

Record Series

The Goa Archives contains source material relating to the history of European expansion in Asia and Africa especially the rise, fall and decay of the Portuguese sea-borne empire in India (1510-1961) and the attempts made by the Asian and African powers to oust the Europeans from Asia and Africa. Besides there are records pertaining to village communities, a good collection of files pertaining to the freedom struggle of Goa, registers of Baptisms, Births & Deaths, Deeds and Wills as well as some useful records from churches in Goa.

Most of the records are in Portuguese and Marathi (Modi) though quite a few documents are also in Sanskrit, Persian, English, French and Vietnamese. There are some Canarese records in the Goykanadi script though the language is Marathi. There are some Swahili letters penned almost 300 years ago, which comprise the oldest corpus of Swahili prose so far discovered. The collection of records is too numerous to be mentioned.

Some of the important record series are:

1. Moncoes do Reino (Monsoon correspondence from the Kingdom) 1560-1914.
2. Reis Vizinhos (Neighboring kings) 1619-1842.
3. Correspondencia para o Reino (Viceroy's correspondence with the king) 1763-1887.
4. Cartas Patentes e Alvaras (Royal letters, Patents, decrees) 1557- 1875.
5. Assentos do Conselho Do Estado (Proceedings of the State Council) 1618-1785.
6. Assentos do Conselho da Fazenda (Proceedings of the Revenue Council) 1613-1781.
7. Alfandegas (Custom Houses) 1745-1889
8. Fazenda (Exchequer) 1688-1883.
9. Ordens Regias (Royal Orders) 1630-1868.
10. Senado de Goa (Municipality of Goa) 1535-1836.
11. Cartas e Ordens (Viceregal Letters and Orders) 1609-1865.

12. Mocambique (1675-1864).
13. Damao (Daman) 1592-1846
14. Dio (Diu) 1591-1880.
15. Japan (1576-1772).
16. Jesuits (1664-1806.
17. Macau (1693-1861).
18. Feitorias (Factories) 1667-1885.
19. Fortalezas (Fortresses) 1545-1694 etc.

We also have a good collection of land records, baptism/birth and death records, Court records – crime, civil, inventory, Notarial deeds, Captain of Port records, Comunidade records of Bardez, Salcete and Tiswadi talukas, Excise records, Accounts records, records of Industries and Mines, Mamlatdar records of Canacona taluka, P.W.D. records, Planning and Statistics records, records related to the freedom struggle of Goa, Modi (Marathi) records etc.

The record holdings are very useful for military, administrative, economic, social, scientific, fiscal, navigation, trade and revenue matters, which can be of great use for reconstruction of history of the world of the last 450 years. The documentation on Africa, Brazil, South East Asian Countries, Ceylon, etc. is very valuable. The huge collection of Comunidade records (1595-1880) is useful for the history of village administration in this region. The ecclesiastical collection is important for the reconstruction of church history in the East.

Reference aids such as General Inventory, 'Roteiro' (Guide to Archives), Guide to Archives by Dr. V. T. Gune and various other lists are available for reference to scholars/public. New lists are being added to the existing ones so as to facilitate quick retrieval of records.