



4. Map showing the itinerary of Maes Titianos

Texts of Greek and Latin Authors Concerning the Far East

From the Fourth C. BCE to the 14th C. CE



CTESIAS (c. IV C. BCE)

Indica

Ed. Müller, Paris, Didot, 1884, pp. 86-87.

(The passage is of doubtful authenticity.)

Διηγλήματα Κτησίου Κνιδίου περί
τῶν ἐν τῇ οἰκουμένη θαυμάτων.

Λέγονται οἱ Σῆρες καὶ οἱ ἄνω
Ἴνδοι μέγιστοι σφόδρα εἶναι τὰ
σώματα, ὥς εὐρίσκεσθαι ἄνδρας
ἰγ' πηχῶν τὸ μήκος· βιοῦνται δὲ
καὶ ὑπὲρ τὰ σ' ἔτη. Εἰσὶ δὲ καὶ ἐν
μέρει τινὶ ποταμοῦ λεγομένου
Γαίτρου ἄνθρωποι θηριώδεις, καὶ
τὸ δέρμα παραπλήσιοι ἵπποποτά-
μοις, ὥς μὴ διακόπτεσθαι βέλεσιν.
Ἐν δὲ τῇ αὐτῇ Ἰνδικῇ εἰς τὸν μυ-
χὸν τῆς πελαγίας νήσου φασὶ τοῦς

*The discussion of the wonders of the
inhabited world by Ctesias of Cnidos.*

They say that the Seres and the
Indians of the north are very much the
tallest in stature, so that men are found
thirteen cubits high. They live in excess
of 200 years. There are men of beast-
like appearance in a certain part of the
river called Gaitros¹ whose skin is very
like that of the hippopotamus, so that
it cannot be pierced by missiles. In the
same country of India in the gulf of a

¹ Corr. Γάγγου? 'of the Ganges'.

ἐνοικοῦντας κάκεῖ οὐρὰς ἔχειν
 μέγιστας, ὁποίας διαγράφουσι
 τῶν Σατύρων. sea-girt island the inhabitants there
 have very big tails, such as they depict
 on satyrs.

VIRGIL (70-19 BCE)

Georgics (30 BCE)

Ed. Ribbeck, Leipzig, Teubner, 1894 (2nd edn.).

II,121:
 Velleraque ut foliis depectant tenuia
 Seres? ... just as the Seres comb down fine
 tissues from their leaves?

HORACE (65 BCE - 8 CE)

ed. Keller et Holder, Leipzig, Teubner, 1897.

Epodes (29 or 30 BCE)

III,15-16:
 Quid, quod libelli Stoici inter Sericos
 acere pulvillos amant? What does one make of Stoic tracts
 which love to lie among silken (Serian)
 pillows?

Odes (24 BCE, except for Bk. IV which is dated to 13 BCE)

12,53-57:
 e seu Parthos Latio imminentis
 gerit justo domitos triumpho,
 ve subjectos Orientis orae
 ras et Indos,

Whether he drove back the
 Parthians who were threatening Latium
 defeating them with a rightful triumph,
 or the Seres and Indians lying near the

Te minor latum reget aequus orbe

I,29,7-10:

Puer quis ex aula capillis
 Ad cyathum statuetur unctis,
 Doctus sagittas tendere Sericas
 Arcu paterno?...

III,29,25-28:

Tu civitatem qui deceat status
 Curas et urbi sollicitus times
 Quid Seres et regnata Cyro
 Bactra parent Tanaisque discors.

IV,15,21-24:

Non qui profundum Danuvium b
 Edicta rumpent Julia, non Getae,
 Non Seres infidive Persae,
 Non Tanain prope flumen orti.

PROP.

Ed.

Ed. Baeh

1,14,22:

Quid relevant variis serica textilit

nd the inhabitants there
g tails, such as they depict

nd edn.).

the Seres comb down fine
their leaves?

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r, 1897.

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Te minor latum reget aequus orbem.

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Ad cyathum statuatur unctis,
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Tu civitatem qui deceat status
Curas et urbi sollicitus times
Quid Seres et regnata Cyro
Bactra parent Tanaisque discors.

IV,15,21-24:

Non qui profundum Danuvium bibunt
Edicta rumpent Julia, non Getae,
Non Seres infidive Persae,
Non Tanain prope flumen orti.

eastern shore, though inferior to you
(Juppiter) he will rule the wide world
with equality.

Who is the boy with perfumed
locks from some court who will be
assigned to your cup, skilled at firing
the arrows of Seres from his father's
bow?

You care for the conditions which
best suit the state and in your concern
for the city you fear what the Seres are
planning and Bactra the realm of Cyrus
and the unruly Tanais.

Those who drink of the deep
Danube shall not infringe the Julian
decrees, nor shall the Getae, nor the
Seres, nor the untrustworthy Persians
nor those born near the River Tanais.

PROPERTIUS (50 - 15 BCE)

Elegies (30-15 BCE)

Ed. Baehrens, Leipzig, Teubner, 1880.

1,14,22:

Quid relevant variis serica textilibus?

What relief do Serian silks with
their varied textures provide?

IV,8,23¹:

Serica nam taceo volsi carpenta For I say naught of the silk-lined
nepotis. chariots of your smooth-cheeked ne-
pew ...

OVID (43 BCE - 17 or 18 CE)

Loves (Amores) (c. 14 BCE)

Ed. Ehwald, Leipzig, Teubner, 1888.

1,14,5-6:

Quid, quod erant tenues, et quos ornare
timeres,
Vela colorati qualia Seres habent.

What (shall I say of your tresses)?
Because they were fine and you were
afraid to adorn them like the veils
which the sallow-skinned Seres poss-
ess.

STRABO (c. 58 BCE-21 CE)

Geography

Ed. Müller, Paris, Didot, 1853.

XI,11,1: ... καὶ δὴ καὶ μέχρι Σηρῶν
καὶ Φρυγῶν² ἐξέτεινον τὴν ἀρχήν.

... and they (the Bactrian kings)
were extending their kingdom as far as
the Seres and the Phrynoi.

XI,11,7: Λέγεται δὲ, διότι τοῦ
Γαύρου τὸ τελευταῖον, ὃ καλοῦσιν
Ἰμάιον,³ τῇ Ἰνδικῇ θαλάττῃ

It is said that the last section of the
Taurus, which is called the Imaus,
which abuts the Indian Sea, in no way

