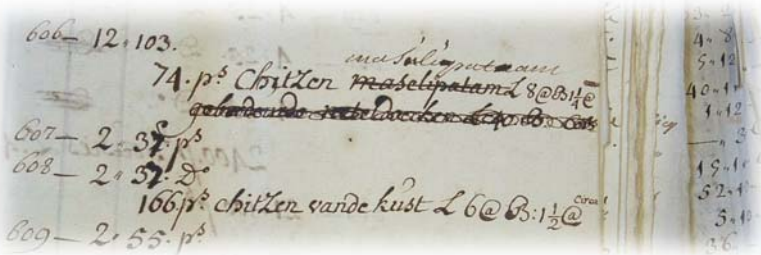


1. On EURINDIA

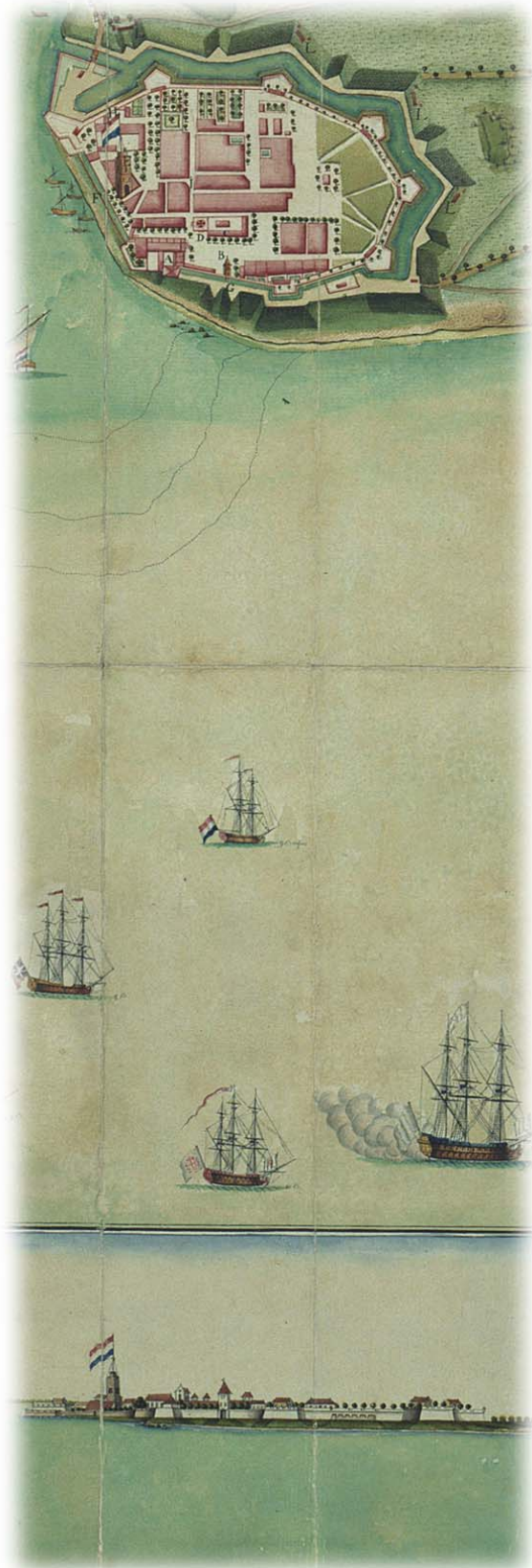
EURINDIA is a project (2004-2006), co-funded by the European Commission under the Economic Cross Cultural Programme (ECCP). One focus of EURINDIA is on the history of the (economic) relations between Europe and India, in particular the history of cartography and textile commerce from the 16th to the 18th century.

