

Rare section

④ RARE SECTION

ANCIENT INDIA

AS DESCRIBED BY

MEGASTHENÈS AND ARRIAN;

BEING

A TRANSLATION OF THE FRAGMENTS OF THE INDIKA OF
MEGASTHENÈS COLLECTED BY DR. SCHWANBECK, AND
OF THE FIRST PART OF THE INDIKA OF ARRIAN,

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WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND MAP OF ANCIENT
INDIA.

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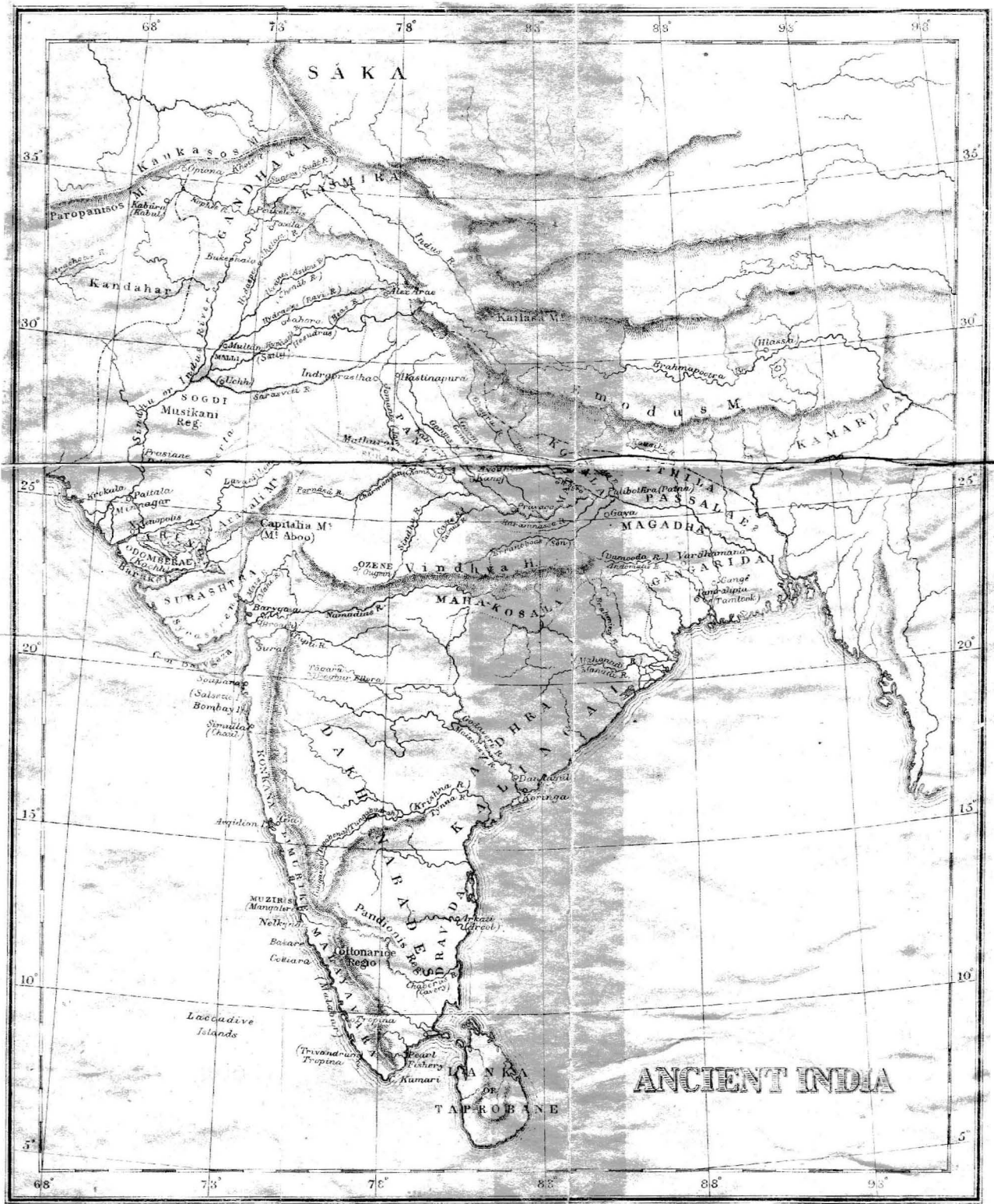
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187



P R E F A C E .

