

# NOTES

ON THE

## MALAY ARCHIPELAGO AND MALACCA.

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A careful perusal of the geographical literature of the ancient Chinese has shown, that they have not gained their knowledge of south-eastern Asia by bold voyages of discovery; slowly and cautiously they have crept along its shores, probably not venturing to a country, before they had become acquainted with it by others.

The proofs for this assertion lie partly beyond the scope of our present task, but even in the following notes sufficient evidence will be found of what we advanced just now.

When the Chinese turned themselves towards the south, the first country they visited was, of course, the northern part of what we call Annam now; pushing on along its coast they arrived at Cambodja, and next turned into the gulf of Siam. Here they were detained a considerable time, for in Chinese history we find abundant information about these countries, long before it knows anything of those further south, and it would seem that they did not go on in the original direction, before they had got to the coast of the Malay peninsula, which gradually showed them their way to Sumatra and Java.

This process must have taken many centuries, before it was accomplished so far: a hundred years before Christ the Chinese were in northern Annam, but during the first centuries of our era, though Chinese history was then already thoroughly established and written according to a reliable system, we find a complete absence of information about the countries which form the object of our present research. It would be difficult to explain this by saying, that during these times China was often divided under different rulers and generally more or less in a disturbed state, so that the adventures

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Wine is made out of the flowers of the cocoanuttree; the flowers of this tree are more than three feet long and as large as a man's arm, these are cut and the juice is collected and made into wine, which is sweet and intoxicating.

Of this Tang dynasty we possess two histories; the first, quoted just now, was considered defective and so an other compilation was made from more abundant materials and called the New history of the Tang dynasty. Its account of Java gives more details than the Old history and it will be observed that the name Djava had already begun to supplant that of Kaling.

### New history of the T'ang dynasty (618—906).

#### Book 222. part 2.

Ka-ling is also called Djava (<sup>1</sup>), it is situated in the southern ocean, at the east of Sumatra and at the west of Bali. At its south it has the sea and towards the north lies Cambodja.

The people make fortifications of wood and even the largest houses are covered with palmléaves. They have couches of ivory and mats of the outer skin of bamboo.

The land produces tortoise-shell, gold and silver, rhinoceros-horns and ivory. The country is very rich; there is a cavern from which salt water bubbles up spontaneously. They make wine of the hanging flowers of the cocoapalm, when they drink of it, they become rapidly drunk. They have letters and are acquainted with astronomy. In eating they do not use spoons or chopsticks.

In this country there are poisonous girls; when one has intercourse with them, he gets painful ulcers and dies, but his body does not decay.

The king lives in the town of Djava (Djapa) (<sup>2</sup>), but his ancestor Ki-yen (<sup>3</sup>) had lived more to the east at the town Pa-lu-ka-si (<sup>4</sup>). On different sides there are twenty eight small countries, all acknowledging the supremacy of Djava. There are thirty two high ministers and the Da-tso-kan-hiung (<sup>5</sup>) is the first of them.

(<sup>1</sup>) 社婆 or 闍婆, both representing the sound Djava, Djapa or Djapo.

(<sup>2</sup>) 闍婆.

(<sup>3</sup>) 吉延.

(<sup>4</sup>) 婆露伽斯. This place must remain unidentified.

(<sup>5</sup>) 大坐敢兒. We are unable to guess, what may have been the original word.