Vallingstukken, Ugent



6 institutions cooperate in EURINDIA:

- Centre de la Conservation du Livre - CCL, Arles (France)
- Ghent University - UGent, Department of Early Modern History (Belgium)
- Archives Nationales – Centre d' Archives d'Outre Mer, Aix-en-Provence - CAOM (France)
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - UCS (Italy)
- University of Delhi (India)
- Punjab State Archives (India)



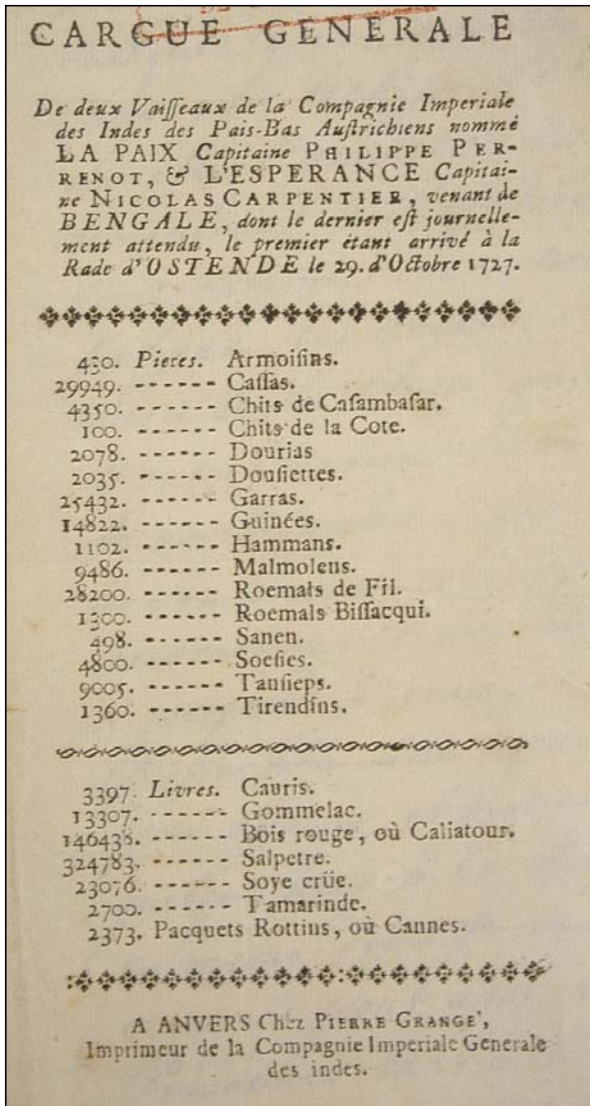
Cochin, collection ANCAOM



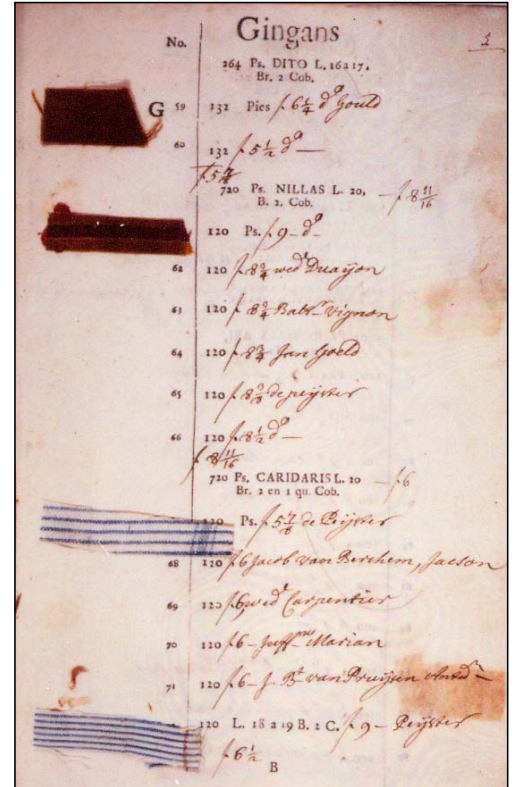
2. Textile and trade

One of the aims of EURINDIA is to research textile trade (16th-18th century) on the Coromandel Coast in the south-eastern part of India.

