

# GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

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## V.

TING-KI-GI 丁機宜 TING-GII

BY

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This country has been identified by Groeneveldt (Notes, p. 77) with *Indragiri* in Sumatra, though the transcription does not afford the least resemblance to that name, and the internal evidence is not in favour of this identification.

It is only mentioned in the Books of the Ming-dynasty (Book 325) without any nearer date, so that we have to choose one between A.D. 1368 and 1643.

The *Pien-i-tien*, Chap. CVI, makes this country immediately follow that of the Moluccos (美洛居) and describes it in the following way:

“During the Ming-dynasty there was a state *Ting-ki-gi* upon “the confines of Java and Johore” <sup>1)</sup>).

It is evident that with Java is here meant Java minor or Su-

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1) 明時爪哇柔佛接壤有丁機宜國。

matra, as Java proper is not contiguous to Johore upon the Malay Peninsula. We have here again a new evidence that the Chinese called Sumatra Java (*Djao-oa*) exactly as the Arabs did.

The *Pien-i-tien* then quotes the passage from the Books of the Ming-dynasty relative to *Ting-ki-gi* in these terms:

“According to the outlandish history of the Ming-dynasty, *Ting-ki-gi* is a tributary state of Java (Sumatra) <sup>2)</sup>).

“Its territory is very narrow and scarcely counts a thousand families. As Johore was crafty and martial, and *Ting-ki-gi* was situated upon its borders <sup>3)</sup>), it had continually to suffer from it. Afterwards it sought a matrimonial alliance (with Johore) by means of heavy presents <sup>4)</sup>), and so gained a little peace.

“In this country the townwalls are built of wood, and at the side of their chieftain’s residence stands a clock- and drum-tower <sup>5)</sup>).

When he goes about, he rides upon an elephant.

“The 10th month is the beginning of their year.

“Their natural character is very much inclined to cleanliness and whatever their chieftain eats, is all cut and cooked by himself. The

2) Groeneveldt’s rendering: “is a country under the control of Java” is not exact. In Chinese 屬國 means “tributary state”, a state subject to a greater state.

3) 接壤 or 隣壤 “adjacent boundaries” (Wells Williams, Dict.). “Neighbouring boundaries” (Medhurst). This is confirmed by the history of Johore in the Books of the Ming-dynasty where we read that during the period *Wan-lîh* (1573—1619) the chieftain of this country was very warlike, so that his neighbours *Ting-ki-gi* and *Pahang* repeatedly suffered from it 萬曆中其酋好構兵。隣國丁機宜、彭亨屢被其患, *Pien-i-tien*, Chap. 86. Cf. Groeneveldt’s “Notes”, p. 135, where *Ting-ki-gi* is identified with Indragiri, which cannot be said to be a neighbouring country, as the whole strait of Malacca and the whole breadth of the Malay Peninsula lay between it and Johore. See the Note at the end of this paper.

4) This are not necessarily “presents of silk”; pearls and gems, gold and copper were regarded as three kinds of *pî* (Wells Williams).

5) 鐘鼓樓. The same is said of the capital of Malacca in the *Ying-yai Shêng-lan*. Cf. Groeneveldt’s “Notes”, p. 125.

customs of the people are like those of Java (Sumatra), but their natural productions are entirely identical with those of Johore.

"Wine is strictly prohibited, and there is a customary duty upon it, so that decent people never drink it, and only the common men, not registered among the population, drink it, and their mates even scold and ridicule them all.

"In marrying the youth goes to the house of his bride and has to maintain her family, so that they prefer getting girls to boys.

"In funerals they make use of cremation.

"The Chinese who went to trade there found them fair in their dealings; but since the country was subjugated by Johore, there were less (merchants) going to it"<sup>6)</sup>.

The quotation from the **東西洋考** (A.D. 1618), translated by Groeneveldt, does not afford the slightest geographical indication. It runs: "The natives of *Ting-ki-gi* only trade with us at our ships, to which they come for the purpose. They are nearly the same as those of Johore, but their customs are better and their goods cheaper. Since this country has been invaded by Johore, it has no rest and the foreign traders are also in continual danger, for which reason mariners mostly turn their backs upon it".

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<sup>6)</sup>按明外史丁機宜爪哇屬國也。幅員甚狹。僅千餘家。柔佛點而雄。丁機宜與接壤。時被其患。後以厚幣求婚、稍獲寧處。其國以木爲城。酋所居、旁列鐘鼓樓。出入乘象。以十月爲歲首。性好潔。酋所食啖皆躬自割烹。民俗類爪哇。物產悉如柔佛。酒禁甚嚴。有常稅。然大家皆不飲。惟細民無藉者飲之。其曹偶咸非笑。婚者男往女家。持其門戶。故生女勝男。喪用火葬。華人往商交易甚平。自爲柔佛所破、往者亦鮮。

