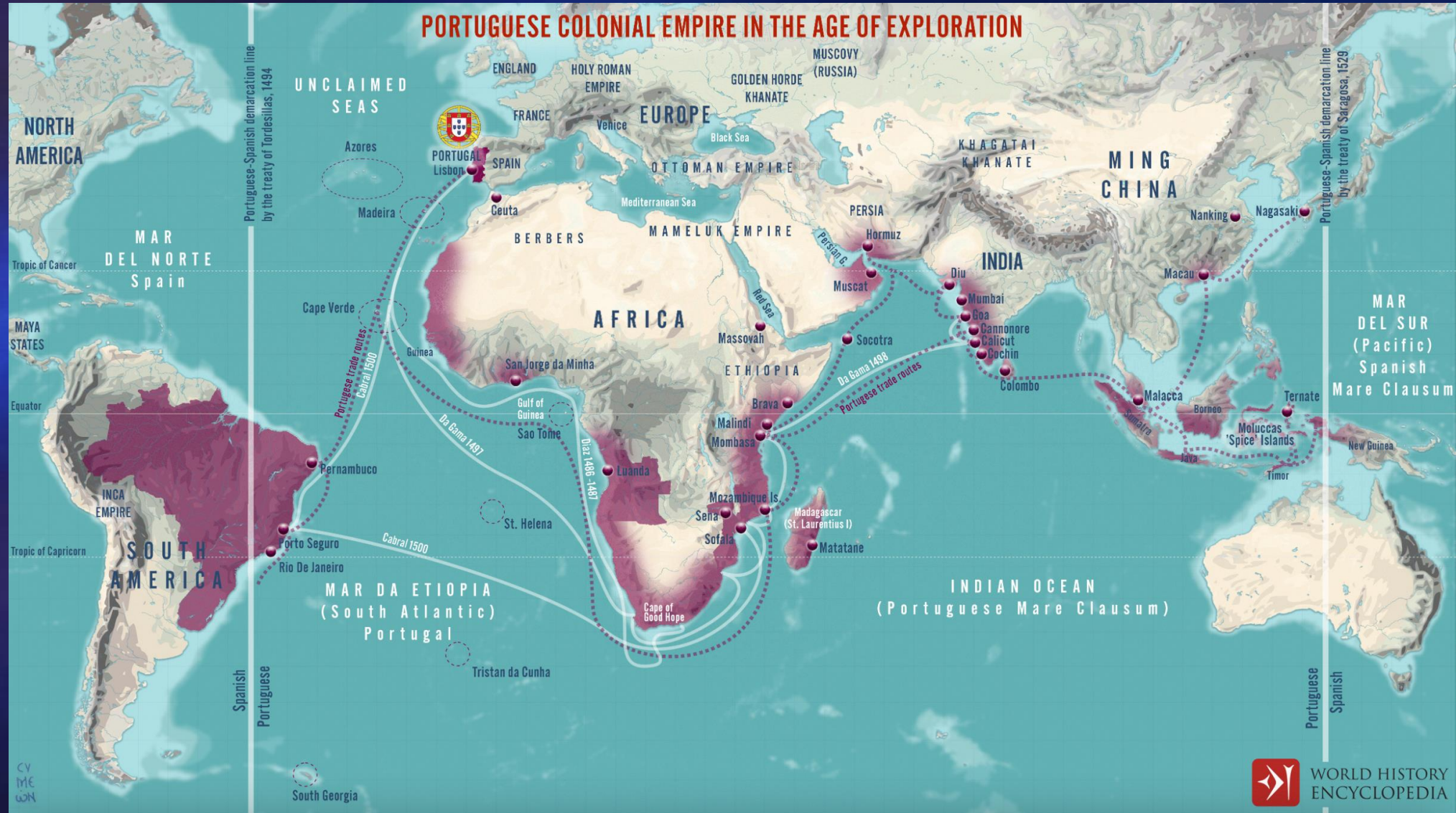


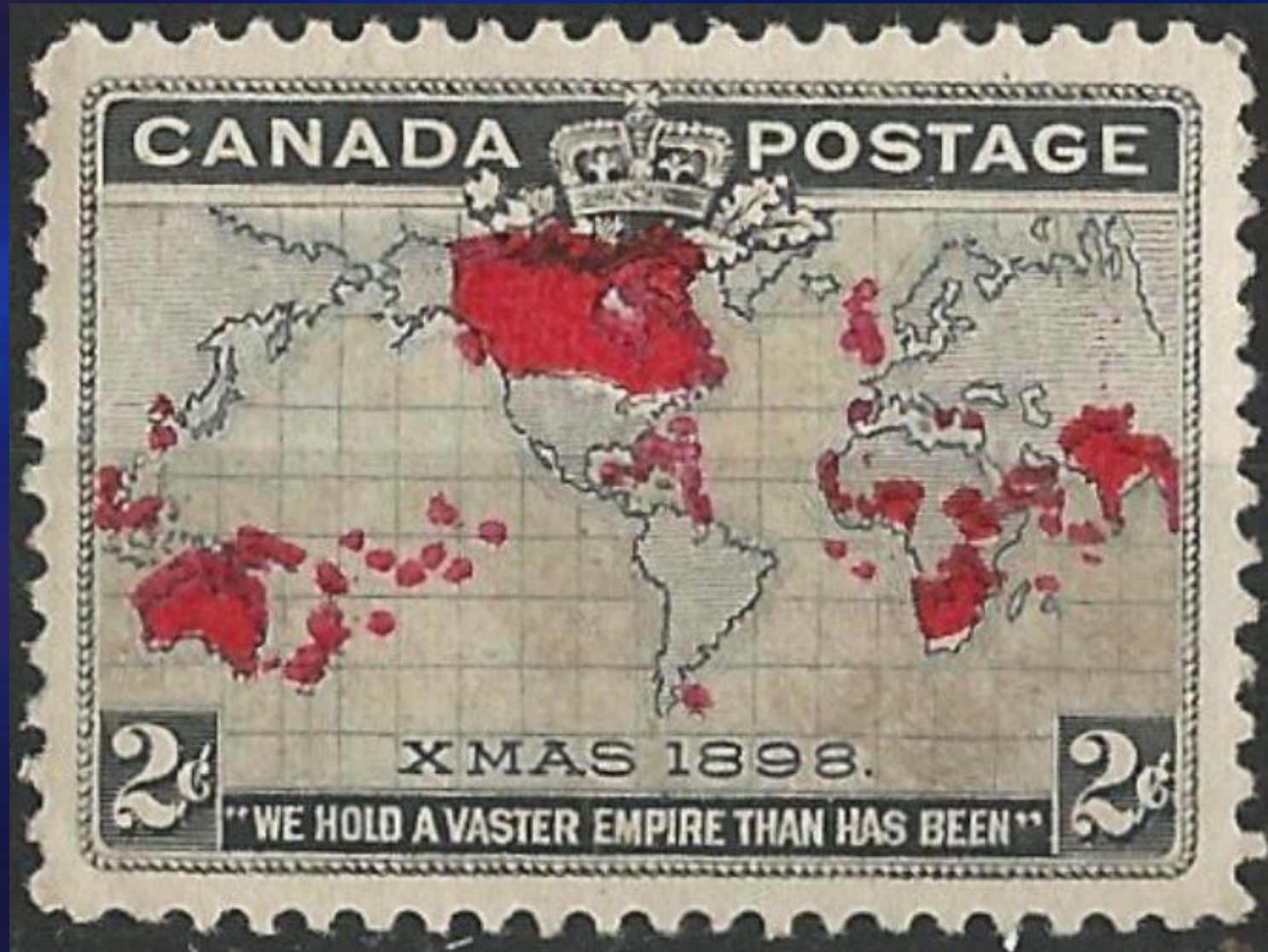
The Postal History And Early Stamps Of India

