

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

A NOTE ON SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

The bibliography of this work is divided in two sections namely the primary archival sources and printed sources or documentation in Portuguese, which have hardly been used by anybody to reconstruct the authentic history of Bassein in any of the Indian languages. These printed sources are given in the second part of this essay. We have already seen the historical value of these printed sources, namely documentation in the introductory chapter.

The secondary sources include the travel accounts of many Portuguese and non-Portuguese European travellers, the books written by many foreign and Indian authors in Portuguese, English and Marathi relating directly or indirectly to the history of Bassein under the Portuguese.

So here first of all, we will see the archival sources available in different archives and libraries especially of Lisbon, Rome, Paris, London and Goa. These manuscripts include a large number of royal instructions, orders, correspondence and reports of the Portuguese officers, contemporary chroniclers and missionaries who were actively involved in day-to-day life of the people of Bassein.

A) ARCHIVAL SOURCES

The documents available in the following archives and libraries have been consulted for the completion of this work.

- 1) Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisbon.
- 2) Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa.
- 3) Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon.
- 4) Arquivo Historico Ultramarino, Lisbon.
- 5) British Museum and British Library, London.
- 6) Bibliothèque National de Paris.
- 7) Archivum Romanum Societatis Jesu, Rome.
- 8) Goa Historical Archives, Panaji, Goa.

1) ARQUIVO NACIONAL DA TORRE DO TOMBO, LISBON

As far as the archival material is concerned ANTT was the most important archives which provided original sources in the form of manuscripts for the present study. The following are the main collections from this archives consulted for this purpose.

a) CORPO CHRONOLOGICO

It is considered one of the most important series of manuscripts available in this archives. It was organized in the present form by Manoel de Maya, the chief archivist and his secretary Euzebio Manoel da Silva in 1964.¹ It contains 82,902 documents which are grouped into three parts. Every part is sub-divided into maços or bundles and every bundle contains a number of documents serially enumerated.

These documents are the papers of the Secretarias de Estado (Secretariate of State), most of them being those papers which were entrusted to Damiao de Goes by Pedro Alcacova Carneiro, the Secretary of State in 1569.²

1. K.S. Mathew, op.cit., p.292.

2. Antonio Baião. Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, (Lisbon, 1929), p. 7.

Though the documents in this series are of the period between 1161 and 1699, most of them pertain to the 16th century. They are of a diverse nature like receipts, letters of viceroys and governors, most important documents regarding the history of Portuguese Bassein. There are some letters written from Bassein to the Portuguese kings. Most important among them are the letters of Simão Botelho, the Comptroller of Revenue.³ In a letter dated 24th Dec. 1548⁴ he writes to the King about the conditions of the Bassein fort, its flourishing land and cultivation, trade and commerce, its agricultural and natural products etc.. It is one of the most important documents about Bassein.

But though the title suggests that the manuscripts are bound chronologically, they are not in certain cases at least according to the event, with special reference to three parts. When the documents covering the 17th century are grouped in Part I, some of the documents of the earlier period and events are grouped in Part II and III. I will cite only two examples of this kind. The document about the appointment of Nuno da Cunha as governor which was made in 1527 is grouped in Part II, Maço 154 D.91. The sanction of Antonio Pessoa's property which was given by D; João de Castro after the famous second seige of Diu in 1546 is grouped in Part III, maco, 17 D.8.

b) COLLECCÃO DE SÃO VICENTE

There are twenty-six volumes of this collection which refer to the reign of João III. Some of them are useful for the study of Portuguese Bassein. The Volume No. 15 provides valuable

3. ANTT. CC Part I. Tomo, Maço 79 D.134; Maço 81.D.124 and Maço 81, D-125. These letters are written from Bassein.

4. ANTT. CC. Part I. Tomo III, Maço 81, D.125.

information including Salsette, Bombay, Mahim etc.⁵ It gives the information about an island in North Bassein which is known as Ilhas das vacas or Cows Island by the Portuguese.⁶ The vol.15 gives information about the hospital of Bassein city.

c) COLLECCÃO SÃO LOURENÇO

This is another important collection in ANTT which contains valuable manuscripts relating to the history of Portuguese Bassein. It contains mostly the letters of important personalities like João de Castro, Alvaro de Castro, João de Anthaide, Jermino de Menezes, Sebastião Coelho who were directly or indirectly connected with Portuguese Bassein.⁸ These letters are written between 1547 - 1548.

