

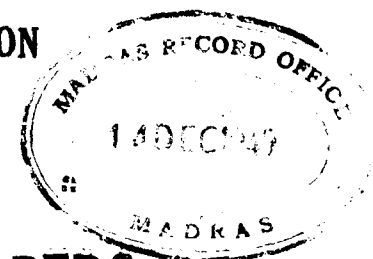
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INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION



SUMMARY OF PAPERS



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CUTTACK
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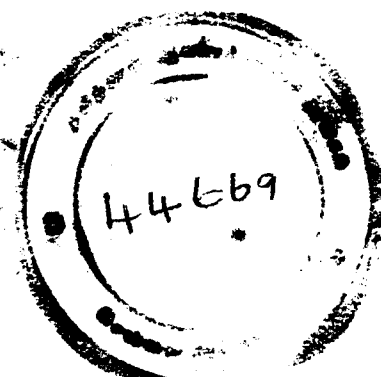
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DOCUMENTS RELATING TO AN OLD FAMILY OF SUFI SAINTS OF BIHAR

By Syed Hasan Askari*

Makhdum Syed Hasan, a Zaidi Syed, who founded and gave his name to the important village of Hasanpura in the district of Saran and was favourably inclined towards Humayun in his conflict with Sher Shah, was the progenitor of a long line of Sufi saints in Bihar, many of whom were the recipients of *farmans*, *sanads*, *nishans*, *parwanahs*, etc., from Mughal Emperors, Princes, and provincial governors down to Shah Alam and Alivardi Khan. The representatives of this family are spread over four districts of Bihar, viz., Saran, Muzaffarpur, Patna, and Bhagalpur and many of them are still in possession of papers of historical importance which have not yet been utilized by any student of history. Copies have been made of, and notes have been taken from, 9 documents found at Hasanpura, 22 documents discovered at Patna, and 33 documents seen at Khalifabagh, Bhagalpur. The present paper is an attempt to bring to light, for the first time, some of the earliest papers of the time of Akbar and Jahangir. They include a *hukumnama* granted on behalf of Emperor Akbar by Husain Quli Khan Khan Jahan, two grants made by Prince Salim while he was a rebel, a regular *farman* of Jahangir, a '*nishan*' of prince Parvez, then governor of Bihar, and another '*nishan*' of prince Khurram (Shah Jahan) while he was in a state of rebellion against his imperial father. Numerous other *farmans* of Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb and their successors could not be noticed in this paper for want of space and time.

SOME PARWANAHS FOR THE DUTCH

By Kalikinkar Datta†

In this paper I have studied a few *parwanahs* and *cauls* which the ~~Dutch~~ Company in India received from the Mughal Imperial Government and some of its officers in the Deccan Subah during the first half

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of the 18th century. These have been selected out of a huge collection of documents which were originally in Dutch language at Batavia and copies of which were brought to India from there in 1815 by Colonel Colin Mackenzie, then President of a Commission on Java affairs. These were translated into English at Serampore under his supervision. Contents of these documents were in favour of the trade of the Dutch Company in Southern India.

SOME PERSIAN RECORDS FROM A SARDAR NATU FAMILY OF POONA

By G. H. Khare*

The records which are more than three hundred twenty in number belong to a Sardar Natu family of Poona. Two out of them are narratives in Marathi pertaining to the Dabhade family and the murder of Narayanrao, the fifth Peshwa, and the rest are Persian documents turned into twenty scrolls and six loose letters. Owing to the absence of the envelopes and the wrappers it has become difficult to ascertain their dates. Four of them belong to the last years of Aurangzeb, but a majority belong to the later Peshwa period. Some are originals, while others are copies. Three documents of this collection have been summarised for this paper. The first is addressed to the Peshwa by the Director of the Dutch Company at Surat in which the former's good wishes towards the Company are solicited. The second is also addressed to the Peshwa but by Akherajji, the second ruler of Bhavanagar, and he requests the Peshwa therein to keep safe the port of Ghogha from the English. The third is addressed to the Director General of the French Company at Surat asking for the help of the French offered by them on certain conditions.