We look for traces in archives, museums and libraries throughout Europe and India.



Collection Antwerp City Archives



Collection Antwerp City Archives

Sources for textile trade are very diverse. From cargo lists, all kinds of financial documents, orders and administrative accounts to travel journals and – of course – the fabrics themselves.

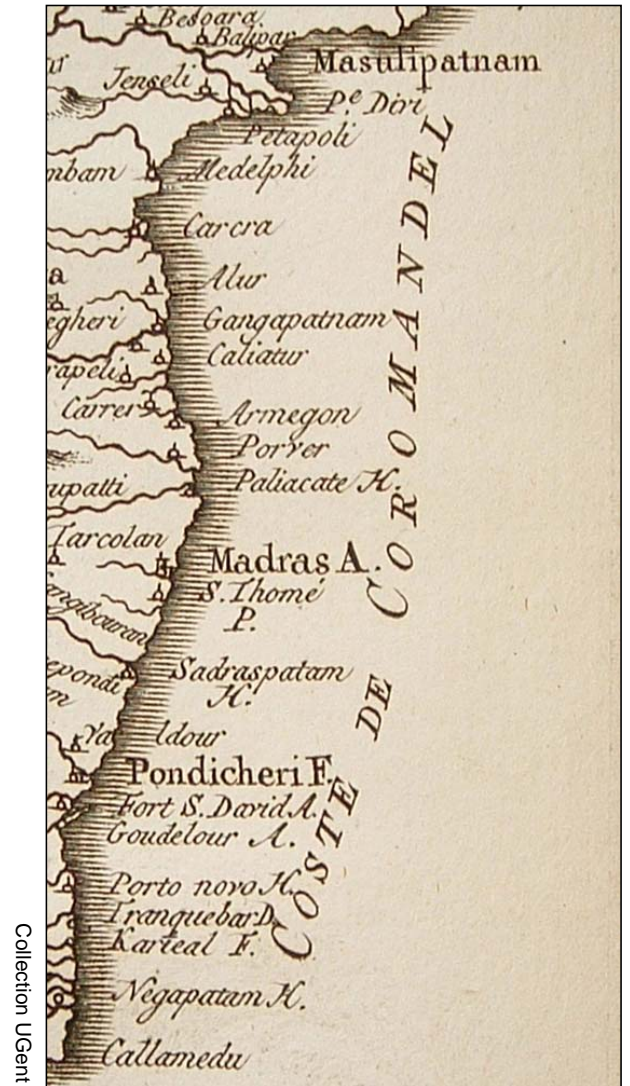


3. Textiles on 'the Coast'

The Coromandel Coast used to be a busy market for trading companies from the Dutch Republic, England, Denmark, France, Portugal and the Austrian Netherlands. They established their forts and lodges on the Coast, and signed agreements with the local rules.



Collection Bijloke Museum, Gent.



On the Coast, the Companies bought their woven, painted and dyed merchandises: chintz, palempores, bethilles, neck cloth, romaals, salempores, gingham, bedsprays and morees.

These (mostly cotton) fabrics were much sought after from Japan to Arabia. They became highly fashionable in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries.

