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# **THE FRENCH INDIA**

**Researches in  
The overseas records office  
(Aix-en-Provence)**

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# THE FRENCH INDIA

## Researches in the overseas records office

### 1- OLD MINISTERIAL ARCHIVES

- **B** : departure correspondence, 1663 to 1810, for the West and East Indies Compagny rientales , particularly the first files (**1-7**), but also (**42bis, 43, 147, 154, 155, 166, 195, 214, 215, 218, 223-225, 235-238, 251-253**), and other general files of all the colonies .

*This serie is organized of original correspondences and instructions of the king and the State General secretary to the governor ,various intendants and officers or other persons which are interesting of colonial administrations or commercial interest .*

- **C2 (1-309)** : departure correspondance , *Indies compagny* and french India (1649 to 1808).

Also to see a part of microfilms : **203 MIOM (196-255)**, about of **C2 (234-309)**.

*The contents of this serie are heterogeneos, of a chronological classification, made up not only by the received correspondence of the counters of India when those were managed directly by the king,. but also by a great part of papers coming from the successive companies, which, between 1664 and 1766, undertook the control of the bordering colonies of the Indian Ocean. Thus certain parts of the second Company of the Indies when this one extended its activities to the Islands of France and of Bourbon, at the Western coasts of Africa and, at a certain time, in Louisiana, in Canada and the Antilles, relate to different other areas exceeding banks from the Indian Ocean. There is not inventory for this series. See however the numerical repertory of Vaissière and Bézard, but, in a more complete way, to also see the guide of the sources "l'Inde et la France. Deux siècles d'histoire commune, XVIIème-XVIIIème siècles." de Philippe Tréguilly et Monique Morazé, 1998.*

- **D** : Troops and civil personnel, deposit of the troops (1646-1815):

*The whole of these under-series contains also general parts on the civil and military personnel or sometimes the colonial clergy.*

**D1 (5-27)** : troops and personnel, troops of India in particular.

**D2A (1-49)** : numbers and controls of the recruits intended for the colonies and the troops of the Company of the Indies.

**D2B (15, 17, 18)** : memories on the military situation in India, correspondences and controls of recruits intended for the troops of the Navy and the Colonies (troops of India, regiments of Pondicherry,etc...)

**D2C (8, 11, 12, 130, 141, 150-153, 173, 177, 180, 182-194, 271, 337-339, 374, 375)** : numbers and reviews.

**D2D (11)** : List, personnel of the company of the Indies and royal administration.

- **E et EE (II)** : personal files of the personnel of the colonies before and after 1760.  
(Example: E 337 file of Piveron de Morlat and E 320 Commercial file)  
In addition to the administrative parts coming from the files of careers (colonial or military), can be parts of registry office sometimes filling the gaps of the funds of public papers of colonies (DPPC).

- **F**

- **F2A (11)** : companies of trade of the Eastern Indies, 1691.

- **F2C (10)** : travel to the Indies de Sonnerat, and **(12)**: mixtures in general, documents relating to the Indies of 1760 to 1784. They are sometimes financial documents, coming to fill the gaps of the series **C**.

- **F3** : collection Moreau de Saint-Méry, **(45-46)**: collections of documents concerning India and the Company of the Indies of 1746 to 1791, **(48)** reflexions on the colonies of which the Indies, circa 1780.

This collection consisted Louis-Médéric Moreau de Saint-Méry (1750-1819), Creole of Martinique, former adviser with the higher Council of Santo Domingo, during the last years of Ancien Régime and during the Revolution, is made either of discussion papers of the hand even of Moreau or of taking away in the public collections, or of copies, factum etc... It should be noted that "the Atlas of the Colonies" that Moreau left unfinished does not contain any chart of India, whereas it was interested in the Islands Mascareignes (Indian Ocean).

- **F 5A** : Religious missions, missions Jesuits in the Indies (14-16) of 1691 to 1782. Constitution in collection rather than in true series of files, thus comes to supplement the series **C**.

- **F5B** : Passengers, lists of loading or unloading in the French ports or the colonies.

*For India, scattered enough for the XVIIth-XVIIth-XVIIIth centuries, they are civil troops here only.*

- **H** : Colonial prison authorities, (1-3): project of penal establishments in the Indies of 1792 to 1868.