Thus far the evidence is in favour of a situation upon the Malay Peninsula, bordering upon Johore, where we still find on the map a *Kota tinggi* which words mean in Malay "the High (*tinggi*) City (*kota*)". *Ting-ki-gi* can scarcely represent another word but the malay one *tinggi* "high". In a Chinese-Malay vocabulary printed at Batavia, the adjective "high" is translated 高, in Malay *Tinggi* and in transcription 丁宜 *ting-gi*, exactly as in the name of the Malay state in question. *Ting* 丁 is also used for *Tring* in the name of another malay state upon the Peninsula, viz. *Tèringano* or *Tringano* 丁噶叻 *Ting-kat-no*. *Indragiri* would have been transcribed 因陀羅山 *In-tala shân*, or 因陀羅耆釐 *In-tala ki-li* "Mountain of Indra" <sup>7)</sup>.

The mention of elephants and cremation of the dead undoubtedly points to the Malay Peninsula and to a buddhistic population, with whom cremation, especially of the priests, is customary.

But later Chinese geographers place this *Ting-ki-gi* in the Moluccos.

The well-known Chinese Geography 海國聞見錄, published in 1744 by *Ch'en Lun-kiung* (陳倫炯) <sup>8)</sup>, in describing the sea-route to Luçon (Vol. I, fol. 16 *recto*), says: "South-east of it (Luçon) are the two countries *Manloko* (Moluccos) and *Ting-ki-gi*, situated in the S.S.E. rhomb-line. . . . . Going by water from Luçon, one reaches the Moluccos in 174 watches and *Ting-ki-gi* in 210 watches" <sup>9)</sup>.

7) Cf. Eitel, Sanskrit-Chinese Dictionary, p. 46, and p. 58: *Kukkuta pada giri* 屈屈吒波陀山 *Kutkutta pada shân*. St. Julien, Méthode, N°. 537 and 864.

8) Cf. Wylie, Notes on Chinese literature, p. 48.

9) 其東南又有萬老高、丁機宜二國、居放已方。水程呂宋至萬老高一百七十四更。至丁機宜二百一十更。

The author then describes the east-coast of Borneo round the north- and west-coast to the south-coast where he reaches *Banjer-masin*, and then continues:

“From Banjermasin Macassar is reached by water in 27 watches, and rounding it further eastwards one reaches *Ting-ki-gi*, to the N.E. of which lie the Moluccos”<sup>10</sup>).

According to this itinerary, *Ting-ki-gi* would correspond to the *Xulla* or *Sula* isles, to the N.E. of which, in fact, *Gilolo* is situated.

It is thus evident that we have to admit two *Ting-ki-gi*, one in the Banda-sea and one upon the Malay Peninsula.

If we read 丁 *ting* as *tring*, the confusion could be easily explained. There is a village called *Tring* upon the N.E. coast of the island *Batang* or *Battam*, south of Singapore and Johore, and a village *Labuha-Tring* at the bay of that same name on the west-coast of the island of *Lombok*; but I would not insist upon this reading, as *Lombok* lies too far west, whilst *Tinggi* is a very common place-name in the Indian archipelago. There are six *Tinggi*'s in Sumatra alone; a small island between the islands *Banka* and *Lepar* is called *Tinggi*, and there is an island *Tinggi*, east of Johore; the *ki* in *Ting-ki-gi* must be a redundancy. In Mandarin the characters would be pronounced *Ting-ki-i* which can easily represent *Ting-gii*.

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#### Note.

There is not the least doubt but 彭亨 *Pang-hang* is *Pahang*, for the 海國聞見錄, Chap. I, fol. 25 *verso*, names the following states on the Malay Peninsula in succession:

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10) 馬神至芒佳虱水程二十七更。復繞而之東、即係丁機宜。東北係萬老高。

"South from Siam are *Chaya*, *Lakon* (= *Ligor*) and *Sungora* which are all tributary states of Siam. *Patani* \*), *Kēlantān*, *Tringano* and *Pahang* all follow each other in succession along the (central) mountainridge".

由暹羅而南、斜仔、六坤、宋腳、皆爲暹羅屬國。大咩、吉連丹、丁噶叻、彭亨諸國沿山相續。

The *Orang panggang* still live north of Pahang, west of Tringano. They were driven there by Malays coming from *Kēdah*, for formerly they lived north of Johore. Cf. Grünwedel, "Die wilden Stämme von Malaka", in *Veröffentlichungen aus dem Kön. Museum f. Völkerk.* in Berlin, Vol. II, 3—4 fascicule, 1892, p. 97—98 and Map on p. 95, N°. 2. Of course the chinese characters do not represent the new name Pahang, but the old name *Panggang*. The new name is transcribed 婆鳳, in Amoy dialect *Po-hong* = *Pahang*. Cf. N°. III of my Notes, (*Kaling*), foot-note 23.

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\*) In Siamese *Muang* (state or city of) *Tani*; which explains why the Chinese call it only *Tani*. Cf. Millies, "Monnaies indigènes", p. 150, note 3.