

At the moste grete and myghtie prync our  
 soverayne lord Henry the eighth kynge of England  
 & of ffrenche kyngdome of the firste lord of yreland  
 and in whose papawle lande under charge of the  
 charge of yrelande his humble servaunt  
 Barlowe deserveth all felicitie and long life

One of the thinge moste naturally desired of noble gentlemen  
 is to knowe the order of the worldes contraires & especially  
 of contraires that we have had no knowledge of beinge firste  
 reported from us and of these unadvised because we presumed  
 we were very strange to univ. westerward and one moste desired  
 to univ. himselfe in some degree that might be acceptable  
 unto your royall maistie under your grace favour &  
 protection I have bestowed a briefe summe of the worldes  
 westerward part of all the principall of the worldes and  
 especially of contraires lately discovered by your maistie  
 and his Emperours Charles of that name the viii and of  
 the history of the worldes & especially of the worldes  
 unto your maistie for that your grace might be made  
 to be corrected & amended & to give you assistance to be  
 put forth in private for that it maye be acceptable to  
 the readers and also profitable in our endeavours to  
 have knowledge of the navigations to discover strange contraires  
 for to knowe the worldes & playes of the worldes & what is in  
 every one of them & where the worldes are at the beginninge  
 I have put a little declaration of the worldes in the beginninge of  
 the worldes part & the same in the declaration of the worldes  
 latitude of all the worldes & also the order of the landes to the  
 worldes & altitudes of every place in some many degrees  
 it standeth & also the order of the worldes what large or  
 little they be of & of the worldes westerward part I have  
 translated & sent my selfe by experience & best part  
 I have not been I have had knowledge of the worldes by  
 credible good and some laboure that contraires & also some  
 writinge of the same I have moste humbly beseeching your  
 maistie to accept my poore worke & will vnder  
 obedience to do your grace service

# A BRIEF SUMME OF GEOGRAPHIE

by

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Edited with an Introduction and Notes

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is 75 leges, at the northe in 6 degrees<sup>1</sup>. Before this cost be many litle ylonde by the lond, and in the parage of this coste be the troglodites australes, and on the west parte is the mount olimpo ethiopicum which is very hie<sup>2</sup>, and before that is the mountaynes of luna where is the begynnyng of nylus. In al this contre is moche golde and many wylde beastes. ffrom monbassa to orana is 100 leges. Orana stondis northe quarter northe in the myddis stondis melynda w<sup>ch</sup> is a good towne inhabited with mores, and in the parage of this contre within the land thei saie there growth clowis and gynger. Here passeth the equinoctiall<sup>3</sup>. ffrom sophalia hitherto is the ethiope australe and in al this contre is plenty of golde.

Orana

ethiope  
australe

fol. 59v

modacio

cape  
felix

FFROM Orana to cape guardafuy is 175 leges. Gwardafuy is northest quarter est in x degrees  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Betwene them is modacio and scgalia. Modacio hathe before it certaine shoulde. From cape gwardafuy to cape felix is 35 leges, the cost lieth northwest quarter northe. Cape felix is in xi degrees  $\frac{1}{2}$ . This cape hathe at est the ilond cotocoras 40 leges of, which is a good ilond. At this cape felix is the goyng in of the red see. This goyng in hathe of bredthe 40 leges. ffrom this cape to — w<sup>ch</sup> is in arabia felix and from this to the other parte of tabarca which is the northwest parte of the entryng of the red se is almost 30 leges of bredthe and from taberca to the narrowest place of the entryng is 20 leges. The cost lieth from cape felix to taberca at west. Taberca stondis in xi degrees on the other part of the equinoctiall toward septentrion and the narrowest goyng in of the redd see is in 12 degrees<sup>6</sup>, and by the narowe of the going in is diran<sup>7</sup> which is a lande very riche of golde, for ther hath more gold ben had and is had in it then in any place of all

<sup>1</sup> The reckoning from Mozambique to Mombasa is in leagues of 4 miles: Enciso reckons 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  leagues, and hence in this case 70 miles, to a degree, so that the difference in latitude between the two stations, namely 12°, is approximately correct.

