

Law (1926) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1137

DATED 22-6-1926

[Despatch Abstract.]

BOOKS.

"The Birhors"--author informed that the book is being brought to the notice of Principals of Colleges.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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CURRENT NO.
2228
PUBLIC

From

Rai Sarat Chandra Roy Bahadur, M.A., B.L., M. L. C.,
Vakil, Ranchi.

To

The Chief Secretary, to the Government of Madras.



Dated Ranchi, the 23rd April, 1926.

Sir,

In submitting herewith a copy of my newly published book entitled "THE BIRHORS": A Little-known Jungle Tribe of Chota-Nagpur, I have the honour to solicit the patronage of the Madras Government by the purchase of some copies of the book. I may be permitted to mention that similar patronage was extended to my previous books by your letters No. G.O., 439 (Public Department), dated the 4th April, 1913 and G.O.No.1545, dated the 29th October 1915 (Public Department).

Copies of appreciations of the book are submitted herewith.

Copies of the book, I may mention, may be had from the Manager, "Man in India" Office, Church Road, Ranchi, B.N. Ry.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sarat Chandra Roy
23. IV. 26.

Public Dept.

May be transferred to Law (Econ) Dept. 40.

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29.4.26.

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20.4.26

Law (Econ) up (with the book)

Pub. No. 2228-1
(with book).

patronage of private publications is now dealt with in Law (Econ) Dept. with precedents put up.

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2 (52)

BOOKS FOR SALE.

at the "MAN IN INDIA" office,

Church Road, Ranchi.

1. THE BIRHORS : *a Little-known Jungle Tribe of Chota-Nagpur.*— By Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy, M. A., B. L., M. L. C. Pp. viii+608 with 36 plates. (Ranchi: "MAN IN INDIA" Office, 1925.) Price Rs. 10/- ; 15 s.

SOME OPINIONS.

SIR JAMES G. FRAZER, D. C. L., L. L. D., Litt. D., F. B. A., F. R. S., O. M., Professor of Anthropology in the Trinity College, Cambridge writes:—

.....I find it characterised by the same high qualities as mark your former monographs on the Mundas and Oraons. You have rendered a valuable service to anthropology by placing on record the customs and beliefs of a very primitive tribe about which very little was known before and which, but for your careful and prolonged observations, might have passed away practically unknown. As in your former volumes I admire the diligence with which you have collected a large body of interesting facts and the perfect lucidity with which you have set them forth. The book is a fine specimen of a monograph on an Indian tribe and must always remain the standard authority on the subject. I congratulate you heartily on your achievement, and earnestly trust that you will continue your valuable investigation and give us other similar accounts of other primitive and little known Indian tribes.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH, M. D., F. R. C. S., L. L. D., F. R. S., Conservator of the Museum and Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons of England, writes:—

.....You have done a splendid piece of work—one which will make Europe indebted to you.....

DR. A. C. HADDON, M. A., Sc. D., F. R. S., Reader in Ethnology, of Cambridge, writes:—

3
(ii)

.....Your accustomed excellent work. It is a most useful contribution to Indian Ethnology.....

D. ROLAND B. DIXON, A. M., PH. D., Professor of Anthropology in the Harvard University writes :—

.....You are certainly doing work to be proud of in the studies you have published of the Chota-Nagpur tribes, and all anthropologists are in your debt. If only we could have similar studies of all the wilder peoples of India, how fine it would be !.....

THE NATURE, (London: September 19, 1925):—

.....Students of Indian anthropology are deeply indebted to Mr. Roy for the light he has thrown on the past and present culture of the Chota-Nagpur plateau. In the *Bihar and Orissa Research Society's Journal* he has opened up new ground in the archaeology of his area. His monographs on the *Mundas* and *Oraons* are classics. "The Birhors" is yet another first-rate study, a study not merely of an obscure tribe but also of the workings of that mysterious complex of thought and feeling which go to make up human culture.....Mr. Roy is never a theoriser or a partisan; his diction is simple and precise, his inspiration comes straight from the hearts of the humble folk he has made his friends.