ξυνάπτον, οὐδὲν οὔτε π
πρὸς ἕω τῆς Ἰνδικῆς μᾶλλον
εἰσέχει· παριόντι δ' εἰς τὸ β
πλευρὸν, αἰεὶ τι τοῦ μήκους
καὶ τοῦ πλάτους ἢ θάλαττα
ἀποφαίνειν μείουρον πρὸς ἡ
νῦν ὑπογραφομένην μερίδ
Ἀσίας, ἣν ὁ Ταῦρος ἀπολα
πρὸς τὸν ὠκεανὸν, τὸν
ροῦντα τὸ Κάσπιον πέ
Μῆκος δ' ἐστὶ ταύτης τῆς
τὸ μέγιστον ἀπὸ τῆς Ὑρ
θαλάττης ἐπὶ τὸν ὠκεανόν
κατὰ τὸ Ἰμάιον τρισμυρία
σταδίων, παρὰ τὴν ὀρεινὴν
Ταύρου τῆς πορείας
πλάτος δ' ἔλαττον τῶν μ
Εἴρηται γὰρ, ὅτι περὶ τετ
μυρίους σταδίους ἐστὶ τὸ ἀ
Ἰσσυκοῦ κόλπου μέχρι τῆς
θαλάττης τῆς κατὰ Ἰνδούς
Ἰσσοῦν ἀπὸ τῶν ἐσπερίων
τῶν κατὰ Στήλας ἄλλοι
μύριοι· ἐστὶ δὲ ὁ μυχὸς τοῦ Ἰ
κόλπου μικρὸν ἢ οὐδὲν ἢ
ἑωθινώτερος, τὸ δὲ ἀπὸ Ἰ
ἐπὶ τὴν Ὑρκανίαν γῆν
μυρίους ἐστὶ σταδίους,
ἄλληλον ὃν τῷ ἀπὸ τοῦ
λεχθέντι ἐπὶ τοὺς Ἰνδούς. Λε
δὴ τὸ λεχθὲν μῆκος ἐπὶ τὴν ἰ
περιωδευμένης νυνὶ μερίδ
τρισμύριοι στάδιοι. Πάλιν
πλάτους τοῦ μεγίστου τῆς
μένης ὄντος περὶ τρισμ
σταδίων, χλαμυδοειδοῦς οὐκ

¹ IV,3,8-9 read in some older editions:

Te modo viderunt iteratos Bactri per ortus
Te modo munito Sericus hostis equo.

The Bactrians have just now seen you in your
repeated journeys eastward, also the Seric foe
with his caprisoned horse ...

The manuscripts read also *hericus*, *hernicus*, *henricus*, *Neuricus* and *Sericus* is the reading
opted by Baehrens.

² Codd. Φαννῶν.

³ Var. Ἰμέον.

naught of the silk-lined
your smooth-cheeked ne-

(E)
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188.

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(E)

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ξυνάπτουν, οὐδὲν οὔτε προὔχει
πρὸς ἔω τῆς Ἰνδικῆς μᾶλλον οὔτ'
εἰσέχει· παριόντι δ' εἰς τὸ βόρειον
πλευρὸν, αἰεὶ τι τοῦ μήκους ὑφαίρει
καὶ τοῦ πλάτους ἢ θάλαττα, ὥστ'
ἀποφαίνειν μείουρον πρὸς ἔω τὴν
νῦν ὑπογραφομένην μερίδα τῆς
Ἀσίας, ἣν ὁ Ταῦρος ἀπολαμβάνει
πρὸς τὸν ὠκεανόν, τὸν πλη-
ροῦντα τὸ Κάσπιον πέλαγος.
Μῆκος δ' ἐστὶ ταύτης τῆς μερίδος
τὸ μέγιστον ἀπὸ τῆς Ὑρκανίας
θαλάττης ἐπὶ τὸν ὠκεανόν τὸν
κατὰ τὸ Ἰμάιον τρισμυρίων που
σταδίων, παρὰ τὴν ὄρεινὴν τοῦ
Ταύρου τῆς πορείας οὔσης,
πλάτος δ' ἔλαττον τῶν μυρίων.
Εἴρηται γὰρ, ὅτι περὶ τετρακισ-
μυρίους σταδίους ἐστὶ τὸ ἀπὸ τοῦ
Ἰσσυκοῦ κόλπου μέχρι τῆς ἑώας
θαλάττης τῆς κατὰ Ἰνδοῦς, ἐπὶ δ'
Ἰσσὸν ἀπὸ τῶν ἐσπερίων ἄκρων
τῶν κατὰ Στήλας ἄλλοι τρις-
μύριοι· ἐστὶ δὲ ὁ μυχὸς τοῦ Ἰσσυκοῦ
κόλπου μικρὸν ἢ οὐδὲν Ἀμισοῦ
ἑωθινώτερος, τὸ δὲ ἀπὸ Ἀμισοῦ
ἐπὶ τὴν Ὑρκανίαν γῆν περὶ
μυρίους ἐστὶ σταδίους, παρά-
λληλον ὃν τῷ ἀπὸ τοῦ Ἰσσοῦ
λεχθέντι ἐπὶ τοὺς Ἰνδοῦς. Λείπεται
δὴ τὸ λεχθὲν μῆκος ἐπὶ τὴν ἔω τῆς
περιωδευμένης νυνὶ μερίδος οἱ
τρισμύριοι στάδιοι. Πάλιν δὲ τοῦ
πλάτους τοῦ μεγίστου τῆς οἰκου-
μένης ὄντος περὶ τρισμυρίους
σταδίους, χλαμυδοειδοῦς οὔσης,

extends to the east of India or lies
within it. As one travels to its northern
flank the sea continually reduces its
length and breadth so that the part of
Asia now being described which the
Taurus encompasses towards the ocean
which feeds into the Caspian Sea
appears to taper towards the east. The
size of this part at its greatest is 30,000
stades from the Hyrcanian Sea to the
Ocean adjoining the Imaus – the route
being along the mountainous section of
the Taurus; its breadth is less than a
thousand stades. It has already been
said that the distance from the gulf of
Imaus to the eastern sea of India is
about 40,000 stades and another
30,000 stades to Issus from the
westernmost peaks of the Pillars (of
Hercules); the innermost recess of the
gulf of Issus is a little or not at all to
the east of Amisus, the distance from
Amisus to Hyrcania is about ten
thousand stades parallel to that
described from Issus towards the
Indians. Therefore the length men-
tioned fills the gap to the east of the
section now treated in detail, and is
30,000 stades. So with the maximum
breadth of the inhabited world being
30,000 stades and in the shape of a
chlamys, the distance should be

τὸ διάστημα τοῦτο ἐγγὺς ἂν εἴη τοῦ μεσημβρινοῦ τοῦ διὰ τῆς Ὑρκανίας θαλάττης γραφομένου καὶ τῆς Περσικῆς, εἴπερ ἐστὶ τὸ μῆκος τῆς οἰκουμένης ἑπτὰ μυριάδες· εἰ οὖν ἀπὸ τῆς Ὑρκανίας ἐπὶ Ἀρτεμίταν τὴν ἐν τῇ Βαβυλωνίᾳ στάδιοι εἰσὶν ὀκτακισχίλιοι, καθάπερ εἴρηκεν Ἀπολλόδωρος ὁ ἐκ τῆς Ἀρτεμίτας, ἐκεῖθεν δ' ἐπὶ τὸ στόμα τῆς κατὰ Πέρσας θαλάττης ἄλλο τοσοῦτον ἐστὶ, καὶ πάλιν τοσοῦτον ἢ μικρόν ἀπολείπον εἰς τὰ ἀνταίροντα τοῖς ἄκροις τῆς Αἰθιοπίας, λοιπὸν ἂν εἴη τοῦ πλάτους τῆς οἰκουμένης τοῦ λεχθέντος ἀπὸ τοῦ μυχοῦ τῆς Ὑρκανίας θαλάττης ἐπὶ τοῦ στόματος αὐτῆς ὅσον εἰρήκαμεν. Μειούρου δ' ὄντος τοῦ τμήματος τούτου τῆς γῆς ἐπὶ τὰ πρὸς ἑω μέρη, γίνοιτ' ἂν τὸ σχῆμα προσόμοιον μαγειρικῇ κοπίδι, τοῦ μὲν ὄρους ἐπ' εὐθείας ὄντος, καὶ νοομένου κατὰ τὴν ἀκμὴν τῆς κοπίδος, τῆς δ' ἀπὸ τοῦ στόματος τοῦ Ὑρκανίου παραλίας ἐπὶ Τάμαρον κατὰ θάτερον πλευρὸν εἰς περιφερῇ καὶ μείουρον γραμμὴν ἀποληγόν.

