

Imperial Court. Thereupon Zheng He and Wang Jinghong again received the imperial order to sail to Hormuz (*Hulumosi*) and elsewhere, seventeen countries in all, and return.

Zheng He served three emperors in his career, and from beginning to end he accepted credentials as an ambassador on seven occasions. He sailed to over thirty countries in all, including Champa (*Zhancheng*), Java (here *Guawa*, but usually written *Zhaowa*), Cambodia (*Zhenla*), the Old Harbor (*Jiugang*, Palembang on Sumatra), Thailand (*Xianluo*), Calicut (*Guli*), Malacca (*Manlajia*), Brunei (*Poni*), Semudera (*Sumendala*, on the north coast of Sumatra), Aru (*Alu*, also transcribed *Yalu*, on the east coast of Sumatra), Cochin (*Gezhi*), "Greater Quilon" (*Da Gelan*, somewhere on the west coast of India), "Lesser" Quilon (*Xiao Gelan*, the actual Quilon), "Chola of the Western Ocean" (*Xiyang Suoli*, uncertain but from the name somewhere on the east coast of India), Chola (*Suoli*, Negapatam on the east coast of India), *Abobadan* (a country bordering on Coimbatore in southern India), Lambri (*Nanwuli*, also transcribed *Nanpoli* and also rendered Lamuri; Aceh in Sumatra), *Ganbali* (perhaps Coimbatore in Southern India), Ceylon (*Xilanshan*), Lambri (again; this time transcribed *Nanpoli* but not recognized as the same country by the compiler), Pahang (*Penghang*), Kelantan (*Jilandan*), Hormuz (*Hulumosi*), *Bila* (probably Bitra Atoll in the Laccadives), *Liushan* (the Maldive and Laccadive Islands collectively), *Sunla* (probably Chetlat Atoll in the Laccadives), Mogadishu (*Mugudushu*), Malindi (*Malin*), *Lasa* (near Mukallah on the southern coast of the Arabian peninsula), Djofar (*Zu-faer*, also on the southern coast of the Arabian peninsula), *Shaliwanni* (perhaps Cannanore on the west coast of India), *Zhubu* (Gumbo on the Somali coast south of Mogadishu), Bengal (*Banggela*), Mecca (*Tianfang* or "Heavenly Square"), Lide (*Lifa*, error for *Lidai*), and Nagur (*Naguer*; Lide and Nagur were small states in northern Sumatra). The goods and treasures without name that he acquired were too many to be accounted for, yet they did not make up for the wasteful expenditures of the Middle Kingdom. From the time that [Zheng He] returned from distant regions in the Xuande period (1425–35), the most urgent priorities have been different from those of the Yongle period (1402–24). Moreover, Zheng He grew old and

eventually died, and after Zheng He, of all those who received orders to transmit imperial letters by sea, none failed to praise Zheng He lavishly in order to boast to the foreigners. Thus, in the vulgar tradition [the story of] the Grand Director of the Three Treasures sailing down to the Western Ocean [is seen as] a major accomplishment of the early years of the Ming.