June 26th 2025

The Portuguese Colonial Empire

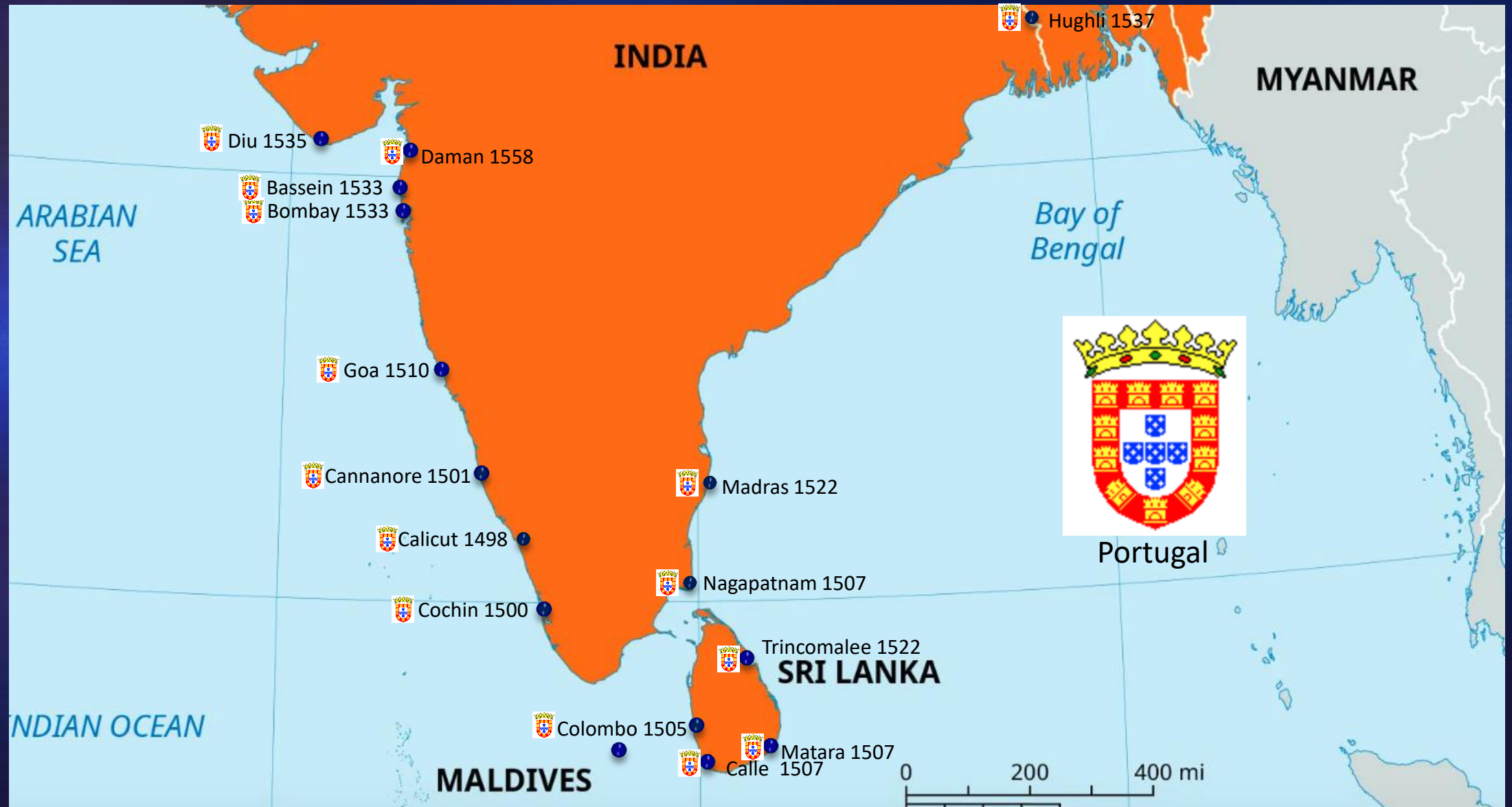


The British Colonial Empire



Canada # 85 British Empire map 1898

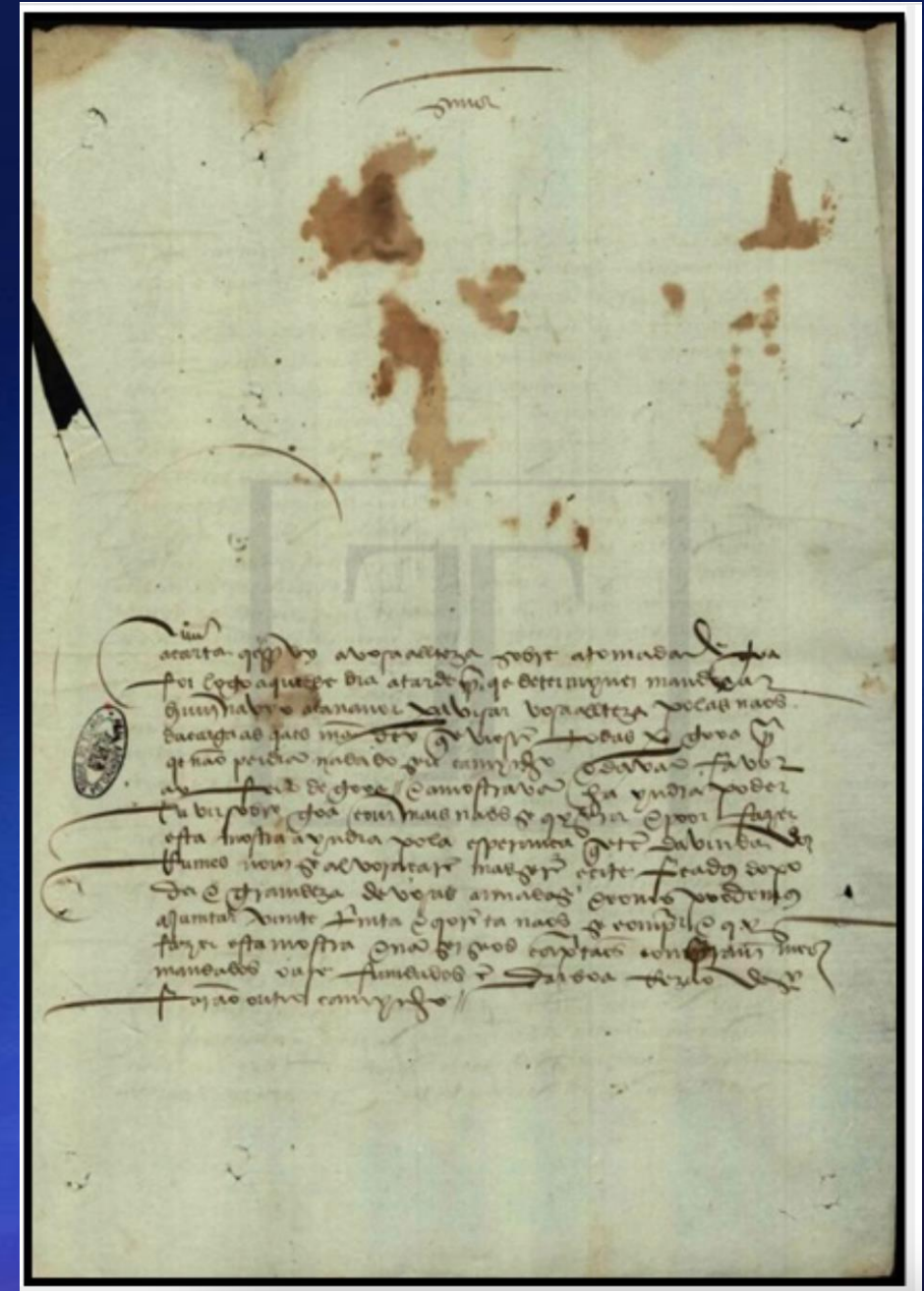
Portuguese Settlements In India And Sri Lanka 1498-1600



