

GLOSSARY

Agila Wood: another name for Agalloch - the fragrant resinous heartwood of *Aquilaria*.

Alum: a whitish transparent mineral salt, crystallizing in octahedrons, very astringent, used in dying, tawing skins, and medicine, also for sizing paper, and making materials fireproof; chemically a double sulphate of aluminium and potassium.

Apoplexy: a malady very sudden in its attack, which arrests more or less completely the powers of sense and motion; it is usually caused by an effusion of blood or serum in the brain, and preceded by giddiness, partial loss of muscular power etc.

Arrack: a name applied in Eastern countries to any spiritous liquor of native manufacture; especially that distilled from the fermented sap of the coco-palm, or from rice and sugar, fermented with the coco-nut juice.

Baftas: (prob. Persian—baft – wrought, woven) a kind of coarse and cheap (generally cotton) fabric.

Bahar: a measure of weight used in parts of India and China, varying in value from 223 to 625 lbs.

Benjamin: see Gum benzoin.

Bort (also Boart): The fragments removed from diamonds in cutting, when too small for jewellery; also diamonds of too coarse a quality for jewellery: used to make diamond powder (a substance produced by crushing or grinding diamonds).

Bulse: a package of Diamonds or gold-dust.

Butt: a cask for wine or ale, of capacity varying from 108 to 140 gallons.

Cambaye (f. Cambay - a sea port of India): a kind of coarse chequered cotton cloth made in India.

Carat: measure of weight used for diamonds and other precious stones. Originally 1/144 of an ounce, or 3 1/3 grains, though varying slightly with time and place. It is divided into 4 carat grains.

Carboy: a corruption of the Persian word *qarâbah* or *qarrâbah*. It is a large flagon.

Catty: a weight used in China and the Eastern Archipelago, equal to 16 taels, i.e. $1\frac{1}{3}$ lb. avoirdupois, or 625 grammes.

Chest: a large box or case in which certain commodities as tea, sugar etc, are packed for transport; hence used as a variable measure for quantity of such goods.

Chintz: a name for the painted or stained calicoes imported from India; now a name for cotton cloths fast-printed with designs of flowers, etc., in a number of colours, generally not less than five, and usually glazed.

Coffee Bale: Two hundred eighty pounds net weight. [E/3/101 Our Chief & Council of Mocha, London 17 October 1722 Letter to Mocha Para 30]

Crank: [Naut.] liable to lean over or capsize : said of a ship when she is built too deep or too narrow, or has not sufficient ballast to carry full sail.

Cypress Tree: a well-known coniferous tree; a native of Persia and the Levant, extensively cultivated in Western Asia and Southern Europe, with hard durable wood and dense dark foliage.

Diamonds: Three different cuts of diamonds: 1) Table: upper horizontal surface of a table diamond or brilliant. 2) Brilliant: Has horizontal faces on the upper and under sides, called the *table* and the *collet* respectively, which are surrounded and united by facets. 3) Rose: the upper surface of the rose rises into a dome and is covered with facets.

Doria: a kind of striped Indian muslin.

Gallinal: (Galingale) the aromatic root of certain East Indian plants of the genera *Alpinia* and *Kaempferia*, formerly much used in medicine and cookery.

Genhams: Marathas

Gallivat: a large boat used in the Eastern seas, having a triangular sail as well as oars.

Goa Stone: a fever medicine at one time greatly in vogue, consisting of various drugs made up in the form of a hard ball, from which a portion was scraped as required.

Grab: a large coasting vessel, drawing very little water, built with a prow and usually two masted, used in the East.

Gravills: an aggregation of urinary crystals.

Gum Benzoin: a dry and brittle resinous substance, with a fragrant odour and slightly

aromatic taste, obtained from the *Styrax benzoin*, a tree of Sumatra, Java etc. It is used in the preparation of benzoic acid, in medicine and extensively in perfumery.

Hogshead: A large cask for liquids, etc., one of a definite capacity, which varied for different liquids, for example the London hogshead of beer contained 54 gallons, that of ale 48 gallons. In 1707, 2 hogsheads made a Butt.

Hoop ring: a ring consisting of a plain band; also a finger-ring encircled with stones in a cut-down setting

Kincob: a rich Indian stuff, embroidered with gold or silver.

Laissez faire: A phrase expressive of the principle that government should not interfere with the action of individuals especially in industrial affairs and in trade; the maxim of French free trade economists of the eighteenth century.

