

FOREIGN NOTICES OF SOUTH INDIA

FROM MEGASTHENES TO MA HUAN

COLLECTED AND EDITED

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PREFACE

This is a source-book of Early South Indian History. Its aim is to present in a handy form the numerous Foreign Notices of South India including Ceylon scattered in several books and journals published by learned Societies not easily accessible to the general reader. In some cases the passages selected for inclusion have been specially rendered into English from French translations of Arabic or Chinese originals.

The sources included here comprise mainly Greek and Latin, Arabic, Chinese and Persian authors; but not being acquainted with their several languages, I have based this work altogether upon translations into modern European languages. Though the collection is not exhaustive, I believe nothing of importance has been omitted. The reasons for the choice of the extracts and their importance to students of South Indian History are briefly explained in the Introduction and notes, and will, I trust, be borne out by the extracts themselves.

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Excepting Ibn Battûta, I have generally retained the forms of proper names as they appear in the authorities I have used.

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CONTENTS

Preface	v
Bibliography	vii
Introduction	1
I. Megasthenes:	
(A) Of Taprobane	41
(B) i. Of Pandya	41
ii. Of Hercules and Pandaea	41
(C) Of the Beasts of India	42
II. Kanci and China in the Second Century B.C.	44
III. Strabo:	
(A) i. Pandyan (?) Embassy to Augustus	46
ii. Indian Embassy to Augustus	46
(B) Ceylon	47
(C) On Gallus' Expedition to Arabia and Sailings to India	48
IV. Pliny:	
(A) Description of Taprobane	49
(B) Voyages to India	52
V. The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea	54
VI. Aelian: Pearl-fishing	61
VII. Marcian of Heraclea	62
VIII. Fa-Hien:	
(A) Daksina and the Pigeon Monastery	66
(B) Tamralipti and Ceylon	67
(C) Ceylon	68
(D) Passage to Java	75
IX. Gunavarman	77
X. A South Indian Embassy to China	83
XI. A Mirror from Western India	84
XII. Cosmas:	
(A) A Description of Indian Animals	86
(B) Indian Flora	87
(C) Concerning the Island of Taprobane	88
XIII. Ma Twa Lin on the Condition of S. India, c 550-600 A.D.	93
XIV. Yuan Chwang	94
XV. I-tsing:	
(A) Itineraries	108

	Page
(B) i. How the Buddhist Priests were Received and Attended on at a Dinner	... 108
ii. On Chop Sticks in China and India	... 111
(C) On Clothing in Different lands	... 111
(D) Brahmans	... 113
(E) Six Pilgrims of I-tsing's Time	... 113
 XVI. Embassies from South India to China	 ... 116
XVII. Kanshin on Brahmin Temples and Merchants in Canton	... 118
XVIII. Ibn Khurdadbeh:	
(A) Route to the East	... 119
(B) Principal Kings of India; Elephants	... 120
(C) Castes	... 121
 XIX. (i) Anonymous Arab Writer:	
(A) The Maldives, Ceylon and Other Islands	... 122
(B) On India, China and their Kings	... 123
(C) Royal Funeral in Ceylon	... 125
(D) Ascetics	... 125
(E) Marriage	... 125
(F) Houses	... 126
(G) Food, Worship, etc.—Comparisons	... 126
(ii) Abu Zaid:	
(H) Companions of Honour	... 128
(I) Miscellaneous	... 129
 XX. Alberuni	 ... 131
XXI. A Mon Inscription from Prome of the Reign of Kyanzitha	... 133
XXII. Benjamin of Tudela	... 134
XXIII. Chau Ju-kua:	
(A) Si-lan (Ceylon)	... 136
(B) Malabar	... 137
(C) Hu-ch'a-la (Guzerat)	... 140
(D) Cola Dominion	... 141
(E) India	... 147
 XXIV. Embassies between China and South India (1279-82)	 ... 150
XXV. Marco Polo:	
(A) Concerning the Island of Seilan (Ceylon)	... 157
(B) Concerning the Great Province of Maabar, which is called India the Greater, and is on the Mainland	... 161
(C) Of the place where lieth the body of St. Thomas the Apostle; and of the Miracle thereof	... 172
(D) Concerning the Kingdom of Mutfli (Motupalli)	... 174

CONTENTS

xiii

	Page
(E) Concerning the Province of Lar (Guzerat) whence the Brahmins come	... 176
(F) Concerning the City of Cail (Kayal) ✓	... 179
(G) Of the Kingdom of Coilum (Quilon)	... 180
(H) Of the country called Comari (Comorin)	... 182
(I) Concerning the Kingdom of Eli (Mt. D'Ely)	... 182
(J) Concerning the Kingdom of Melibar (Malabar)	... 183
XXVI. John of Montecorvino	... 185
XXVII. Friar Odoric:	
(A) Hormuz to Tana	... 182
(B) Of the Kingdom of Minibar and how pepper is got	... 183
(C) Of the Manners of the Idolaters of Polumbum (Quilon)	... 194
(D) Concerning the Kingdom of Mobar, where lieth the body of St Thomas, and the customs of the Idolaters	... 195
XXVIII. Friar Jordanus:	
(A) Scope for Conversions in India	... 198
(B) Concerning India the Less	... 198
(C) Concerning India the Greater	... 205
XXIX. Abulfeda:	
(A) South India	... 214
(B) Coromandel (Ma'bar)	... 214
(C) Caoulem (Kaulam)	... 215
XXX. Ibn Battuta:	
(A) On the Rebellion of Bahauddin Gushtasp	... 216
(B) Rebellion in Ma'bar	... 217
(BB) Rebellion in Tiling	... 219
(C) i. Summary of his Travels in South India: Yule	... 219
ii. Travels in South India	... 228
XXXI. John De Marignolli:	
(A) Quilon	... 288
(B) Ceylon: Concerning Adam's Garden and the fruits thereof	... 287
(C) On Buddhist Monks of Ceylon	... 288
XXXII. Wang Ta-yuan:	
(A) Coral at Dondera Head	... 290
(B) Colombo	... 291
(C) Pearl Fishing in the Gulf of Manar (?)	... 291
(D) Northern Maldive Islands	... 292
(E) Kain Colan (Kaya ngulam)	... 293
(F) Hili (Ely)	... 294
(G) Calicut	... 294
(H) Jurfattan	... 295

	Page
XXXIII. Fei Hsin:	
(A) Ceylon	... 296
(B) Cochin	... 297
(C) Calicut	... 297
XXXIV. Ma Huan:	
(A) The Nicobars and Ceylon	... 299
(B) The Maldives	... 302
(C) Ko-chih, (Cochin)	... 304
(D) Ku-li, (Calicut)	... 306

APPENDIX .

I. Navigation towards the end of the Fifteenth Century	... 309
II. The Role of Gujaratis	... 310
III. Indian Merchants and Merchandise in Malaka (16th century):	
i. Duarte Barbosa	... 311
ii. Castanheda	... 311
IV. Sidi Ali: On Navigation in the Indian Seas	... 313
Addenda	... 319
Index	... 327

INDEX

A

- 'Abd-ul-lah, Vazir, married Sultānah (Khadījah), 269.
- Abhayagiri Vihara, Fāhien on, 69; built by Waṅg Gāmpī, 69n; the sacred tree in, 70.
- Abraïaman, see Brahmins.
- Abu Abdallah, Shaik, road to the Holy Foot-mark opened by, 224.
- Ab-ul-Barkāt, the Maghribī, the Maldives converted to Islam by, 255.
- Abulfeda, Arab geographer, cites Ibn Sa'id, notices of South India by, 35, 214-15.
- Abu Sarūf (Barcelore), town in Malabar, 237; rich in cocoanuts, 237.
- Abyssinian soldiers dominant in Indian Ocean, 231.
- A-che-lo (Ācara) of West India, built a monastery in memory of his mother, 108, 107.
- Adam, foot of, 275; garden of, plantain trees in, 237-8; reliques of, at Cambaluc, 161; reliques of, got by Kublai Khan, 161.
- Adam's Peak, foot-print on, 160n; foot-print on, cut out by Chinese and removed to Zeitun, 155n; Ibn Battūta at, 224; Ibn Battūta's pilgrimage to, 270-71; Ibn Shahriyar on, 160n; Marco Polo on, 158; mountain of Sarandīb, 274; other names of, 69n; sepulchre of Adam on, 158; sepulchre of Sagamoni Borcan on, 158.
- Aden, voyage to Gujerat from, 313; voyage to Malabar from, 314.
- Adultery, woman guilty of, put to death in Chu-lien, 147.
- A-fa-lo-shih-lo, see Avarasliā.
- Agriobous, (wild ox) the, Cosmos on, 87.
- Ahmad Ibn Majid, 36.
- Airi Shakarwati, see Arya Cakravarti.
- Airy Shakrauty, see Arya Cakravarti.
- Ajīnta paintings, Pulakesin receiving Persian embassy?, 9.
- Alagakkonāra, (Viaya Bāhu), King of Ceylon, 38, 298 and n; captured by Cheng Ho, 38, 293-7.
- Alberuni (Al Biruni), his fable on Kikkind, 23, 132; in India, 23; on intercourse between Africa, China and India, 2.
- Al-daibal, 131.
- Alexandria, trade with India, 4-5
- Amba, see Aniba.
- Amburan (Mango, āmra), in Ceylon 288.
- Ammon-Ra, Egyptian temple of thanks-offering by Indian in, 5n.
- Amoghavajra, in Ceylon, 18.
- Andamans (Angamanain), the, 157.
- Andhras (An-to-lo) the, earliest to develop a sea power, 5; Yuan-Chwang on, 98-99.
- Andrapolis, a port in W. India, 5.
- Angamanain, see the Andamans.
- Aniba (mango), in India the less, 200.
- Antioch, Indians at, met by Damas-kenos, 46.
- An-to-lo, see Andhras.
- Antoninus (M. Aurelius), see 'An-Tun'.
- An-Tun' (M. Aurelius Antoninus), sent 'ambassadors' to Huan-ti, 7.
- Arabia Felix, 62.
- Arabian Gulf, the sailing course of (Marcian), 62-3.
- Arabs, (Ta-shi), the Homerites in the land of the, 62; in Canton, 20; in Chu-lien, 147; trade with India of, 20.
- Arachosii, the, a tribe in Barygaza, 54.
- Arattii, the, a tribe in Barygaza, 54.
- Argaritic, muslin exported from Argaru, 59.
- Argaru, (Uraiyūr), muslins exported from, 59.
- Argellia, (the Narikela, or cocoanuts), Cosmas on, 87-8.
- Argyre, island of, 41.
- Arhat, cremation of, 73-4; Śramaṇa of lofty virtue, 73.
- Arya Cakravarti (Airi Shakarwati, Airy Shakrauty), helped Ibn Battūta to go to Adam's Peak, 224; Pattam (B ṭālah) capital of, 269; pirate fleet owned by, 269-70; piratical chief of Bāṭālah, 224.
- Asawil, on the coast of India, 131.
- Ascetics, in India, Suleiman (?) on, 125.
- Asia, contact with Europe of, Ibn Khurdadbeh on, 21; Edrisi's account of, 26; isthmus of, 63.
- Astrology in Maabar, 170.
- A-t'a-pi, animal presented to Chinese Emperor by envoy from Ma'bar, 155.
- Augustus, Caesar, embassies from Iadians, Serca, Sarmatians and