THE SERVANT OF INDIA, (April 16, 1925).

Ethnologists throughout the world will be glad to see a successor to Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra's previous monographs on the *Mundas* and *Oraons*. As is to be expected, the book is first-class and deserves a place in every library where such subjects are encouraged at all. It will be found very interesting and pleasant-reading by the non-expert, and for those to whom ethnography is business or hobby, it is only necessary to say that the author is one of the very few Indian scholars whose writings are read outside India.

THE ENGLISHMAN, (July 27, 1925).

.....The researches of Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy are universal among the most backward groups of savages. The contact with civilization is exterminating the aborigines and the author has done a real service to the cause of knowledge by his well-gleaned contribution. The author's interest in Ethno-

3 (7)
(iii)

graphy is praiseworthy. No department of the life of the Birhors has escaped the eagle eyes of the author. How they live, what ceremonies they observe, what sufferings they bear what feasts they are inclined to, how they think and what is their outlook on life have been very interestingly noted. The illustrations make the book doubly delightful...We have every reason to thank the Rai Bahadur for this excellent monograph on the Birhors of Chota-Nagpur.

THE MADRAS MAIL, (May 22, 1925).

There is no science which affords more opportunity for first hand research work, and none much more neglected in India than the science of Anthropology. The author of this splendid work is one of the few faithful men who are devoting themselves to making records of the customs and lore of tribes which are fast disappearing. His works on *The Oraons* and *The Mundas* have already put the workers in that field under deep obligation to him. And his well-conducted Journal, "*Man in India*" is also performing a valuable service to the science. In the present volume he maintains the high standard of scholarship which he has happily attained in his previous works. The work contains an amazing amount of information about this much neglected tribe, and must have required years of patient labour to collect. It is made the more valuable by copious illustrations representing the people and their modes of living.

One of the interesting sections of the book deals with folklore, than which there is no surer index to a people's psychology. Primitive man lives in a world in which nothing is impossible. He has no scientific world-view which precludes the possibility of miracle and magic. The Birhor's folk-tales disclose the typical world-view of primitive man, such world-view as we see still reflected in the fairy tales which our children love to hear.

It is impossible to give a really adequate review of this interesting and scholarly book. But we must commend it to all who are interested in anthropological matters and express thanks to the author for giving to the world this excellent record of the Birhors.

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(iv)

2. Principles and Methods of Physical Anthropology, (Patna University Readership Lectures).

Price,—Five Rupees.

SOME OPINIONS.

Sir James Frazer, D. C. L., L. L. D., Litt. D., F. B. A., F. R. S., Professor of Social Anthropology in the University of Liverpool writes :—

.....I admire the range of your knowledge and intellectual interests, the sobriety and soundness of your judgment, and the lucidity and succinctness of your exposition. The book seems to me to deserve a wide circulation not only in India but wherever the English language is spoken, for, so far as I am aware, * * * there is no book on the same broad philosophical lines in English. Hitherto by your monographs on the Mundas and Oraons and your other writings you have proved yourself a first-rate field anthropologist, in your new book you have shown powers of higher quality and wider range. India is to be warmly congratulated on possessing in you an anthropologist of a very high order, and I am happy to know that the authorities have had the discernment to appoint you to the first teaching post of anthropology in the University of Patna. I could envy India your possession, for good anthropologists are too rare anywhere; but I am satisfied that for the advancement of our science you are far better situated in India than you would be in Europe, seeing that India includes such an immense diversity of races and of cultures, from low savagery up to high civilisation. * * *

Sir Arthur Keith, M. D., F. R. C. S., L. L. D., F. R. S., Conservator of the Museum and Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons of England, in *Nature* (London: April 1922):—

The Lectures form one of the best introductions into the study of anthropology in the English Language.

