



East India Company ships at Deptford

Source type: painting
Date made: around 1660

The Company helped make London an important shipbuilding centre. By 1618, the East India Company was one of the largest employers of civilian labour in London.

Ships built at Deptford helped the Company expand and strengthen its trade in Asia.

A profitable venture

In 1620 the Company purchased 250,000 pounds (113,000 kg) of pepper with a value of £26,041 in the East Indies. It was sold in London for £208,041.

And 150,000 pounds (68,000 kg) of cloves worth £5,126 had a selling price in London of £45,000.