

A Textual Archaeology of the Malay and Javanese Early Modern *jong*

1. The Term *jong* in History

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Abstract

The term jong, which first appeared in an eleventh-century Old Javanese inscription, designates in Malay and Javanese a large seagoing ship. During the Middle Ages, the word was adopted under various forms into Arabic and European languages (junk, jonque, junco, etc.), after being used by a variety of travellers and geographers whose works were then widely distributed. This article traces back and analyses the history and the etymology of the word, through a comprehensive account of its occurrences in vernacular and foreign sources.

Keywords: maritime history; shipbuilding; Southeast Asia; Indian Ocean; South China Sea; Malay World; Java, nautical vocabulary; *jong*.