MATERIAL FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES IN THE PESHWA DAFTAR

By T. S. Shejwalkar†

This note on the *Jamav* section of the *Peshwa Daftar*, Poona, draws attention to the existence of materials which can be used for the study of the economic and social conditions in the Peshwa's dominions and for estimating the population of those territories.

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AYYA SHASTRI—A SOUTH INDIAN CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE MARATHA STATE

By C. S. Srinivasachari*

This note is an attempt to urge upon scholars the necessity of discovering material for a more detailed knowledge of Ayya Shastri, obviously a Tamil Brahman, who was a prominent figure at the Peshwa's Court in Poona in the days of Peshwa Madhav Rao Narayan. He was one of the leaders among learned men who abounded in the Peshwa's Court and acted as examiner of the *pandits* and scholars who came to Poona every year for participating in the *sadas* of learned men during the annual Shrawan gathering for *Dakshina*. He succeeded the notable Ram Shastri Prabhune, on his death in October 1789, in the high office of Chief Justice of the Maratha state and seems to have been in that office for a few years. There is only one reference available to me about his judicial decisions. Scholars and researchers in this period of Maratha history may easily gather more material relating to this South Indian Judge of their State.

AN OLD CUSTOM OF ESTATE DIVISION IN BIHAR—AN INTERESTING RECORD OF THE SADAR DIWANI ADALAT

By Tapan Kumar Roychaudhuri†

Among the records of the *Sadar Diwani Adalat*, now in the possession of the Calcutta High Court, there is an interesting document which relates to the prevalence in the 18th century of a quaint custom of division of estates in Saran and Tirhut. The custom, as can be studied in this document, can be described as one of limited primogeniture. It was of a very long standing and in 1800 gave rise to a difficult problem which the Judges of Provincial Court of Appeal at Patna referred to the *Sadar Diwani Adalat* for instructions to solve it.

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THE FAMINE OF 1783-84 AND THE COMPANY'S RELIEF MEASURES

By Hari Ranjan Ghosal*

In this paper an attempt has been made to throw some light on an extremely little known subject, viz., the famine of 1783-84, with the help of a number of unpublished English documents found in the record room of the Muzaffarpur Collectorate in Bihar. It gives in relatively short outline a fairly accurate account of the famine, and especially of the measures adopted by the Company's Government to deal with it, and throws a doubt on the statement of the Indian Famine Commission of 1901 that "no attempt was made in those early years of our dominion (from the administration of Warren Hastings to that of Canning) to grapple with the famine question, or to construct any system of famine relief."

THE TREATY OF 1812 WITH BANJARMASIN

By S. N. Das Gupta†

Banjarmasin was one of the three distinct Kingdoms of the once great Malay Sultanate of Borneo. The place was remarkable for its rich soil and its choice commercial products which satisfy the necessities of everyday human life, and proved an irresistible lure to maritime nations. The Dutch secured sovereignty over Banjarmasin and monopoly of the trade in pepper after 1733. The English, too, made abortive attempts in the 17th and 18th centuries to open commercial intercourse with the place, but Dutch intrigues and native antipathy frustrated all English enterprise in the region. During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, nearly all territories once belonging to the Dutch in the eastern archipelago were taken by the English. Banjarmasin was one of the few settlements which still remained under the authority of Batavia. The place was abandoned by the Dutch in 1809 as unprofitable. Immediately after the Dutch had "relinquished their establishments, sold the forts and entirely withdrawn their protection thereby cancelling all engagements" which formerly subsisted between the Dutch government and the Sultan of Banjarmasin, the latter appealed to the British for help. Sir Stamford Raffles, who was then the lieutenant-governor of Java, deputed Mr. Alexander Hare to Banjarmasin in April 1812 to negotiate terms with the Sultan in the name of the East India Company. The treaty was signed by the respective parties on October 1, 1812. It

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was stipulated that "the relations of peace, friendship and alliance shall be established and maintained for ever between the contracting parties". The treaty gave to the English virtual sovereignty over the entire southern belt of the island of Borneo extending from below Sukadana in the south-west to Balikpapan in the south-east with the exception of the pirate-infested ports. Raffles accepted this territorial cession on the explicit recognition of the Sultan's "perfect and entire release from all engagements formerly existing between the kingdom of Banjarmasin and the Dutch East India Company" and agreed to protect and maintain the Sultan "in all his rights, titles, rank, dignities and possessions, defend him against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and invaders, as well European as Asiatic".

