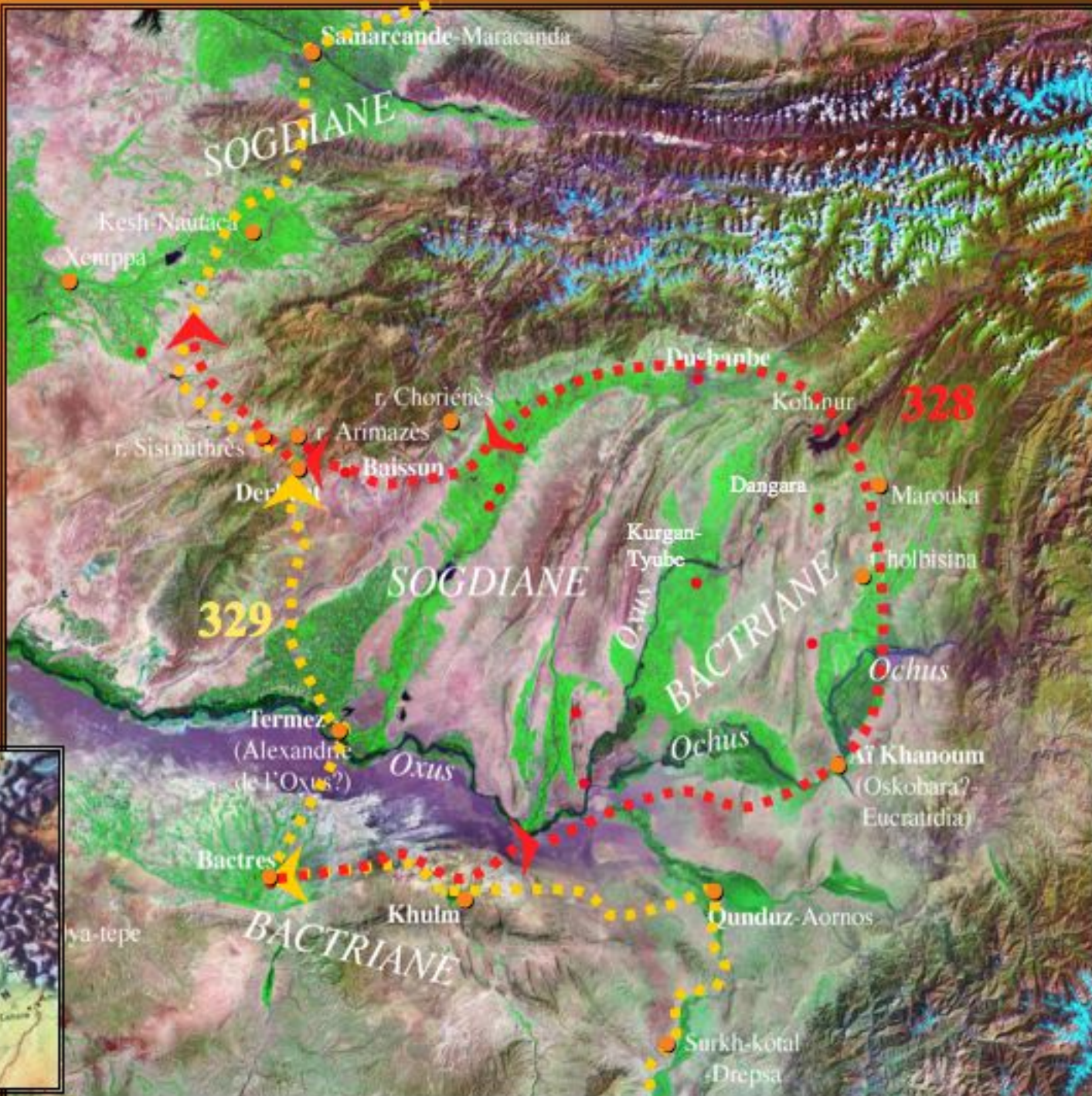


SOGDIAN IRON GATES near DERBENT



● **329 B.C. :**
First direct
expedition
towards
Syr-darya and
the Scythians

● **328 B.C. :**
The second
conquest of
Sogdiana through
Eastern Bactria





Spring 328 B.C. :
'Rock' of Arimazes
north of Derbent

Murder of Clitus
by Alexander at
Maracanda (Samarkand)



Winter 328/327 B.C. :
'Rock' at Kapkagly-Auzy (near
Akrabat and Derbent) held by Sisimithres,
governor of Nautaka-Shahr-i Sabz

‘Rock’ of Chorienes in the Pareitaka :
(Kyzkurgan or Kyrk-kyz, near Sina in the Surkhan-darya)



In spring 327, Alexander joins the fort of Chorienes which he had conquered one year before. There he marries Roxane before his expedition towards India .