First Known Letter From India To Europe



Letter from Afonso de Albuquerque to D. Manuel I
about the conquest of Goa. 1510-12-22. Portugal, Torre do Tombo
[Chronological Body, Part I, mc. 9, no. 109](#) .

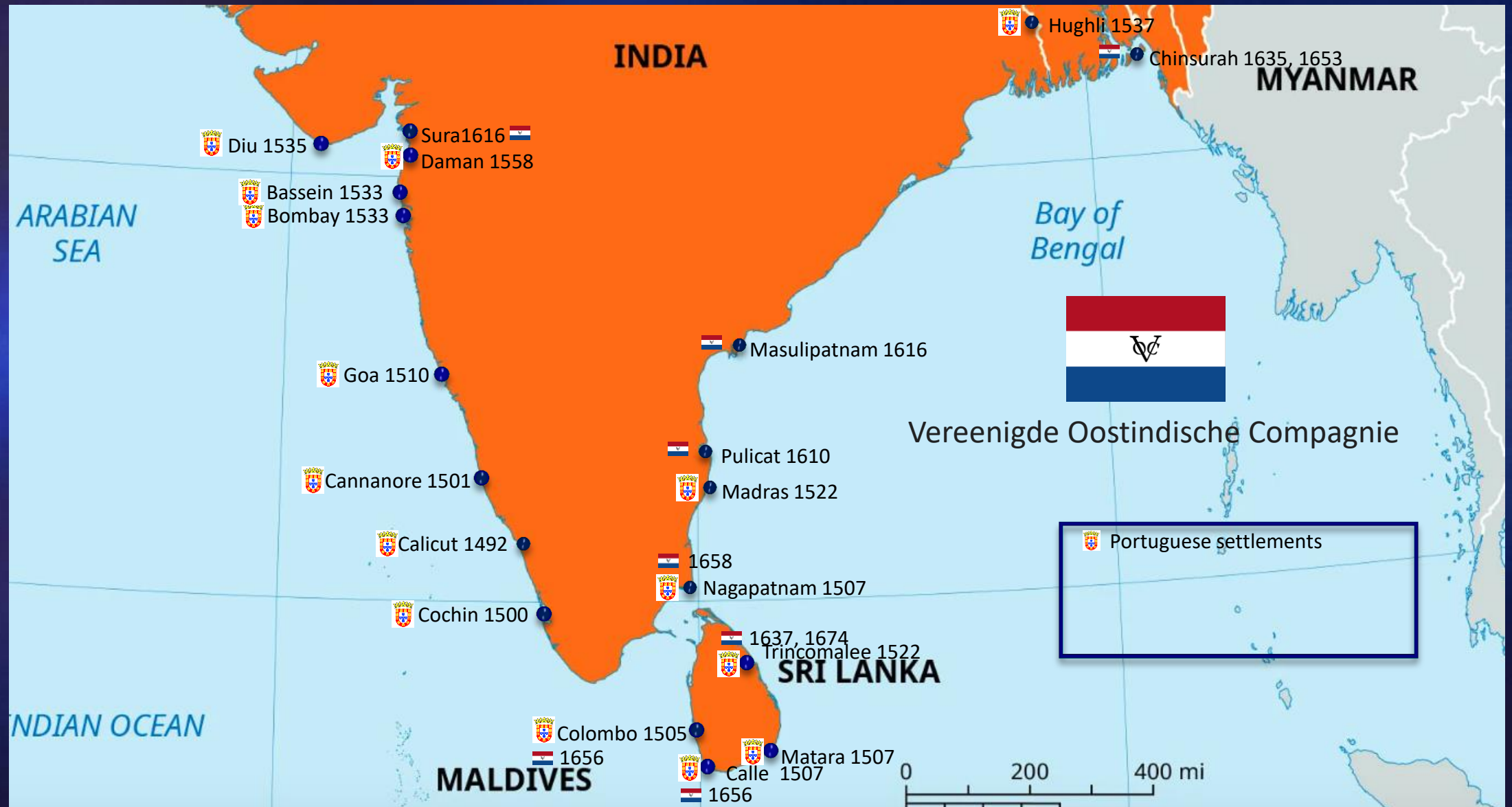


Transport By Sea Mail



- **Hanno** was the pet white elephant given by King Manuel of Portugal to Pope Leo X at his coronation.
- He was named Annon and Hanno after the Malayalam word Aana meaning elephant.
- Hanno, an Asian elephant came to Rome in 1514 with the Portuguese ambassador Tristo Da Cunha and quickly became the Pope's favorite animal.
- Hanno died two years later from complications of a treatment for constipation with a gold-enriched laxative.

