

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## ASIA MINOR.

### CHAPTER II.

#### IÖNIA.

IÖNIA, next to GREECE itself, is, perhaps, the most interesting part of ancient geography. It is true that the Greeks colonized almost the whole extent of the western coast of Asia Minor, at different times ; but the Æolian colonies appear to have been on the decline, before the flourishing times of the Iönian. DORIS contained only that large peninsula, in the SW. part of Caria, which had *Cnidus* at its extremity. And although the neighbourhood of *Halicarnassus*, and other Greek establishments in that quarter, had, in a manner, made the population of the coasts GRECIAN ; yet the states of Iönia had a firmer bond of union, and when disposed to act in defence of their common interests, had often proved themselves invincible to the possessors of the peninsula of Asia Minor at large.

It has been already stated that Æolis was generally understood to extend from the Troad and

Adramyttium to Phocæa and the river Hermus ; and Iönia from thence to Miletus and the temple of the *Branchidæ*, on the promontory of *Posideum* ; both of which, lying to the southward of the Mæander, were, of course, included in Caria. Some extend Iönia to the gulf of *Iassus* (now Assemkalah). It probably varied, at different times ; as in the instance of Smyrna, which first belonged to the Æolians, and was afterwards seized on by the Iönians.

Strabo gives (p. 632,) the length of Iönia at 430 stades, along the coast, which is a manifest error, as 800 are given in p. 663, agreeing to the distance on the map generally. For the shortest line that can be drawn from Phocæa, to the temple of the Branchidæ, is 76 G. miles ; equal to about 760 *Roman* stades (such, perhaps, as Strabo intended, in this place) ; and if Iönia be extended to Iassus, 170 more, or 930 in the whole.

The particulars given by Strabo are the following, pages 632 and 663 :

From Phocæa to Smyrna . .	200 stades.
Thence to Ephesus . .	320 <sup>1</sup>
Magnesia . .	120
Tralles . .	140
To the Mæander . .	80
	<hr/>
Total	860

But this cannot be taken as the dimensions of the country ; for the line from Ephesus to Tralles, &c. is *oblique* to the other part, and the distance between

<sup>1</sup> In 632, 320 are given ; in 663, 300.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## IONIA.

3

Ephesus and the Branchidæ is wanting. If Strabo, who, residing at *Nysa*, may be supposed to have gone over this ground, was not aware of the obliquity of the two portions of his line of distance, he must have been greatly wanting in that necessary qualification of a practical geographer, the art of taking *the line of a country*.

The breadth of Iönia is no where given. Nothing could be more irregular, in point of form ; it consisting, as it would appear, of small districts, around the different cities and towns ; save only the great peninsula of *Erythræ*, &c., and the islands of Samos and Chios.

It is well known that Iönia (or the *Iönian league*) originally consisted of twelve cities of considerable note, with many other towns of lesser note ; besides a thirteenth city, Smyrna, afterwards wrested from the Æolians.

The names of the cities, beginning from the north, are Phocæa, Smyrna, Clazomene, Erythræ, Chios, Teos, Lebedos, Colophon, Ephesus, Priene, Samos, Myus, and Miletus. Others of lesser note were Temnos, Leuce, Metropolis, Myonnesus, Latmus.

From the positions of these cities and towns, a pretty just idea of the extent of the territory may be collected. The reader is referred to No. III. of the comparative geography.

The northern limit was Phocæa, (and as we conceive, *beyond* the Hermus, even as it *then* ran, though but a short distance.) From thence, inland, to Mount *Sipylus* and Mount *Pagus*, and by the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

southern branch of Mount *Tmolus*, terminating at the *Cayster* river, a few miles above Ephesus ; and thence, successively, by the mountains *Pactyas*, *Thorax*, and, crossing the Mæander, into Caria, *Titanus* and *Latmus* ; and, if *Iassus* be included, the whole of the mountain *Grius* would belong to Iönia. Throughout this whole extent, the country of Iönia is seldom 20 miles in breadth, and commonly much less, and is merely the exterior border of Lydia.

We shall next proceed to describe the particulars of the geography of this celebrated country. And here the author, conscious that every cape, mountain, river, fountain, or plain in it, has, at some time or other, been the subject either of history or of some poetical allusion, has not ventured to grasp at the whole of so diffuse a subject, but has contented himself with pointing out the most remarkable objects.

Beginning on the north, Phocæa is the first city of Iönia. This place must have varied its site, even during the times of ancient history. The site of *that* Phocæa, which was deserted, through the tyranny of Harpagus, under Darius Hystaspes, is pointed out, at an inlet, some miles to the northward of the gulf of Smyrna ; but a *later* Phocæa, where still exists a considerable town, under the name of *New Fogeæ*, (as the former site is called the *Old Fogeæ*,) lies some miles *within* the Smyrnæan gulf, and at 6 or 7 miles from the other.