<sup>2</sup> Possibly Kilimanjaro, beyond which lies a "country of the Moon."

<sup>3</sup> i.e. at Orana, approximately Kismayu.

<sup>4</sup> Mogadoxo.

<sup>5</sup> Socotra.

<sup>6</sup> Perim is in 12° 39': this reckoning is more correct than that in an earlier section (p. 86) which placed the strait in 10°.

<sup>7</sup> Cp. *supra*, p. 85.

europa, asia or affrica, though in affrica in the ethiope and in the lond of gynea and in iava is moche, but more abundance thei have here and esteme it lital in price, for thei saie it is good for nothing. thei geve ij or iij peises of golde for one of coper and v or vi for one of sylver. Thee be troglodites, ethiophagos and iceophagos and curtos w<sup>ch</sup> be ill people and liveth by fysshe that thei take, and drie it in the sonne and ete it instede of brede. And whan thei can not go to see for foule wether then thei live by shelfysshe that thei take in the rivers. In this lond is moche storac and within the lond for the most parte thei be pastours and have catall, but thei labour not the ground and dwelle in cavis, and whan thei dye thei cast the dead bodies into the waters for that the fysshes maye ete them.

troglo-  
dites  
ethio-  
phagos

storax

fol. 60r

ffrom dyran entreth the red see which extendeth to the land of idumeos which is by judea and arabia, and on the part of etiope beiond the stret of the red see is the port of saba. This is the port wherin is most trat of all ethiopia, here trateth the marchauntes of arabia felix, beyond this is the port elephantum venacio and beiond that is the port ptolomaide and the desertes, and passing thes desertes entreth the lond of egypte at the port acoto, which is by the lagon muridis where is the discharge of all the marchantes that goes from ethiope to arabia. And by this cost of ethiope the red sea is navigable but on the side of arabia thei can not saile but with moche daunger and that by daie. In this etiope be people of dyvers maners, thei be blacke and pastours, and for the more part thei be of litle stature and live no long tyme. Dyvers nations of them hath lances and darts with iron hedis wherwith they do warre, and for the most thei have bowis and arowis. Ther is no whete but barley and myll<sup>1</sup> wherew<sup>t</sup> thei make ther drinke. Thei ete moche flesshe and drinke blode with milke, and ete butter and mylke. Ther be among thes nacion the pigmeos w<sup>ch</sup> fightes w<sup>t</sup> the cranes, and in this land be many wylde beastes. Ther be a certein kind of lyons w<sup>ch</sup> thei call furnicas<sup>2</sup>, and in the india

port saba

Egyp<sup>t</sup>e

fornicas

<sup>1</sup> Millet (O.E.D.).

<sup>2</sup> The story of the giant gold-guarding ants is of classical origin.

