

I. *A Letter to Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. R. S. Præf. containing a Geographical Description and Map of the Kingdom of Tunis, with a Postscript relating to the Cure of Intermittent Fevers in those Parts; By the Reverend Mr. Tho. Shaw, Chaplain to the English Factory at Algier.*

S I R,

Algier, July 9. 1729.

THIS waits upon you with a Map of the Kingdom of *Tunis*, which I have very faithfully laid down, according to the Observations I lately made in those Parts. From *Tunis* I travelled as far Westward as *Hydra*, and from thence went to *Tofer*, passing from *Tegewse* through the *Lake of Marks*, or the *Palus Tritonia*, as I take it, to *Gaps*; from *Gaps* I travelled all the Way upon the Coast to *Biserta*; but at the same Time took Care to visit such Places within Land, where I could learn of any Ruins or Curiosities. I made use of a small, but very good Mariners Compass, and found the Variation at *Cairwan* 10 Degr. West; at *Biserta* something more than 12 Degr., and at *Algier* I find it now to be 30 Degr. 30 Min. I carried along with me likewise a Brass Quadrant of a Foot Radius, and took the Latitudes of *Tunis*, *Cairwan*, *Spetula*, *Gaffsa*, *Tofer*, *Ebillee*, *Gaps*, *Stax*, *Susa*, *Lowharia* and *Biserta*, with all the Exactness such an Instrument would admit of. As to the Longitude, most Mariners whom I have conversed with, agree within 10 or 12 Miles, that the Distance between *Algier* and the *Gulletta* (or Port of *Tunis*) is 400 Miles. I have

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made this Voyage four Times, and the Reckonings we made aboard, amounted only to 390. I have made therefore the Meridional Distance betwixt this Place and Cape *Carthage* 350 Miles: (allowing 48 to a Degree of Longitude) for as this whole Course is not upon the same Parallel, we may very well allow 40 or 50 Miles for the oblique Sailing; because the Course is in 37 Degr. 20 Min. N. Lat. but *Algier* lies in 36 Degr. 48 Min. and the *Guletta* in 36 Degr. 40 Min.

The Civil War which unfortunately broke out in this Kingdom (*i. e.* of *Tunis*) when I was preparing to return by Land to *Algier*, disappointed me of seeing some few Places to the Westward, and of continuing my Voyage through *Theveste*, *Lambesa*, *Cirta*, *Sitifi*, &c. to *Algier*. But I intend, God willing, to take these in my Way to *Italy*, and shall then lose no Time or Opportunity of making what further Discoveries I can in those Parts, and of laying before you the Geography and Antiquities of the *Mawritania Cesariensis* and *Sitifensis*; of the *Numidia* betwixt the Rivers *Ampsaga* and *Tusca*; as well as of the *Africa propria* of *Pliny*, and the *Bizacium* of *Strabo* and *Ptolemy*, which I am now going to give you some Account of.

The Kingdom of *Tunis* is bounded to the North and East with the *Mediterranean Sea*, to the West with the Kingdom of *Algier*, and to the South with that of *Tripoly*. It is 230 Miles in Length from the Isle of *Gerba*, in Latitude 33 Degr. 24 Min., to Cape *Serra*, in Latitude 37 Degr. 16 Min. and 128 Miles in its greatest Breadth from *Mona-Beer* to *Tibésa*. *Sbeka*, its utmost Boundary to the West,

West. lies in Longitude 7 Degr 26 Min, and *Clybea*, its utmost Boundary to the East, in 10 Degr. 47 Min. from *London*.

Of the modern Geographers, *Luyts* seems to have been the best acquainted with its Extent in general, giving it 3 Degr. of Longitude, and (above) 4 Degr. in Latitude. The *Sansons* place it above 3 Degr. further to the South than it should be, and their Error is greater, in relation to the Longitude. *Moll* places it a few Minutes only too far to the North, but to the South he has extended it beyond the Parallel of *Tripoly*, wherein I find he has been followed by Mr. *De Lisse*, in his Map of *Africa*, 1722. But a long Chain of Mountains which run in the same Parallel of Latitude with *Gerba*, are the Limits of *Tunis* and *Tripoly*.