That *this* latter was the Phocæa taken by Æmilius Scaurus, in the time of Antiochus, (B.C. 190,)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## IONIA.

5

appears clearly by the description in Livy, (lib. xxxvii. c. 31.) There were *two* ports, separated by a *narrow* peninsula, (which had a still *narrower* isthmus,) projecting a mile into the sea; agreeing, pointedly, to the description of Mr. Wilson, Master of his Majesty's ship *Zealous*, who surveyed the gulf of Smyrna, the canal of Scio, &c., in the course of the present war. Moreover, one of these ports is said to front the *south*, which was not possible to have been the case at Old Phocæa, where the coast fronts the NNW.

Between Phocæa and Smyrna is a flat tract, bordered within by the base of Mount Sipylus, and, towards the sea, marshy, and intersected either by the present or ancient channels of the Hermus, which appears to have wandered from the site of *Phocæa* to that of *Temnos*, and forming the *left* side of the gulf of Smyrna, to those who enter it from without.

In this tract stood *Leuce*, an Iōnian city, whose site we are enabled to fix, from the information of Mr. Wilson, at nearly midway between Fogeëa and the mouth of the Hermus. Mr. Wilson remarks that “ the promontory named *Cross Head* was anciently called *Lucca*, and that it looks like an island.” Pliny says that, in his time, it was a promontory, but had been an island, (lib. v. 29. <sup>1</sup>) *Temnos* was in this quarter, but its site is unknown. Menimen is too far inland for it.

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Chandler's Travels for observations on the changes produced by the depositions of the *Hermus*, p. 76, *et seq.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

Smyrna, at present the principal city of Asia Minor, is situated at the head of a remarkable gulf, which penetrates 15 leagues into the country. At the entrance, and for 8 leagues upwards, it carries a breadth of 9 to 12 miles; from thence it diminishes, and forms, at the extremity, one of the finest ports in the world.

Of the *left*, or north side of the gulf, we have already spoken, as far as the mouth of the Hermus. The flat land continues the whole way to Smyrna.

The right, or southern side of the gulf, is formed by a very remarkable and celebrated peninsula and isthmus; that denominated from *Clazomene*, and sometimes from *Erythræ*. In these times, it is called *Karabournu*, from the name of the cape or promontory, which terminates it to the NW., (and which is, in fact, no more than a translation of the Grecian *Acra Melæna*;) and over which stands a peak, or haycock mountain, the *Mimas* of the ancients, and still known by that name, and even mentioned by Mr. Wilson, in his sailing directions for the gulf of Smyrna<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *Mount Mimas* occurs in the *Odyssey*, (lib. iii.) on occasion of the return of the Greeks, after the taking of Troy.

Nestor informs Telemachus, that when they were departing from Lesbos to Greece, a doubt arose which course to steer; whether along the coast, and under Mount *Mimas*, or to make a direct course, outside the island of *Psyra* (Ipsara). The oracle decided for the latter\*. The intention of sailing under *Mimas*

---

\* "In deep deliberation on the length  
Of way before us, whether we should steer

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## IONIA.

7

The peninsula projects so far into the sea, from the general line of the coast, that it is a remark of Strabo's, that although it be no more than 320 stades by land from Smyrna to Ephesus, yet that by sea it is 2200. (Strabo, p. 632.) Perhaps, this may be somewhat overrated, but not widely so. Again, the same author observes, (p. 644,) that Alexander, by cutting through the isthmus of *Clazomene*, 50 stadia, he would have saved 1000.

This tract, reckoning between Mount *Pagus* on the east, and *Mimas* on the west, is the largest extent of *compact territory* possessed by the Iōnians. Hitherto, its form has been ill defined, and the channel between it and *Chios* (Scio) has been drawn too wide. The nearest part of *Chios*, to the promontory of *Argennum* (Cape Blanc), is no more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  British miles distant, as appears by Mr. Wilson's survey and report, and there are two small islands within this space<sup>1</sup>.

was probably to secure a port, in the event of bad weather, which they then anticipated. That coast abounds with fine ports. There is one in English Island, just within Mimas, and the strait between Scio and the main land has generally shelter.

<sup>1</sup> It was in some of these islands that Philip of Macedon (son of Demetrius) beheld the sea-fight between his fleet and that of Attalus, (B.C. 202,) within the very strait; and in which battle

---

*Above the craggy Chios to the isle  
Psyria, that island holding on our left;  
Or under Chios, by the wind-swept heights  
Of Mimas.*"—COWPER.