Scythians to, 47*n*; embassy from Pandion or Poros (?), 46; embassy from Pappyan (?) to, 46; Indian embassy to, 46.

Avarasīla (A-fa-lo-shih-lo), monastery, Yüan Chwang on, 100.

B

Bactriana, virtually Indian country, 2; Yüan Chwang in, 3.

Badraköt (Tel. Bedadaköt, Bidar), fortification of, 219; the siege of, 219.

Baga, on the coast of India, 131.

Baghdad, the Khalif of, the Arabs' King, Suleiman (?) on, 123; his alliance with China, 17.

Bain, a large tank in Dabfattan, 238-40.

Bairam (Perim), the Isle of, 220, 231.

Bakanür (Fakanür), a town in Malabar, 237; Basadav (Vasudeva), Sultan of, 238; right of the port in, 238; sugar-cane in, 237-8.

Balal Dev, encounter with Ghayaş-ud-din, 280; death of, 281.

Balaüdjer, companion of a king, 123-129*n*.

Balhara, a sovereign of India, Ibn Khurdadbeh on, 120; P'eng-k'ie-lo (?), 146*n*.

Balkh, the country of, Buddhism in, 3.

Baljabra, the, Suleiman (?) on, 123-4; Mankir, capital of, 124*n*; stands for Vallabha, 124*n*.

Banquet, State, at Chu-lien, 143.

Barcelore, see Abu Sarür.

Baroda (Baroi), on the coast of India, 131.

Barygaza, ancient drachmae in, 55; flood-tides about, 54; Periplus on, 54; tribes of, 54.

Basadev, see Vasudeva.

Batigala, Saracen King of, 213.

Batthalah (Patlam), Ibn Battüta at, Airi Shakarwati, ruler of, 224, 269, 276.

Bawarij, pirates of Kacch and Somanath, 131; their ships called *bira*, and hence Bawarij, 131.

Be-care (Neacyndon), a harbour, 53.

Bell of Justice, 28*n*.

Belluri, a tree in India the Less; liquor prepared from, 201; *birala*, 201*n*.

Bengal, see P'ong-k'ie-lo.

Benjamin of Tudela, on Quilon and S. India, 26, 134-35.

Betel (*tambul*), chewing of, in India, 180; betel paste containing precious

substances chewed by King of Ceylon, 136; given to guests in the Maldives, 259.

Beypore (mod. for Shaliyat), 248.

Bharoch (Po-lu-ka-che-o'), Yüan Chwang on, 107; Buddhist monasteries in, 107.

Bharukaccha, moriners of, 1.

Bihar, I-tsing's visit to, 15.

Bihroj (Broach), on the coast of India, 131.

Birds, precious stones carried by, 85 and *n*; diamonds got through, 28*n*; used by mariners, 5*n*, 49.

Biyyardawal, the capital of the Coromandel, 214.

Bloqui, a fruit, in India the Less, 199.

Bodhi-dharma, Chinese, sailed to Canton, 14 and *n*.

Bodhisena, South Indian Brahmin, in China, 18; in Japan (Naniwa), 18; became Sojo, 18; *Baramon Sojo* (Brahman Bishop), 19.

Bosporus, Straits of the, pearl produced in, 61.

Brahma, see Fo

Brahmins (Abraiaman P'o-lo-man), descendants of Fo (Brahma), 146; the fish-charmers, 163 and *n*; in Canton, 19; in Pan-Pan, 32; or Lar, most truthful, 176; omens among, 176-7.

Brazil (Sappan-wood), produced in India the Greater, 206 and *n*.

Brazil Coilumin produced in Coilum, 180.

Britain, island of, 61.

Broach, see Bihroj.

Buddha, the (Fo, Sagamoni Borcan), deification of, 158; guarding the tooth of, in Ceylon, 114; Jataka tales of, 160; sepulchre of, on Adam's Peak, 158; the story of, 158-9.

Buddhism, Javanese, Guṇavarman and, 13.

Budfattan, a harbour in Malabar, 241.

Bundelkhand, 219.

Burma, musicians, jugglers from Ta-T'sin, in, 11*n*.

Bukhānah, a temple of idols, Ibn Battüta's encounter with a yogi leaning against, 232-3.

Buttetsu, priest of Campa, 18; friend of Bodhisena, 16.

C

Caelobothras, of Muziris, 53.

Cail, (Kāyal), a business centre, 179; chewing *Tambul* (betel) in, 180; Marco Polo on, 179-80.