If we take the Antients for our Guides, we shall still find further Errors and Disagreements. For *Ptolemy* makes the Difference of Latitude betwixt *Carthage* and *Gaps*, almost the two Extremities of the Kingdom, to be only 1 Degr. and 50 Min. (provided the *Italian* Copy I make use of be correct) The like Distance he puts between *Gaps* and *Tofer*, making thereby the latter 110 Miles more to the South; whereas I found it 18 Miles more to the North. Thus again he places *Gaffsa* in Latitude 29 Degr. 45 Min. and *Gaps* in 30 Degr. 30 Min. making *Gaps* a great Way to the North; whereas the Course from *Gaffsa* to *Gaps*, is near 80 Miles South-East: not to speak of his placing *Carthage*, and so respectively of other Places, too far to the South by near 4 Degr. 30 Min. or 270 Miles. The like Errors may be observed as to his Difference of

Longitude of particular Places, and as to his Scale of Longitude in General, which he places at least 10 Degr. too far to the East.

The *Antinine Itinerary* will also admit of several Doubts and Contradictions, as *Ricciolus* has already observed, *Geogr. p. 74*, and therefore is not to be altogether depended upon; though it must still be allowed to be a much better Conductor than *Ptolemy*. Thus the Author of the *Itinerary* makes it to be 216 Miles from *Suffetula*, I presume by the Way of *Adrumettum*, to *Clypea*, thereby making *Clypea* 111 Miles from *Adrumettum*; whereas in another Place, in his *Maritime Itinerary*, he only makes a Difference of about 44 Miles, or 350 Furlongs. And again he makes the direct Road from *Carthage* through *Laribus* and *Thereste* to *Cirta*, to be 332 Miles; but the Road by *Hippo Regius*, or *Bona*, which should be further, only 312. So that great Caution is to be observed in following that Authority.

*Pliny* is not so particular as either *Ptolemy* or the *Itinerary*. He lays down Things in general, and therefore can give but little Light and Assistance to a Traveller, in pointing out to him the antient Boundaries, or the particular Cities of this Kingdom. His Alphabetical Collection of Towns, has but little Instruction in it, and where he would seem to follow some Order and Method, as in naming the Towns along the Coast of *Bizacium*, he places *Adrumettum* and *Ruspina* after *Leptis*; thereby insinuating, as if *Leptis* lay at a greater Distance from the lesser *Syrtis*; the contrary to which is proved easily from *Hirtius* and other Authors. And if with *Cluverius*,

*rius, &c.* we should make the *Africa* of *Pliny*, comprehending even the two Provinces of *Zeugitana* and *Bizacium*, to be the Kingdom of *Tunis*, we shall meet with great Difficulties in the Geography, especially of *Bizacium*, which is the Southern, and ought to be the greater Part of it. For as *Pliny* makes it only 250 Miles in Circuit, and to extend from *Adrumettum* or *Hercla* North to *Sabrata*, or to *Gaps* only, or *Tacape* South, we shall find that this Number of Miles will not be sufficient to measure the Coast twice over, and therefore can lay no Claim at all to any Part of the Continent. But how far short soever this Calculation may be of the Truth, it seems very probable, that the Province of *Hadrumettum*, as described by *Ptolemy*, how faulty soever he may be in Particulars, is the *Bizacium* which we look after, and that it included the *Blaidel Gereed*, or *Country of Dates*, which *Pliny* and the Author of the *Itinerary* seem to have known nothing of, or not to have regarded. For *Ptolemy's Usulitanum, Turza, Zugara*, Cities still preserving their old Names, and near upon the same Latitude with *Adrumettum*, continue to remain its Boundaries to the North; as *Tofer* and *Gaps*, the *Tifuro* and *Capi*, or *Tacape* of the Antients, do to the South; while *Taney* and *Gaffsa*, or the antient *Thone* and *Capsa*, determine the Midland Continent. And in this Situation, *Strabo* seems to place his *Bizaci*; and at the same Time makes the Country of the *Carthaginians* to be only the *Zeugitana* of *Pliny*,

\* Supra Syrtis Pnylos. atque Nasamones atque Gesularum aliquos: deinde Syrtis & Byzacios usque ad Carthaginiensem regionem: ea enim est multa. *Strab. Geogr. l. 2.*

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contrary to the Opinion of some Geographers, who give it a much greater Extent. However the *Zeugitana*, or the greater Part of it at least, is still called *Fregēa* or *Frikæa* by the *Arabs*; and as this is without doubt a Corruption of its antient Name, so the Tradition of it through so many Ages, may perhaps be a stronger Argument, that this was the *Africa* properly so called of *Pliny*, or the Province of *Africa*, by Way of Eminence, than most of the Geographical Reasons which have hitherto appeared to the Contrary.