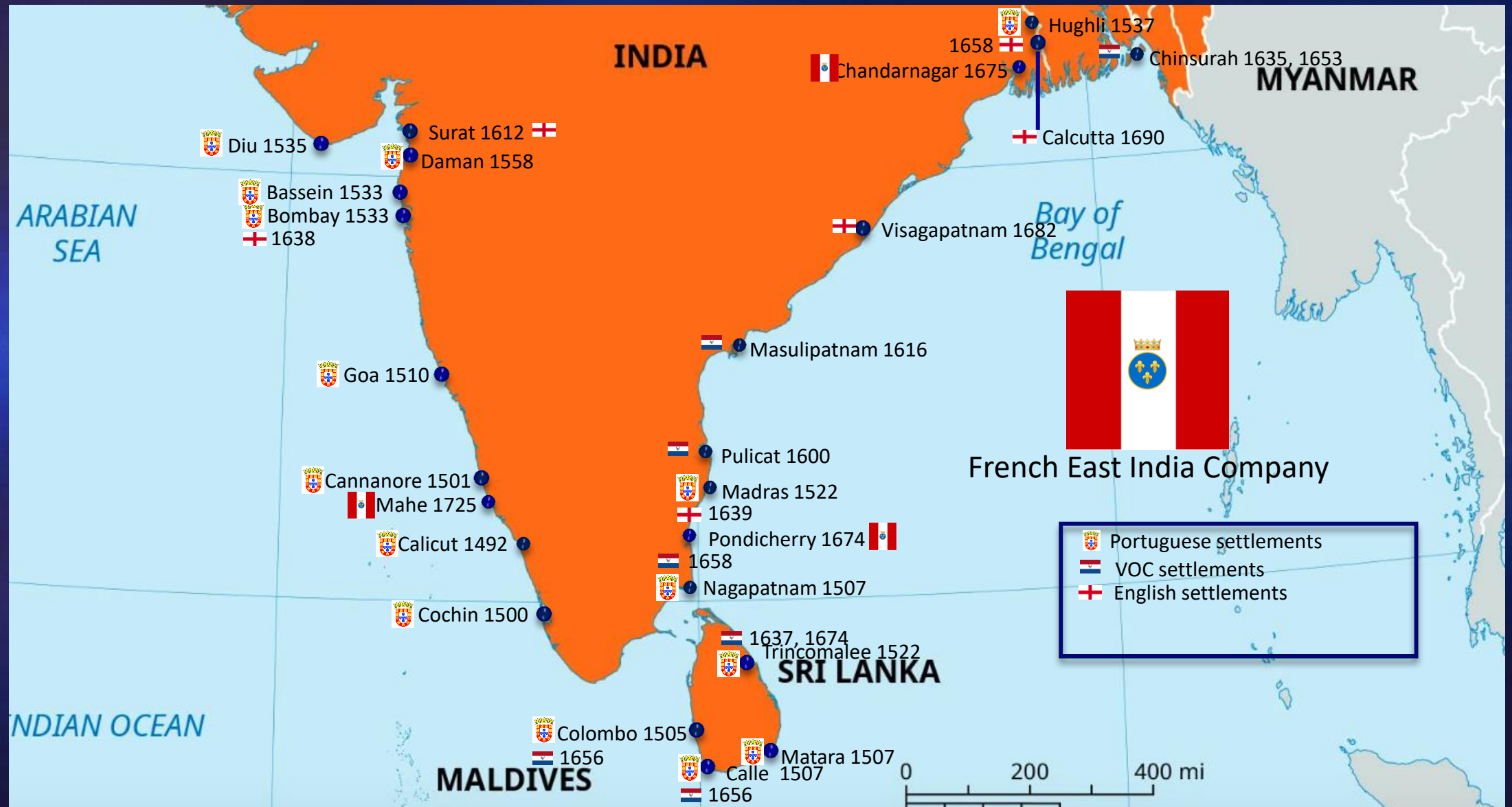
Dutch East India Company (VOC) Settlements In India And Sri Lanka 1610-1795



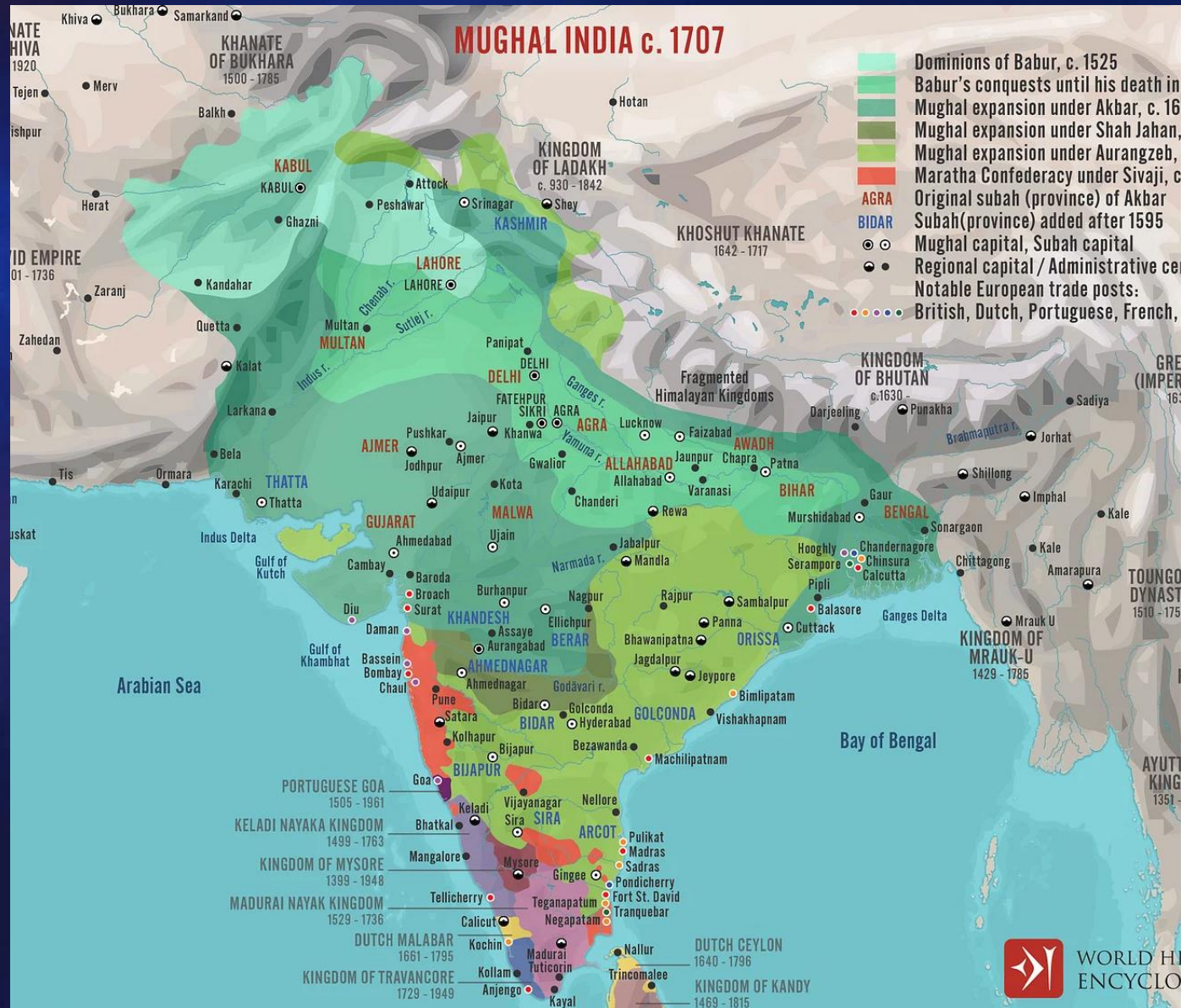
English Settlements In India And Sri Lanka 1612-1739