d) CARTAS MISSIVAS

This collection of manuscripts belongs to the sixteenth century. It contains the royal orders, petitions, letters and other documents of different types which are grouped into four bundles. The first bundle has 492 documents; the second 366; third 458 and the fourth 466. Though the documents do not refer directly to Basséin, they are helpful to reconstruct its history in general terms. They refer to the captains and governors⁹ and the abuses of justice in India.¹⁰

e) CARTAS DOS VICE-REIS DA INDIA

It is a collection of manuscripts referring to the 16th

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5. Mss. ANTT. Collecção São Vicente, Vol. 15, Titulo III, fls. 214, 216, 217, 220.
 6. Ibid. fl. 221.
 7. Mss. ANTT Collecção São Vicente 19 fl. 150.
 8. Mss. ANTT Collecção São Laurenço, Vol. 2, fl. 4, 14.16; Vol 3, Fl.64.
 9. Mss. ANTT Cartas Missivas, Maço 2. D.5, D.63; Maço 4 D.260.
 10. Ibid, Maço 4, D. 236.

century correspondence between the people, either Portuguese officials or private persons in India on the one hand, and the king or his officers in Portugal on the other. They are of a diversified nature. There is a letter written from Bassein by Ruy Gomes de Azvedo and D. João III,¹¹ asking for certain concessions, a letter of D. João de Menezes dated 8th January 1557 to D. João III, regarding the general condition of Bassein, its fort officials etc.,¹² and regarding other parts of India.¹³

f) 'CHANCELLARIAS' OF KING JOÃO III, D. SEBASTIÃO AND HENRIQUE, D. PHILIP I, II AND III - (1521 - 1640)

This is a huge collection of diversified documents which are parchments. They are letters of acquittances, doações, pardons, legitimations and privileges. They cover the period from 1521 - 1557 (D. João III) D. Sebastiao, (1557-1578), D. Henrique (1578 - 1580) D. Philip I, (II of Spain) (1580-1598) D. Philip II (1598 - 1621) and Philip III (1621-1640).

2. BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE LISBOA

Though this institution is essentially the National Library, it has a separate section containing many important documents in collection like, Secção Reservados divided into Fundo Geral and Collecção Pombalina etc. They are very important for the history of Portuguese Bassein.

The Fundo Geral collection contains important documents like Relação da India prepared by Pedro Barreto de Resende.¹⁴

11. Cartas dos, vice-reis da India, No. 24.

12. Cartas dos, vice-reis da India, No. 28.

13. Ibid No. 172, 180.

14. Mss. BNL Fundo Geral, Cod. 139-140.

It is also numbered in collecção Illuminidos with the same codice Nos. 139-140. It contains a description of the fort of Bassein¹⁵ and Agaçaim in North Bassein.¹⁶

It also contains another important document called Roteiro da Costa do Norte de Goa ate Dio¹⁷ prepared by Governor D. João de Castro in 1538-39. He gives the description of Bassein in detail.¹⁸ It has another document giving information about Misericordia of Bassein.¹⁹

This collection also contains one more document called Noticias do Arcebispado de Goa by Henrique Bravo de Moraes²⁰ in which he gives the details of Bassein, its people and production.

One of the most important documents in the Secção Reservados is Antonio Bocarro's Livro das Plantas²¹..., in which he gives the details of all the forts, cities and provinces of the Portuguese Estado da India. In these documents he gives the details of Bassein²² and Agashi in North Bassein.²³

3. BIBLIOTECA DA AJUDA, LISBON

This Library on the outskirts of Lisbon contains several documents in its manuscript section which refer to Portuguese India in general. The vol.51 is important for the history of

15. Mss. BNL., Fondo Geral, Cod. 139-140.

16. Ibid. fls. 170v to 109v.

17. BNL, Cod. 8033.

18. Ibid., fls. 16-20 and 25 to 24v.

19. Mss. BNL, op.cit., Cod. 1784, fl. 101-v 102.

20. Mss. BNL, op.cit., Cod. 176.

21. Ibid. fls. 35, 35v, 36, and 42.

22. Mss. BNL, Secção Reservados, Cod. 11057, fls. 53 to 57v.

23. Ibid., fls. 49v to 50v.

of Portuguese Bassein. It gives the information regarding an important edifice in the fort of Bassein called Church of St. Antonio of the Franciscans,²⁴ the Bassein fort in general.²⁵ There are several documents in this volume (51) which provides information about Bassein in general.²⁶ The volume No.44 and 50 are also of some importance with reference to Bassein.²⁷

4. ARQUIVO HISTORICO ULTRAMARINO, LISBON

This archives contains the documents of the Portuguese overseas activities mainly during the seventeenth century but it also contains some sixteenth century documents. The manuscripts are preserved in the metal boxes (caixas) pertaining to different nations. There is a big section on India known as Caixas da India. Each document is kept separately and sometimes pencil marks mention the places in India to which it refers like Baçaim, Goa, Cochim etc..