Dr. R. R. Marett, M. A., D. Sc., Reader in Anthropology in the University of Oxford, in *The London Mercury* (June, 1921)—* * * A most learned and lucid epitome of the methods and results of the study of man, prehistoric and present, considered on his physical side. * * *

(v)

Dr. A. C. Haddon, M. A., Sc. D., F. R. S., in *Folk-Lore* (London, Sept. 1921).—* * * The author is quite up-to-date in his reading.....The book gives an accurate epitomised survey of our present knowledge of the subject treated. Indian students are to be congratulated on having an instructor so learned, broad-minded and sane.

Dr. William Crooke, B. A., D. Sc., C. I. E., of Oxford writes :—
.....I have read your book with care and find it a very learned and interesting contribution to our knowledge of the subject.....

Dr. Roland B. Dixon, Ph. D., Professor of Anthropology in the Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., writes :—

.....It seems to me that you have admirably covered the ground to preparatory statement for beginners and have presented the major facts in such form that they should be certain to arouse the interest of students, and lead them to wish to take up the study of man. We here in America labor under the same difficulties in not having any adequate book which can be used as a text book, and have much felt the need of something of the sort you have so well provided for students in India.....

3. The Mundas and Their Country.

With numerous illustrations, and an Introduction by **Sir EDWARD GAIT**, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., I. C. S., Ph. D.,

Price—Six Rupees.

SOME OPINIONS.

Sir J. G. Frazer, D. C. L., L. L. D., Litt. D., F. B. A., F. R. S., Professor of Social Anthropology in the University of Liverpool writes :—

It is a work of great interest and high value as a full and accurate description of an Indian Hill-tribe. I congratulate you on having produced it. You must have given much time and labour to the researches which you have embodied in this book. But the time and labour have been well spent. The description seems

(vi)

extremely clear and well written in the simple language which is appropriate to the theme, and the translations of the poetry are charming.

DR. A. C. HADDON, M. A., SC. D., F. R. S., University Reader in Ethnology, Cambridge, writes:—

* * * Students have long wanted an authoritative account of this interesting people, and now you have supplied it.

PROF. SIR W. RIDGEWAY, M. A., SC. D., F. B. A., LITT. D., L. L. D. of Cambridge writes:—

* * * A work of real importance. It is a great aid to a scientific knowledge of the races of India to have a work like your dealing with the subject.

SIR EDWARD GAIT, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., PH. D., I. C. S., formerly Census Commissioner of India, writes:—

* * * It is a most valuable contribution to Indian Ethnography.

The SPECTATOR(London):—Anthropologists will welcome this careful account of the Mundas: The first part of the book is occupied with a history of the tribe and an attempt at solving the difficult problems that surround its origins. But possibly its most interesting section is the Ethnographical one, in which the tribal customs are described in detail.

The REVIEW OF REVIEWS (London, September, 1912), under the heading 'Notable Book of the Month', writes:—

Mr. Chandra Roy is intensely interested in the task he has set himself. * * The history, accurate and legendary, and ethnography of this interesting people are given in great detail by Mr. Roy. * * *

The STATESMAN (Calcutta, Aug. 7, 1912) writes:—

An exceedingly attractive volume from the pen of MR. SARAT CHANDRA ROY of Ranchi. * * *

The ENGLISHMAN (Calcutta, July 22, 1912) writes:—

The book before us is, we believe, the first attempt to put together a connected history of this interesting people. MR. E. A. GAIT, I. C. S., the Census Commissioner, himself an acknowledged authority on Indian Ethnology, has written a learned introduction to the book, of which he expresses a very high opinion. * *

(vii)

The INDIAN WITNESS (Calcutta, January, 28, 1913) writes:—

It is a genuine pleasure to welcome so thorough a study of the Mundas as is found in these pages. Mr. Gait, in the illuminating Introduction to the book writes concerning the chapter on Ethnography:—“This chapter contains a full account of the daily life of the Mundas, their dress, agriculture, tribal organization, social and religious ceremonies, folklore and song. It has evidently been written in the light of a close personal knowledge of the people and deep and sympathetic insight into their feelings, mentality and views of life.” * * * This book will fill a much-needed blank on the shelves of those who are engaged in a study of India's people.