French Settlements In India And Sri Lanka 1674-1739



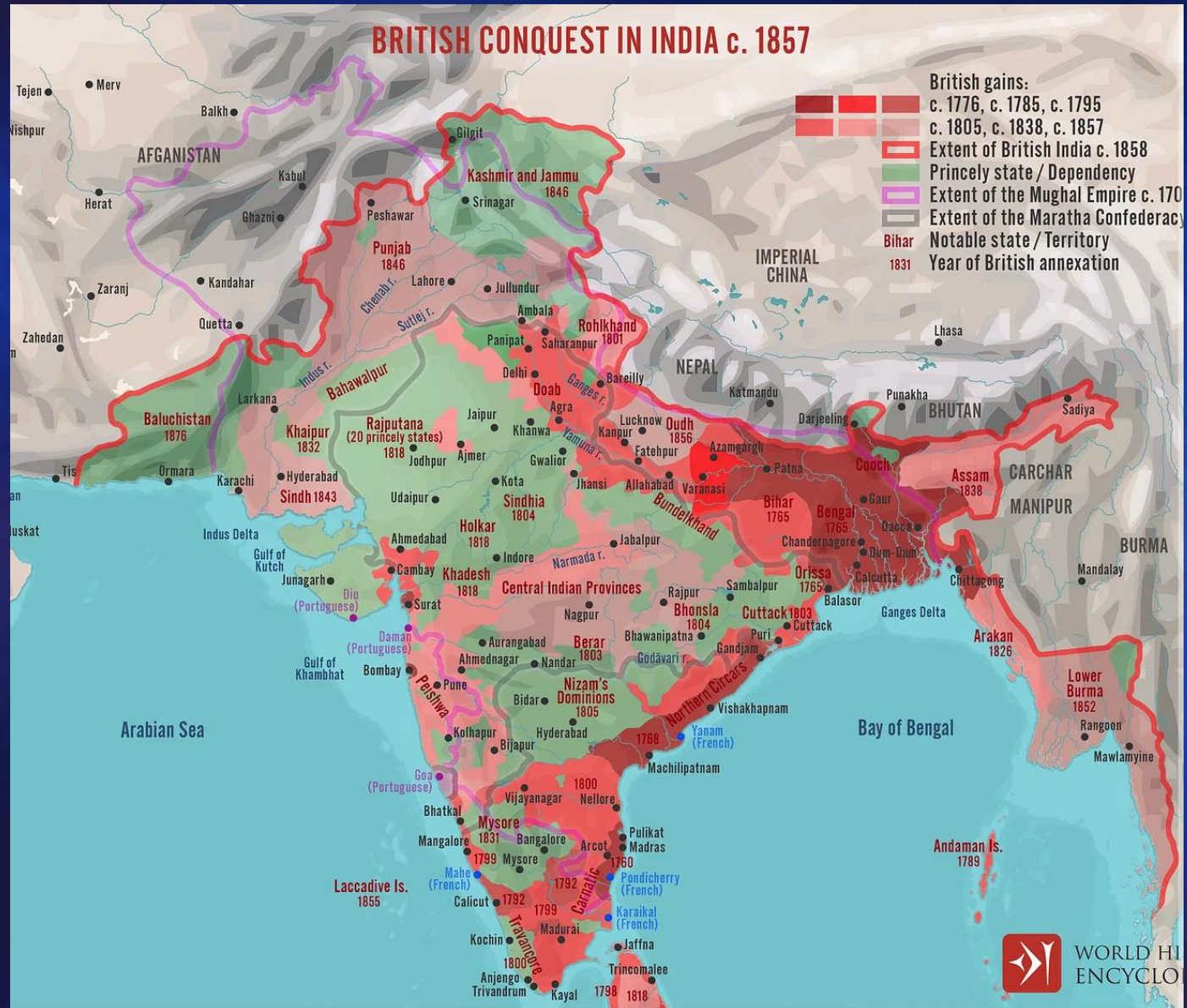
Mughal India



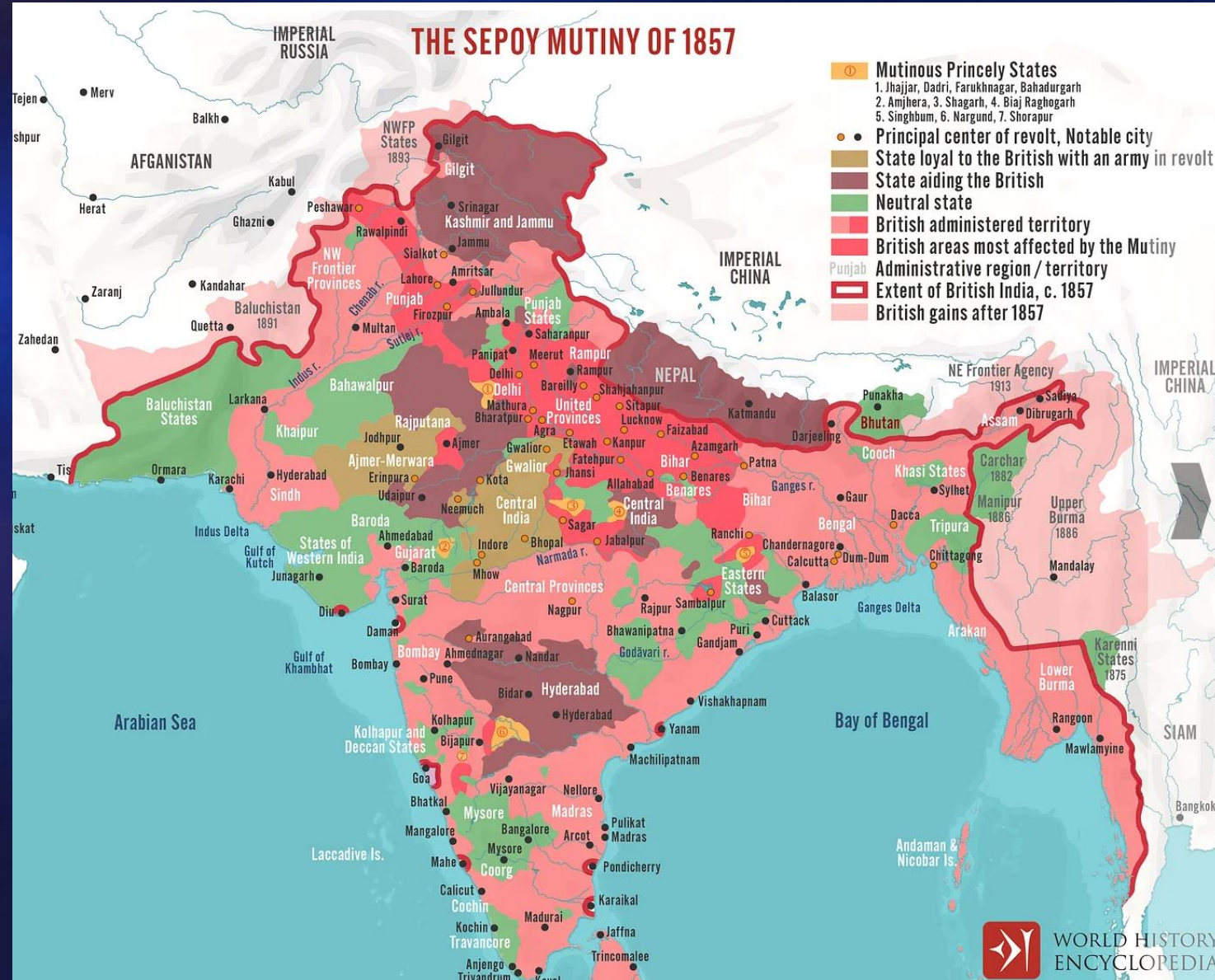
East India Company Rule c. 1765



British Conquest Of India c. 1857



The Sepoy Mutiny aka The Indian Rebellion Of 1857



The Patna Copper Ticket

Copper Ticket 1774



Diameter - 26.4mm; Weight - 8.95 grams

'Patna Post Two Annas'

Azimabad Dak, do
ani'. (In Persian)

PROVENANCE: Ex. W.J. Noble collection previously from the
renowned F. Pridmore collection, fine and extremely rare.

- In January 1774, India's first Governor General, Warren Hastings, began to make arrangements for the establishment of India's first Post Office Department.
- One reform introduced was the prepayment for postage of letters.
- Small Copper Tickets of 2 Annas each (being the single rate for every 100 miles) were introduced exclusively for postal purposes.
- These rare copper tickets thus became one of the first recorded instruments for the prepayment of postage, even before the Penny Black of 1840.

Bishop Marks



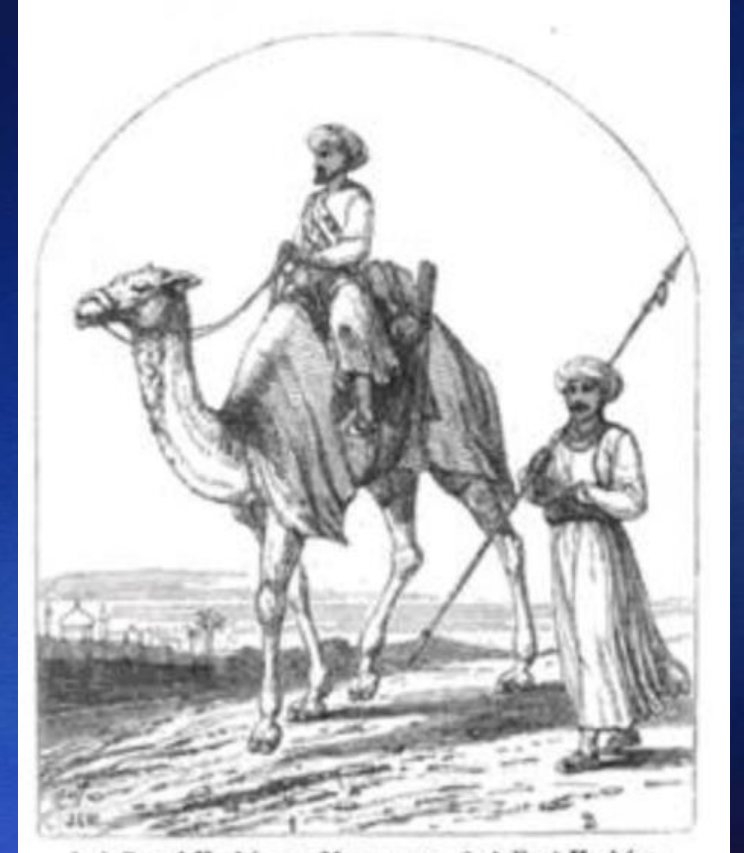
