

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Travel and Exploration in Asia

This collection of travel narratives, mainly from the nineteenth century, records the impressions of Europeans who visited China, Japan, South and South-East Asia. Some came as missionaries, others as members of trade or diplomatic missions, or as colonial administrators. Some were straightforward tourists, and one or two arrived as prisoners or shipwrecked sailors. Such accounts of travellers' experiences in exotic locations were eagerly received by European readers.

A Voyage to the East Indies

After a six-month voyage, the Carmelite missionary Paolino da San Bartolomeo (1748–1806) arrived in Malabar in India towards the end of July 1776. Later acclaimed as an orientalist, he was among the first to note the relationship between Sanskrit and European languages, and the present work gives a valuable account of the geography and culture he observed over the course of thirteen years. Returning to Rome in 1789, he wrote many books under the patronage of Cardinal Stefano Borgia, including one of the first works on Sanskrit grammar. Here he uses his impressive knowledge of Indian dialects to revise the accepted spelling and pronunciation of a number of cities and natural features. The book also contains observations on the religion, history, botany and laws of eighteenth-century India. First published in Italian in 1796, the work was soon translated into German, from which William Johnston produced this English translation in 1800.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A Voyage to the East Indies

*Containing an Account of the Manners,
Customs, &c. of the Natives,
with a Geographical Description
of the Country*

PAOLINO DA SAN BARTOLOMEO
EDITED BY JOHN REINHOLD FORSTER
TRANSLATED BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108028219

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1800

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-02821-9 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners,
Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A

V O Y A G E

T O T H E

E A S T I N D I E S.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A
V O Y A G E
TO THE
E A S T I N D I E S:

CONTAINING

**An Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the NATIVES,
With a Geographical Description of the Country.**

COLLECTED FROM

Observations made during a Residence of Thirteen Years,
between 1776 and 1789, in Districts little
frequented by the EUROPEANS.

BY

FRA PAOLINO DA SAN BARTOLOMEO,
Member of the Academy of Velitri, and formerly Professor of the
Oriental Languages in the Propaganda at Rome.

WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY

JOHN REINHOLD FORSTER, LL.D.
Professor of Natural History in the University of Halle.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN
BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

L O N D O N.

PRINTED BY J. DAVIS, CHANCERY LANE:
AND SOLD BY VERNOR AND HOOD, POULTRY; AND
J. CUTHELL, HOLBORN.

M.DCCC.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

THE original of this work appeared at Rome in the year 1796*. A German edition was published, in 1798, at Berlin, by the well-known Dr. John Reinhold Forster, with copious Notes; and from the latter the English Edition now offered to the Public has been translated. The Notes, a very few excepted, the Translator has retained, and it is hoped they will be found useful to illustrate various parts of the Text.

The author, Fra Paolino da San Bartolomeo, a barefooted Carmelite, resided thirteen years in India, and therefore may be supposed to

* The title of it is: *Viaggio alle Indie Orientali, umiliato alla Santità di N. S. Papa Pio Sesto, Pontefice Massimo, da Fra Paolino da S. Bartolomeo, Carmelitano Scalzo. Roma presso Antonio Fulgoni L'anno 1796.*

A 2

have

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

P R E F A C E.

have been well acquainted with the subject on which he treats. He was born at Hof, in the Austrian dominions, in 1748; and, before he embraced the monastic life, was known by the name of John Philip Wefdin. He was seven years Professor of the Oriental Languages in the Propaganda at Rome, and since his return from India has published several works relating to that country.

In regard to the present work, Dr. Forster, in his Preface to the German Edition, says:

“It is the more valuable, as the author understood the Tamulic or common Malabar language; and, what is of more importance, was so well acquainted with the Samscered, (a language exceedingly difficult,) as to be able to write a Grammar of it, which was published at Rome in 1790*. It appears from some of his quotations, that he understood also the English and French.

* *Sidharùbam, seu Grammatica Samsceredamica*. Romæ, 1790.—He is the author also of the following works: *Systema Brahmanicum*; and, *India Orientalis Christiana, continens fundationes ecclesiarum, seriem episcoporum, missiones, schismata, persecutiones, viros illustres*. Romæ, 1794.