The Kingdom of *Tunis* then contains the *Africa propria* of *Pliny*, with the *Bizacium* of *Strabo*, or the Province of *Hadrumettum* of *Ptolemy*, to which we are likewise to add so much of *Numidia* as lies half a Day's Journey, or six Leagues West of *Keff*; for *Keff* or *Sicca Venerea* is now Part of these Dominions, and which *Ptolemy* and *Pliny* place in *Numidia*, though it is almost in the same Meridian with the River *Tusca*. I am with all Respect,  
Sir,

*Your most obedient and humble Servant,*

Tho. Shaw.

P O S T S C R I P T.

S I R,

July 15.

BY a Letter just received, I am advised, that most Parts of *England* have suffered very much this Year by Intermitting Fevers; and as we have a Species of the *Scabiosa* here, which is of great

great Virtue in removing that Distemper, I thought proper to send you a Specimen of its upper Leaves, for the lower are at present dried up. It is not unlike the Figure which *Morison* gives of his 20th Species, Cap. XXI. Sect. 6. Tab. 14, or of his 25th Species, Cap. XXI. Sect. 6. Tab. 15. of Corymbiferous Plants, only the Head is not round, as there described. I have therefore presumed to call it, *Scabiosa, flore pallide purpureo, capitulo oblongo, foliis superioribus incis, inferioribus integris, serratis*. The Method of preparing it is to put a Handful of it into a Quart of Water, and boil it away to a Pint. A Coffee-Dish full of this Decoction is given Fasting, a little before Dinner, and at Night, to the Patient, no Regard being had to the Interval or Intermiſſion of the Fit, as in giving the Bark; and it operates ordinarily by Stool or Urine. I have only seen this Plant here, at *Oran, Gibraltar, and Mount Libanus*, where I first was acquainted with its extraordinary Qualities. If it is not known in *England*, though I think *Mr. Bobart* shewed me it at *Oxford*, please to advise me, and I shall send you a Quantity of it dried, and the Seed of it, from this Place. There are other Herbs here made use of in different Distempers, and oftentimes with Success, and which I shall give you an Account of in the Natural History of this Country; but none is in so much Vogue and Esteem, as the Herb I have now described to you. How far its Virtues may be altered, diminished, or entirely lost in another Climate, Experience alone can teach us; only I can assure you, that in this, the Use of it for a few Days has been known to re-

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move the most inveterate Cafes. I am with all Respect, Sir,

*Your most obedient and humble Servant,*

Tho. Shaw.

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II. *A brief Account of some of the Effects and Properties of Damps, in a Letter to William Rutty, M. D. R. S. Secr. from Mr. Isaac Greenwood, Professor of Mathematicks at Cambridge, New England.*

S I R,

YOUR obliging Letter I received not till about Half a Year after the Date thereof; and have been lead on to so long and criminal a Delay of my Answer, in Hopes of procuring something that might be worthy of your Notice.

I have now sent you inclosed, a brief Account of two Instances of the deadly Effect of vitiated Air upon Animal Life.

If such Experiments as I have made on the Damp therein mentioned, be of any Importance in the Discovery of the true Cause of this wonderful *Phænomenon*, I shall have attained my End. I take the Liberty to write my self,