The HINDUSTHAN REVIEW (Allahabad, July, 1912) writes:—

The work under notice is an instructive sketch of the people, historical, descriptive, ethnological, sociological.

It is a mine of valuable information on all matters relating to the Mundas. It is a valuable contribution to such sciences as Ethnography and Sociology. The style is very pleasant. Altogether Mr. Roy's book is of absorbing interest.

The MODERN REVIEW (Calcutta, June, 1912) writes:—

This neatly printed and well-bound book is a storehouse of information regarding the Mundas and the Country they inhabit. The author has looked up carefully all available records and has executed his self-imposed task with scholarly ability. It is a pity that such a capable man as the author is, could not devote his whole time to the work of ethnological research in India, for which there is a pressing need in this country. Mr. Gait, who is now undoubtedly a great authority on the subject of Indian Ethnology, has written an introduction for the book which is by itself an interesting and instructive study.

The INDIAN WORLD (Calcutta, September 22, 1912) writes:—

The author has collected, collated and systematised the vast materials at his disposal with a care and devotion that must be the ambition of all students of history. His insight into the true life and spirit of the people is not born of dilettante interest but of close acquaintance with their manners and customs. The chapter



7 Law (Education) Dept
 1114 B. from Sarat Chandra Roy, W 37/23. IV-26
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Books and publication - "The Birhors"
 A little known jungle tribe in Chota Nagp

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on the Ethnography of the Mundas is worth its weight in gold.....In a word, the book is an invaluable contribution to the Ethnological literature of India.

Also highly spoken of by such papers as the ATHENÆUM (Aug. 10, 1912), the ANTHROPOS (Jany. Feby., 1913), and the CATHOLIC HERALD (June, 1912).

4. The Oraons of Chota Nagpur.

With numerous illustrations, and an Introduction by Dr. A. C. HADDON, M. A., Sc. D., F. R. S.

Price—Eight Rupees.

SOME OPINIONS.

SIR JAMES FRAZER D. C. L., L. L. D., Litt. D., F. B. A., F. R. S. :—

The book is full of very valuable and interesting information. I cordially congratulate you on your success in collecting so much anthropological information concerning the tribe, and on the admirable lucidity and terseness with which you set forth the facts carefully distinguishing them from inferences which you have drawn from them. The inferences seem to me for the most part just and probable.

Your work on the Oraons promises to rank with the very best monographs on Indian tribes.

The SPECTATOR (London, Jany. 29, 1916) :—... In Bengal, at least a genuine interest in the anthropology of the province has led to the writing of books of real merit and importance by Bengalis. Such was Mr. Roy's own account of *The Mundas and Their Country*. Mr. Roy now gives a careful description of another of the aboriginal tribes of the Chota Nagpur plateau, with numerous illustrations and a map. Dr. Haddon's introduction summarises with his wonted skill and learning, the most interesting and significant of the writer's observations and discoveries.

THE TIMES (London, January 6, 1916) :—... Sarat Chandra Roy has given us much valuable information in this book, and we hope that his fine example will be followed by some of his fellow-countrymen.

LAW



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Books and Publications - "The Birhors" A little known
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From (Name) R.G.Grieve Esq., M.A., F.R.G.S.,

(Designation) Ag. Director of Public Instruction

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION)

Department.

Sir,

In resubmitting herewith the enclosures to Government
Endorsement No. 1114 B-1, Law (Education) dated 4th May 1926
I have the honour to state that the book, "The Birhors" is
the third volume of a series of Monographs in which the
author has attempted to describe the primitive culture and
institutions of the aboriginal tribes of Chota Nagpur.
2, I am requesting the author to supply copies of the
above publication to the Presidency, Kumbakonam and Rajah-
mundry, Arts Colleges to which the supply of "The Mundas
and their Country" by the same author was sanctioned in
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the book to the notice of the Principals of all other First
Grade Arts Colleges in this Presidency.

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Sir,

R. H. Stue
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Jo

~~Prasanna~~. Rai Saral. Chandra Roy
Bahadur

M. A., B.L., M.L.C.

Vakil, Ranchi

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