Some may ridicule a consultation of this kind, but the author has known a council held at Portsmouth, whether a fleet should sail through the Needles, or attempt to weather Bembridge Point.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

The general form of this peninsula and isthmus, *collectively*, may be compared to the letter L, of which the upright part fronts the island of Scio, on the one hand, and the gulf of Smyrna, on the other. The ports of *Erythræ* and *Cyssus* (now Rittree and Chesme) are on the side towards Scio, and a ridge of high mountains occupies the middle part throughout its whole length, and is properly the ridge of Mimas, although at present the name is exclusively applied to the peaked mountain at the extremity; perhaps, for the sake of defining its position more clearly, as a sea mark; for as such it serves, in the navigation of the gulf of Smyrna.

The lower, or *horizontal* part of the L is occupied by the mountain of *Corycus*, on the west, and that of *Corax*, on the east, having between them, at the narrowest part of the isthmus, a very low valley, where the distance across, from the gulf of Smyrna to that of Ephesus, is only 50 stades. It was here that Alexander attempted a canal; the marks of

130 ships were engaged on both sides. See Polybius, lib. xvi. and also Dr. Gillies' History of the World, from Alexander to Augustus.

A second naval battle was fought, nearly in the same place, 11 years afterwards, between Polyxenides, admiral to Antiochus the Great, and the Roman Consul Livius, when the Romans gained a great victory. Livy, lib. xxxvi., c. 43, *et seq.* Previous to the battle, the fleet of Antiochus had been lying in the port of *Cyssus*, (taken for Chisme, where the Turkish fleet was burnt by the Russians, in 1770.) *Cyssus* was said to be a port of *Erythræ*. The grand battle between the Russians and Turks, which preceded the conflagration, was also fought in the strait of Scio.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

which, like those of Xerxes at Mount Athos, are said to be still visible <sup>1</sup>.

*Clazomene*, situated in a small island, was about 5 miles below the place of the intended canal, and about midway between Smyrna and the open sea. The island is very small, with few remains on it, and joined to the main land by a narrow causeway. It is succeeded, on the main land, by the town of Vourlah.

The canal, had it been continued, would have opened into the port or inlet of the city of *Teos* (now Bodroum). But the rocky nature of the soil prevented the execution.

The base of Mount *Corax* occupies generally the space between the head of the gulf of Smyrna and the exterior coast, which is part of the gulf of Ephesus. And all the lower part of the L before mentioned, that is, the southern flank of Mount *Corycus*, helps to form the northern shore of the same gulf.

We shall now speak of the ancient and flourishing city of Smyrna.

Smyrna is situated near the inmost recess of the gulf of the same name; which has been spoken of in page 6. The existing city is the *third* of that name which has been situated on this gulf. It occupies the inferior slope of a low mountain, or hill, the western termination of *Mount Pagus*, together with the flat ground contiguous to it, and bordering on the upper part of the gulf.

The second Smyrna is supposed to have occupied

<sup>1</sup> See Chandler's Travels, p. 86. 98.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07211-3 - Treatise on the Comparative Geography of Western Asia,  
Accompanied with an Atlas of Maps: In Two Volumes, with a Complete Index: Vol. II  
Major James Rennell

Excerpt

[More information](#)

the whole breadth of the same hill, as well as the flat space between it and the sea ; since it extended to the port mentioned by Strabo (page 646)<sup>1</sup>, the remains of which still exist ; as well as the stadium and theatre, high up the hill, and in view from the ships in the road. Chandler therefore is right, when he says that the modern city “ *slid*, as it were, down the slope, towards the sea ; leaving behind it a naked space, where they now dig for old materials, &c.” (page 62.) This second Smyrna is the one built by the Macedonian conquerors ; some say, Alexander ; others, Antigonus and Lysimachus.

But the original and *Æolian* Smyrna, the birth-place of Homer, stood 2 or 3 miles higher up, at the inmost recess of the gulf ; and its situation is well known.

It is proper to be observed, that the historians of Alexander do not speak of his having visited the site of Smyrna, but carry him from *Zeleia* to *Sardis* and Ephesus, and thence into *Caria*. However, as both Pliny and Pausanias speak of his acts at the site of *Smyrna*, and at the isthmus of *Clazomene*, with the motives for those acts ; one must conclude that the historians now extant overlooked the circumstance ; for it is to be further remarked, that Pliny and Isidore of Charax refer the foundation of *Nicephorium* (Racca) on the Euphrates, to Alexander ; although the historians are equally silent respecting his marching that way. On the whole, then, it appears that

<sup>1</sup> The port is now dry, except after heavy rains, and forms a spacious recess within the present town. Chandler, p. 63.