XV,1,(20): ... Ἐκ δὲ τῆς αὐτῆς αἰτίας ἐνίοις καὶ ἐπανθεῖν ἔριον. Ἐκ τούτου δὲ Νέαρχός φησι τὰς εὐητρίους ὑφαίνεσθαι σινδόνας, τοὺς δὲ Μακεδόνας ἀντὶ

calculated near the meridian drawn through the Hyrcanian Sea and the Persian Sea if the length of the inhabited world is in fact 70,000 stades. Therefore if there are 8,000 stades from Hyrcania to Artemita in Babylonia, as Apollodorus, who hails from Artemita, has stated, and from there to the mouth of the Persian Sea is a similar distance and again the same or slightly less distance to the areas which rise opposite to the furthest parts of Ethiopia, there would be left what I have said for the above mentioned breadth of the inhabited world from the gulf of the Hyrcanian Sea to its mouth. Since the section of land towards its eastern parts is tapered, the shape would be very similar to that of a butcher's cleaver, the mountain range being a straight line and to be thought of as the cutting edge of the knife, the coast from the mouth of the Hyrcanian seaboard to Tamaron to be thought of as the opposite side which tapers and curves.

... from the same cause for some trees also to bud with wool. From this Nearchus says that finely textured linens are woven and the Macedonians

κναφάλλων αὐτοῖς χρῆσι τοῖς σάγμασι σάγης· τοὶ καὶ τὰ Σηρικὰ, ἐκ τινων ξαινομένης βύσσου ...

XV,1,34: ... Καὶ τοι τοῖ ἐτι τούτων μακροβιωτέρφασι ...

XV,1,37: ... Ὡς τοὺς Σῆροβίους φασὶ, πέρα καὶ δι' ἐτῶν παρατείνοντας ...¹

Ed. Müller, *Geo*

XV,1: "Ὅτι ἡ Ἰνδικὴ στρομβοειδὴς· ἥς τὸ μὲν πλευρὸν ὁ Καύκασός ἐστι ἀπὸ τῆς Ἀρείας ἀρξάμε τοῦ ἀνατολικωτάτου ἵ ὅπερ ὄρος διορίζει Σάκς Σκύθας καὶ Σῆρας πρὸς Ἰνδοὺς δὲ πρὸς νότον.

¹ Until about 1850, it was thought (source) could be found the first in through the witness of *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* (see the manuscripts). Kramer has already reading: δι' Ἀθηνῶν. This correction Müller, p. 945, variant of p. 54, line

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τοῖς σάγμασι σάγης· τοιαῦτα δὲ
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ξαινομένης βύσσου ...

use them instead of pillows and as
padding for their seats. Such are also
the Serica (silks), the flax being dried
from certain barks ...

XV,1,34: ... Καὶ τοὶ τοὺς Σῆρας
ἔτι τούτων μακροβιωτέρους τινὲς
φασὶ ...

Some say that the Seres are longer
lived than they (130-year-old Musican-
ians) ...

XV,1,37: ... ὥς τοὺς Σῆρας μακ-
ροβίους φασὶ, πέρα καὶ διακοσίων
ἔτων παρατείνοντας ...¹

... and that the Seres live long
reaching beyond two hundred years.

Chrestomathy

Ed. Müller, *Geographi Graeci Minores*, Paris, Didot, 1868,
Vol. 2, pp. 529-636.

XV,1: "Ὅτι ἡ Ἰνδικὴ σχῆμα ἔχει
ρομβοειδές· ἥς τὸ μὲν βόρειον
πλευρὸν ὁ Καύκασός ἐστι τὸ ὄρος
ἀπὸ τῆς Ἀρείας ἀρξάμενον ἕως
τοῦ ἀνατολικωτάτου πέρατος,
ὅπερ ὄρος διορίζει Σάκας τε καὶ
Σκύθας καὶ Σῆρας πρὸς βορᾶν,
Ἰνδοὺς δὲ πρὸς νότον.

(that) India has the shape of a
rhombus whose northern side is Mount
Caucasus beginning from Areia and
stretching to its easternmost boundary;
this mountain chain separates the
Sakai, the Scyths and the Seres to the
north; the Indians to the south.

¹ Until about 1850, it was thought that in Strabo (and therefore in Erasthomenes who was his source) could be found the first mention of the city of Θῖνα, capital of the Seres well known through the witness of *Periplus of the Erythrean (Red) Sea*. In five places all the manuscripts speak of a parallel διὰ Θινῶν (I,4,6; II,1,1.2 5) or διὰ Θηνῶν (I,4,6: a variant in two manuscripts). Kramer has already proposed to substitute throughout the much more probable reading: δι' Ἀθηνῶν. This correction has today been definitely accepted (see the edition of Müller, p. 945, variant of p. 54, line 13).

SENECA THE PHILOSOPHER (4 BCE- 65 CE)

Moral Epistles to Lucilius 90 (= L. XIV,2)

Ed. Hense, Leipzig, Teubner, 1898.

§15. Hodie utrum tandem sapientio-
 rem putas qui invenit quemadmodum in
 immensam altitudinem crocum latenti-
 bus fistulis exprimat ..., an eum, qui et
 aliis et sibi hoc monstrat, quam nihil
 nobis natura durum ac difficile impera-
 verit, posse nos habitare sine marmor-
 ario ac fabro, posse nos vestitos esse
 sine commercio Sericorum ... ?

Which then do you consider the
 wiser today: he who discovered how to
 spray saffron to an immense height by
 means of hidden pipes ... or he who
 demonstrates to himself and others that
 nature has ordered nothing hard and
 difficult and that we can live without
 the marble cutter and the smith and
 that we can be clothed without trade
 with the Serici ... ?¹

SENECA THE TRAGEDIAN

Tragedies

Ed. Peiper and Richter, Leipzig, Teubner, 1902.

Phaedra 387-389

Phaedra: Removete, famulae, purpura
 atque auro inlitas
 Vestes, procul sit murices Tyrii rubor,
 Quae fila ramis ultimi Seres legunt.

Phaedra: Servants, take away these
 garments dyed with purple and gold:
 let the ruddiness of the Tyrian be
 removed and what threads the distant
 Seres harvest from their trees.

Thyestes, 369-379

Chorus: Reges convenient licet
 Qui sparsos agitant Dahae,
 Qui rubri vada litoris
 Et gemmis mare lucidis

Chorus: Let the kings who stir up
 the scattered Dahae join together, those
 who rule on the crossing places of the
 Red Sea and on the blood-coloured sea

Late sanguineum tenent,
 Aut qui Caspia fortibus
 Recludunt juga Sarmatis,
 Certet Danuvii vadum
 Audet qui pedes ingredi
 Et (quocumque loco jacent)
 Seres vellere nobiles.

H

Dianeira: Cujus triumphos ultir
 canunt.

Chorus: Nec Maeonia distinguit
 Quae Phoebeis subditus euris
 Legit Eois Ser arboribus.

POMPONIUS M

Ed. Fr

I,11: In ea primos homin
 oriente accipimus Indos et S
 Scythas. Seres media ferme Eos
 incolunt, Indi et Scythae ultima.

¹ The materials (*serica*) or the merchants Seres (*serici*).