Malversation: corrupt behaviour in an office, commission, employment, of position of Trust

Mangelin: a weight formerly used in Southern India and Ceylon for weighing precious stones, varying, apparently according to the district, from half a carat to two carats.

Maund: a denomination of weight current in India and Western Asia, varying greatly in value according to locality. In India the past and present local values of the maund range from under 19lbs. to over 163 lbs. avoirdupois.

Miskal: an Arabian measure of weight, equivalent to 24 carats or 1 ½ dirhems; the corresponding English weight is given variously for different countries at 71 to 74 grains troy.

Mulmull: a thin variety of muslin.

Pagoda: a gold coin worth about seven or eight shillings (a principal unit of exchange on the Coromandel Coast).

Paternalism: the principle and practice of paternal administration; government as by a father, the claim or attempt to supply the needs or to regulate the life of a nation or community in the same way as a father does those of his children.

Patronage: The action of a patron in giving influential support, favour, encouragement or countenance, to a person, institution, work, art etc., originally implying the action of a superior.

Pattamar: an Indian advise-boat or dispatch-boat; a lateen-rigged sailing-vessel, with one,

two, or three masts, used on the west coast of India.

Picul: a measure of weight used in China and the East generally, equal to 100 catties, i.e. about 133 $\frac{1}{3}$ lbs avoirdupois.

Pintado: a kind of Eastern cotton cloth painted or printed in colours: chintz.

Pipe: a large cask, of more or less definite capacity (equivalent to half a tun or two hogheads, or four barrels) i.e. usually containing 105 imperial gallons (= 126 old wine-gallons) but varying for different commodities, and still for different kinds of wine. Sometimes identified with Butt.

Potwalloper or Potwaller: lit. = pot-boiler, the boiler of a pot: the term applied in some English boroughs, before the Reform Act of 1832, to a man qualified for a parliamentary vote as a householder (i.e. tenant of a house or distinct part of one) as distinguished from one who was merely a member or inmate of a householder's family; the test of which was his having a separate fire-place, on which his own pot was boiled or food cooked for himself and his family. According to 18th c statements, the test was at times abused by persons not householders, who in anticipation of an election and of receiving money for their vote, boiled a pot in the presence of witnesses on an improvised fire-place in the open air within the borough, and thus passed as potwallers.

Pucca: (Pucka) applied to the larger of two weights of the same name: Of full weight, full, good.

Puncheon [also Puntion]: a large cask for liquids, fish etc., one of a definite capacity, varying for differing liquids and commodities. As a liquid measure it varied from 72 (beer) to 120 (whisky) gallons.

Quinsy: an inflammation of the throat especially an abscess in the region around the tonsils.

Respondentia: A loan upon the cargo of a vessel, to be repaid (with maritime interest) only if the goods arrived safely at their destination – a form of insurance.

Robin (or Robbin): Used in commerce – a robbin of rice in Malabar (1858) weighed about 84lbs.

Rupee: the monetary unit of India, valued at approximately 2s 6d during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; a gold rupee was properly called a Mohur.

Ruttee (or Rati): a small Indian weight (about 1.75grs Troy) used for weighing gems. (1678: a Rati is seven eighths of a carat or 3 grains and a half; 1753: eighty-eight carats make an hundred ruttees)

Seer: a denomination of weight varying in different parts of India from over 3lb. to 8 ounces. In districts under British rule it is officially equal to a kilogramme, or 2.2lb avoirdupois.

Seraphin [also Xeraphin]: a silver coin, formerly current in India worth about 1s 5d.

Shahi: a small silver coin of Persia varying between 4d and 10d.

Soosy: a mixed striped fabric of silk and cotton from India.

Spanish Dollar: a coin worth about 4s 2d.

Supracargo (or supercargo): an officer in a merchant ship managing sales etc of cargo.

Shyrash: (Shiraz) the designation of a wine made in the district of the former capital of Persia.

Tale: By tale: as determined by counting individual objects or articles; by number, as distinguished from: by weight, by measure.

Toman: a Persian gold coin, nominally worth 10 silver krans or 10000 dinars, formerly a Money of account, which was constantly depreciated from £3 13s (or more) c.1600, to 7s 1d by 1912.

Toothinaigue: Zinc and copper alloy.

Troy: the standard system of weights used for the precious metals and precious stones. (The pound Troy contains 5760 grains and is divided into twelve ounces.)

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