

# HISTOIRE DU COMMERCE

DE TOUTES LES NATIONS,

DEPUIS LES TEMPS ANCIENS JUSQU'À NOS JOURS ;

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AVEC DES NOTES PAR LES TRADUCTEURS

Et une PRÉFACE par M. Henri RICHELOT.

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TOME PREMIER,

TEMPS ANCIENS ET MOYEN AGE.

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It goes without saying that the various productions of the land were equally articles of trade; Kaïrouan, a splendid capital, was the center of this traffic. It was there that the roads converged, and where the princes of the region held their court with a great magnificence and where the most beautiful mosque in Africa was erected. Adjoining this enchanting building was the bazaar, famous for a large fair, where the merchants came from the most distant countries, with the certainty of an advantageous outlet for their goods. Around this large capital other cities were soon built, in particular on the littoral [coast]. Souza [Sousse] and Mahadjiah [Mahdia] became the seaports of Kaïrouan, located one day's journey from the coast. Industry having also developed, the woollen fabrics of Touran and Safacas [Sfax] acquired fame, and Cabès [Gabès] was referred to as the only district in Africa where the production of silk could be introduced and succeed. Thus all the littoral to the east of the Little Syrte, from the gulf of Cabès as far as Cap Bon, experience a satisfying activity, and it is to the Arabs of this time that Tunis is indebted for the relatively more advanced civilization which distinguishes it today from the rest of the Barbary states.

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Histoire du commerce de toutes les nations, depuis les temps anciens jusqu'à nos jours.  
par Hermann Scherer  
Capelle (Paris)  
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