BCE- 65 CE)

.. XIV,2)
98.

hen do you consider the
he who discovered how to
n to an immense height by
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ner, 1902.

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with its far-shining gemstones, or those
who keep open the ridges of the
Caspian to the strong Sarmatians; let
him contest who dares to set foot in
the shallow water of the Danube and,
in whatever place they exist, to set foot
among the Seres famous for their fleece.

Hercules Oetaeus, 414

Dianeira: Cujus triumphos ultimi Seres
canunt.

Dianeira: (Hercules) of whose
triumphs the far-off Seres sing.

ibid., 665-667

Chorus: Nec Maeonia distinguit acu
Quae Phoebeis subditus euris
Legit Eois Ser arboribus.

Chorus: and she does not separate
with Maeonian needle (the threads)
which the Serian, subjected to the
oriental suns, picks from the eastern
trees

POMPONIIUS MELA (1st C CE, reign of Claudius)

Chorography

Ed. Frick, Leipzig, Teubner, 1880.

I,11: In ea primos hominum ab
oriente accipimus Indos et Seras et
Scythas. Seres media ferme Eoae partis
incolunt, Indi et Scythae ultima.

The first men in it (Asia) whom we
have encountered starting from the east
are the Indians, the Seres and the
Scyths. The Seres inhabit almost the
middle of the eastern part, the Indians
and Scyths the furthestmost parts.

III,59. Ab his in Eoum mare cursus inflectitur, inque oram terrae spectantis orientem. Pertinet haec a Scythico promunturio ad Colida primum ob nives invia, deinde ob immanitatem habitantium inculta. Scythae sunt Androphagoe et Sacae, distincti regione, quia feris scatet, inhabitabili.

60. Vasta deinde iterum loca beluae infestant, usque ad montem mari imminentem nomine Tabim. Longe ab eo Taurus adtollitur. Seres intersunt, genus plenum justitiae, et commercio quod rebus in solitudine relictis absens peragit notissimum.

67. Oras tenent ab Indo ad Gangen Palibothri, a Gange ad Colida, nisi ubi magis quam ut habitetur exaestuat, atrae gentes et quodammodo Aethiopes. Ab Colide ad Tamum¹ recta sunt litora, timidique populi et marinis opibus adfatim dites.

From these (the desert beaches of the northern sea) the route curves into the eastern sea, into a shore of the land looking east. This stretches from the Scythian Cape to Colis – at first impassable owing to the snows, then uncultivated on account of the monstrous nature of the inhabitants. The Androphagi and Sacae are Scythians separated by a region uninhabitable because it abounds in wild beasts.

Then again wild beasts infest vast tracts up to the mountain called Tabis which overlooks the sea. The Taurus rises up a long way from it. Between these are the Seres, a race replete with justice and very well-known for their commercial activity, which proceeds in their absence with things left in the wilderness.

The Palibothri occupy the shores from the Indus to the Ganges and from the Ganges to Colis except the regions where it is too hot to live. They are black people somewhat like the Ethiopians. From Colis to the Tamus the coast line is straight, its peoples timid and rich enough in the wealth of the sea.

68. Tamus promunturium e Taurus adtollit, Colis alter Eoum angulus initiumque lateris ad nives.

70. Ad Tamum insula est ad Gangen Argyre: altera aurei veteres tradidere, altera argenteae ut maxime videtur aut ex re nec ex vocabulo fabula est.

PLINY

N.
Ed. Mayh

VI,53. A Caspio mari Scythico oceano in Eoum cursus inflectitur orientem conversa litorum. Inhabitabilis eius prima pars a promunturio ob nives; proximae saevitia gentium. Anthropophagae insident humanis corporibus; ideo iuxta vastae solitudinis ferarumque multitudo, haut discedit hominum immanitatem obsident deinde Scythae iterumque des beluis usque ad iugum i

¹ Cod. cudum.

ese (the desert beaches of the sea) the route curves into the sea, into a shore of the land. This stretches from the Cape to Colis – at first owing to the snows, then on account of the nature of the inhabitants. Anthropophagi and Sacae are separated by a region alone because it abounds in

again wild beasts infest vast the mountain called Tabis looks the sea. The Taurus long way from it. Between the Seres, a race replete with very well-known for their activity, which proceeds in pace with things left in the

alibothri occupy the shores adjacent to the Ganges and from Colis except the regions are too hot to live. They are people somewhat like the . . . From Colis to the Tamus line is straight, its peoples rich enough in the wealth of

68. Tamus promunturium est, quod Taurus adtollit, Colis alter Eoae partis angulus initiumque lateris ad meridiem versi.

70. Ad Tamum insula est Chryse, ad Gangem Argyre: altera aurei soli, ita veteres tradidere, altera argeptei, atque ut maxime videtur aut ex re nomen aut ex vocabulo fabula est.

The Tamus is a promontory which the Taurus uplifts. Colis is the other angle of the Eastern part and the beginning of the side turned towards the south.

Alongside Point Tamus is the island of Chryse; beside the Ganges is the island of Argyre. The first has golden soil – so the old writers have handed down – the other has silver soil. Moreover, as seems to be the case really, either the name comes from the fact, or the legend comes from the designation.

PLINY THE ELDER (23-79 CE)

Natural History (77 CE)

Ed. Mayhoff, Leipzig, Teubner, 1875-1906.

VI,53. A Caspio mari Scythicoque oceano in Eoum cursus inflectitur, ad orientem conversa litorum fronte. Inhabitabilis eius prima pars a Scythico promunturio ob nives; proxima inculta saevitia gentium. Anthropophagi Scythae insident humanis corporibus vescentes; ideo iuxta vastae solitudines ferarumque multitudo, haut dissimilem hominum inmanitatem obsidens. Iterum deinde Scythae iterumque deserta cum beluis usque ad iugum incubans

From the Caspian Sea and the Scythian Ocean the course of our journey inclines to the east with the front of the coast turned eastward. The first part beginning from the Scythian promontory is uninhabitable on account of the snows; the next region is uncultivated owing to the savage nature of the peoples. The Scythian cannibals dwell there feeding on human bodies; so next to them are vast solitudes and a multitude of wild beasts possessing

mari quod vocant Tabim.¹ Nec ante dimidiam ferme longitudinem eius orae, quae spectat aestivum orientem, inhabitatur illa regio.

54. Primi sunt hominum qui noscantur Seres, lanicio silvarum nobiles, perfusam aqua depectentes frondium canitiem, unde geminus feminis nostris labos redordiendi fila rursusque texendi: tam multiplici opere, tam longinquo orbe petitur ut in publico matrona traluceat. Seres mites quidem, sed et ipsi feris similes coetum reliquorum mortalium fugiunt, commercia exspectant. Primum eorum noscitur flumen Psitharas,² proximum Cambari, tertium Lanos, a quo promunturium Chryse,³ Sinus Cirnaba,⁴ flumen Atianos,⁵ sinus et gens hominum Attacorum,⁶ apricis

savage ways almost indistinguishable from those of the men. Next Scythians again and further on deserts with wild beasts up to the ridge overlooking the sea which they call Tabis. Nor is that region inhabited up to almost half the length of the shore which faces the north east.