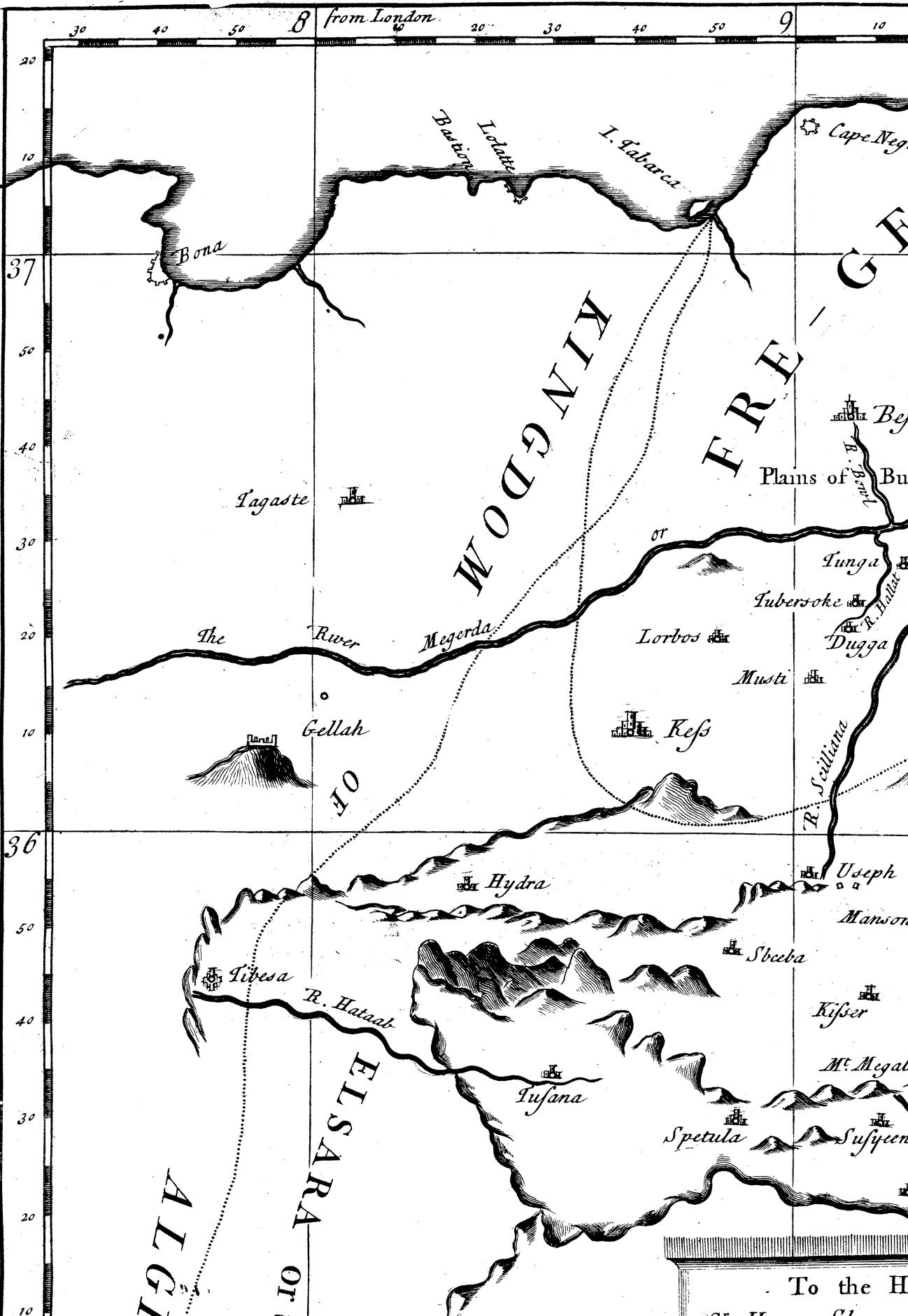
*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

Cambridge, New England,  
Howard Colledge, May  
10. 1729.

Isaac Greenwood.

Mr.