- Caitya**, a *vihāra*, 73; (*Mihintale*), 73n; *Dharmagupta* of, 73.
- Calicut** (*Ku-li*, *Ku-li-fu*, *Qāiqot*) a trade centre, 294-5; booking passage to China from, 243; Chinese ships in, 307; frequented by Chinese ships, 221; cocoanuts in, 306; fruits of, 307; *Ibn Battūta* at, 223, 247, 284; *Ibn Battūta* sailing from Calicut to China, 221 ff; missions to China from, 283; money in, 308; *Muhammadans* in, 308; *Mu-kuas* in 298; people of, 298; pepper in, 237, 293, 306; port (harbour) of, 220, 241; *Sāmuri* (*Zamorin*) the King (*Sultan* of), 220, 241; shipowner *Misqāl* in, 242; shipping arrangements at, 221; trial by ordeal in, 307; voyage to *Kardafun* from, 315.
- Camb (a) luc**, *Adam's reliques* at, 161; *John of Monte Corvino*, archbishop of, 33.
- Cambay** (*Kanbāyat*, *Kinbaia*t, *Kinbat*, *Kinbayat*, *Kinbayah*), 214, 220, 229; on the coast of India, 131; a trade centre, 229; mansions of, 229; *Muqbil*, the commandant of, 229.
- Campa**, (*Champs*), Indian alphabet in, 12; the kingdom of, 67; (*Champānagar*?), 67n; the kingdom of, embassies from, 12; *Jordanus* on, 211.
- Cannanore** (*Jurfattan*), 239.
- Canton**, Arabs in, 20; *Brahmins* in, 19; *Brahmin* temples and merchants in, 118; Licence office at, 24; Maritime office in, 19; *Persians* in, 20; Shipping office in, 23.
- Caoulem**, see *Quilon*.
- Carmania**, 62.
- Caspian Sea**, also called *Hyrceanian*, 63.
- Castes**, Seven, in India, *Ibn Khurdadbeh* on, 121.
- Celibi**, *Sidi Ali*, *Mohit, the Ocean* by, 36, 313.
- Ceras**, see *Seres*.
- Ceylon** (*Hsia-lan shan*, *Palacsimundu*, *Salica*, *Sarandib*, *Seilan*, *Seng-kiala*, *Serendib*, *Seyllen*, *Sielediba*, *Silan*, *Si-lan*, *Singaldib*, *Singhala*, *Sirandib*, *Sylen*, *Taprobana*, *Taprobane*), the island of, 42, 131; the best island of its size, 157; *Adam's Foot* in, 137, 294; *Alagakkonara*, King of, 38, 293 and n; ambassadors to *Claudius* from, 50; *Amburan* (*Mango*, *Amra*) in, 268; *Amoghavajra* in, 18; articles of luxury in, 51; beasts in, 42-3; birds used by mariners of, 49; black monkeys in, 272-3; the Buddha in (?), 68 and n; the Buddha relics in, 293, 300; the Buddha's Foot in, 299; Buddhist monks of, 238-9; catching of fish off, 43; *Chake baruhe* (jack) in, 288; *Chau Ju-kua* on, 136-7; *Cheng Ho* in, 293-7; Chinese soldiers in, 27; cocoanut in, 288; *Cosmas* on, 88-92; cow-worship in, 300; elephants and horses purchased from India by King of, 91; elephants exported from, 42; embassies to China from, 19; *Erato-sthenes* on, 47-8, 49; *Fa-hien* in, 67; *Fa-hien* on the kingdom of, 68; food of the people of, 157; guarding the Buddha's tooth in, 114; *Gupavarman* in, 77; horses from Persia to, 91; *Ibn Khurdadbeh* on, 119-20; *John de Marignolli* on, 287-9; *Jordanus* on, 208; justice by majority vote in, 52; *Kunakar*, the residence of the king of, 224; *Kunar*, King of, 224; *Mahavira* in, 73; *Marcian's* account of, 63, 64; *Marco Polo* on, 157-61; maritime trade of, 69; *Masūdī* in, 22; *Megasthenes* on, 41; mountain of *Sarandib* in, 137, 224, 269; Muslim merchants in, 20; north-winds cause sea to submerge part of, 157; occupied by *Rakṣasas*, 68n; *Onesikritos'* account of, 48; *Suleiman* (?) on other islands and, 122; palace of king of, 136; *Palaiogonoi*, the inhabitants of, 41; palm groves in, 42; pearls in, 41, 68, 132, 296; pearls produced about, 68; people of, account by *Chau Ju-kua*, 136; the people of, no soldiers, 158; Persian Christians in, 88; Persian and Roman in, 91-91; plantain in 287-8; *Pliny* on, 49-52; polity of, 52; preaching in, 71; precious stones in, 157-8, 212; products of, 157; the ruby of the king of, not sold to the *Great Kaan*, 158; sailing course of, by *Marcian*, 64; Sarcen troops fought for, 158; *Sarira* (Buddha relics) in, 153; Scene of the history of the Buddha (?), 160; sea-monsters of, 43; separated from India by river, 41; known as *Sielediba* in S. India, 88; silk from *T'sinista* (China) to, 13; called *Singhala* after Indian merchant *Singhala*, 67n; *Sopater* in, 69; *Strabo* on, 47-8; *Suleiman* (?) on, 122-3; *Tamralipti* and, 67; tooth-remic festival in, 71-3; trade with *Seres* of, 51; treasures of, 70-71; tribute to *San-fo ts'i* from, 137; *Vaiśya* elders in, 71; *Vajrabodhi* in,

- 18; worship of Hercules in, 52; Zolu (flying leech) in, 273-4.
- Cha-ma-li-ting, see Jumaluddin.
- Champa, see Campā.
- Chaqui (jack fruit), big fruit in India the Less; 199 and n.
- Chan-hing, I-tsing's companion in India, 15.
- Chau Ju-kua, Chinese author, 14; on South India, 26-7; wrote *Chu-fan-chi*, 26.
- Che-Hing, Guṇavarman at, 78; the Peak of the Vulture at, 78; temple at, 78.
- Cheng Ho, Ming commander, voyages to China of, 37-39; accompanied by Fei Hsin, 37; accompanied by Ma Huan, 38; capture of Alagakkonāra by, 38, 296-7.
- Ch'ên-na, see Dinnāga.
- Chen-tou (T'ien-tchou), administration of, 11; relations with Ta-T'sin, 11.
- Chersonese, Golden (Suvarna-bhumi), India beyond Ganges, 63.
- China, Abu Zaid Hassan on, 21-2; alliance with Baghdad, 17; ambassador to Sri Narasimhavarman Potavarman from, 117; a tablet to Narasimha from, 117; *a-t'a-pi* presented by Ma'bar envoy to the Emperor of, 155; booking passage from Calicut to 243; Calukya Vallabha and, 16; Cochin and, 297; Coja embassies to, 25; countries trading with, 25; Dharmagupta of Gujerat in, 14; embassies to, from Ceylon, 19; Chulien, 145-6, 321-5; Fu-nan, 12; Kāñci, 16; Marcus Aurelius, 11; Narasimha, 16, 116; South India, 14, 83, 116-17, 150-56; envoys from T'ien-chu at (500-15 A.D.), 143; food in India and in, 126; Greek trade with, 7-8; houses in, 126; India compared with, (Suleiman?), 126-8; India's relations with, 10; Jewish trade with, 21; John of Montecorvino in, 33; Kāñci and 44-45; the king of, Suleiman (?) on, 123; land routes to, 2; Ma'bar physician at court of, 155; Mañjuśrī in, 18; Ma Twan-lin on, 117; Ming dynasty and, 37; missions from Calicut to, 298; Rajendra Coja's embassy to, 26; Sanghavarmi in, 13; ships at Calicut from, 307; Silāditya and, 18; silk from, in Ceylon, 13; soldiers of, in Ceylon, 27; South India, and, 23; Tibetans and, 16, 17; trade restriction in, 32; trade with Mediterranean lands, 7; types of ships of, 242-3; Vajrabodhi in, 18.
- Chittagong, voyage from Diu to, 316-18.
- Chittis, trading class in Cochin, 305.
- Ckokis, see Yogis.
- Chopa (Campa?), 213.
- Cho-po (Java?), Guṇavarman in, 77.
- Chou K'u-fei, account of China's trade with other countries, by, 25; on Arab's route to China, 25; on sea route to India being more expeditious, 14.
- Christianity, conversion of Indians to, by John of Montecorvino, 185; (Latins) in Maabar, 172-3; in India the Less, 204; Persian Christians in Ceylon, 88; persecuted in Upper India, 189; possibility of converting Indians to, 185; scope of conversion to, in India, 198.
- Christian Topography*, geographical work by Cosmas, 9.
- Chryse, island of, 41.
- Ch'uan-chou, (Zeitun), temple in the city of, foot-print on Adam's Peak removed to, 155n.
- Chu-fan-chi, see Chau Ju-kua.
- Chulam, see Quilon.
- Chu-li-ya (Chulya), Yüan Chwang on, 101-2; Telugu Coja kingdom, 101n; Deva Temples in, 102.
- Claudius, Emperor, ambassadors from Taprobane to, 50.
- Clothing (of Buddhist priests) in different lands, I-tsing on, 111-113.
- Cochin (Ko-chih), China and, 297; five classes of men in, 304-5; king of, 304; Ma Huan on, 304-5; Malaka and, 310; Mukuas in, 297, 304; Nairs, Muhammadans, Chittis of, 304; Yogis (Chokis) in, 305.
- Cocoanuts, (Nargil), in Ceylon, 288; in India the Less, 200-1; leaves of the, made into plates, 130; liquor prepared from, 200-1; twine from, 201.
- Coja, Telugu kingdom, see Chu-li-ya.
- Coilum, see Quilon.
- Coins, alloyed silver cut into, in Malabar, 139.
- Coir, twine from cocoanut, 201.
- Coja kingdom (Chu-liên, Chola, Coast country, Coli), Arabs (Ta-shi) in, 147; conversion of a Coja prince to Buddhism, 133; cow-dung considered clean substance in, 147; description of city of seven-fold wall, in, 142, 320; embassies to China from, 25, 145, 321-5; maritime power of, 25; merchants of Lar at, 176; ports and ships of, 59; products of, 144, 147; punishment of offenders in, 143, 320; Southern