The first of men who are known are the Seres, famous for the silk-growing of their forests; they comb down the white floss of the branches drenched with water; from this comes the two-fold work for our women of dividing the threads and weaving them together again; from this complicated work, from this distant world it is thought that the matron may gleam through her dress in public. The Seres are mild indeed, but they themselves like wild beasts flee from the society of the rest of mankind and wait for trade to come to them. The first of their rivers which is known is the Psitharas, the second the Cambari and the third the Lanos;

ab omni noxio adflatu seclusa eadem, qua Hyperborei degunt. De iis privatim condidit Amometus, sicut Hecataeus de boreis. Ab Attacoris¹ gentes Fthocari³ et, iam Indorum, introrsus ad Scythas versi — in corporibus vescuntur —, N quoque Indiae vagantur. Sunt aquilone contingi ab ipsis et C dixere et Brisaros.⁶

¹ Var. Thabim.

² Var. Psytharas.

³ Var. Chrise, Crise, Chyrise.

⁴ Var. Cynaba.

⁵ Var. Alainos.

⁶ Var. Atacorum.

¹ Var. Athacoris, Acotharis, Athoc.

² Var. Thuni, Chuni.

³ Var. Phocari, Focari.

⁴ Var. Casyri.

⁵ Var. Chiconas.

⁶ Var. Brysaros, Brisaros.

s almost indistinguishable of the men. Next Scythians further on deserts with wild the ridge overlooking the they call Tabis. Nor is that cited up to almost half the the shore which faces the

of men who are known are famous for the silk-growing ests; they comb down the of the branches drenched from this comes the two- for our women of dividing and weaving them together n this complicated work, distant world it is thought tron may gleam through her ublic. The Seres are mild : they themselves like wild from the society of the rest and wait for trade to come e first of their rivers which s the Psitharas, the second ri and the third the Lanos;

ab omni noxio adflatu seclusa collibus, eadem, qua Hyperborei degunt, temperie. De iis privatim condidit volumen Amometus, sicut Hecataeus de Hyperboreis. Ab Attacoris¹ gentes Phuni² et Thocari³ et, iam Indorum, Casiri⁴ introrsus ad Scythas versi – humanis corporibus vescuntur –, Nomades quoque Indiae vagantur. Sunt qui ab aquilone contingi ab ipsis et Ciconas⁵ dixere et Brisaros.⁶

beyond these the promontory of Chryse, the gulf of Cinnaba, the river Atianos, the gulf and race of men of the Attacores sheltered from all harmful breezes by sunny hills with the same climate in which the Hyperboreans live. Amometus has written separately a volume about them, just as Hecataeus has written about the Hyperboreans. After the Attacori the peoples are the Phuni and Thocari and of the Indians the Casiri within that country facing towards the Scyths – they feed on human bodies – also the nomads of India wander there. There are some who have said that the Cicones and Brisari are bordered by them on the north.

¹ Var. Athacoris, Acotharis, Athocaris.

² Var. Thuni, Chuni.

³ Var. Phocari, Focari.

⁴ Var. Casyri.

⁵ Var. Chiconas.

⁶ Var. Brysaros, Brisarros.

VI,80. Sed ante sunt aliae: ... extra ostium Indi Chryse et Argyre, fertilis metallis, ut credo; nam quod aliqui tradidere, aureum argenteumque his solum esse, haut facile crediderim. Ab his XX p. Crocala¹ et ab ea XII p. Bibaga, ostreis et conchylis referta, dein Coralliba,² VIII p. a supra dicta, multaeque ignobiles.

88. Iidem narravere latus insulae quod praetenderetur Indiae X stadiorum esse ab oriente hiberno; ultra montes Hemodos Seras quoque ab ipsis aspici, notos etiam commercio; patrem Rachiae commeasse eo; advenis ibi Seras occurrere, ipsos vero excedere hominum magnitudinem, rutilis comis, caeruleis oculis, oris sono truci, nullo commercio linguae. Cetera eadem quae nostri negotiatores: fluminis ulteriore ripa merces positae iuxta venalia tolli ab iis, si placet permutatio.

But before it (Taprobane) there are other islands ... outside the mouth of the Indus, Chryse and Argyre, rich in metals, as I believe; for I could not easily believe what others have related – that they have golden and silver soil. Twenty miles from these is Crocala and twelve miles from this is Bibaga full of oysters and molluscs; then Coralliba eight miles from the last mentioned and there are many without name.

The same (ambassadors from Taprobane who came to Rome under Claudius) tell that the side of the island which stretches along beside India is of ten thousand stades to the south-east. Beyond the Hemodus mountains the Seres known for their trading can be seen by them. The father of Rachias (chief envoy) had travelled thither and the Seres came to meet the visitors there and they indeed surpassed the size of men; they had red hair, blue eyes, with uncouth manner of speech and no way of communicating with others. The rest of his account tallied with that of our own traders: that on

VII,27. ... Cynos Indoru Isigonus annis centenis qua vivere, item Aethiopus Maci Seras existimat

XII,2. Quo magis ac magis subit his a principiis caedi et marmora, vestes ad Seras peti, in Rubri maris profundo, zmarima tellure quaeri.

17. Lanigeras Serum in gentis eius narravimus ...

38. ... Eiusdem insulae e suggestu lanigerae arbores a quam Serum ...

84. Ex illo namque mittit. Minimaque computatiens centena milia sestertium omnibus India et Seres et per illa imperio nostro adimunt ...

XIV,22. Quintum genus le Seras miremur aut Indos adeam vestit ...

¹ Var. Crocale.

² Var. Coraliba.

re it (Taprobane) there are
s ... outside the mouth of
Chryse and Argyre, rich in
[believe; for I could not
re what others have related
have golden and silver soil.
les from these is Crocala
miles from this is Bibaga
sters and molluscs; then
eight miles from the last
and there are many without

ame (ambassadors from
who came to Rome under
all that the side of the island
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e Hemodus mountains the
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came to meet the visitors
they indeed surpassed the
en; they had red hair, blue
uncouth manner of speech
ay of communicating with
e rest of his account tallied
of our own traders: that on

VII,27. ... Cynos Indorum genus
Isigonus annis centenis quadragenis
vivere, item Aethiopus Macrobius et
Seras existimat

XII,2. Quo magis ac magis admirari
subit his a principiis caedi montes in
marmora, vestes ad Seras peti, unionem
in Rubri maris profundo, zmaragdum in
ima tellure quaeri.

17. Lanigeras Serum in mentione
gentis eius narravimus ...

38. ... Eiusdem insulae excelsiore
suggestu lanigerarum arbores alio modo
quam Serum ...

84. Ex illo namque margaritas
mittit. Minimaque computatione mili-
ens centena milia sestertium annis
omnibus India et Seres et paeninsula
illa imperio nostro adimunt ...

XIV,22. Quintum genus lanatae, ne
Seras miremur aut Indos adeo, lanugo
eam vestit ...

the further bank of the river goods are
placed next to what is left for sale and
taken by them, if the value of the
exchange is acceptable.

... Isigonus thinks that the Cyni,
an Indian race, live for 140 years ...
likewise the Ethiopian Macrobi and
the Seres ...

It is more and more to be wondered
at that from these beginnings the
mountains are quarried for marble,
garments are sought in the land of the
Seres, the single pearl in the depth of
the Red Sea and the emerald pros-
pected for in the depths of the earth.

We have told of the silk-bearing
trees in discussing this nation ...

... In the upland area of this island
(Tylos) there are silk-bearing trees of a
different kind to those of the Seres.

For Arabia sends forth pearls from
it. In each year India and the Seres and
that peninsula receive from our empire
one hundred million sesterces at the
most conservative estimate.

