

# Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

## Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Propagation of the Gospel in the East: Being a Farther Account of the Success Of The Danish Missionaries, Sent to the East-Indies, For The Conversion Of The Heathens in Malabar

**Böhm, Anton Wilhelm**

**London, 1714**

The First Question.

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A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F  
*East-India, &c.*

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S E C T I O N I.

*Containing Answers to such Questions as relate to the Government or Political State of the Indians.*

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The First QUESTION.



*Bout what Time was the Colony about Tranquebar planted? How Strong is, the same; and how far do its Limits extend?*

*Answer: 'Tis above Fourscore Years when the Danish Colonie about Tranquebar was first planted: I could never learn the exact Time or Year thereof; the old Books or Records, that might give*

2      *Of the Town of Tranquebar.*

a Light into this Matter, being wanting, and said to be lost. *Tranquebar* it self was formerly but a small Country-Town; but after the King of *Denmark* had purchased it, by Treaty from the then reigning *Malabarick* Emperor, and peopled it with *Europeans*, it became by degrees a fine flourishing City, fortified with a strong Castle. According to the abovementioned Treaty, two Thousand Perdous are still yearly to be paid to the Heathen King of *Tanjour*: The whole City is strongly walled about, and its Bastions are provided with a sufficient Artillery. The Castle lieth reaching toward the Sea, and has a Ditch, strong Walls and Bastions to defend it. Before the Gate which leads towards the Country, stands a fine Citadel.

Within the City are three Churches belonging to the Christians, viz. the *Danish* Church, called *Zion*; our own, erected for the converted *Malabar* Heathen, and named *Jerusalem*; (a) to which may be added, that of the *Papists*. There is also a large *Moorish* or *Mahometan* Church, together with five huge *Pagodas* or Pagan Temples, wherein the Heathens perform their Worship.

The Inhabitants are partly white *Europeans*, partly white tawny *Portugueze*, and partly yellow *Moors*; but for the most part, black-brown *Malabarians*. The exact Number of all these distinct Inhabitants I cannot truly tell; but

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(a) A fuller Account of this Church may be seen in the first Part of the *Propagation of the Gospel in the East*, Lett. IX, pag. 70, seqq.

but 'tis certain that *Tranquebar* is a very populous City, whose Streets are crouded with vast Numbers of great and little ones; being much frequented by many different Nations, that trade to and fro, both by Sea and Land. The Garrison is not very numerous, and consists of white *Europeans*, who list many Heathens for Soldiers, but keep the Places of Officers always in their own Hands.

The District which is subject to *Tranquebar* containeth fifteen Villages; the largest whereof is called *Borejar*, holding almost as many Inhabitants as *Tranquebar* it self. Here are several large *Malabarick Pagodes* and Moorish Churches or *Mosques*; and it is but lately the *Moors* have raised here a very fine new *Mosquee*. After this, *Tilliar* is the largest and most pleasant Village, in which are above forty Houses inhabited by *Bramans*: (b) It has in it one very large *Pagode*, with several others of a less Size. The Highway from *Tranquebar* to this Place is adorned with Trees, planted very regularly on both sides: They bear red, white, and yellow Flowers, much resembling our *Lillies* in *Europe*.

These two Towns or Villages are the largest and most populous of all the rest. Here follow the Names of seven other Places or Villages; viz. *Tsandarapári*, *Kottupálean*, *Erukittántscheri*, *Tscháttanguri*, *Dewanallúr*, *Oruwamángalam*, and *Tschenkitankarei*. These are not near so populous, and have but very small

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(b) See the Character of these Men at the End of this Piece.

## A Of the Inhabitants of the Coast.

*Pagodes.* The Inhabitants maintain themselves by their handy-work in serving the City.

The Names of the six remaining Places are: *Pommeampoettei*, *Killinschimedu*, *Kalinkaráipoettei*, *Singnurpoettei*, *Akkamenpoettei*, and *Ellamenpoettei*; all which are but small Villages, crouded by Fishers, and other Men that follow the like sort of Business. Few of the white *Europeans* know the Names of these sundry Towns and Villages, which is the Reason they frequently give them quite other Names, according as their Fancy leads them. In those *fifteen* Towns or Villages, and likewise in many others farther up into the Country, I constantly use to preach the Gospel, going from Place to Place, till I come quite round; and having finished this Excursion, I begin again with the *first*.

### The Second Question.

*Is the Sea-Coast below and above Ceylon inhabited by Europeans? And have these any Communication with the Danish Colony?*

*Answer.* The Sea-Coast below *Ceylon* is all along inhabited, partly by the *Dutch*, *French* and *English*, and partly by the *Portuguese*; these having formerly been possessed, not only of the Island of *Ceylon* it self, but also of almost all the Sea-Coast above it: However, when the *Dutch* began to grow formidable on this Coast, they left but very little in the Hands of the Portuguese.

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