- Yin-tu, 141; state banquet in, 143, 320; taxation heavy in, 144; the greatest Tamil empire, 25; war-elephants in, 144; women guilty of adultery put to death in, 147
- Colchi (Korkai), pearl-fisheries of, 59
- Coliacum, Cape Kory (?), 50.
- Colombo (Kalanbu, Kas-lang-pu), description of 291; Jalasty lived in, 276.
- Columbum, see Quilon.
- Comorin, Cape (Comari, Ra's Komhori), 59, 214; account of, 182 and n; point where Malabar ended and Maabar began, 162n.
- Coral, at the base of Dondera Head, 200.
- Coromandel, the, see Maabar.
- Correa, Gasper, a Portuguese in India, 24; account of China and India by, 24.
- Cosmas, (Indikopleustes), author of *Christian Topography*, 8-9.
- Cotton manufacture in Mōtupalli, 175-6.
- Cottonara, Kolattu-nadu, 53n; the pepper district, 53.
- Cow-dung, considered clean substance in Chu-liên, 147; rubbing house with, in Maabar, 167.
- Cowries, constituted wealth of Maldives, 122; medium of exchange in Tiên-chu, 148; used as money in the Maldives, 252-3.
- Cremation, of an Arhat, (Ft-hien on), 73-4.
- D**
- Dabul, voyage to Dib island from, 314-15.
- Dachinabades, see Deccan.
- Dahfattan (Dharmapatam), in Jurfattan, 239; bân, a large tank in, 239-40; inscription on the leaf of a tree in, 240; products of, 239.
- Dakṣiṇa, see Deccan.
- Damaskenos, Nikolaos, met Indians at Antioch, 46.
- Daulatabad, dungeons in, 226; economic condition of, 227; fortress of Dwaigir (Deogiri) in, 220; Ibn Battûta at, 226; Katkah, Devaiquir (Devagir), parts of, 226; Mahrathas, the people of, 227; Malik Khaṭṭâb, prisoner in the dungeon at, 227; pearls in 227; Quṭlu Khân, commandant of 226; Sâha, the people of, 227; Tarb Abâd (abode of rejoicing) in, 227-8; Sultan ill at, 326.
- Davar, Sonder Bandi, one of the five Kings of Maabar; great pearls in the kingdom of, 162; pearl-fishing in Maabar, 162-3.
- Debts, rule about, in Maabar, 169-70.
- Deccan (Dachinabades, Dakṣiṇa), Fa-hien on, 13, 63-7; imports and exports of, 58; perilous to travel, 67; Periplus on, 56; the Pigeon Monastery and, 66-7; ports of, 57; towns of, 56.
- D'Ely, Mount, (Eli, Ely, Hily), the Kingdom of Eli, 182, 294; customs and manners of people of, 182-3; frequented by Chinese ships, 221; Mussulmans in, 239; trade centre in Malabar, 238-9.
- Devadasis, girls consecrated to Gods and Goddesses in Maabar, 171-2.
- Devagir (Deogiri, Devaiquir, Dwaigir), fortress of, 220, 226; part of Daulatabad, 226.
- Deva P'usa, came to Kosala from Senkgala, 98; Arya Deva, 97; visit to Nagarjuna, 97; discussion with Uttara, 102.
- Deva temples in Dhanakataka (?), 99-100; in Dravida, 102; in Kalinea, 95; in Malakûta, 103; in Orissa, 84.
- Dhanakataka (?), (T's-Na-Che-ka), Buddhist monasteries in, Deva-temples in, 99-100; Yüan Chwang on, 99-100.
- Dharmagupta of Gujerat, in China, 14; of Caitya (Mihintale), 73; famous ascetic, 73n; also Dharmakoti, 73n.
- Dharmapâla P'usa (-fu-fa), preached Buddhism in Ma:adha, 100; Yüan Chwang on, 103; born at Kânci, 103.
- Dharmapatam (Dahfattan), 239.
- Dhibat-ul-Mahal, see the Maldives.
- Diamond, ways of getting diamonds in Mōtupalli, 174-5.
- Diamond Valley, the legend of, 84; Epiphanius of, 84.
- Dib, the islands of, voyage from Dabul to, 314-15.
- Dibajât (Laccadives and) Maldives, 122.
- Dinnâga (Ch'en-na), Yüan Chwang on, 99; Arhat's career renounced by, 99; stayed in Maharashtra monastery, 107; treatise on inference by, 99.
- Dinner, I-tsing's account of, among Indian priests, 108-110.
- Dinûr, 275-6.
- Dirham, see tatiri.
- Diu, voyage to Chittagong from, 316-18; voyage to Malacca from, 315-16.
- Div, island opposite to Cambay, piracy in, 214.

Dondera Head (Ta Fo shan), the mountain in Ceylon; coral at the base of, 290.

Dosarene, region of, 60; yielding ivory, 60; (Daśarṇa, Orissa), 60*n*.

Dosarenic, ivory known as, 60.

Dravida, Yüan Shwang on, 102; Deva temples in, 102; Buddhist monasteries in, 102; Dharmapāla P'usa born in, 103.

Dungeons in Daulatābad; 'Dungeon of rats', 227; Malik Khattab, prisoner in, 227; prisoners in 226.

Dunkul, King of Kukah, 220, 232.

Dvaravati, see Ta-tch'eng-teng.

E

Edrisi, geographer, account of Asia, by, 26.

Egypt, trade with India, of, 5-6.

Elephant fights in India, Coşmas on, 92.

Elephants, the capture of, in India the Greater, 212; exported from Ceylon, 42; in India, 120; in India the Greater, 205-6; in Kalinga, 95; in Kung Yü T'o, 95; in war, 206; war in Chu-lien, 144; war in Guzerat, 141; Kunar had a white elephant, 272.

Eli (Ely), see D'Ely.

Embalming the dead in Quilon, 135.

Epiphanius, Bishop of Constantia, writings of; on Diamond Valley, 84.

Eratosthenes, account of Taprobane by, 47-48, 49.

Erythraean Sea, sailing course of (Marcian), 62.

Europe, contact with Asia of, account by Ibn Khurdadbeh, 21.

F

Fakanūr, see Bakanūr.

Fandarīnā (Fandaraina), Mussulman majority in, 241; the harbour of, 221.

Farsakh, three miles, 131*n*.

Fattan, the town of, 281.

Fire, worship of, by Parsis, 203.

Fish, catching of, off Ceylon, 43.

Fo (Brahmā), also the Buddha, 114; Brahmins descended from, 146; the offering to, 147.

Food in China and India, Suleiman (?) on, 126.

Foot-mark, the Holy, first road to, opened by Abu Abdallah, 224.

Fuma (Imperial son-in-law), title conferred on Wa-ni by Chinese Emperor, 153-4.

Fu-nan (Ancient Cambodia), present of *lieou-li* to China, 12; embassies to India and China from, 12; trade with T'ien-chu, 148.

Funeral Royal, in Ceylon, Suleiman (?) on, 125.

Fu-p'o-shih-lo, see Pūrvaśilā.

G

Gallus, Aelius, expedition of, to Arabia, 48; sailings to India of, 48.

Gally (Qūly), 276.

Gama, Vasco da, 36.

Gandaraci, the, a tribe in Barygaza, 54; people of Gandhāra, 54*n*.

Gandhar, see Qandhār.

Gangetic bay, sailing course of the, Marcian's account of, 64-5.

Gedrosia, the people of, 63.

Ghayās-ud-dīn, Sultan of Ma'bar, 277*ff*; merciless massacre of women and children by, 278-9; war with Balāl Dev, 280; killed Balāl Dev in Madura, 281; death of, 282.

Goa, see Sandabūr.

Gollas, King of the White Huns, 91.

Govis, the, a class of beef-eating people of Maabar, 167; Saint Thomas slain by, 168; Saint Thomas shot, by mistake, by, 173.

Great Bay, beyond Suvarnabhūmi, 63.

Greeks, the, trade with China, trade with India of, 7-8.

Guṇavarman, a Kṣatriya monk; Chinese biography of, 77-82; advice to Wen by, 79; the nuns of *Ying-fou* and, 81; declined Kashmir throne, 77; in China, 77-8; in Ceylon, Chopo, (Java?), 77; in Song territory, 78; Javanese Buddhism and, 13; miracles of, 78-79; preached at Jeta Vana Vihāra, 80; death of, 82.

Gushtāsp, Bahā-ud-dīn, nephew of Sultan Tughlaq; rebellion of, 216; fled to Rāi Kanbilah, 216; capture of, slaying alive of, 217.

Guzerat, (Hu-ch'a-la), Buddhist temples in, 141; people of, 140; products of, 141; trade with Ta-shi of, 141; voyage from Aden to, 313-14; war-elephants and horses in, 141.

H

Hadrian, coins of, in South India, 7-8.

Hajjāj, invasion of Indus Valley by, 20.

Han-lin, an officer under Malabar king regulates diet of the king, 138.

Hassan, Abu Zaid, on India and China, 21-22; on kings of India, 128-9.