There are several of these documents which refer to the trade and commerce of Bassein. They start with Caixa 2 dated from 1612.²⁸ The Caixa 3 refers to the documents pertaining to the years 1615,²⁹ Caixa 5 to the year 1618,³⁰ Caixa 6 to 1621-1623,³¹ Caixa

24. Mss. Biblioteca da Ajuda No. 51-II - 20, fls. 183-185.

25. Ibid. 51-VII - 30, fls. 1 to 3 and 92 to 104 and also 51 VII-32, fls. 13 to 15.

26. Mss. Biblioteca da Ajuda, 51 VII-30, fl.1, 2v, 116, 119v, 51 VIII-6, fls. 104v., 160, 160v, 202v, 203v, 249, 249v.

27. Ibid., 44 - XIV - 9, fls.200 to 203 and fls.233v. 50v - 33. fls. 33v, 34, 34v and 50v - 34 fls. 172, 176, 176v, 193v.

28. Mss. AHU, Papeis Ovulos or Caixas da India, (Caixa, 2 D, 54, 93, 141, 119, 110).

29. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 3 No. 10, 15, 69, 115, 117, 132.

30. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 5 No. 9, 21, 1172.

31. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 6 No. 125, 146.

7 to 1622-1623,³² Caixa 8 to 1624-25,⁶ Caixa 9 to 1626,⁷ Caixa 10 to 1632-34⁸ Caixa 11 to 1635⁹ Caixa 12 to 1637¹⁰ and Caixa 13 to 1638.¹¹

5. BRITISH MUSEUM AND BRITISH LIBRARY

The manuscript section of the British Museum is rich with the Portuguese documents which is comprised of collections like Egerton, Additional, Sloane, Lansdown and Cottonian.³³

The Additional collection contains some important documents regarding the history of Portuguese Bassein. It has the copy of the treaty signed between Governor Nuno da Cunha regarding the cession of Bassein.³⁴ This is the only manuscript copy of the treaty I could trace in the archives of Lisbon, Rome, Paris and London. Another document referring to Bassein in this collection is the Plan and description of the Portuguese city of Bassein.³⁵

32. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 7, No. 29, 81, 99, 110.

6. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 8, No. 51, 60.

7. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 9, No. 93, 158, 169, 170, 212.

8. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 10, No. 16, 17, 41, 73, 85, 161, 174.

9. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 11, No. 22, 63, 74, 126, 209, 214.

10. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 12, No. 98, 105, 116, 141.

11. Mss. Ibid, Caixa 13, No. 7, 30, 69, 105.

33. Frederico Francisco de la Figanhiere, Catalogo das manuscriptos Portuguezes existentes no museu Britanico, em que tambem se da noticia dos manuscriptos estrangeiras relativos a historia civil, politica e literaria de Portugal e seus dominios, e se transcrevem no integra alguns documentos importantes e curiozos, Lisbon, 1853.

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34. Mss. British Museum, London, Additional collection, No. 28, fls. 433, 434. Hereafter referred as BML.

35. Mss. BML, Additional collection, No. 5027-A fls. 60v - 61.

The Sloane Collection contains one of the five handwritten copies of Resende's work Livro do Estado da India.³⁶ The Egerton collection has the manuscript known as Cronica do Descobrimento,³⁷ giving the details of the Portuguese discoveries and exploration. It has certain documents pertaining to the history of Portuguese Bassein.³⁸

6. BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONAL DE PARIS³⁹

There are several documents in this library regarding the history of Portuguese India.⁴⁰ It also contains Resende's Livro do Estado da India.⁴¹

7. ARCHIVUM ROMANUM SOCIETATIS JESU, ROME

This archives contains several important documents on Indian history in a collection called Goa-Malabar. They are pertaining to the period from 1542. Some of the important documents of this archives are published by Joseph Wicki in Documenta India. They relate religious history more than commercial activities but they throw enough light on the social life of the people. These documents are more important for the religious history of Bassein.

8. HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF GOA

The historical archives of Goa is the only Indian archives where we can trace some important documents relating to the history

36. Mss. BML, Sloane collection No. 197.

37. Mss. BML, Egerton collection No. 20901.

38. Mss. Ibid, Egerton No.1 fl. 606, No.8, fl.15 and No.1133, fl.345.

39. Alfred Morel - Fatio, Catalogue des Manuscrits espagnols et des manuscrits Portugais, Paris - 1892.

40. Mss. BML, Paris, Moreau Codia 841; MS. Portugais No.1, Cod. No.1, 36 and 46.

41. Mss. B.N. Paris, Fonds Portugais. 1.

of Portuguese Bassein. Though most of the series refer to the later part of the Portuguese rule in Bassein, there are several documents relating to 16th and early 17th century which are consulted for this work. The series called Livros das Manções is one of the most important series for the present work. The second one is Cartas Patentas e Alvaras and Tombo de Baçaim.⁴²

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The bibliography of this work has been divided into three major heads viz., Portuguese, English and Marathi printed sources.

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