- **J** : estates without a claimant, (2 and 5): India of 1767 to 1856

*It acts of administrative correspondences and personal files of successions escheated open to the colonies.*

## **2- MODERN MINISTERIAL ARCHIVES**

- **D.P.P.C (Deposit of Public Papers of the Colonies)**: It is a unit having the concern of preserving the titles of the families established overseas - personal titles and documents of title as well as the documents relating to the police force of the territories, the copies as well as the doubles of the last acts must be deposited with the Deposit of Public Papers of the Colonies (edict of 1776).

- **registry office**: of Calicut, Chandernagor, Godelour, Karikal, Madras, Mahe, Mazulipatam, Pondicherry, Sdrast, Yanaon, 1676 to 1867. (*see also the series of the microfilms: 85 MIOM*)

- **census: G1 (481)** Chandernagor, Mahe, Ratamaly, 1751 to 1768.

- **clerc's Offices: G2 (16-21)**, 1702 to 1873.

*Files of Clerc's Offices and Court of Appeal of Pondicherry, courts of first authority, district courts, district courts to extended scope, adjudications, of 1793 to 1910.*

- **corps of notaries** for Bahour, Chandernagor, Large Aldée, Karikal, Mahe, Nedoucadou, Oulgaret, Pondicherry, Villenour, Yanaon, 1776 to 1910.

- **Land Registry**: 7 volumes of Pondicherry 1841 to 1844.

### - **General information**

*Classification by subject, for example worships and religious missions, relations between the various religions in India for 1887.*

### - **Geographical Series (SG) of French India:**

*Classification by topic: general affairs, military finances, field, businesses, population...for the XIXth century until 1909, then at the end of classification, a series of after registers 1814 relating to the personnel, surveys, board of directors, general council and private council, the municipal budgets, etc... To consult: the file of the ministerial funds in room of the inventories.*

- **Direction of the Economic affairs** : Bank of Indo-China of 1875 to 1940, with gaps for Pondichéry.

- **Direction of Control** : Reports of missions for India (727-740), 1893 to 1951.

- **Direction of the Political Businesses** : classification by subject, 1920 to 1940.

*Many files of monitoring of police force and historical documentation or political events are found there. To consult: the file of the ministerial funds in room of the inventories.*

- **Direction of the Military Businesses (51)**: India , 1911 to 1938.

- **Agency FOM** (economic France of overseas agency)

*contains around fifty documentary files relating to India, approaching varied subjects.*

- **Commission Guernut** (board of inquiry in the overseas territories, 1937-1938).

*Y appears only one box (84) gathering on India, annual report 1934, report of mission 1936, teaching 1918-1937.*

- **the Colonial School: memories of the pupils.**

*A dozen memories of the pupils treating of different topics on the topicality, the history, the maintenance of the French presence in India at various times, or the revolt of Cipayes...*

- **the Higher Council of the Colonies**

*See category legal questions and politics where the files are approached touching with the electoral reform in India (1884 to 1885).*

- **General Inspection of Work.**

*Defined by decree of August 22th 1949 some cases relate to the French Establishments of India, (9 file 4): collective agreements, development for 1946-1949 and (12 file 8): trade unionism 1950-1957.*

- **General Inspection of Public Works .**

*Instituted by the decree of August 17th 1894, the general Inspection of public works succeeded the Genius (work of overseas) which concerned the ministry for the navy. For French India, one will consult only the 2e and 3e series.*

**2e series** with index: correspondence, reports of missions of inspection (1895-1917), statistics, great work (railroads, power stations, wharf and sea line... 1895-1956)..

**3e series**: headlights and beacons (1950-1954), estuaries and coasts (1954).

### **3- PRIVATE ARCHIVES**

- **Files of companies: 8 AQ (1-391):** melt of the third Company of the Indies, 1785-1866.

*They are funds important classified at the origin (1876) under the dimension F12 65 429-66 010, then taken again by Mr. de Saint-Léger in 1924 with the Public records. It was then planned to remove 200 registers containing the heels of 40 000 portions of interest of the Company, which was made with the approval of the higher commission of the files in 1930, only one register however having to be preserved like witness (dimension AJI, 1 A). In 1932 Pierre Marichal formatted the new inventory, with table of agreement, since the funds was classified in 8 AQ. This funds comes considerably to supplement the old funds of the Colonies (C2: correspondences of the Company of the Indies). It contains, in addition to the correspondence and the accounting records of the Company, of the files relating to the ships, their dispute, their armament and all the information on the trade with the various counters and countries in relation (China, Ile of France, Ile Bourbon, Saint-Domingue, etc...).*

- **Personal records and papers of agents:**

- **3 APC: papers Alfred Martineau.** Notes in particular on Dupleix and French India with copies of documents (1674-1855) and parts relative to its activity in the capacity as governor of the French Establishments of India (1913-1918).