- Hemodī mountains (Himālayas ?) 51*n*
- Hercules (Herakles), Pandaia, daughter of 41; worshipped as God, 52.
- Herodotus, on India, 4.
- Hily (Hili), see D'Ely.
- Himālayas (?), Hemodī mountains, 51*n*.
- Hinpalus, Egyptian pilot, discovered the monsoon, 5, 53 and *n*; a west wind called, 52
- Hippuri, a port of Taprobanā, 50; (Kudirimalai ?), 50*n*.
- Honavar (Hanaur, Hannaur, Hunawur, Onore), the town of, 214; doctrine of Shāfi'i, practised at, 233; expedition of the king of, to Sindabur, 223; Ibn Battūta at, 247; Malabar tributary to Jamāl-ud-dīn of, 234; maritime trade in, 234; pirate king at the city of, 220; schools in, 220, 234; Shaikh Muhammed ul-Nāqūry entertained Ibn Battūta at, 233; women of, 233-4.
- Horses, Cavalry in Guzerat, 141; no breeding of, in Maabar, 168; purchase by Maabar of, 166-7; Wassaf on horses in Maabar, 168*n*; Wassaf on horses trade with Maabar, 166*n*.
- Houang-tche, identified with Kānci, 45, 319.
- Hindusthan, see Yindu.
- Hiuen yon, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 115; in Ceylon, 115.
- Homerites, the people of the; settled on Arab land, 62.
- Hormuz, Friar Odoric on, 192-3.
- Hoshang, rebellion of, 326.
- Houses, Indian and Chinese, Sulaiman (?) on, 126.
- Hsi-lan shan, see Ceylon.
- Huan-ti, Emperor, Greek ambassadors to, 7.
- Hu-ch'a-la, see Guzerat.
- Hu-fa, see Dharmapala.
- Huns, the White, ruled by Gollas, 91.
- Hyrcanian, also called Caspian Sea, 63.
- I
- i*, twenty taels, 136 and *n*.
- Ibn Al-Fakih, Arab writer, on India, 22.
- Ibn Battūta, Moorish traveller, at Adam's Peak, 224, 270-71; at Daulatabad, 226; experience in South India of, 35, 219*f*; Hlal, servant of, 222; Kazi of the Maldives, 224; Major on travels of, 25-6; travels in South India of, 226-285; voyage from Calicut, 221*f*, and 320.
- Ibn Khurdadbeh, Arab writer, 20-21; on Asia's contact with Europe, 21; on route to the East, 119; on Ceylon, 119-20; on the seven castes in India, 121.
- Ibn Sa'id, cited by Abulfeda often, 35.
- Ibrāhīm, captain of the ship, 231, 258^o 268, 276.
- Ibrāhīm, chief merchant in Calicut, 241, 242.
- (I)-lang, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 114; in Ceylon, 114.
- Ily, Ra's Haili promontory of, 214.
- India, Abu Zaid Hassan on, 21-22; Al Biruni (Alberuni) in, 23; Al beruni on, 131-32; betel chewing in, 180; central place of, in the Indian Ocean; 1. coming of Latins predicted in, 198, 204; Chau Ju-kua on, 147-9; compared with China, (Sulaiman), 126-8; cowries as medium of exchange in 148; elephants in, 120; elephant fights in, 82; embassies from Fu-nan to, 12; envoys of, in China, 148; food in China and in, 126; Casper Correa in, 24; houses in, 126; Ibn Al-Fakih, on, 22; Javanese trade in products of, 12-13; John of Montecorvino in, 185; Jordanus in, 83-34; Jordanus on, 188 *f*; King's court in, 148; Malaka's relation with, 309; sailing course of, Marican on, 63; mariners of, not good, 191; Masūdī in, 22; merchants of, in Malaka, 311-12; *pei*-to used as paper in 149; people of, cowards at battle, 148; people of, converted to Christianity by John of Montecorvino, 185; possibility of converting people of, into Christianity, 185; products of, 148; rulers of, selected by Ta-tsin, 147; scope for conversions to Christianity in, 188; the sea of, abounds with fish, 189; navigation in, 180; ships of, frail and uncouth, 190; Siddhānta studied by the people of, 148; Sulaiman's (?) account of, 22, 23; trade with Alexandria of, 4-5; trade with Egypt of, 5-6; trade with Fu-nan (Cambodia) of, 148; trade with Roman Empire, 93; trade with Ta-tsin (Baghdad) of, 148; tributary to Gollas, 91; sold elephants and horses to Sicelida, 91; trade by Greeks with, 7-8; work on, by Al Biruni, 23.
- India, South, Abulfeda on 25 214; Benjamin of Tudela on, 26, 34 35; Chau Ju-kua on, 26-7, 137*f*; China and, 23; coins of Trajan and Hadrian in, 7-8; colonies of Indonesia, 12; embassies to China from, 83.

- 116-117, 150-156; Ibn Battūta in, 35, 226-285; Ma Twan Lin on, 93; Persia and, 9; social customs in, Ma Twan Lin on, 93; Yule on Ibn Battūta's travels in, 219-226.
- India, the Greater, birds in, 207; brazil produced in, 206; capture of elephants in, 212; elephants in, 205-6; insects in, 210-11; Jordanus on, 205-213; matriarchy in, 209; pepper in, 206; sacrifice (self-immolation) in, 209; twelve kings in, 212.
- India, the Less. Aniba, mango, in, 200; beasts in, 199, 202; Belluri (birala), a tree in, 201; Bloqui, a fruit in, 199; Chaqui (jack fruit) in, 199; Christians in, 204; conquest of, by Saracens, 204; fighting in, 202; Jordanus on, 198-205; Nargil (coconut) in, 200-1; Parsis in, 203; people of, 199, 204; precious stones in, 203; sacrifice to Gods in, 204-5; Sati (burning the wife) in, 203; Tari (Palmyra) in, 201; wild beasts of, 201-2; worship of the ox in, 205.
- India, Upper, Christians persecuted in, 189; description of, 183-7; marriage in, 188; people of, 188, 189; pepper in, 187; worship of the ox in, 188.
- Indian alphabet in Campā, 12.
- Indian Ocean, the Abyssinians dominant in, 231; navigation of, 1; folklore of the, Sylvain Lévi on, 1-2; sailing course of (Marcian), 62-3.
- Indian scribe at Persian Court, 9.
- Indigo, manufacture of, in Coilum, 181.
- Indonesia, colonies of, Southern India and, 12.
- Indus Valley, invasion by Hajjaj of, 20.
- I-tsing, Bihar visited by, 15; itineraries of, 103; Nālandā visited by, 15; stay at Sri Vijaya of, 15; on China and India, 108 ff.
- J**
- Jalāl-ud-dīn, Sharif, Governor of Ma'bar, 217; rebellion of, 217-18; suppression of the rebellion of, 213; Jalāl-ud-dīn Omar, Kadīja, daughter of, 224.
- Jālansy, the Sultan of Qandhar, 231; Kāvya, a territory under, 220, 230.
- Jaliat (Schliyat) in Malabar, 214.
- Jamal-ud-dīn, Sultan of Honavar, 234; dress of, meal of, 234-5; expedition to Sandābūr, 217-8; Khadija, wife of, 224; death of, 269.
- Jamaluddin (Cha-ma-li-ting), envoy from Ma'bar at Mongol court, 150, 151.
- Japan, Tamil influence on Katakana alphabet of, 12 n.
- Japanese alphabet, Sanskrit influence on, 19.
- Java (Cho-po), 77; passage to, Fā-hien's account of, 75-6; trade in Indian products by, 12-13.
- Jewellery, Maabar king's, 164.
- Jewish merchants, trade with many lands of, 21.
- Jogis, see Yogis
- John of Marignolli, in Quilon, 34, 286-7; on Ceylon, 287 ff.
- John of Montecorvino, archbishop of Cambuc, 33; conversion of Indian^s by, 185; criticism of Indian life by, 33; in China, 33; in India, 185; Nicholas of Pistoia, companion of, 185; on Indian navigation, 33.
- Jordanus, Friar, letters of, 33-34; Bishop of Quilon, 34; mention on Parsis in India by, 34; on India, 198 ff.
- Junks, biggest of Chinese vessels, 220, 242.
- Jurfattan (Cannanore), Kōyal, the Sultan of, 239; port for pearl trade, 295.
- K**
- Kacch, on the coast of India; muk-tree grows in, 131.
- Kadal-kattī (sea-binders), the shark-charmers, 163 n.
- Kain colan, see Kāyangujam.
- Kakam, a small Chinese ship, 220, 242.
- Kalinga (Ka-leng-ka), Yūan Chwang on, 95-96; Deva temples in, 95; elephants in, 95.
- Kampila (Kanbilah), the siege of, 216; the fall of, 217; Baha-ud-din Gushtasp fled to, 216; death of the Rai, 217, 326.
- Kāfci and China in the second century B.C.: Pan Kou's account of, 44-45, 319; embassies to China from, 16; identified with Houang-Tche (of Pan Kou), 45; capital of Dravida, 102; Dharmapala P'usa's birth place, 103; Narasimha, King of, 117.
- Kandahar, the city of, 220.
- Kanji-kari, inhabited by Jews, 245; tributary to Kūlam, 245.
- Kannalūs, an island in the Maldives, 257.
- Kao-lang-pu, see Colombo.
- Kardafun, voyage from Calicut to, 315.

- Katkah (Skt. Kataka, camp), part of Daulatabad, 228.
- Kawa (Kavy, Kawe), part of Rai Jalansv's territory, 220, 230.
- Kaval (Cail), the city of, Marco Polo on, 179-80; a business centre, 179.
- Kayangulam (Kain Colan), 203.
- Khadijah (Kadija), daughter of Jalal-ud-din 'Umar, Sovereign of the Maldives, 224, 253; Jamal-ud-din, husband of, 224; married Vazir Abd-ul-lah, 269.
- Khordadbeh, ancestor of Ibn-Khurdadbeh, 21.
- Khusru II, Sassanian, correspondence with Pulakesin II, 9.
- Kia Tan, Chinese geographer, land route from Annam to India by, 14.
- Kien Tchen (Kanshin) on Brahmin temples and merchants in Canton, 118.
- Kihkind, mountains of monkeys, 132; king of monkeys at, 132; men changed into monkeys by Rama, 132.
- Ki-lo-Ta-nung, trade with Man-p'i of, 139.
- Kish, island of, Benjamin of Tudela on, 134-5; a considerable market, 134; Jews in, 134.
- Ko-chih, see Cochinchina.
- Koikana (Kung-kan-na-pu-lo) Yuan Chwang on, 104-5.
- Kory, Cape (Coliacum ?), 50 n.
- Kosala, the Southern, Yuan Chwang on, 96-7; Nāgārjuna in, 96.
- Köyal, the King of Jurfattan, 239.
- Kublai Khan, Chinese Emperor, 151-2. Adam's reliques got by 161; embassy of, to Ceylon, 161; envoys from several countries at the court of, 152-3; Great Khan of the Mongols, 27; Kales Dewar and, 28, 29-30; Marco-Polo at the court of, 30-31; his missions to Ma'bar for rare and precious things, 154; relations with Kulasākhara Pāndya, 151-2.
- Kudirimalai, see Hippuri.
- Kukah, see Qūqah.
- Kulan, see Quilon.
- Kulasākhara Pāndya (Kales Dewar), his secret message to Chinese Emperor, 151; Sundar and Tira Pandis, sons of, 29; Kublai Khan and, 28, 29-30, 151-2; Wassaf on, 28-30.
- Ku-li, see Calicut.
- Ku-li-fo, see, Calicut.
- Kunakar, the King of Ceylon's residence, 224.
- Kunar, King of Ceylon, 224; a white elephant owned by, 272; the Sultan of Kunkar, 272.
- Kung-Yü To, Yuan Chwang on, 95; round Chilka lake, 95; Deva Temples in, 95; elephants in, 95.
- Kunkar, precious stones in, gems called *bahramān* in, 272; Kunar, the Sultan of, 272.
- Kyan-zittha, of Prome, 26; conversion of a Cola prince referred to in an inscription of, 133.