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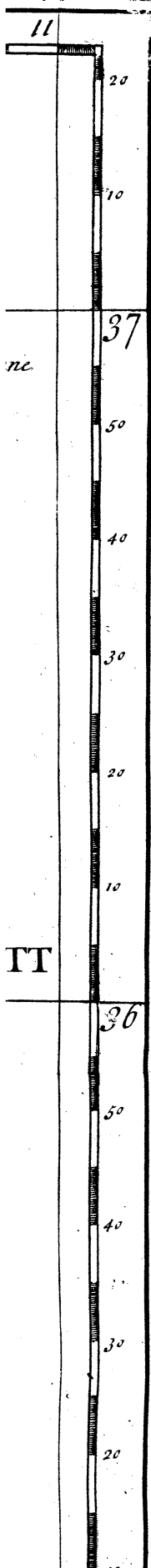
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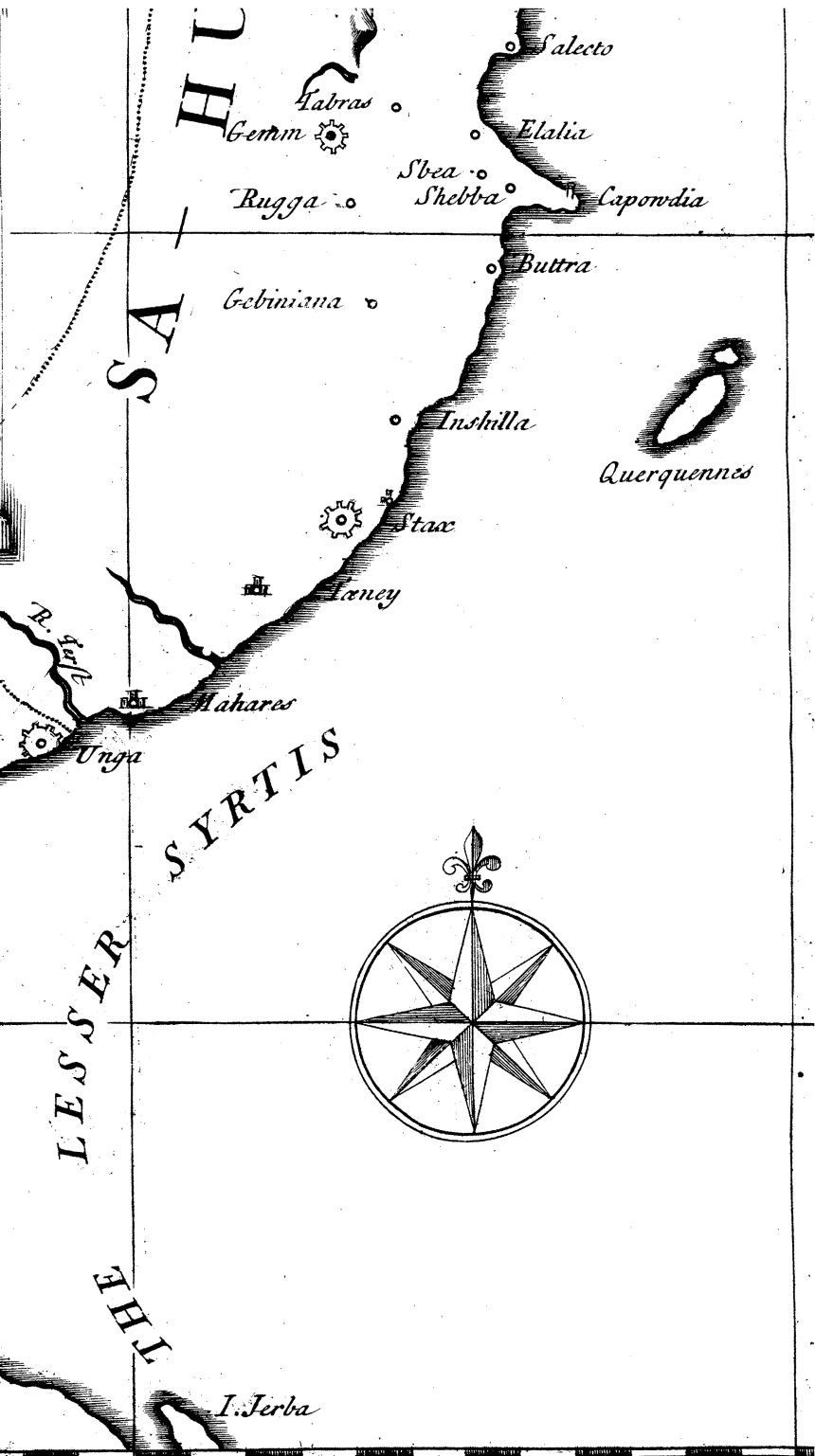
The Honourable  
 Hoane Bar<sup>t</sup>. President of  
 Society &c. This Map of the  
**DOM of TUNIS**  
 is with all Respect dedicated  
 by his most obedient  
 and humble Servant.