Saka inscription
on a silver ingot, from
the royal treasury of
Ai Khanum (145 B.C.)



• D) Post-Hellenistic period





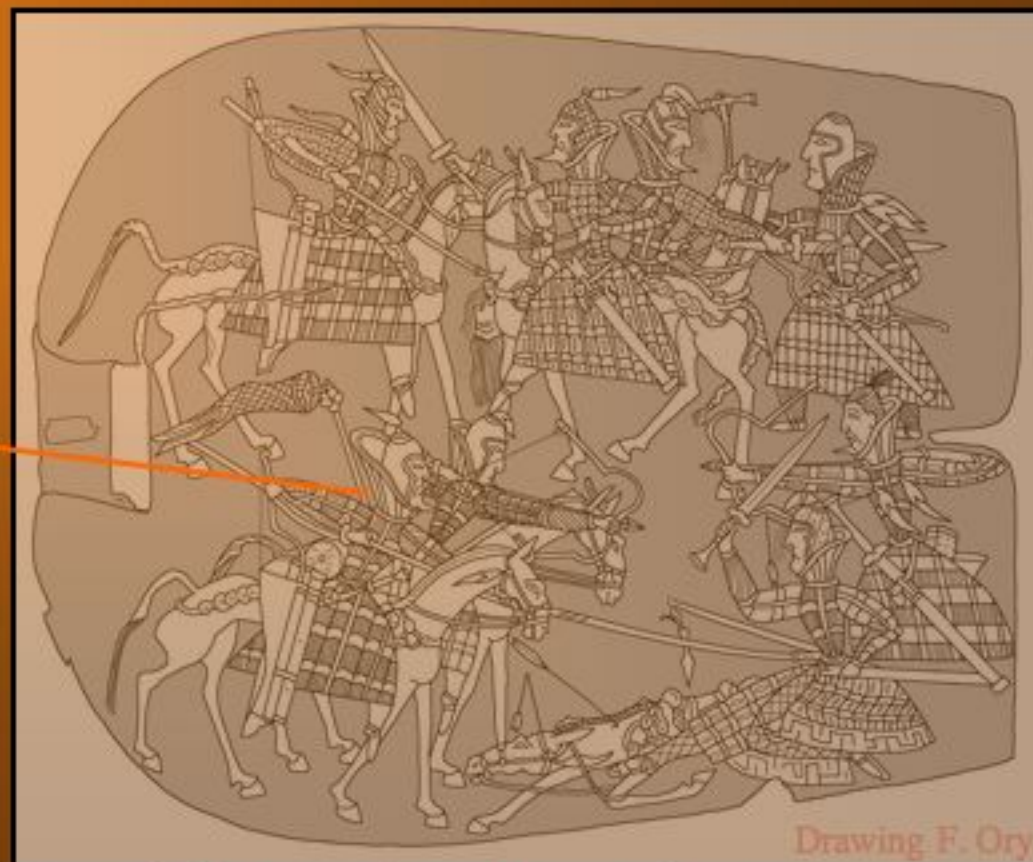
Kushan



Kangju

Struggle between Kushan and Kangju (1st cent. A.D.)