L

- Lake the, in Mobar, 193; gold and silver cast into, 196.
- Lar, the Province of, Marco Polo on, 178-9; Brahmins of, 176; merchants of, at Soli (Cojamaqđalam), 178; omens among Abraimān of, 176-7.
- Latins, the coming of, predicted in, India, 193, 204; in Quilon, 288-7.
- Leech, flying (Zola), in Silan, 273-4.
- Lévi, Sylvain, on the geographical cantos in the *Manayana*, 1; on the folklore of the Indian Ocean, 1-2.
- Liquor, prepared from cocoanut tree, 200-1; from Tari (Palmyra), 201.
- Loahc, an intoxicating wine in Tana, 193.
- Lōharant, on the coast of India, 131.
- Lohu-na (Rahula ?), an Indian priest in China, 149; built Buddhist shrine in China, 149.
- Lo-tsa-lo-tsa, see Rajaraja.

M

- Ma'bar (the Coromandel, Ma'bar, Mobar), Abulfeda on, 214-15; astrology in, 170; *a-t'a-pi* presented to Chinese emperor by envoy from, 153; body-guard of the King of, 165 and n; boys in trade in, 170-171; car festival in, 193; Christians in, 172-3; climate of, 170; custom of sacrificing oneself in, 197; devadasis in, 171-2; five kings in, 162; food and habits of the people of, 167; Ghayas-ud-din, the Sultan of, 277 ff; gold and silver cast into a lake in, 196; harem of the king of, 164-5; houses of, rubbed with cow-dung, 167; Ibn Battūta in, 276-7; jewellery of the king of, 164; Jumaluddin of, at Mongol court, 150-51; justice in, 169; Marco Polo on, 161-74; missions at Mongol court from, 151; Odoric on, 195-6; omens in, 170; Pacauta, prayer of the king of, 164; personal habits of the people of, 169; physician from, at Chinese court, 155; purchase of horses by, 166-7; rebellion of Jalal-ud-din, in, 217-18; rule about debts in, 169-70; St. Thomas' body lies in,

- 172, 195; no tailor in, 163; treasure of the king of, 165 and *n*; war in, hair of ox worn by soldiers in, 173-74; Wassaf on, 162*n*; worship of the ox in, 173; Yang Ting-pi at, 150
- Madras, coast of, (Tiên-chu), 147*n*.
- Madura (Modura), Ibn Battuta in; contagious disease in 281; Ghayas-ud-din in, 281.
- Maabar, see Upper India
- Mahal, an island in the Maldives; the Sultānah and her husband dwelt in, 258; Ibn Battūta's plan to leave prevented, 261; Ibn Battūta leaving and his motive therefor, 26-57.
- Maharāṣṭra (Mo-ha-la-ch'a), Yüan Chwang's account of, 105-6; Buddhist monasteries in, 106
- Mahā Vihāra in Ceylon, 73.
- Mahrathas, the kingdom of, 213; inhabitants of Nazarbar, 228; marriage among, 228; people of Daulatabad, 227; women of, 227.
- Ma Huan, Chinese Muslim, voyager of: accompanied Cheng Ho, 38-39, 299*f*.
- Major, R. H., estimate of Marco Polo's travels by, 31-2; on Ibn Battūta's travels, 35-6.
- Malabar (Melibar, Minibar, Molebar, Monembar, Nan-p'i), Abulfeda on, 214; Abu Sarūr (Barcelore) town in, 237; Bakanūr (Fakanūr) in, 237; Budfattan in, 241; Chau-Ju-kua on, 137*f*; coins of, 139; gardens in, 236; Hily (D'Ely), a trade centre in, 238-239; justice in, 233; kings of, 236-7; Mangalore (Manjarūr) in, 238; Marco Polo on, 183-4; matriarchy in, 237; merchants of, 236; Mié-a-mo, capital of, 137; Mussulmans and the people of, 235; Nan-p'i (Nairs) of, 137*f*, 325; Odoric on, 193-4; palanquin in, 236; people of, Chau Ju-kua on, 138; pepper in, 212, 235, 237; how pepper got in, 193-4; pirates of, 183-4; products of, 138, 139, 184; ruler of, 137-8; Han-lin, an officer in; officers of; women guards of the ruler of, 138; Schāliyāt (Jaliat) in, 214; Schinkili in, 214; ships from Manzi at, 184; tributary to Jamāl-ud-din of Hānaur, 234; voyage from Aden to, 314.
- Malacca (Malaka), Indian merchants in, 311-12; relation with India of, 309; voyage from Diu to, 315-16.
- Malakūta (Mo-lo-kū-t'a), - Yüan Chwang on, 103-4; Deva temples in, 103.
- Maldives, the (Dhibat-ul-Mahal, Male-diva), betel given to guests in, 259; conversion to Islam of the people of, 255; cowries as money in, 252-3; dar, the hall of audience in, 257; exports from, 252; food in, 249; houses in, 251; Khadij, the sovereign of, 224, 253; marriage customs in 251; Mussulmans all in, 249, officers in 257; people of, their habits, 257-1, 302; products of, 302-3; Qāzi, an officer in, 257; Shinūrāzah, the Sultan of, 255; slave girls in, 260; story of evil spirits in, 254-5; temporary marriage in, 254; women in, 253; women with one breast in, 268.
- Maldives and Laccadives, Suleiman (?) on, 122.
- Malwa, 219.
- Mannar, the Gulf of, pearl-fishing in, 291-2.
- Mangalore (Mañjarūr), 219, 238; Mussulmans in, 238; Rāma-deva (Rām-dav), the sultan of, 238.
- Mani (pearl), rosaries made of, 68*n*.
- Manifattan, a town of Coromandel, 214.
- Mañjarūr, see Mangalore.
- Mañjuśrī, in China, 18.
- Mankir, capital of Balharā, 124*n*.
- Manzi, ships at Malabar from, 184.
- Marcian of Heraclea, 8; on sailing courses of India, Ceylon, etc., 62*f*.
- Marcus Aurelius, embassy to China, 11.
- Mariners of India, not good 191; birds used by mariners of Ceylon, 49.
- Marriage, in Chu-lien, 143-4, 320; in Upper India, 188; among the Mahrathas, 228; in India and China, Suleiman (?) on, 125-6; temporary, in the Maldives, 254; in the Maldives, 251; in Tāna, 192-3.
- Masolia, region of, 60; (Maisolia), great Andhra market, 60*n*.
- Masūdi, travelled in India and Ceylon, 22.
- Matriarchy, in India the Greater, 209; in the Malabar, 237.
- Ma-Twan-lin, on embassies to China from India, 14, 16, 117, 321-5; on Hoang-tchi, 319; on Tchu-lien, 319-25; on Nan-p'i, 325.
- Megasthenes, on the Pandyan Kingdom, 4; on Ceylon and on India, 41*f*.
- Megisba, lake in Ceylon (?), 50.
- Meros, mountain, in Paṇḍya, 41; sacred to Jupiter, 41.
- Mesanites, the bay of, 62.
- Mié-a-mo, capital of Malabar, 137.
- Mihintale, the sacred hill of, 73*n*;
- Dharmagupta of, 73.
- Ming-yuen, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 113-