Thomas Shaw

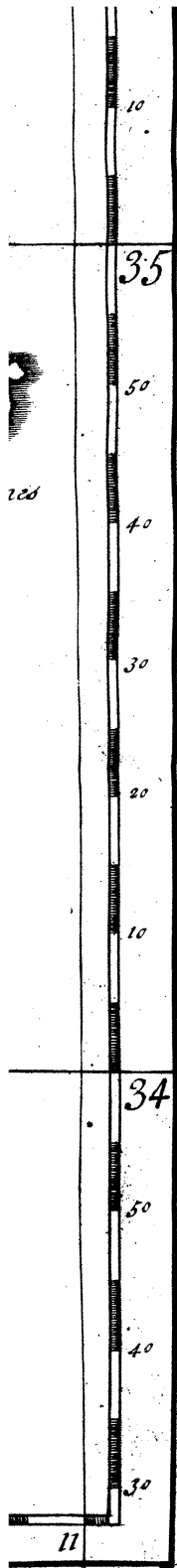
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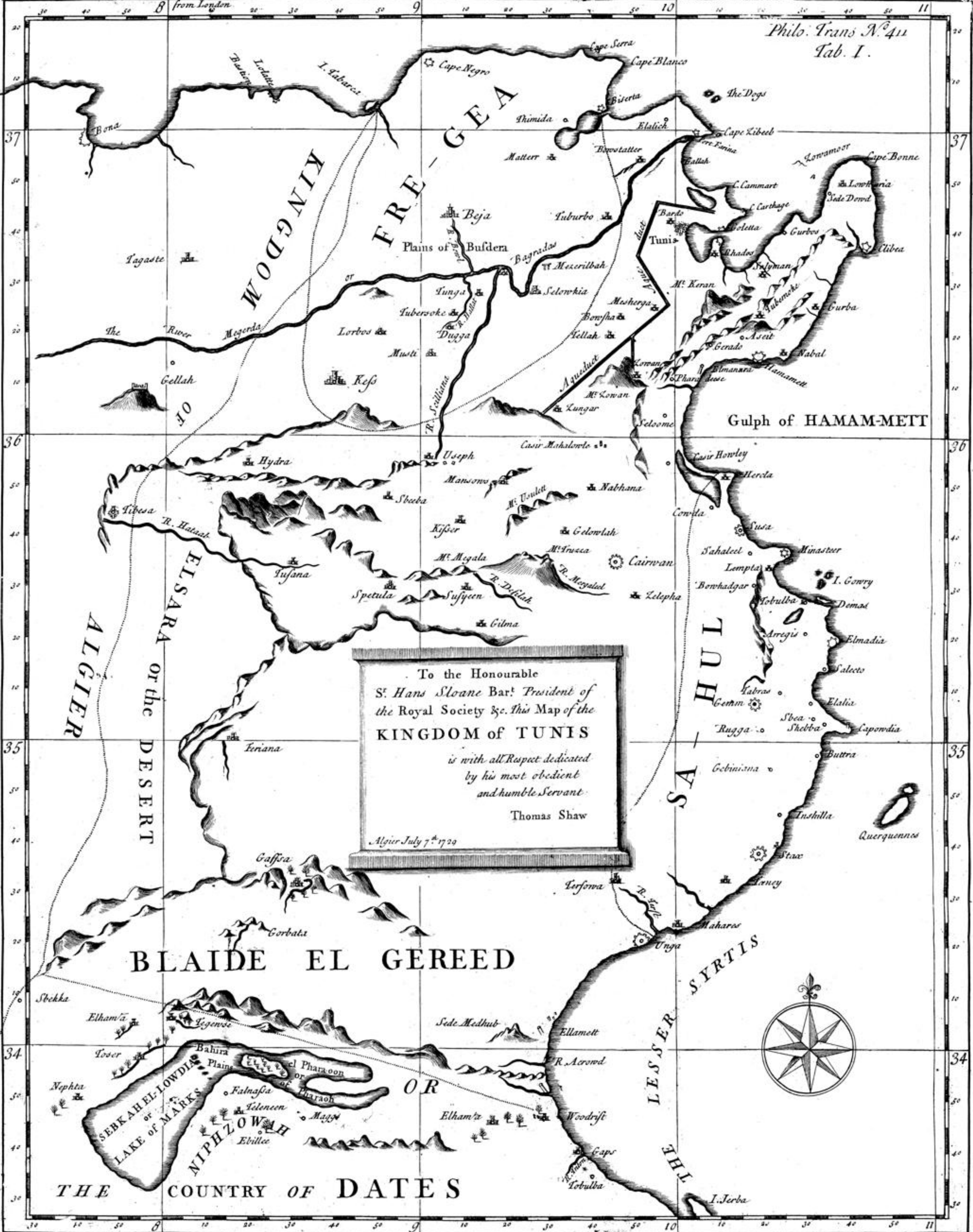
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To the Honourable  
St. Hans Sloane Bar<sup>t</sup>. President of  
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Thomas Shaw  
Algier July 7<sup>th</sup> 1729

