

Some Indian Names and Words occurring in Geniza Documents  
of the 11th and 12th centuries A.D.

Note: The documents are written in Hebrew characters expressing Arabic sounds;

' (i.e. Aleph) stands both for a glottal stop and for long ā.

G corresponds to Arabic J or ġ (as in Bagdād)

K corresponds to Arabic K or H (Scotch ch)

H or 'at end of a work

Y expresses either Y or ī or long ē

may express merely the sound a.

W expresses either W or long ū or ō

As Arabic has no P, an F or B may stand for an Indian P.

Hebrew script

Any vowels suggested by me are mere guesswork.

does not discern

between P and F.

v stands for sh

Names of Persons.

1-6 are ship's owners

1. BDH son of SLSLYTY (the second word is perhaps a mistake for SLLSYTY, as the word SYTY (sethi, merchant) occurs several times, see below).

2. EDY'R - fadiyar? This seems to be a title, for the word is sometimes preceded by the Arabic article.

3. FTN SWMY - Patan Swami?

4. NBRDWY - This word could be also Persian (Nabard - meaning war)

5. TYNBW x Tinbo, Tampo??

6. NMBYRW - Nambiru (proper name derived from that of a class of Brahmins in South India?)

7. BMH or BM\* - Bama, a slave and business agent. Could be read also Bamma.

8. FL'DR S'NK D'S - Certainly Indian, as Dās at the end indicates. An iron-monger.

9. SWS SYTY - Dealer in pepper and iron.

10. KN'BTY - Dealer in pepper and iron

11. LNBY - a coppersmith. Also LNGY

12. BNK SYTY - a dealer in copper and brass

13. S'D FLY - Shad - pala??

14. 'RY' FLH - Arya-pala?? Two merchants mentioned together.

14a. Ptn - Ptnh. Name of a slave, sold in Cairo in 1194 A.D.

## Some Names of Places in India Mentioned in the Geniza

no doubt all of them on the Western Coast of India. I used M. Husain Nainar, Geographical knowledge of India possessed by the Arabs, and Dr. Maqbul, Ahmad, Idrisi.

15. BRGYYN - could be read as Burjiyīn and be regarded as an Ar. word derived from burj, tower. The word designs pirates on the Indian coast, against whom the Sultan (which is not said) was fighting. Perhaps a W is lacking and the reference is to BRWJ - Broach, the well-known port.
16. BRYBTN - Baribatan, identical with Banibatan, Nainar pp. 26 and 29-30??
17. GRBTN - Jurbatan? Is it better to write battān, with two t and a long a?
18. DHBTN - Dahbattan, Nainar, p. 32.
19. DAIBUL - often mentioned. Identical with Dib?
20. DYYB - Dib, Diu. Why t w o y?
21. DRMTN - Darmatan
- 21.a. KGNDRY - A place where books are made.
22. KY'KNWR - Kayāknor???
23. KLMBW - seems to be identical with Kulam (Quilon), which is written KWLM. Why Kalambo?
24. KMHRY - mentioned together with Ceylon as a place infested by Pirates.
25. Malabar is spelled in 4 different ways: Mīnābār, Manībār, Malībār, Malībārāt (ā is the Ar. plural fem.). Which of the four is the nearest to the original?
26. Mangalor is spelled Manjalūr and Manjarūr. I suppose the first form is original.
27. QNY'T - Qaniyāt or Qanayāt. Normally, Q is never used for the rendering of an Indian sound. The ms. is clear; no B is lacking, and Cambay is written in these documents Kanbayāt.