GLOSSARY

Bahar. An Indian weight which varied widely in different regions, and according to the different commodities for which it was used. In the Far East, the Portuguese often reckoned the bahar as equal to 3 piculs, or 400 lbs. avoirdupois. The official VOC, Uytrekening van de goude en siliere munts waardye, inhout der maten en swarte der gewigten in de respective gewesten van Indiëen (Middelburg, 1691), gives the weight of the bahar as 5 piculs in Timor and Solor, 3 piculs in Bima (Sumbawa), and 100 “Catty Banda”, at Macassar, one “catty Banda” being equal to 5½ Dutch (? Amsterdam) lbs. Quarles Brown in his letter printed in Appendix XVII supra, reckons the bahar at 500 lbs. at Macassar.

Benjamin, Benzoin. Defined by Hobson-Jobson as “a kind of incense, derived from the resin of the Styrax benzoin, Dryander, in Sumatra, and from an undetermined species in Siam”. Cf. also Dalgado, Glossário Luso-Asiático, Vol. I, pp. 112—113.

Bulay. Dr. J. Noorduyn informs me that this is a 17th-century rendering of the Macassarese word bulaeng, which means gold, and which word was also used for denoting the currency and the weight usually known as mas. The gold bulay, or gold mas, was sub-divided into 4 smaller units called coepang or cupang, as is indicated in the Uytrekening of 1691, and in Vieira’s letter of 2 July 1662 (Appendix XI supra).

Carraim, Carain, Caraing etc., Portuguese forms of Karaéng, prince.

China-root, a once famous drug, known as radix Chinae and Tuber Chinae, being the tuber of various species of Smilax, and believed to be a remedy for many diseases, including gout and syphillis. Cf. the quotations in Hobson-Jobson, and in Glossário Luso-Asiático (under pau da China). Also known as China-wood.

Cupões. One cupão was a quarter of the gold mas, and worth 7½ stuiver at Macassar according to the Uytrekening of 1691.

Datu(s). Also written dató(s); village headman or chief in Timor.

Fluit. Called by the English “flute” or “fly-boat”, this was a lightly manned and gunned cargo-vessel with a large carrying capacity, mass-produced by the Dutch in the 17th century in a way which anticipated the Liberty ships of World War II.

Larantuqueiros. Term applied not merely to the inhabitants of Larantuca, but to the Christianised natives of Eastern Flores and Solor, later termed Toepassen and “Black Portuguese”. Though sometimes at odds with the “white Portuguese” from Goa and Macao, they were the backbone of the Portuguese presence in the Lesser Sunda Islands and mainly responsible for the victories against the Dutch in Timor.

Mas, Maes, Maas etc., a small gold coin current in Indonesia, whose value varied widely. The Uytrekening of 1691 values the Macassar maes at ½ rixdollar or 30 stuivers, and the Bima maes at 60 stuivers. Tavernier (or his English editor) equated the former at one shilling and nine pence in the 1684 edition of his Travels.

Nawáb (Nabob). A viceroy or governor of a province under the Mughal government. Here applied to Mir Jumla, first in Golconda and then in Bengal.

Pães de ouro. Chinese gold ingots used as bullion currency in the Far East and South-East Asia, described as follows by Gabriel de Magalhães S.J., A New History of China (London, 1688), pp. 136—37: “The pieces of gold and silver are not coined, but cast into ingots in the form of a small boat, which at Macao are called pães or loaves of gold and silver. Both the one and the other are of different value. The loaves of gold are of the value of one, two, ten, and twenty cruzados. Those of silver, of the value of half a cruzado, one cruzado, ten, twenty, fifty, and sometimes a 100, and 500 cruzados. These they cut with steel scissors, which the people carry about with them for that purpose, and divide them into pieces, bigger or lesser, according to the value of the purchased commodity; and they are weighed in a balance which is called dachem”. The Dutch called these ingots schuitgout or schuittsilver, and the English “shoes” or “boats”.
**Pagoda (Pagode).** European denomination of an Indian gold coin, called by various names in the kingdoms of the Deccan (*hon, hūn, varāha* etc.), and which varied in value according to time and place of issue. The Dutch, English, and French East-India Companies at one time or another struck their own *pagodas* on the Coromandel Coast; but the Portuguese never did so, and they often equated the *pagoda* with their own *pardau de ouro* *São Tomé* of 360 reis.

**Pardau (pardão).** This term was usually applied to the gold *pardau* *São Tomé* worth 360 reis, and its Indian equivalents.

**Pataca.** Indo-Portuguese money of account, usually equated with the rial-of-eight, the *cruzado*, or the gold *São Tomé* with a nominal value of 360 reis.


**Pataxo.** Usually termed "pinnace" or "pink" by contemporary English writers. A merchantman of anything from 100 to 500 tons, lightly gunned or unarmed.

**Pra(h)u (Prow, Proa, etc.).** Indonesian term for any sailing or rowing vessel, but usually applied by Europeans to the indigenous vessels of South-East Asia.

**Rial-of-eight.** The commonest and most popular silver coin in the Far Eastern seaborne trade after the establishment of the Spaniards in the Philippines. At this period, the factors of the EIC usually converted it at five shillings.

**Saletty.** Here used for a swift Macassar dispatch-boat. Cf. p. 42 note 87 above, for suggested derivation of this word.

**Shahbandar.** "King of the Haven" in Persian. Usually translated as "harbour-master", or "captain of the port", this official often had more far-reaching functions, being vested with judicial as well as administrative authority over foreign traders.

**Spiauter (spelter).** An old Dutch word for zinc.
Tael of silver. Chinese money of account, and trade name for the “ounce of silver” or liang. The silver tael was often equated with the Portuguese cruzado of 400 reis, and, more roughly, with the rial-of-eight.

Tambaca. An alloy of copper and zinc. The word was sometimes used for copper and bronze.

Tutenague. Sometimes used as a term for zinc, but more often for an alloy of copper and zinc, like Tambaca.

Xerafim. An Indo-Portuguese silver coin nominally worth 5 tangas or 300 reis, but in weight and consequently in intrinsic value, it varied greatly.