- 114; in Ceylon, 113-14; in India 114.
- Mirror, a, from Western India. Chang Yue on, 84-5; at Fu-nan, 84; made of stones, 85.
- Misqāl, a ship-owner in Calicut, 242.
- Mohit, the Ocean, a Turkish work on navigation in Indian Seas, 36, 313; extracts from, 313-8.
- Monastery, Pigeon, rock-cut, in Daksina, Fa-hien on, 66-7; called Pāravata, 66.
- Monembar, see Malabar.
- Mongol court, Jumaluddin at, 150. 151; missions from Ma'bar at, 150; mission from ten kingdoms of the south at, 155; last missions to and from, 156.
- Moā inscription, a Coja prince's conversion to Buddhism referred to in 20, 133.
- Monkeys, black, in Sīlān, 272-3; the king of the, 273; Kihkind, the mountains of, 132.
- Moschus (Musk-deer), Cosmas on, 87; called *kastouri*, 87.
- Moṣupalli (Mutfli), the kingdom of, Marco Polo on, 174-5; cotton manufacture in, 175; diamond mines, and how diamond is got, 174-5; Rudrāmbā, queen of, 174 and n.
- Muhammad ul-Nāqūry, Shaikh, entertained Ibn Battūta at Hanaur, 233.
- Mukl-tree, grows in Kacch, 131.
- Mutūk, the island of, Ibn Battūta in, 208; marvels of, 208.
- Muqbil, the Tilingi, commandant of Kinbāyah, 229; Ibn Battūta entertained by, 230.
- Mussalmans, the, in Ceylon, 20; in Mangalore, 238; in Quilon, 215; majority of population in Fānārīnā, 241; people of Malabar and, 235.
- Muziris, mart of India, 53; mariners of, 1.
- N
- Nāgarjuna P'usa, in Kosala, 93; visited by Arya Deva, 97; death of, 97.
- Nairs, of Cochīn, 304; and see Malabar.
- Nālandā, I-tsing at, 15.
- Nanking, Guṣavarman at, 79
- Nan-ni-hua-lo (in Sindh), Brahmins in, 146.
- Nan-pi, see Malabar.
- Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha), King of Kāñci, embassies from and to China, 16, 116, 117.
- Nargil, see Coconut.
- Nāṣir-ud-din, successor to Ghayas-ud-din, 232 ff.
- Na-wang, envoys at Kublai's court from, 153.
- Nazarbar, a town, inhabited by Māhrathas, 228.
- Neacyndon (Becare), 53.
- Necessaries, the thirteen, of a priest, I-tsing on, 112 n.
- Nicobars, the (Tsui-lan shan), the people of, 299.
- Nitrias, pirates of, 53.
- Nūbehar, Buddhist convent in Balkh; destroyed by Islamic forces, 3.
- Nuns of Song territory, correspondence with Guṣavarman, 81
- Nuṣrat Khan, lieutenant in Tiling, 219; rebellion of, 219; surrender of, to Qujlu Khan, 219.
- O
- Odoric of Pordenone, on Hindu Customs, 33, 192 ff.
- Omens, among the Abraimān of Lar, 176-7; in Maabar, 170.
- Onesikritos, account of Ceylon by, 48.
- Onore, see Hunavar.
- Ordeal, trial by, in Calicut, 307.
- Orissa (Wu-t'u), Yūan Chwang on, 94; Deva temples in, 94.
- Ou-hing, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 115; at Nagapatana, Ceylon, 115.
- Ox, the hair of, worn in war, 174; worship of, by Yogis, 178; worship of, in India the Less, 205; worship of, in Quilon, 194; worship of, in Upper India, 188; worship of, in Maabar, 167, 173.
- Oxus, the, an Indian river, 2.
- Ozene, Ujjeni (Pali), 55, trade centre in Barygaza, 55.
- P
- Pacuta*, prayer of King of Maabar, 164; Bhagavata (?), Acyuta, 164.
- Faethana (mod. Paithan), market town of, 56.
- Palaesimundu, 59-60; derived from *Pālisimanta*, 60 n.
- Palaesimundus, city in Ceylon, 50; also a river, 50.
- Palaiogenoi, inhabitants of Taprobane, 41.
- Pallava Kingdom, Arabs and Tibetans enemies of, 17.
- Palm groves, in Taprobane, 42
- Palmvra (Tari), liquor prepared from, 201.
- Pandaia, daughter of Hercules (Herakles), 41.
- Pandion, King, embassy to Augustus (?), 40; at Madura, 53.

- Pāṇḍya, Megasthenes on, 41.
 Pāṇḍyan (?) embassy to Augustus, (Strabo), 46.
 Pāṇḍyan King, Kulasekhara, secret message to Chinese Emperor from, 151.
 Panjaysvar, city of, Tanjāvūr (?), 131.
 Pan Kou, his Ts'ien han-chou, 44; on China and Kāñci, 4, 44-5.
 Pan-pan (in Malay Peninsula) 33n; Brahmins in, 32.
 Pan Yong, Chinese General, account of India by, 10-11.
 Papyrus, Oxyrhynchus, Kanarese words in ? 6n.
 Pārāvata (Po-lo-mo-lo-ki-li), see Pigeon Monastery, 66, 98.
 Parsis, in India, Jordanus on, 34; disposal of the dead by, 203; in India the Less, 203; worship of fire by, 203.
 Parwan, Yogis of, 219.
 Patlam, see Batthalah.
 Pearls, in Ceylon, 41, 132; in Daulatabad, 227; in the kingdom of Molepoor (Molephatam), 212; produced about Ceylon, 68; treasure of Indian Kings, 129; of Hoang-tchi, 319.
 Pearl-fishing in Maabar, 162-3; in the Gulf of Manar, 291-2.
 Pei-to leaves, writing on, 93; used as paper, 149.
 Pelliot, Paul, on Pan Kou, 4.
 Pepper, cultivation of, in Malabar, 237; how got in Malabar, 193; plantation in Quilon of, 135; produced in Coilum, 180; in Columbum, 286; in India the Greater, 206; in Molebar, 212; in Upper India, 187.
 Perim, see Bairam.
 Perimuda, city of, governed by Soras, 61; fish-eaters of, 61.
 Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, 7.
 Persia, Indian scribe at the court of, 9; South India and, 9.
 Persians in Canton, 20.
 Persian and Roman, at Ceylon, 90-91.
 Persis, the province of, 62.
 Piperi-Pepper, Indian, Cosmas on, 87.
 Pirates, of Malabar, 183-4; of Div, 214.
 Plantain in Adam's Garden, 287-8.
 Pliny, 7; on Ceylon and India, 19 ff.
 Poçlais, the people of, 54. (Cf. Skt. Puṣkalavati), 54n.
 P'o-lo-man, see Brahmin.
 Po-lo-mo-lo-ki-li, a mountain, 97; Bhramaragiti (?), 97n; Sī Parāvata, 97n.
 Polumbum, see Quilon.
 Pong-k'ie-lo (Bengal or Balhara), Chau Ju-kua on, 146 and n.
 Port, the right of the 238.
 Preaching in Ceylon, 71.
 Ptolemy, 7.
 Pulakesin II (Pu-lo-ki-she, Pula, kesi), king of India, Tabari's account of, 9; letter to Khusru from, 9; Paramesvara of the south; 9-10n; not subject to Śīlāditya, 106.
 Punishment of criminals and offenders in Chu-liên, 143.
 Pūrvaśīlā (Fu-p'o-shih-lo), monastery, Yüan Chwang on, 100.
 Puskalavati (Skt.), capital of Gandhara, 54n.
 Pu-ta-lo-ka (Potalaka), mountains, Yüan Chwang on, 104.

Q

- Qalqot, see Calicut.
 Qaly (Galle), 276
 Qandhar (Gandhar), the city of, 230; Jalansy the Sultan of, 231.
 Qatārah, a kind of dagger, 229.
 Qazi, an officer in the Maldives, all sentences to proceed from, 257; Ibn Battūta made, 263.
 Quilon (Caoulem, Chulam, Coilum, Columbum, Kulan, Polumbum), beasts of, 181; Benjamin on, 26, 134-5; brazil Coilum in produced in, 180; Chinese ships frequented, 221; coins of gold and silver in, 140; embalming dead bodies in, 135; envoy at Kublai's court from, 152-3; extreme heat in, 134; Ibn Battūta at, 245; Ibn Battūta on, 222-23; indigo manufacture in, 181; John of Marignolli in, 34 286 87; Kanji-kari, tributary to, 245; the king of, 212; Latins in, 286-7; Marco Polo on, 180 2; men of, fond of archery, 140; Muhammadan merchants in, 245; Mussulmans in, 215; Odoric on, 194-5; people and government of, 134-5; people of, and their customs, 180, 181-182 people of, anoint body with Yü-kin, 140; the pepper country, 214, 215; pepper in 135, 180, 286; products of 140; Sōjis, the merchants of, 245; South Indian port, 25; the Sultan of, a stern ruler, 246; great numbers of Ta-shī in, 140; Tirawari, king of, 223; Tirwari (Tiruvadi; the Sultan of, 245; Wa-ni, king of, 153-4; worship of the ox in, 194; Yang ling-pi at, 150.
 Qūqah (Kukah), the city of, 231-2; Dunkūl, the Sultan of, 232; bazaars at, 220.

R

- Rachia** (Rajah), ambassador in Rome, 50
Rāhula, see Lohu-na.
Rājarāja I (Lo-tsa-lo-tsa), Coja Emperor, 25, 145n, 320n, 324-5.
Rājasimha, see Narasimhavarman II.
Rājendra Coja, Sri, embassy to China from, 26.
Rākṣasas (Rakṣas), Singhala, occupied by, 68n.
Rāma-deva, see Rām-dav.
Rāmāyana, the, geographical cantos of, 1; Sylvain Levi on, 1-2.
Ram-dav (Rama-deva), the sultan of Manjarūr, 238.
Ramsher (Rameshar?), on the coast of India, opposite Sarandib, 131.
Ra's Haili promontory of Illy, 214.
Ra's Komhōri (Cape Comorin), 214.
Requisites, six, of a priest, I-tsing on, 111-12n.
Rhinoceros, Indian animal, Cosmas on, 86; Arou, Harisi (Ethiopian), 86.
Roman and Persian, in Ceylon, 80-91.
Roman Empire, India's contacts with, 3; Roman coins influenced Kuṣān and Kṣtrapa coinage, 55n; trade with India of, 5, 93; musicians and jugglers of Ta-tsin (E. Roman Empire) in Burma, 11n.
Ruby, the biggest, possessed by King of Seilan, 158.
Rudramba, Queen of Moṭupalli, 174.
Rum (Byzance), the King of, Suleiman (?) on, 123.