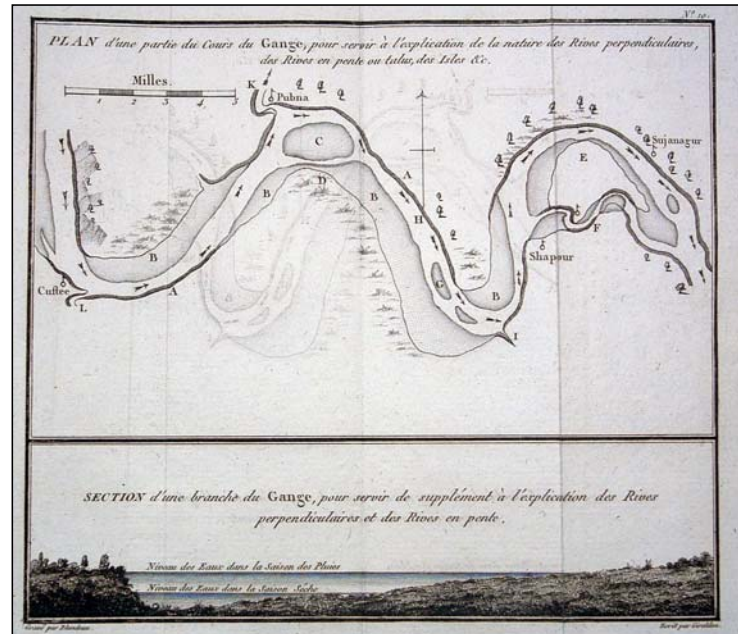
4. Cartography of India

Images of India on maps are particularly diverse.

In the 16th century, the Portuguese charted the Indian coastline on their portulan maps.

The Dutch Republic produced the atlases of the Blaeu family in the 17th century. Travel accounts by François Valentyn and his contemporaries are treasures for charts and prints.

British and French military engineers and civil surveyors produced plans and charts of military campaigns, fortifications and land use in the 18th century.



James Renell, late 18th century: plan of the River Ganges. Collection UGent



Lodge of the Ostend Company in Bengal, early 18th century. Collection UGent



Collection CAOM

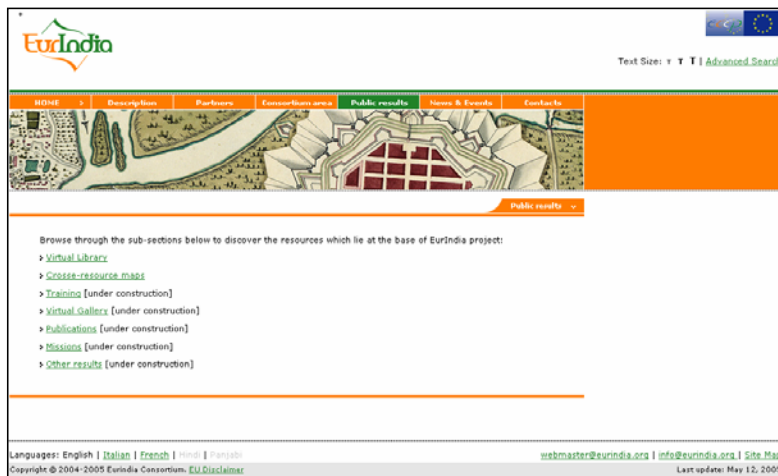
5. EURINDIA goes public

The EURINDIA actions are focused on different target groups.

The EURINDIA website and travelling exhibition confronts a wide audience in India and Europe with cultural and economic aspects of our common history.



Sadraspatnam, the Dutch fortress on the Coromandel Coast



The EURINDIA themes are commented on the website by several experts. Through video sessions they offer several hours of teaching, which are illustrated by additional texts and images.

On the same website, a Virtual Library will contain several thousands of references to sources on the EURINDIA themes. Academic researchers and students can use the database to get easy access to sources which are physically spread all over Europe and India.



6. EURINDIA at Ghent University



The department of Early Modern History at Ghent University coordinates the research for EURINDIA in Europe.

During one year, as much relevant items as possible are being localised and surveyed by the research team, and entered in the Virtual Library database.



In action: the Tamil Nadu National Archives in Chennai (Madras)



Cotton & Company

From 7 October to 30 November 2005, Ghent University organises an exhibition on EURINDIA. The main focus will be on the sources for cartography and textile trade from the rich University library collection.

More information on EURINDIA in Gent:

Jan.Parmentier@UGent.be ; tel + 32 (0)9.264.39.99

<http://www.eurindia.org/>