

Juba II Encyclopedia Article

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Juba II

c. 50 B.C.-A.D.24

North African king of Numidia and Mauretania (modern Algeria and Morocco respectively) who sent an expedition to the Canary Islands. Son of Juba I (c. 85-46 B.C.), as a child he had been paraded through the streets of Rome after the defeat of his father. However, Octavian (the future Augustus Caesar; 63 B.C.- A.D. 14) befriended him and in 29 B.C. established him as ruler of Numidia, by then a Roman province. Four years later, Juba additionally became ruler over Mauretania, also a province of Rome. Husband of Cleopatra Selene—daughter of the famous Cleopatra VII (69-30 B.C.)—he wrote a number of scholarly works on history, geography, grammar, and drama. His expedition to the Canaries made the Romans aware of those islands, which had once been known to the Greeks.