“His

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

vii

“ His knowledge of the Indian languages has enabled him to rectify our orthography, in regard to the names of countries, cities, mountains, and rivers. The first European travellers who visited India were, for the most part, merchants, soldiers, or sailors; very few of whom were men of learning, or had enjoyed the advantage of a liberal education. These people wrote down the names of places merely as they struck their ear, and for that reason different names have been given to the same place in books of travels, maps, and military journals. To this may be added, that the authors were sometimes Dutch, sometimes French, and sometimes English; consequently each followed a different orthography, which has rendered the confusion still greater. The author of the present work thought it of importance to correct these errors; a task for which he seems to have been well qualified by his knowledge of the Indian dialects. Thus, for example, he changes the common, but improper, appellation Coromandel into *Ciòlamandala*, Pondichery into *Puduceri*, &c.; but the Reader ought to remember, that, as the author wrote in Italian, his *c* before *e* and *i* must be pronounced *tch*, &c.

A 3

“ As

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

P R E F A C E.

“ As the changed orthography of the names of countries, cities, and rivers, rendered a Geographical Index in some measure necessary, one has been added at the end of the work.— Readers acquainted with the tedious labour required to form such a nomenclature, and who may have occasion to use it, will, no doubt, thank the Translator for his trouble.”

C O N-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

Arrival at Pudukeri (Pondichery)—Coast of Coromandel—Going on shore—Capuchins—Jesuits—Description of the City—Its Trade—Fortifications—White Ants—Bitter Drops—Error of the Heathens in regard to Christianity. - - - - Page 1

CHAP. II.

Virapatnam—Seminary there—Error of Ptolemy the Geographer—Apis—Error of some modern Geographers—Etymological Catalogue of Places in Carnada, Tanjaur, and Madura - 18

CHAP. III.

Geographical, statistical, and historical Observations on the Kingdoms of Tanjaur, Marava, Madura, and Carnada - - 35
 CHAP.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS.

CHAP. IV.

*Journey from Puduceri to Covalan, Mailapuri,
and Madraspatnam* Page 67

CHAP. V.

Indian Weights, Measures, Coins, and Merchandise - - - - - 78

CHAP. VI.

Topographical Description of Malabar - 102

CHAP. VII.

*Population of Malayala—Manners, Customs, and
Industry of the Inhabitants—Political State of
the Country* - - - 149

CHAP. VIII.

*Missionary Affairs—Audience of the King of Tra-
vancor* - - - 177

CHAP. IX.

*Quadrupeds, Birds, and Amphibious Animals on
the Coast of Malabar* - - - 210

CHAP. X.

*Seas, Rivers, Vessels used for Navigation, Fish,
Shell-fish, and Serpents in India* - 229

BOOK

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)C O N T E N T S, xi

B O O K II.

CHAP. I.

Birth and Education of Children - Page 253

CHAP. II.

State of Marriage among the Indians - 269

CHAP. III.

Laws of the Indians - - 284

CHAP. IV.

Classes or Families of the Indians - - 293

CHAP. V.

Administration of Justice among the Indians 309

CHAP. VI.

Languages of the Indians - - 313

CHAP. VII.

Religion and Deities of the Indians - 324

CHAP. VIII.

*Hieroglyphical Marks of Distinction among the
Indians* - - - 340
8 CHAP.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02821-9 - A Voyage to the East Indies: Containing an Account of the Manners, Customs, &c. of the Natives, with a Geographical Description of the Country

Paolino da San Bartolomeo Edited by John Reinhold Forster

Translated by William Johnston

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS.

CHAP. IX.

*Division of Time—Festivals—Calendar of the
Indians* - - - Page 345

CHAP. X.

*Music, Poetry, Architecture, and other Arts and
Sciences of the Indians* - - 364

CHAP. XI.

Medicine and Botany of the Indians - 401

CHAP. XII.

*Author's Voyage to Europe—Some Account of the
Island of Ceylon* - 424

CHAP. XIII.

*The Author's Voyage to Europe continued—Short
Account of the Isles of France and Bourbon, the
Cape of Good Hope, and the Island of Ascension.* 437

ERRATA.

- Page 28, last line, for *Krishavaram*, read *Krishnavaram*,
56, sixth line from the top, for *Condur*, read *Coudur*.
64, third line from the bottom, for *Tinducalla*, read *Tinda-
calla*.
125, first line, for *Clagnil*, read *Élaguil*.