- He also introduced a requirement, "That all letters shall be stamped with the day of the month on which they are delivered into any chief office."
- Cover 1775 (2 Feb.) entire letter from Croftes and Johnson to William Boughton Rous, Chief of the Provincial Council of Revenue at Dacca, showing "POSTPAID" (HG 2) and, on reverse, a superb strike of the India Bishop mark for "2/FEB" (HG X2) alongside equally fine "CALCUTTA" (HG 1). A remarkable cover, being the earliest of the four India Bishop marks recorded in private hands.

Image from Christie's Auction 10/25/2000.
Price realized: GBP 32,000.00

Messenger Postal System: Dak Harkara



Postcard showing two Dawk-Wallahs transporting the mail, around 1850



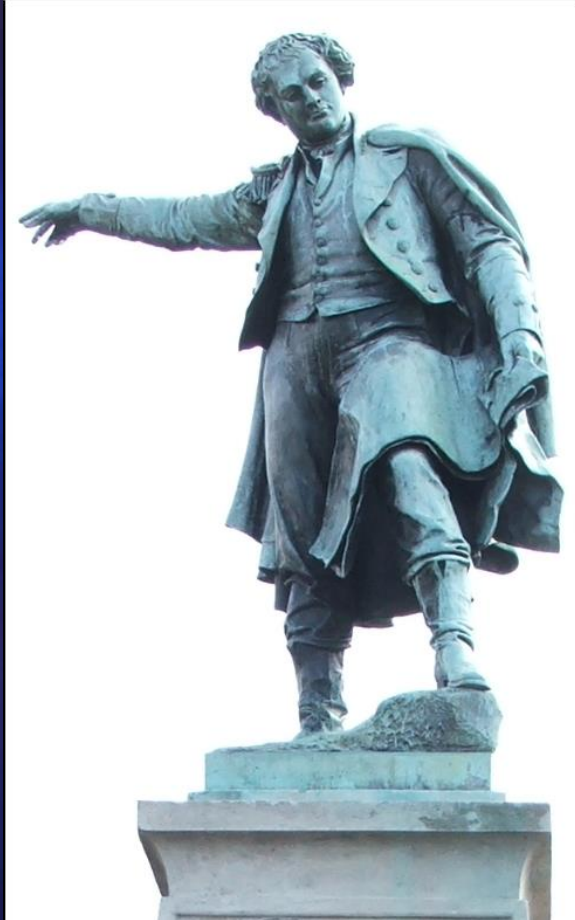
Camel Harkara and Foot Harkara

The Mysore Anche And Travancore/Cochin Anchal



- Anche may derive from the Urdu word unjal meaning message.
- Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar II ruled the state of Mysore from 1673-1704 and started an Anche Post.
- In the neighboring Travancore kingdom, Maharaja Marthanda Varma started the Travancore Anchal post.