**Dynastic palace
of Khalchajan
(Kushan period,
1st cent. A.D.)**

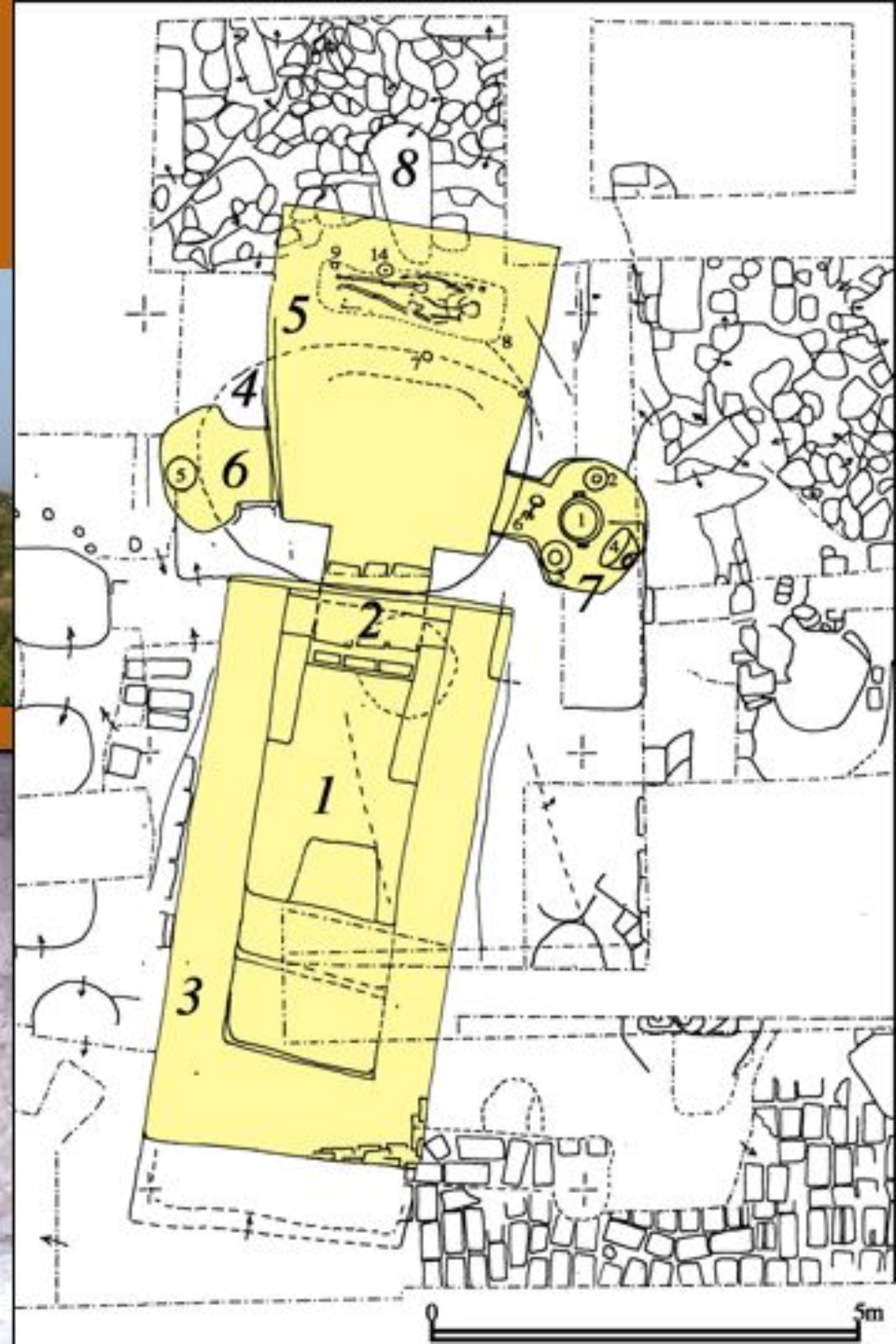


Drawing F. Ory

**Kangju/As warriors plaque from
the kurgan of Orlat (1st-2nd cent. A.D.)**



**KOKTEPE, Kurgan of a
Kangju/As princess
(beginning of the 1st cent. A.D.)**



Koktepe



**Scythian (Kangju/As ?)
king of Tillya-tepe
(North-West of Afghanistan,
1st century A.D.)**



Ancient names and route of Alexander the Great north of the Hindukush 329-327 B.C. (new theories)

Grande venit ad lura
 mare iniquitatis & asperum ad q. mactando
 ipi confugerunt. Cognoscimus. Frontem obex magna
 rone eiusdem fari tece mona fuisse plurimum
 homo ego apertus. uelutiq. fuit. Fronte fupior.
 cu. inque libere p. pinto cepit cum. uenit sta-
 tute loca subegit.

