I now regret my indifference. As I reread Chapter 6 — carefully this time —

Goitein may, however, have been asking the wrong question: it isn't necessarily the Arabic name for the Malay Peninsula that follows Kalah. As for the phrase following Kalah, Goitein noted that it was "partly effaced, which is a pity, for the medieval Arabic name of the Malayan".

In medieval Arabic, Java and similar toponyms didn't refer only to the island east of Sumatra and south of the Malay peninsula. They were

in a Chinese geographic and commercial compilation written by a Song dynasty maritime trade official in Quanzhou, Zhao Rukuo (1170–

alliance or opposition with dynasties from Java. Maritime archeology confirms that Palembang was a trade entrepôt connecting the Islamicate

"the lands of India," to mean something like "the Indian Ocean basin." A

The book appeared many years before ninth- and tenth-century shipwrecks containing cargoes of mixed Chinese, Islamicate-world and

vijaya did command the sea route between southern China and the

vijaya — evidence of awareness as far away as Egypt of

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In medieval Arabic, Java and similar toponyms didn't refer only to the island east of Sumatra and south of the Malay peninsula. They were

Everywhere in the Arabic sources, Java is a local term — that more than one major port on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula may have gone by the name.

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the Middle East: Islam, Movement and the Longue Durée, ed. Eric Tagliacozzo (Stanford, 2009), 17–64.


Hodges and Whitehouse discovered when he excavated it in the 1970s.

Goitein, 227.

Goitein, 223n9.

Goitein, no. 47; she had evidently rebuked him for staying away for too long. The trader explained that after losing

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