Thomas Waghorn



Thomas Waghorn's statue
in Chatham

- Waghorn promoted and claimed the idea of a new route from England to India overland through Egypt connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas prior to the development of the Suez Canal.
- Waghorn claimed to have demonstrated the route for the first time in 1829-30 and that it reduced the journey from over 11,000 miles (18,000 km) to 6,000 miles (9,700 km) and while steamships around the Cape of Good Hope took about three months, his route took between 35 and 45 days.

Care of Mr. Waghorn



Sir Bartle Frere and the Scinde Dawk



- The first postage stamps of India were not issued for the whole of the country, but for a small province – Sindh.
- Sir Bartle Frere introduced stamps that were required for the prepayment of postage, a basic feature of the new system.
- These stamps were first issued on 1 July 1852.
- On 30th September 1854 the British postal administration stopped issuing Scinde Dawk stamps.
- The name derives from the words "Scinde", the British spelling of the name of the province of Sindh, and "Dawk", the anglicized spelling of the Hindi word "*Ḍāka*" or Post.

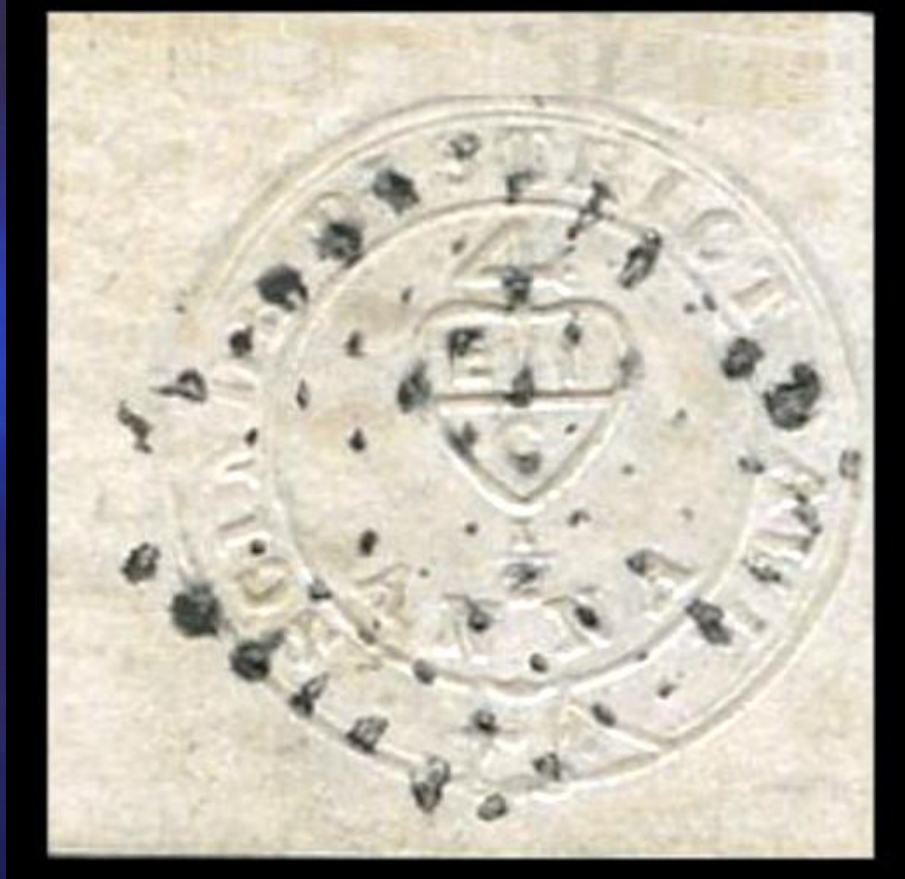
Red Scinde Dawk



Provenance: Ex Hedergott

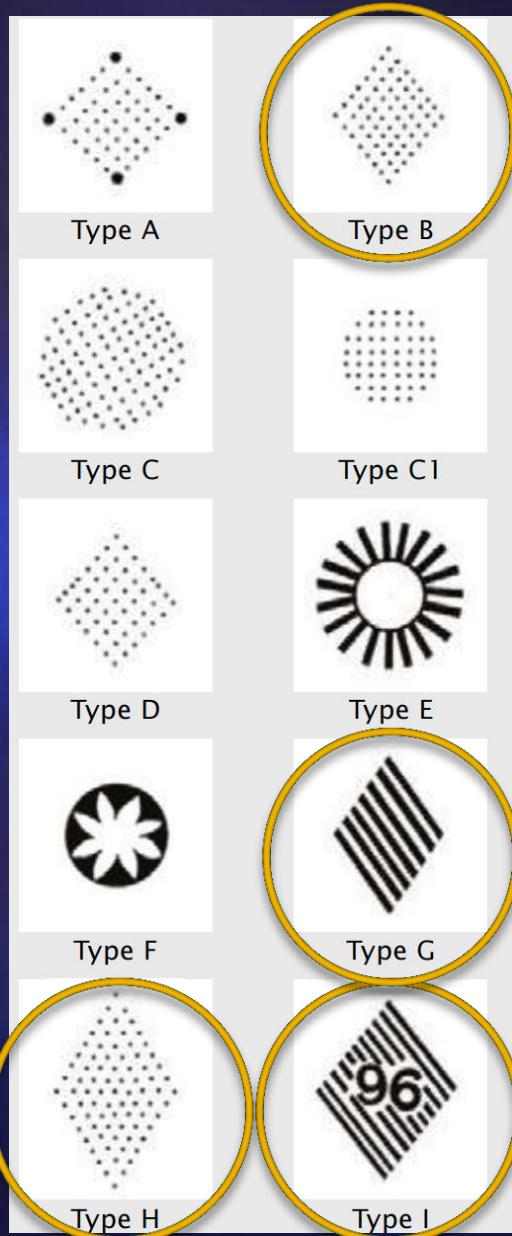
- The Red Scinde Dawk was the first stamp issued in all of Asia.
- Because it was embossed on a wax wafer it had a tendency to crack (and often disintegrate).
- It was deemed unacceptable and quickly replaced with the white and blue stamps embossed on paper.
- Examples completely free of these cracks and splits are quite exceptional.
- Very few examples at this level of condition are believed to exist.

White Scinde Dawk



- The original red wafer stamps proved fragile, leading to the creation of the white paper version to improve durability.
- The white stamp was also found unsatisfactory, because when used on a white cover, it was difficult to distinguish it and its design in candle light from the white cover.
- The white Scinde Dawk stamps are also collected for the easily viewed cancellations used at that time.