The privileges formerly enjoyed by the Dutch Company were transferred to the English. The nomination of the successor to the throne and the appointment of the chief minister were to be with the consent of the Company. Matters relating to diplomacy and foreign affairs were left entirely in the hands of the Company. Aliens were placed under the jurisdiction of the Company. Precautions were taken against the permanent residence of Arabs in Banjarmasin. The monopoly of pepper, the privileges of cutting timber, and working the gold and diamond mines were granted to the Company. The Sultan was to receive 25 per cent. profit on the price of pepper paid to cultivators. The expenses of the settlement were to be met from the revenues derived from the ceded provinces. The Sultan was entitled to half the surplus amount left after necessary disbursements.

Raffles authorised Hare to form "a separate establishment in the nature of an armed police", consisting of the usual paraphernalia of such settlements, namely a Resident, an Assistant, a Chief of police, one surgeon and an assistant, a book-keeper, two writers, artificers, peons, sailors and boatswains for the wharf. The salary of the Resident was fixed at 500 dollars per month and the total salary of the rest of the staff at 603 dollars per month. Raffles suggested to the governor-general "the propriety of establishing a factory at Banjarmasin on such a footing as to secure the command of the precious metals with which the country abounds and to facilitate the more general introduction of commerce in that direction".

It was the intention of Raffles "to confirm provisionally the treaty but expressly subject to the final ratification of his lordship-in-council". But the powers were then engaged in a life and death struggle with Napoleon and the final outcome of the War was still hanging in the

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balance. The home government was not inclined to involve the country in fresh treaty engagements with any state, and its interests and future policy towards the Dutch were still uncertain factors. It seems that the Bengal government, in view of such considerations, did not pass any final decision on the treaty. The provisions of the treaty are recorded in the Java Secret and Separate Consultations (Factory Records, Borneo 1) of December 17, 1812, but no reference to the treaty is to be found in the Bengal Colonial Letters or the Indices to the Consultations. The settlement was handed back to the Dutch in August 1818 in spite of the strong protests of John Fendall.

AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY ON SEALS IN SALE DEEDS EXECUTED BY THE NAWABS OF OUDH

By Nandalal Chatterji*

One of the curious problems that the British administration had to face in Oudh after its annexation was the recognition of the legality or otherwise of the various seals or signs in force during the previous regime in the case of transfers made under sale by royal order, known in official parlance as '*Bai Sooltanee*'. The royal seals over sale deeds of previous reigns were of different forms, and it seemed rather difficult to form any opinion regarding the genuineness of some of them, or to detect frauds, if any.

The District Records of Lucknow contain an interesting bundle of papers and files, dated 1866, whence it appears that the Financial Commissioner of Oudh instituted a regular historical investigation into the character of the old seals and signs used under '*Bai Sooltanee*' (Circular No. 6 of 16th March, 1866, etc.). The Commissioners of three divisions made extensive researches on the subject, but the authorities could arrive at no decision in this matter.

The preponderance of opinion was in favour of the following positions:

1. That it was in the reign of Nasiruddin Haidar that departmental countersigns were introduced.
2. That in subsequent reigns changes in the countersigns were introduced.

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3. Even when certain countersigns were adhered to, the absence of one or more of them would not necessarily invalidate the document.

THE KARNAMAH

By K. Sajan Lal*

The *karnamah* was an Urdu weekly published from Lucknow in the post-Muntiny period. The writer has in his possession copies of this paper for 1870. An attempt has been made in this article to describe its contents and to assess their historical value. Among the items of interest which appeared in the paper are the local news of Lucknow, statistics of collection of licence fees in Oudh, affair of Indian states and the Governor General's tour in 1870.

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