The fifth species (of vine) (is
called) 'silken'; down grows on it, so
that we should not be so surprised by
the trees of the Seres or Indians.

XXXIV,145. Ex omnibus autem generibus palma Serico ferro est. Seres hoc cum vestibus suis pellibusque mittunt ...

However from all kinds, first prize goes to the iron of the Seres. The Seres export it with their garments and their skins.

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS (37-95 CE)

Jewish Antiquities (Antiquitates Iudaicae)

Ed. Naber, Leipzig, Teubner, 1889.

VIII,6, 4. (163) Ἄνδρας γὰρ αὐτῷ κυβερνήτας καὶ τῶν θαλασσίων ἐπιστήμονας ἔπεμψεν ἱκανούς, οἷς ἐκέλευσε πλεύσαντας μετὰ καὶ τῶν ἰδίων οἰκονόμων εἰς τὴν πάλαι μὲν Σώφειραν νῦν δὲ Χρυσὴν γῆν καλουμένην (τῆς Ἰνδικῆς ἐστὶν αὕτη) χρυσὸν αὐτῷ κομίσαι. Καὶ συναθροίσαντες ὥς τετρακόσια τάλαντα πάλιν ἀν-εχώρησαν πρὸς τὸν βασιλέα.

(King Hiram) sent him sufficient number of helmsmen and men skilled in seamanship whom he ordered to sail with his own officers to what was once called Sophir, now Chryse (it is in India) and bring him gold. And amassing about four hundred talents they came back to the king.

LUCAN (39-65 CE)

Pharsalia

Ed. Hosius, Leipzig, Teubner, 1905.

I,19-20:

Sub iuga iam Seres, iam barbarus isset Araxes,
Et gens si qua iacet nascenti conscia Nilo.

Beneath our yoke now the Seres, now the barbarian Araxes might have gone, and that sentient race, if somewhere it be, that lies at the source of the Nile.

X,141-143:

Candida Sidonio perlucet pectus
Quod Nilotis acus compressum
Serum
Solvit et extenso laxavit stamina

X, 292-293:

Teque vident primi, quaerunt tibi quoque, Seres,
Aethiopumque feris alieno campis.

SILIUS

Ed. B.

VI, 1-4:

Iam Tartessiaco quos solverat Titan,
In noctem diffusus, equos in Eois

Litoribus, primique novo Phaeacum relecti

Seres lanigeris repetebant vellera
XV, 79-81:

... Quid, cui, post Seras et Indos
Captivo Liber cum signa refert Euro,
Caucaseae currum duxere per tigres?

from all kinds, first prize
 won of the Seres. The Seres
 in their garments and their

5 CE)

udaicae)
 89.

am) sent him sufficient
 elmsmen and men skilled in
 whom he ordered to sail
 n officers to what was once
 hir, now Chryse (it is in
 l bring him gold. And
 about four hundred talents
 back to the king.

905.

h our yoke now the Seres,
 barbarian Araxes might have
 d that sentient race, if
 it be, that lies at the source

X, 141-143:

Candida Sidonio perlucet pectora filo,
 Quod Nilotis acus compressum pectine
 Serum
 Solvit et extenso laxavit stamina velo.

The white breasts (of Cleopatra)
 gleam through the cloth of Sidon which
 the needle of the Nile has teased out
 after it had been closely woven by the
 comb of the Seres and has made
 transparent by stretching the material.

X, 292-293:

Teque vident primi, quaerunt tamen hi
 quoque, Seres,
 Aethiopumque feris alieno gurgite
 campos.

However, the Seres see you (the
 Nile) first, but they too seek your
 source and you strike the fields of the
 Aethiopians with your alien flood.

SILIUS ITALICUS (23-101 CE)

Punic Wars

Ed. Bauer, Leipzig, Teubner, 1890.

VI, 1-4:

Iam Tartessiaco quos solverat aequore,
 Titan,
 In noctem diffusus, equos iungebat
 Eois
 Litoribus, primique novo Phaethonte
 relecti
 Seres lanigeris repetebant vellera lucis.

Now Titan dispersed into night
 was yoking his steeds, which he had
 unleashed in the sea of Tartessus, on
 the shores of the East and the Seres
 being the first provided with the new
 Phaethon were going to gather their
 fleeces in the silk-bearing groves.

XV, 79-81:

... Quid, cui, post Seras et Indos
 Captivo Liber cum signa referret ab
 Euro,
 Caucaseae currum duxere per oppida
 tigres?

What shall I say of Bacchus whose
 chariot Caucasian tigresses drew
 through the towns when after the Seres
 and the Indians he brought back his
 standards from the conquered East?

XVII, 595-596:

Videre Eoi, monstrum admirabile, Seres The Seres of the East (a portent to
Lanigeros cinere Ausonio canescere be wondered at!) saw their silk-
lucos. producing forests light up with the
Italian ash.

STATIUS (40-96 CE)

Silvae (90-96 CE)

Ed. Klotz, Leipzig, Teubner, 1900.

I,2,122-123:

....Queritor iam Seras avaros
Augustum spoliare nemus...

IV,1,41-42:

...Nondum gremio Jovis Indica laurus,
Nondum Arabes Seresque rogant...

V,1, 60-63:

Si Babylonos opes; Lydae si pondera
gazae

Indorumque dares Serumque Arabum-
que potentes

Divitias, mallet cum paupertate pudica
Intemerata mori vitamque rependere
famae.

V,1 214-216:

... Et altis

Ipsa toris Serum Tyrioque umbrata
recumbit

Tegmine ...

I deplore that the miserly Seres
despoil their august grove, ...

... The laurel of India is not yet on
the lap of Jupiter; not yet do the Arabs
and Seres make request, ...

If you were to give her the wealth
of Babylon, the piles of Lydian
treasure and the powerful riches of the
Indians, Seres and Arabs, she would
prefer to die unblemished with chaste
poverty and balance her life against her
good repute.

she herself reclines on a lofty couch of
silk beneath the shade of a Tyrian
awning ...

JU

Ed. Fri

VI,402-403:

Haec eadem novit quid toto fia
Quid Seres, quid Thraces agant

FLORUS

Ed. Ro

Peace of the Pan

II,34.

.... Nam et Scythae miseri
et Sarmatae amicitiam petent
etiam habitantesque sub ipso
cum gemmis margaritis ele
quoque inter munera trahen
magis quam longinquitatem vi
tabant - quadriennium implev
iam ipse hominum color ab al
coelo fatebatur.

JUVENAL (60?-125 CE)

Satires

Ed. Friedländer, Leipzig, Hirzel, 1895.

VI,402-403:

Haec eadem novit quid toto fiat in orbe,
 Quid Seres, quid Thraces agant;...

This same woman knows what is
 going on everywhere in the world, what
 the Seres, what the Thracians are up to

...

FLORUS (end of the first century CE).

Epitoma

Ed. Rossbach, Leipzig, Teubner, 1896.

Peace of the Parthians and Consecration of Augustus

II,34.

.... Nam et Scythae misere legatos
 et Sarmatae amicitiam petentes. Seres
 etiam habitantesque sub ipso sole Indi
 cum gemmis margaritis elephantos
 quoque inter munera trahentes nihil
 magis quam longinquitatem viae impu-
 tabant - quadriennium impleverant; et
 iam ipse hominum color ab alio venire
 coelo fatebatur.