- **7 APC: papers Jean Detrez.** Notes and copies, in particular booklets on India.

- **33 APC: papers Carres de Lusançay (naval officer).** Copies of letters reporting its states of service (operations of India 1787-1790).

- **28 Pa: papers Marius Moutet.** Documents on its activity as Minister for the Colonies in 1936-1937 and 1946-1947, in particular description of the situation in India , 1936.

- **36 Pa: papers Hubert Deschamps.** Official correspondence, work, reports, work historical and ethnological at the time of the missions in French India in 1952.

### **4- GRAPHIC DOCUMENTS AND FIGURES**

- **Deposit of the fortifications of the colonies, DFC the Indies** (the Indies Eastern, Pondicherry, Chandernagor, Mahé, Yanaon and Karikal).



*It is the most important whole concerning India: nearly 1600 parts are inventoried since the XIXth century, they made up of memories are annotated and plans drawn up by the military engineers and geographers of the king. This prestigious collection consisted of handwritten or engraved plans, drawings and watercolours is being only pilot of a colonial architecture (administrative and military) of the XVIIth to the XIXth centuries. An inventory was published in 1998, as well as animated Cederom of selected documents entitled: "the Quarrelsome Indies", in 2000. This funds, although forming part of the ministerial funds, is preserved in map library. By preoccupation of conservation and a prevention the plans were extracted from the boxes of memories and reports to be arranged flat and encapsulated under small pockets mylar. The digitalization which is in hand, will cure definitively the problem of communication of invaluable and fragile originals.*

- **the map library**: except the funds describes higher, it does not have there funds not devoted to India in a specific way but only a few tens of charts:

- in continuous **series PL (1 PL to 4 PL)**

*These plans are acquired (purchase or gift) or are extracted from series of files (series C of the funds of the cabins, for example, to see 1PL and 2PL), data-processing base **MARINOS** and the listing-index is to be consulted.*

- in the funds **Asia (Asia 1 to 5)**.

- the geographical series (**series A to H**).

- the collection of **Museum FOM**.

*It is advised to consult the file of the map library of the room of the inventories (set of themes, geographical or patronymic).*

- **Iconography**:

- **photographic albums 8 Fi 77, 108, 286, 410** relating to the French Establishments in India.

*Some albums are digitized, a data-processing base exists under CINDOC.*

- **funds of Agency FOM: 30 Fi 135 and 136.**

*These paperboards of photographs are digitized, they approach the topics: agriculture, breeding, medical care, trade, industry, buildings, teaching, habitat, infrastructures, missions religious, manners and habits, notabilities.*

*A data-processing base exists under CINDOC.*

- **funds of Agency FOM 2nd series: 31 Fi 23 .**

*This box of photographs relates to public buildings, textile establishments of Pondicherry, reception in the honor of Marius Moutet Minister for the Colonies in visit in Pondicherry in 1947, etc...*

- **funds of engravings and the prints** : an engraving of the tomb of Tippoo Saeb de Beausset Lauriston (**7 Fi 39**).

## **5- FILES RAPATRIEES**

*The establishment of the French in India goes up at the XVIIIth century. It is with the third Company of the Indies that France really fixes itself at it when Dupleix in 1741 is made main of the third of India. Its Lally successor will capitulate in Pondicherry to the English and, with the treaty of Paris in 1763, France will preserve its possessions only the five counters: Pondichéry yielded thereafter in 1950 to the Indian Union, Karikal, Yanaon, Mahé and Chandernagor, yielded all four in 1954. The whole of the repatriated files, of 70 meters linear is divided into 15 under-series of A to R. (funds old of A with C and funds modern and contemporary of **D to R**).*

- **old files or of the Company of the Indies: series A (1-108)** , 108 registers of 1701 to 1825. (see Inventory of the old files of French India by Alfred Martineau, Pondicherry 1914). Only the microfilms are consultable: **22 MIOM 75-128** correspondent with the registers of 1 to 106.

- **folios: series B (1-6870)**, 1690 to 1855. See the Catalogue of manuscripts of the old files of French India by Edmond Gaudard, Paris-Pondichéry 1926 to 1936. Are consultable only the microfilms **22 MIOM 25-74** correspondent with B (1-6868).

