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HANDICRAFTS IN MAHARASHTRA

VOLUME X
PART VII-A



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**"HIMROO" OF
AURANGABAD**

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CENSUS OF INDIA 1961

VOLUME X

MAHARASHTRA

PART VII-A(1)
HANDICRAFTS IN MAHARASHTRA
HIMROO WEAVING

Prepared by
THE MAHARASHTRA CENSUS OFFICE, BOMBAY

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- VI (1—35) .. Village Surveys (35 monographs on 35 selected villages)
- VII-A (1—8) .. Handic

which promises to be of the utmost value to sociologists and orientalists. A full and complete inventory, replete with sketches and measurements of every object, has been prepared of exhibits in museums of tribal crafts in India. There has been a fairly satisfactory survey of houses and buildings, indigenous architectural designs and use of local building material of the whole country. All this has been entirely a labour of love, patiently organized and executed under great strain and in disregard of health and comfort, for which I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation and grateful thanks to my colleagues.

NEW DELHI,
July 30, 1964

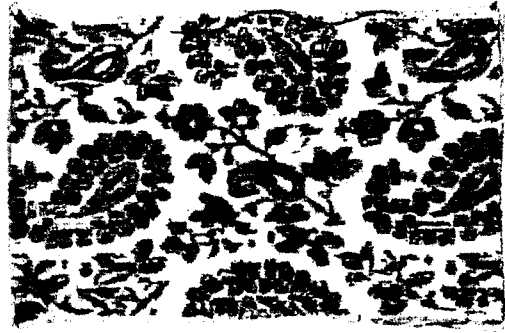
ASOK MITRA,
Registrar-General, India

PREFACE

This Part of the Census Report presents a monograph on the "Himroo Weaving at Aurang

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SPECIMENS OF HIMROO CLOTH

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

India is famous for the art of cloth weaving since olden times. It used to produce not only the essential cloth for daily wear but the fancy cloth depicting the skill of the craftsman. Colourful fabrics of cotton and silk were woven in India for generations by the skilled workers who were trained in their early childhood at the pitlooms. India was perhaps the first country to attain perfection in the art of weaving and its marvellous woven fabrics are very old.

“There are passages in the Rig Veda from which we can conclude that the art was carried to a high state of excellence. One hymn refers to Agni for light regarding the mysteries of sacrifice, but the language used is that of weaving :

‘I know not either warp or woof
I know not the web thy weave.’

There is also a reference to the shining gold woven cloak (hiranya-draپی) and in the Mahabharata to the

Aurangabad. The Aurangabad District Industrial Co-operative Association, Ltd., also produced Himroo shawls from pure silk and Khadi.

In the powerloom sector there were four factories producing Himroo shawls.

The establishments which are engaged in this craft are spread over in various localities of the town. The area particularly famous for the manufacturing units

of Himroo is Nawabpura. In this area concentration of manufacturing units is more than anywhere else. Out of the 8 establishments, four were found in this locality. The other localities where the establishments were found are : Kadim Mondha, Moti Karanja, Jinsipura and Budhi Lane. The production centre-cum-showrooms were, however, found only in Nawabpura locality. In other localities there were production centres only.

“ HIMROO ” WEAVING

Since the customers are not in a position to make a distinction between a Himroo cloth produced on hand-loom and a similar one manufactured on a powerloom, the merchants invariably try to pass off the latter variety as Himroo cloth. The cloth produced on powerlooms is cheaper and hence it can sell at a lower rate in the market.

The machinery, especially the loom etc., has not undergone any modernization. It is felt that the frame loom may improve the output since it gives more freedom to the limbs of the weaver. The use of Jacquard machine may, no doubt, reduce the cost of production but it will not display personal skill of the weaver.

Another way by which this craft can be set on firm footing is to popularize the cloth. This can be done by displaying the various designs of the cloth and shawls which are manufactured at Aurangabad at different exhibitions which are held from time to time. New

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APPENDIX 2

Designwise Production and Sale of Himroo cloth

HIMROO AND NAWABPURA WEAVERS, INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Period : 1st November to 30th November 1961.

Serial No.	Type of cloth		Quantity produced	Sale		Remarks

APPENDIX 4

Statement showing Prices of raw material prevalent in 1960-61

Serial No.	Description	Wholesale rate per lb.	Retail rate per lb.
		Rs.	Rs.
1	2/60s Staple yarn	5.59	6.09
2	20s Cotton yarn	2.20	3.00
3	150d Art Silk yarn	9.86	10.25