For also the Scyths and Sarmatians
 sent ambassadors to seek our friend-
 ship. The Seres also the Indians
 dwelling beneath the sun itself, bringing
 elephants along with gems and pearls
 among their gifts, claimed credit for
 nothing as much as the length of their
 journey - they had completed it in four
 years; and now the very colour of the
 men bore witness to the fact that they
 came from a different climate.

CHARITON (c. 100 CE)

*Chaera and Callirrhoe*Ed. Hercher, *Erotici scriptores*, Leipzig, Teubner, 1859, Vol. II, p. 1-157.

IV,4 ... Καὶ φαρέτρα καὶ τόξον
αὐτῷ παρήρτητο, Σηρῶν ἔργον
πολυτελέστατον.

... and his quiver and his bow, very
costly workmanship of the Seres, were
fitted to his side.

VOYAGE ROUND THE RED SEA

(Periplus Maris Erythraei)

(end of first century CE)

Ed. Fabricius, Leipzig, 1883.

60. Τῶν δὲ τοπικῶν ἐμπορίων
τε καὶ ὄρμων, εἰς οὓς οἱ τε ἀπὸ τῆς
Λιμυρικῆς καὶ ἀπὸ ἄρκτου
πλέοντες κατάγονται, ἐπισημό-
τερα καὶ κατὰ τὸ ἐξῆς κείμενά
ἐστὶν ἐμπόρια Καμάρρα καὶ
Πωδούκη καὶ Σώπατμα, ἐν οἷς
τοπικὰ μὲν ἐστὶ πλοῖα μέχρι
Λιμυρικῆς παραλεγόμενα τὴν
γῆν, ἕτερα δ' ἐκ μονοξύλων πλοί-
ων μεγίστων κατεσκευασμένα,
λεγόμενα σάγγαρα· τὰ δ' εἰς τὴν
Χρυσῆν καὶ εἰς τὸν Γάγγην διαί-
ροντα κολάνδια ὄντα μέγιστα.

63. Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα, εἰς τὴν
ἀνατολὴν πλεόντων καὶ τὸν
ὠκεανὸν ἐν δεξιοῖς ἔχόντων,
εὐώνυμα δὲ τὰ λοιπὰ μέρη ἔξωθεν
παραπλεόντων, ὁ Γάγγης ἀπαν-
τᾷ καὶ ἡ περὶ αὐτὴν ἐσχάτη τῆς
ἀνατολῆς ἡπειρος, ἡ Χρυσῆ.
Ποταμὸς δ' ἐστὶν αὐτὸς ὁ Γάγγης

Of the places of commerce and
anchorage into which those sailing
from Limyric and the north land their
ships the most famous are the adjacent
markets of Kamara, Podouke and Sopa-
tma in which there are local vessels
which sail along the coast as far as
Limyric; there are others called san-
gara which are tied together from very
large craft made from a single log - as
for those which sail to Chryse and to
the Ganges the largest are the kolandia.

63. After that (the east coast of
India) if one sails to the east, having the
ocean on one's right and passes the
remaining parts outside on the left,
Ganges is reached and Chryse, the fur-
thest point of the mainland around it to
the East. The River Ganges is said to

λεγόμενος μέγιστος τῷ
τὴν Ἰνδικήν, ἀπόβασιν
ἀνάβασιν τὴν αὐτὴν ἔχ
Νεῖλω, κατὰ ὃν καὶ ἐμπόρι
ὁμώνυμον τῷ ποτα
Γάγγης, διὰ οὗ φέρεται
μαλάβαθρον καὶ ἡ Γα
νάρδος καὶ πινικὸν καὶ σιν
διαφορώταται, αἱ Γα
λεγόμεναι. Λέγεται
χρυσωρυχεῖα περὶ τοῦτο
τόπους εἶναι, νόμισμά τε χ
λεγόμενος κάλτις. Κατ' α
τὸν ποταμὸν νῆσός
ὠκεάνειος, ἐσχάτη τῶν π
ἀνατολὴν μερῶν τῆς οἰκ
ὑπὸ αὐτὸν ἀνέχοντα τὸ
καλουμένη Χρυσῆ, χ
ἔχουσα πάντων τῶν κα
Ἐρυθρὰν τόπων ἀρίστην.

64. Μετὰ δὲ ταύτην τὴν
ὑπὸ αὐτὸν ἤδη τὸν
ἔξωθεν εἰς [Σηρῶν] τινὰ
ἀποληγούσης τῆς θα
κεῖται ἐν αὐτοῖς πόλιν με
μεγίστη, λεγομένη Θῖναι,¹
τό τ' ἔριον καὶ τὸ νῆμα
ὀθόνιον τὸ Σηρικὸν
Βαρύγαζα διὰ Βάκτρω

¹ Cod. Θῖνα.² This passage, as given by the m
it out with: εἰς [Θινός] τινὰ τόπον
the *Periplus* in actual fact does not

859, Vol. II, p. 1-157.

s quiver and his bow, very
manship of the Seres, were
side.

SEA

i)

places of commerce and
into which those sailing
ice and the north land their
ost famous are the adjacent
kamara, Podouke and Sopach
there are local vessels
along the coast as far as
here are others called san-
are tied together from very
made from a single log - as
which sail to Chryse and to
the largest are the kolandia.
er that (the east coast of
e sails to the east, having the
one's right and passes the
parts outside on the left,
eached and Chryse, the fur-
of the mainland around it to
the River Ganges is said to

λεγόμενος μέγιστος τῶν κατὰ
τὴν Ἰνδικήν, ἀπόβασιν τε καὶ
ἀνάβασιν τὴν αὐτὴν ἔχων τῷ
Νεῖλῳ, κατὰ ὃν καὶ ἐμπόριόν ἐστιν
ὁμώνυμον τῷ ποταμῷ, ὁ
Γάγγης, διὰ οὗ φέρεται τό τε
μαλάβαθρον καὶ ἡ Γαγγητικὴ
νάρδος καὶ πωικὸν καὶ σινδόνες αἱ
διαφορώταται, αἱ Γαγγητικαὶ
λεγόμεναι. Λέγεται δὲ καὶ
χρυσωρυχεῖα περὶ τούτους τοὺς
τόπους εἶναι, νόμισμά τε χρυσοῦ, ὁ
λεγόμενος κάλτις. Κατ' αὐτὸν δὲ
τὸν ποταμὸν νῆσός ἐστιν
ὠκεάνειος, ἐσχάτη τῶν πρὸς τὴν
ἀνατολὴν μερῶν τῆς οἰκουμένης,
ὑπὸ αὐτὸν ἀνέχοντα τὸν ἥλιον,
καλουμένη Χρυσή, χελώνην
ἔχουσα πάντων τῶν κατὰ τὴν
Ἐρυθρὰν τόπων ἀρίστην.

64. Μετὰ δὲ ταύτην τὴν χώραν
ὑπὸ αὐτὸν ἤδη τὸν βορέαν,
ἔξωθεν εἰς [Σηρῶν] τινὰ τόπον
ἀποληγούσης τῆς θαλάσσης,
κεῖται ἐν αὐτοῖς πόλις μεσόγειος
μεγίστη, λεγομένη Θῖναι,¹ ἀπὸ ἧς
τό τ' ἔριον καὶ τὸ νῆμα καὶ τὸ
ὀθόνιον τὸ Σηρικὸν εἰς τὰ
Βαρύγασα διὰ Βάκτρων πεζῇ

be the greatest of those in India and has
the same ebb and flow as the Nile; on it
there is also a market named Ganges
the same as the river through which
malabathron is transported, as well as
Gangetic nard, mother-of-pearl and
excellent linen materials called
Gangetic. There are said to be
goldmines around these parts and a
gold currency called Kaltis. In the river
area there is an island of the ocean, the
furthestmost of the eastern parts of the
inhabited world, lying below the place
of the sun's rising, called Chryse,
which produces the best tortoise-shell
of all places in the Red (Sea).