*ryno-*  
*cerontes*  
 ultra ganges thei call them auri fodines, which be parillous  
 beastes and kyllen men, and ther be bestes called Rhynocerontes  
 w<sup>ch</sup> be as elephantes and almost of ther colour, thei be as bygg  
 as a bull and is of making like a hogge saving he hathe his nose  
 croked like a horne and is very hard, wherwith he fighteth with  
 other beastes. Ther be also camelles pardales<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> hath strakys  
*fol. 60r* upon them of colours like rayes thei be not of the sort of other  
 cameles that be in barbarie. Ther is also other beastes like  
 deere but ther facys be like lions. Thes troglodites for the most  
 part be pastours and live in feldes. All the ethiopes hath ther  
 wyfcs comon and he that dothe force a maide agenst her will  
 shalbe compelled to paie a shepe or a gote. Thei go for the most  
 part all nakyd, and a gret part of the ethiop is fertill and plenty  
 of golde, and in some partes ther is aromates and spices as  
 clowis and gynger. And bicause afore where I spak of egypt that  
 me thought sufficient. now wil I passe it and procede to speke  
 of the cost of arabia and percia. The stret of the red see in the  
 narrowest hath not past vi leges of bredthe and for the most part  
 it hathe many trees growing in the water by the shore sydes as  
 laurells and other kindes of trees and in it be many ilondes.  
 By the parage of the land of aylon which is the lond of the  
 cataboneses be iij ylondes one after an other and by them is the  
 passage from arabia to ethiope, and thei passe from the one to  
 the other with small vessells, and on the other part of arabia by  
 the stret is ailon and toward septentrion is the kingdome of  
*cata-*  
*bonesis* saba and the lande catabonesis w<sup>ch</sup> is a land riche of golde and  
 of moche aromates. In this lond the people be devided in many  
 offices, some be deputed to labour the ground, to sowe and to  
 sett, others to gather the aromates from the trees, others to  
 lerne philosophic, astrologie and nigromancy whiche thei use  
 moche, and others be set to feates of armes to defende the lande,  
 and thes be under the soudan of aden which is of this province  
 and enhabiteth by the region of saphar by the occyan see almost in  
 myddis betwene the red see and the persian see, and there be other  
*fol. 61r* under the soudan that governeth this comon welthe of the realme.

<sup>1</sup> Giraffes, formerly called camelopardals (O.E.D.).

This lond hathe the most palme trees and trees of aromates  
 and is one of the richest landes of the worlde. ffrom the  
 narrowe of the entring of the red see unto sama is 70 leges. sama  
 the cost lyeth est, samma is in 12 degres.

FFROM samma to the cape aden is 180 leges, the cape aden *Cape*  
 is northest quarter est in 18 degres, before the cape is ailon *aden*  
 which hathe certeine smal ilondes and on the sec side and  
 betwene the ilond and the maynlond be certein shouldes<sup>1</sup>. In  
 this parage resideth the soudan of Aden in a citie called ryad  
 w<sup>ch</sup> is inhabited with morys<sup>2</sup> and be of the secte of mahoma, but  
 the more parte of the people of the countre be gentiles ydolatres.

The citie of Aden is stronglie walled w<sup>t</sup> towres of lyme and  
 stone and faire howsen and is of grette trat out of ethiope and  
 the indies, and is plentifull of all maner thinges<sup>3</sup>. ffrom cape  
 aden to cape saphar is 65 leges. Cape saphar stondis northest in *cape*  
 21 degres. ffrom cape saphar to the entring of the see persico *saphar*  
 is 100 leges, the cost lieth northest in 26 degres. Before this  
 cost be many smal ilondes and here be the kingdomes of aba  
 and abisa with others. The comyng in of the persian see hath  
 25 leges of longitude and x of latitude, how be it in the be-  
 gynnynge it hath but iij or 5 leges of bredthe and in the myddis  
 it hath ij litil ilondes wheron growe trees that the rynde of them  
 smelleth welle and swete. And on the part of arabia be the  
 coronos and maciados, and of the part of carmania be the  
 armosas. Thei maie see from one lond to the other and from the *fol. 61r*  
 entryng the cost of the persian see turneth at west quarter  
 southwest 150 leges. Before this cost stondis iiij good ilondes.  
 On the mayne land be the regions of macena and rogana and *macena*  
 ogeos which is gretly enhabited and of moche trat of mar- *rogana*  
 chantes which trates the aromates of arabia. At the ende is *ogeos*  
 the cytie gurra<sup>4</sup> and from thens the cost goth northe almost to  
 the river Euphrates which is in arabia deserta and is by the

<sup>1</sup> The Kuria Muria Islands.

<sup>2</sup> The phrase 'in a city called Ryad' is an interpolation by Barlow. Riaydh is in the Nejd.

<sup>3</sup> This sentence, from 'The citie of Aden', is also an interpolation.

<sup>4</sup> The ancient Gerrha; cf. Strabo, Bk. xvi. cap. 3. for some of the details given here.