THE KINGDOMS TO THE SOUTH OF CALICUT

The names written below are of certain kingdoms which are on the coast south of Calicut and the products each possesses, and what they are worth; all of which I learned with much certainty from a man who spoke our language, and had came to these parts from Alexandria thirty years ago.1

First Calicut, where we were: all the merchandise written below comes here; and therefore the ships from Mecca bring their cargoes to this city of Calicut.

This king, who is called Samorin, can muster 100,000 fighting men, including auxiliaries, since his jurisdiction possesses very few people.

These are the articles of merchandise that the ships of Mecca carry here, and their value throughout India:

Copper, a farazala [faraçola]2 (of nearly 30 arrateis) is worth 50 fanões, or 3 cruzados.
Bezoar stone3 is worth its weight in silver
Knives, worth one fanão each
Rosewater, worth 50 fanões per farazala

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1 There is little doubt that the source for this information was Gaspar da Gama who sailed back to Portugal aboard the São Gabriel and would have had plenty of opportunity to discuss these matters with the author of the Journal.

2 A unit of weight, the faraçola was made up of from 25–30 arrateis (arrátel = 1 lb. or 453 g). Therefore the faraçola varied from 10–14 kg depending on the time and place. In ca. 1554, at Mozambique it was equivalent to 25 arrateis, 1 ounce or 11.5 kg, and at Sofala to 27 arrateis or 12.4 kg. According to Ravenstein, Journal, p. 96 n. 2, at Calicut the faraçola was equal to 10.4 kg. This, however, would make it equal to ca. 23 arrateis, while the author clearly wrote that it was equal to nearly thirty arrateis, which would make it equivalent to 13.7 kg.

3 This calculus or stone produced mostly in ruminant animals was highly prized as an antidote to various types of poisons. In Arabic badesar = antidote and in Persian pâdzahr can be literally translated as “protection against poison.” As Ravenstein, Journal pointed out, pp. 96–97 n. 3, in Malayalam it is known as Gôrôchanam “out, of the cow’s brain.”
Alum,\textsuperscript{4} worth 50 \textit{fanões} per \textit{farazala}
Chamalote [Camlot],\textsuperscript{5} worth 7 \textit{cruzados} per piece
Red Cloth, worth 2 \textit{cruzados} per \textit{pequi},\textsuperscript{6} of 3 spans (\textit{palmos})
Quicksilver, worth 10 \textit{cruzados} per \textit{farazala}

Another Kingdom

Quorongolez\textsuperscript{7} is a Christian country, with a Christian king; it lies 3 days from Calicut by sea, with a fair wind. This king can muster 40,000 fighting men. There is much pepper here, a \textit{farazala} being worth 9 \textit{fanões} while in Calicut it is worth 14.

Another Kingdom

Coleu,\textsuperscript{8} is Christian, and lies 10 days from Calecut by sea, with a fair wind. This king can muster 10,000 men. In this country there is much cotton cloth, but little pepper.

Another Kingdom

Cael,\textsuperscript{9} which has a Moorish king, but Christian people. It lies 10 days by sea from Calicut. This king is able to muster 4000 fighting men and 100 war elephants. There are many pearls here.

Another Kingdom

Chomandarla\textsuperscript{10} is Christian with a Christian king. He can muster 100,000 men. There is much lac here, with 2 \textit{farazalas} worth a \textit{cruzado}, it also produces much cotton cloth.

\textsuperscript{4} A mordant used for dye fixing in wools and other fabrics.
\textsuperscript{5} Camel hair fabric.
\textsuperscript{6} The pik was the Levantine equivalent to the Italian \textit{braccio} (arm’s length) equal to between 27 and 28 inches. The “palm” or span was the length of a man’s hand from the wrist to the tip of the middle finger or about 9 inches.
\textsuperscript{7} Cranganor or Kodungallur along the Kerala coast of India at the mouth of the Periyar River.
\textsuperscript{8} Quilon or Kollum in southern Kerala.
\textsuperscript{9} Kayalpatnam on the western coast of the gulf of Manar.
\textsuperscript{10} The Coromandel coast, extending from Point Calimere (Kodikkarai) near the delta of the Kaveri River north to the mouth of the Krishna River.