After that place, lying already in
the same north region where the sea
comes to an end into some place
outside (Seres),² there lies a very large
inland city called Thinaï from which
cotton and textiles and silk are
transported on foot to Barygaza

¹ Cod. Θῖνα.

² This passage, as given by the manuscripts, appears to present a lacuna. The older editions fill it out with: εἰς [Θινὸς] τινὰ τόπον; FABRICIUS proposes Σηρῶν. It is important to note that the *Periplus* in actual fact does not mention the Seres.

φέρεται καὶ εἰς τὴν Λιμυρικὴν πάλιν διὰ τοῦ Γάγγου ποταμοῦ. Εἰς δὲ τὴν χώραν ταύτην οὐκ ἔστιν εὐχερῶς ἐπελθεῖν· σπανίως γὰρ ἀπὸ αὐτῆς τινες οὐ πολλοὶ ἔρχονται. Κεῖται δὲ ὁ τόπος ὑπὸ αὐτὴν τὴν μικρὰν ἄρκτον, λέγεται δὲ συνορίζειν τοῖς ἀπεντραμμένοις μέρεσι τοῦ Πόντου καὶ τῆς Κασπίας θαλάσσης· κατὰ ἣν ἡ παρακειμένη λίμνη Μαιῶτις εἰς τὸν ὠκεανὸν συναναστομοῦται.

65. Κατὰ ἔτος δὲ παραγίνεται ἐπὶ τὴν συνορίαν τὴν Θινῶν ἔθνος τι, τῷ μὲν σώματι κολοβοὶ καὶ σφόδρα πλατυπρόσωποι, ἐννοίαις δὲ λῶστοι· αὐτοὺς δὲ λέγεσθαί φασι Βησάτας,¹ παρομοίους ἀνημέροις. Παραγίνονται σὺν γυναῖξιν καὶ τέκνοις, βαστάζοντες φορτία μεγάλα καὶ ταρπόνας ὠμαμπελίνοις παραπλησίας, εἴτα ἐπιμένουσιν ἐπὶ τινὰ χρόνον ἐν τῇ συνορίᾳ αὐτῶν τε καὶ τῶν

through Bactria and back to Limyrica through the Ganges River. It is no simple matter to enter that place, for few and far between are those who come back from there. The place lies beneath the Small Bear and is said to have its border with opposite parts of Pontus and the Caspian Sea beside which the adjoining Lake Maeotis debouches with it into the ocean.

Each year a certain race stunted and with very broad foreheads but superior intellect arrives in the neighbouring region of Thinaï. They say that they are called Besatai and are very like the savages. They arrive with their women and children carrying in their hands large crates and baskets very similar in colour to that of fresh vine leaves; then they stay in a certain place on their border and that of the Thinaï and hold a

Θινῶν καὶ ἐορτάζουσιν ἐπὶ ἡμέρας, ὑποστρώσαντες ἐπὶ τὰς ταρπόνας, καὶ ἀπαίρουσι τὰ ἴδια, εἰς τοὺς ἐσώτους τόπους. Οἱ δ' ἐγχώριοι δοκεύοντες τότε παραγίνονται τοὺς τοὺς τόπους καὶ λέγουσι τὰ ἐκείνων ὑποματά καὶ ἐξινιάσαντες καὶ τοὺς λεγομένους πέτροι λεπτὸν ἐπιδιπλώσαντες τὰ καὶ σφαιροειδῆ ποιοῦντες διὰ τὰς ἀπὸ τῶν καλάμων γίνεται δὲ γένη τρία· ἐκ μείζονος φύλλου τὸ ἀδρόσι, μαλάβαθρον λεγόμενον, ἐκ ὑποδεεστέρου τὸ μεσόσφαιρον. Ἐνθεν τὰ τρία μέμαλαβάθρου πάντοτε φέρει τὴν Ἰνδικὴν ὑπὸ τῶν κατεμένων αὐτά.

66. Τὰ δὲ μετὰ τοὺς τοὺς εἴτε διὰ ὑπερχειμώνων τε καὶ πάγους μεθύσβατα εἴτε καὶ θεῖα τινὲ θεῶν ἀνερεύνητά ἐστιν.

¹ Cod. Σησάτας.

¹ On this difficult passage see the in

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ter to enter that place, for
r between are those who
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that of the Thinai and hold a

Θινῶν καὶ ἑορτάζουσιν ἐπὶ τινὰς
ἡμέρας, ὑποστρώσαντες ἑαυτοῖς
τὰς ταρπόνας, καὶ ἀπαίρουσιν εἰς
τὰ ἴδια, εἰς τοὺς ἐσωτέρους
τόπους. Οἱ δ' ἐγχώριοι ταῦτα
δοκεύοντες τότε παραγίνονται ἐπὶ
τούτους τοὺς τόπους καὶ συλ-
λέγουσι τὰ ἐκείνων ὑποστρώ-
ματα καὶ ἐξινιάσαντες καλάμους
τοὺς λεγομένους πέτρους ἐπὶ
λεπτὸν ἐπιδιπλώσαντες τὰ φύλλα
καὶ σφαιροειδῆ ποιοῦντες διείρουσι
ταῖς ἀπὸ τῶν καλάμων ἴναις.
Γίνεται δὲ γένη τρία· ἐκ μὲν τοῦ
μείζονος φύλλου τὸ ἀδρόσφαιρον
μαλάβαθρον λεγόμενον, ἐκ δὲ τοῦ
ὑποδεεστέρου τὸ μεσόσφαιρον, ἐκ
δὲ τοῦ μικροτέρου τὸ μικρό-
σφαιρον. Ἐνθεν τὰ τρία μέρη τοῦ
μαλαβάθρου πάντοτε φέρεται εἰς
τὴν Ἰνδικὴν ὑπὸ τῶν κατεργαζο-
μένων αὐτά.

66. Τὰ δὲ μετὰ τοὺς τόπους
τούτους εἴτε διὰ ὑπερβολᾶς
χειμώνων τε καὶ πάγου μεγίστου
δύσβατα εἴτε καὶ θεῖα τινὶ δυνάμει
θεῶν ἀνερעύνητά ἐστιν.

feast for some days and they use the
crates as bedding for themselves and
set off for their own lands in the
interior. Neighbouring people waiting
for this moment then approach this
locality and collect the bedding of the
others and after removing the stalks
which they call 'petroi' and rolling up
the leaves very tightly making them
into balls they bind them together with
the fibres from the reeds. There are
three kinds: from the larger leaf, the so-
called 'thick-balled malabathrum'; from
the smaller leaf the 'middle-balled' and
from the leaf which is smaller still the
'small-balled malabathrum'. This is the
origin of the three types of mala-
bathrum which are at all times carried
by their manufacturers into India.¹

The regions beyond these have not
been explored, being difficult of access
either owing to the extreme cold of the
winters and intense frosts or through
some supernatural power.

¹ On this difficult passage see the interesting note of Yule, *Cathay*, I, p. cxlv, note 4.