The 8 volumes of the catalogue with index, are distributed as follows:  
volume I: Pondicherry, 1690-1789 (B 1-1121)  
volume II: Pondicherry, 1789-1815 (B 1122-2289)  
volume III: Chandernagor and Loges of Bengal,  
1730-1815 (B 2290-3182) volume IV: Karikal, 1739-1815 (B 3183-4425)  
volume V: Mahe and Loges of Calicut and Surate, 1739-1803 (B  
4426-5097)  
volume VI: Yanaon, Mazulipatam and various localities,  
1669-1793 (B 5098-5382)  
volume VII: Pondicherry, 1816-1855 (B6272-6867)  
volume VIII: Secondary establishments and lodges, 1816-1855  
(B 6272-6867).

- Funds of the Lodges : series **C (1-9)**, 1785 to 1935.

*These boxes contain documentation (historical) and files resulting from the direct or land tax authorities. They inform us about the delimitation of the territories, the rights of ownership or of exploitation of the French, as well as the slow erosion of the French presence opposite to the English, since XVIIIth (sometimes) until the XXth century. The charts and plans which accompanied these files all were integrated in map library (under dimension 1PL and 2PL) by preoccupation of prevention and a conservation. Some could be restored.*

- Karikal: series **D (1-123)**, 1818 to 1929.  
*This series is made up of 123 registers of correspondence exchanged between 1818 and 1929, the principal administrator of the counter and the Governor of the Establishments of India installed in Pondicherry, and sometimes of other administrations.*
  
- Pondicherry: series **E (1-35)** correspondence, and **F (1-33)** telegrams, 1849 to 1954.  
*These two funds which should be gathered in only one, are consisted of the recording of the active correspondence and the telegrams of the French establishment of Pondicherry.*
  
- political and administrative documents: series **G (1-44)** and **H (1-28)**, 1938 to 1954.  
*These two series are made up of rather disparate files giving political or administrative information, but also of the files of the personnel having worked in the various services of the French establishments (these files of the end of the French period can fill the gaps of series EE/II of the colonial personnel). Considerable these files because of their dating are subjected to exemption (60 years for the files in political matter and 120 years for the files of personnel).*
  
- Clerk's office of the higher Council of Pondichéry : series **L (1-66)**, 1733 to 1835.  
*The bundles consist of files of successions, estates without a claimant, and various businesses, like 6 books of recording at the end of the classification. These files are in very bad condition and their brittleness does not allow the consultation of it. See however a microfilm insulated 22 MIOM 230 for L 59, Lagrenée succession and others (1764-1795).*
  
- Criminal trials: series **M (1-252)**, 1705 to 1811.  
*This funds is composed of files of criminal trials, one counts there some rollers of olles and certain documents are in language malabare. The communication of this funds cannot be done because of the very bad condition of the documents. See to some extent the microfilms 22 MIOM 1 to 24.*
  
- "colonial Exposure of 1931": series **N (39-227)**.  
*Factitious collection since a certain number of parts of files of India had been presented at the colonial Exhibition of 1931, without being reinstated in their funds of origin. Thus one finds certain parts of body of notaries of Pondicherry, of Madras, of Tranquebar, and Chandernagor, indexed from 39 to 227 in the catalogue "Exposition coloniale internationale, Paris, 1931, section historique des Etablissements français de l'Inde" by Edmond Gaudard. (see to some extent the microfilms 22 MIOM 227 to 229)*
  
- Body of notaries of Chandernagor: series **O (1-107)**, 1701 to 1718.

*This series consists of 107 volumes of 1701 to 1718 with some gaps and a volume of estates without a claimant of 1794 to 1807.*

- Body of notaries of Pondichéry: series **P (1-148)**, 1699 to 1814.  
*This funds is composed of 80 volumes of notarial minutes of 1699 to 1754 and 68 bundles of documents of comparable nature until 1814.*
  
- Body of notaries of Mahé: series **Q (1-5)**, 1791 to 1816.  
*This very small melt of 5 bundles covers in a lacunar way the period 1791 to 1816, moreover, the bad condition of the majority of the documents prohibits the communication of it.*
  
- Chandernagor: series **R (1-3)**, 1752 to 1807.  
*These some parts coming from Chandernagor of the end of the XVIIIe century, are not attached to the notarial funds of the series O, but probably to the files of the clerk's office of the court.*

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**NOTE** : In complement, the instruments of research, guides of the sources of the history of Asia, guides family history, dictionaries of the families of India, are to be consulted into usual-room and reading-room for some, inventories-room or library (file BIB SOM and AOM, BIB ECOL, and databases).