S

- Sachalitea**, the bay of, 62; (from Arabic *Sahil*, coast), 62n.
Sacred tree, the, in Abhayagiri Vihara, 70; grew from patra slip, 70; Bo tree, 70n.
Sagamoni Borcan, see the Buddha.
Saghar, the city of, description of, 228.
Saha (Skt. Sārhavaha), the people of Daulatabad called, 227.
Samuri (Samari, Zamorin), the Sultan of Calicut, 220, 241.
Sandabūr (Goa), the island of, 232; Jamal-ud-din's expedition to, 247; conquest of, 248.
Sandanes, title of Kuṣān king, not Sandares, 56n.
San-fo-t'si trade with Nan-p'i of, 139; tribute from Ceylon to, 137.
Saṅha Varmi, Ceylonese monk, in China, 13.
Saracen King of Batigala, 213; conquest of India the Less, by the Saracens, 204.
Sarandib, see Ceylon.
Sārirā (Buddha relics), in Ceylon, 153.
Sārhavaha, merchant prince, 71n; also So-po, 71; (Saha), 227.
Sati in India the Less, 203.
Schaliyat (Jaliat), in Malabar, 214.
Schools for boys and girls in Honavar, 220, 234.
Seilan, see Ceylon.
Self-immolation (sacrifice), in Malabar, 167; in India the Greater, 209.
Sendeman, King of Ceylon, Candramas (?), 157.
Seng-kia-la, see Ceylon.
Serendib, see Ceylon.
Seres, (Ceras?), 51n; trace with Taprobanē, 51.
Setubandha, 'bridge of the ocean', 132.
Seyllan, see Ceylon.
Shāfi'i, the doctrine of, practised at Honavar, 233.
Shalyat (mod. Bepore), 218.
Shaijam (Chittagong), 316.
Shinūrazah, the Sultan of the Maldives, converted to Islam, 255.
Ships, three types of, of China, 242-3; return-tickets in, 221; shipping arrangement at Calicut, 221; of India, frail and uncouth, 180.
Shirin, consort of Khusru II, 9.
Siddhanta (Seiṭhan), written on leaves, studied by Indians, 93 and n; 148.
Siediba, see Ceylon.
Siladitya, and China, 16.
Si-lan, see Ceylon.
Sinae, the people of the, 63; Thinae, the metropolis of, 63.
Singaldib, see Ceylon.
Singhale, see Ceylon.
Sirandib, see Ceylon.
Soli (Cola-mandalam), merchants of Lar at, 176.
Solis, the merchants in Quilon, 245.
Song territory, Gunavarman in, 78.
Sopater, Roman, in Ceylon, 89.
Sopben, see Subhanu.
So-po, see Sārhavaha.
Soras (from Sōja--Tam.), 61n; ruler of Perimuda, 61.
Spirits, Fvil, story of, in the Maldives, 254-5.
Sramaṇa, 73
Stones, precious, 84; birds carry method of getting, 85; mirror made of, 85; pool of, 224; beneath the mountain of Sarandib, 275.

- Sabara (Sopara), on the coast of India, 131.
- Subhānu (Sophen), a Hindu traveler in Egypt, 6*n*.
- Sufāla, in Zanj, pearls in, 132.
- Sulciman (?) on India, 22, 122 *ff*.
- Sundara (Suan-tan), Kulasekhara Pandya's enemy, 151.
- Sundar Pandi, legitimate son of Kales Devar, 29; driven away by brother Tira Pandi, 29-30.
- Sūrpāraka, mariners of, 1.
- Susiana, the province of, 62.
- Suvarna-bhūmi (Golden Chersonese), 63.
- Syagrus, the mountain of, 62; also Saukar, Arabic tribe-name, 62*n*.
- Sylen, see Ceylon.
- T**
- Tabari, Persian historian, account of Pulakesi by, 9.
- Tagara (Ter ?), market-town of, 58.
- Taim, Hilāl, Governor of, 258.
- Takū-pā, Tamil inscription of, 19.
- Tamralipti, modern Tam-look, 67*n*; Fā-hien on Ceylon and, 67; Ta-tch'eng-teng at, 115.
- Tana, on the coast of India, 131; beasts in, 192; Loahc, an intoxicating wine at, 193; marriage customs in, 192-3; Odoric on, 192-3.
- Tao-lin, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 115, in South India, 115.
- Taprobane (e), Sumatra (?), 50*n*; see Ceylon.
- Tarb abad (abode of rejoicing), the bazaar of singers in Daulatabad, 227-8.
- Ta-ich'eng-teng, pilgrim, I-tsing on, 114-15; at Dvaravati, 114-15; at Yamralipti, 115.
- Tatiri (dirham), Ballahra's money, 123.
- Ta-t'sin, see Roman Empire.
- Taurelaphos, animal Indian, Ethiopian (Cosmas on), 88; (Bull-stag, ox-deer), 88.
- Tawalleshar, on the coast of India, 131.
- Taxation, heavy in Chu-lián, 114.
- Tche-houan, temple (Jetavana Vihara), 80.
- Telenc, kingdom of, products of, 212.
- Tembul (betel), chewing of, in Cail, 180; see also Betel.
- Thinae, metropolis of the Sinae, 63.
- Thomas, Saint, body of, lies in Maabar, 172, 195; called *Avarian* (Holy man) by Saracens, 172; miracles done by, 172-3; slain by Govia, 168; story of the death of, 173; shot by mistake by a Govi, 173.
- Tibetans (Thufan) and China, 16, 17. *T'ien-chu*, see India.
- Tiling, the country of, Badrakot, the capital of, 218; pestilence to Emperor's army at, 218-19; the rebellion of the Sultan's lieutenant in, 219; of Malik Hoshang, 326.
- Tira Pandi, son of Kales Dewar, 29, 30; drives Sundar Pandi and becomes king, 30.
- Tirwari (Tiruvadi) the Sultan of Quilon, 245; a stern ruler, 223, 245, 246.
- Tiz, capital of Makran, coast of India begins with, 131.
- Tortoises, shells of, for house roofs, 42.
- Trajan, coins of, in South India, 7-8.
- Tughlaq, Sultan, Baha-ud-din Ghus-tasp's rebellion against, 216.
- Tūran, Gulf of, between Tiz and Al-daibal, 131.
- Turtles, shells of, used for roofs, 52.
- Twine (coir) from cocconut, 201.
- U**
- Uigur-I-hei-mi-shih, his attempts to get the Buddha relics unsuccessful, 153-5.
- Ummalnara on the coast of India, 131.
- Urāiyūr, see Argaru.
- Uttara, Arhat, discussion with Deva P'usa, 102 and *n*.
- V**
- Vaiśya elders in Ceylon, 71.
- Vajrabodhi, monk, 17; brought rain by prayer, 18; in Ceylon and China, 18.
- Vallabha Calukya and China, 16.
- Vallabha, see Ballahrā,
- Vasudeva (Basadav), Sultan of Fakā-nūr, 236.
- Vazīr, the Grand, of Mahal; Ibn Battuta's relations with, 258 *ff*.
- Vedas, recited by Brahmins, 113.
- Velaikkārar, bodyguard of king of Maabar, 165*n*, 129*n*.
- W**
- Wang-ta-yūan, Chinese merchant wrote *Tao-i-chi-lia*, 36-7, 280 *ff*.
- Wa-ni, King of Kūlam, title 'Fuma' conferred by Chinese Emperor on, 153-4.
- War, in Maabar, hair of ox worn by soldiers in, 173-174; in Tchu-lien, 321.

- Waṅga Gamini, see Abhayagiri Vihara.
 W.n., Chinese Emperor, invited Guṇavarman, 77; Guṇavarman's advice to, 78.
 Worship, Indian and Chinese forms of, 120-7.
 Wu-t'u, see Orissa.

Y

- Yang Ting-pi, Chinese envoy at Ma'bar, 150; at Quilon (Kūlam), 150; expeditions of, 150-5.
 Yin-du (Hindusthan), account of, 27-28 n.
 Yogis (Chokis, Chughis, Jogis), in Coch n., 305; in Parwan, 219; Ibn Battūta's encounter with, 220, 232; ox worshipped by, 178; long-lived yogis of Lar, 177-9.

- Yüan Chwang, in Bactriana, 3; travels in India of 14-15, 94 ff.
 Yü-kin (turmeric), people of Quilon anoint body with, 140.
 Yunnan, king of alliance with China of, 17

Z

- Zamorin (Samari), the king of Calicut, 220, 241.
 Zanj, country of, Sufala in, 132.
 Zao (Zū), a middle-sized Chinese ship, 220, 242.
 Zarmanochegas, an Indian from Bargaosa, 47.
 Zeitun (Ch'uan-chou), temple in the city of; foot-print on Adam's Peak removed to, 155 n.
 Zibat-ul-Mahal (Maldives) the, 249.
 Zolu, flying leech in Silan, 273-4.