Scinde Dawk Cancellations



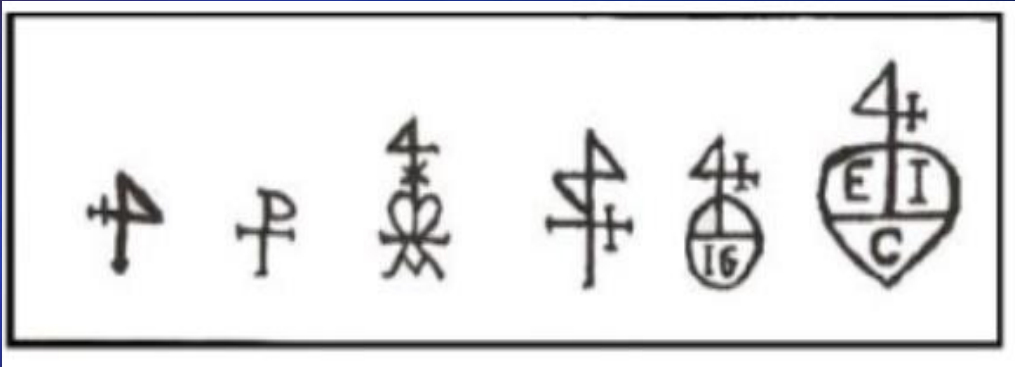
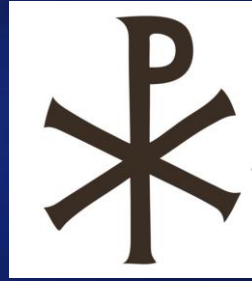
- There are 9 types of Scinde Dawk Cancellations recorded
- The cancellation types B, G, H and I were intended for use on India's first national stamps, which were introduced on 1 October 1854.
- Their use on the Scinde Dawk stamps proves that the order for the destruction of the Scinde Dawk stamps by that date was not fully carried out.

Blue Scinde Dawk



- A new embossed stamp, which was also surface-printed in blue, was introduced to replace the White Scinde Dawk.
- An extra ring around the circumference of the design was added.

Scinde Dawk Design



Progress of the East India
Company Emblem adopted in
the design of Scinde Dawk



Tails side of a Constantine coin that is dated
to 317 AD. Snake being conquered,
vanquished, under the Chi-Rho

"9 ½ Arches" The Lithographed Stamps



India, 1854, ½ anna
Vermilion



India, 1854, ½ anna
Deep Vermilion

- Named "9 1/2 Arches" for the number of arches in the side panel, this issue was printed and prepared for use with a supply sent to Bombay, although it was never officially released for sale.
- The printing of the shipment sent by Capt. Thuillier (The Deputy Surveyor General in charge of the Lithographic Department of the Survey Office, Calcutta), had exhausted the vermilion ink supplies on hand. Ink believed to be of similar quality and color was sourced, but it was quickly realized that this ink had a severe corrosive effect on the plates.
- The chemical reaction destroyed the printing plates.
- Officials in Bombay were telegraphically informed that supplies were to be destroyed, but evidently some of the sheets were released.

The Half Anna Blue

Die I



Light Blue



Dark Blue



Indigo

Die II



Blue



Indigo

Die III



Pale Blue

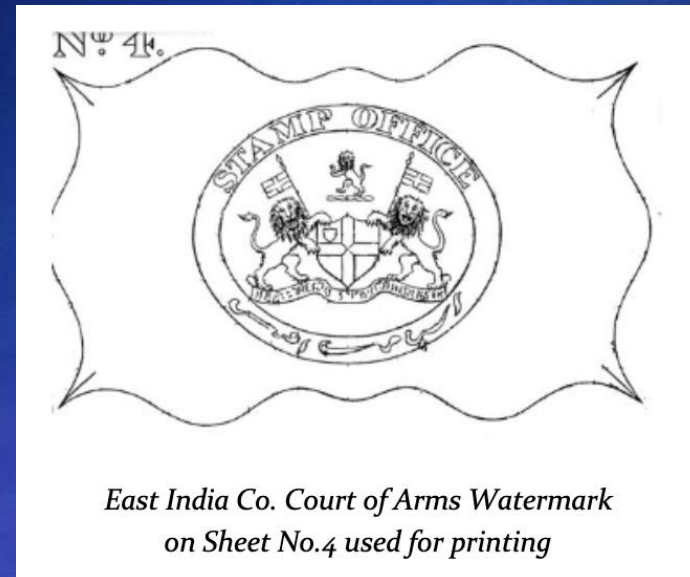
Blue

Greenish Blue

Deep Blue

Die	Printing Date	No Of Stamps
Die I	April - July 1854	3,000,000
Die II	Aug-Sept 1854	2,006,034
Die III	July-Nov 1855	4,687,776

Design engraved on a copper plate by Indian artist Numerodeen



The One Anna Red

Die I



Deep Red

Red



Dull Red

Die II

Deep Red



Red

Dull Red

Die III

Die	Printing Date	No Of Stamps
Die I	July 1854	4,250,000
Die II	Aug-Sept 1854	3,500,000
Die III	July-Aug 1855	1,520,000

Adding a Second Color: 1854



- The authorities gave the Survey Office a new challenge.
- The 4 anna stamp was to be printed in two colors, with a red frame surrounding an indigo Queen's head.
- At this time, the only stamps to have been issued in more than one color anywhere in the world were from Zürich and Basel, printed using sophisticated techniques in Europe.

Reconstructed irregular unused block of four of the 1854 4 annas lithograph

The Inverted Head 4 Annas: 1854



- Surprisingly, no mention of this error was made until 1874, two decades after issue, when an example was exhibited at a meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society London.
- Of the 28 verified examples of this error, three are cut square.
- This example has a red "hollow" diamond of dots cancel of the Straits Settlements (Singapore).

The Postal History Of Portuguese India



A stamp of the British East India Company, cancelled with the Damaun postmark in Portuguese India

- The postal history of Portuguese India goes back to the earlier days of the colony.
- The postal history begins with communication between the Viceroy and the Court at Lisbon soon after the conquest of Old Goa by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1510.
- In those days, correspondence was normally sent in triplicate so as to offset any losses caused by monsoons or pirate attacks. One copy would be sent on the flag ship and the other two would be handed over to the captains of the other vessels.
- Portuguese Indian postmarks are known from 1854, when a post office opened in Goa.

The “Native Stamps” Of Portuguese India



1871 - 10 reis. Ex.
Admiral Bridges.
Only unused
multiple known



First printing on thin paper

- The first postage stamps of Portuguese India were issued 1 October 1871.
- These were issued for local use within the colony. Stamps of British India were required for overseas mail.
- The design of these first stamps simply consisted of a denomination in the center, with an oval band containing the inscriptions "SERVIÇO POSTAL" and "INDIA PORT."

Value	Color	Number Issued
10 Reis	Black	10,000
20 Reis	Dark Carmine	20,000
40 Reis	Blue	5,000
100 Reis	Green	3,000
200 Reis	Ochre	2,000

The Last Outposts Of Portuguese India: 1956



In 1661, the Portuguese ceded the island of Bombay to the English as part of the dowry for Catherine of Braganza's marriage to King Charles II of England. This transfer was formalized in a marriage treaty signed on June 23, 1661, which also included other assets like Tangier and a cash dowry of £300,000.

The Liberation of Goa on December 19, 1961, marked the end of 451 years of Portuguese rule in the region. Following a brief military operation India annexed the territories of Goa, Daman, and Diu.