THE account of India written by Megasthenés from his personal knowledge of the country is justly held to be almost invaluable for the light which it throws upon the obscurity of early Indian history. Though, unfortunately, not extant in its original form, it has nevertheless been partially preserved by means of epitomes and quotations to be found scattered up and down the writings of various ancient authors, both Greek and Roman. Dr. Schwanbeck, of Bonn, rendered historical literature a good service by collecting and arranging in their proper order these detached fragments. The work thus reconstructed, and entitled *Megasthenis Indica*, has now been before the world for upwards of thirty years. It has not, however, so far as I know, been as yet translated, at least into our language, and hence it is but little known beyond the circles of the learned. The translation now offered, which goes forth from the very birth-place of the original work, will therefore for the first time place it within the reach of the general public.

A translation of the first part of the *Indika* of Arrian has been subjoined, both because it gives in a connected form a general description of India, and because that description was based chiefly on the work of Megasthenês.

The notes, which turn for the most part on points of history; geography, archæology, and the identification of Greek proper names with their Sanskrit originals, sum up the views of the best and most recent authorities who have written on these subjects. This feature of the work will, I hope, recommend it to the attention of native scholars who may be pursuing, or at least be interested in, inquiries which relate to the history and antiquities of their own country.

In the spelling of classical proper names I have followed throughout the system of Grote, except only in translating from Latin, when the common orthography has been employed.

In conclusion, I may inform my readers that I undertook the present work intending to follow it up with others of a similar kind, until the entire series of classical works relating to India should be translated into the

language of its rulers. In furtherance of this design a translation of the short treatise called *The Circumnavigation of the Erythræan Sea*, which gives an account of the ancient commerce of Egypt, Arabia, and India, is nearly ready for publication, and this will be followed by a translation of the narratives of the Makedonian Invasion of India as given by Arrian and Curtius in their respective Histories of Alexander.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction	3
Frag. I. An Epitome of Megasthenês ...	30
Frag. I. B Concerning Dionysos	36
Frag. II. Of the Boundaries of India, its general Character, and its Rivers	45
Frag. III. Of the Boundaries of India ...	48
Frag. IV. Of the Boundaries and Extent of India.....	48
Frag. V. Of the Size of India	51
Frag. VI. Of the Size of India	51
Frag. VII. Of the Size of India	52
Frag. VIII. Of the Size of India	52
Frag. IX. Of the setting of the Bear, and shadows falling in contrary directions	52
Frag. X. Of the setting of the Bear	53
Frag. XI. Of the Fertility of India	54
Frag. XII. Of some Wild Beasts of India..	56
Frag. XIII. Of Indian Apes	57
Frag. XIII. B	57
Frag. XIV. Of Winged Scorpions and Ser- pents	58
Frag. XV. Of the Beasts of India, and the Reed	58
Frag. XV. B Of some Beasts of India	59
Frag. XVI. Of the Boa-Constrictor	61
Frag. XVII. Of the Electric Eel	61
Frag. XVIII. Of Taprobanê	62

	PAGE
Frag. XIX. Of Marine Trees	63
Frag. XX. Of the Indus and the Ganges	63
Frag. XX. B	63
Frag. XXI. Of the River Silas	65
Frag. XXII. Of the River Silas	65
Frag. XXIII. Of the River Silas	66
Frag. XXIV. Of the Number of Indian Rivers	66
Frag. XXV. Of the city Pâtaliputra	66
Frag. XXVI. Of Pâtaliputra, and the Man- ners of the Indians.....	67
Frag. XXVII. Of the Manners of the In- dians.....	69
Frag. XXVII. B	73
Frag. XXVII. C	73
Frag. XXVII. D	73
Frag. XXVIII. Of the Suppers of the In- dians.....	74
Frag. XXIX. Of Fabulous Tribes	74
Frag. XXX. Of Fabulous Races	79
Frag. XXX. B	82
Frag. XXXI. Of the race of Men without Mouths	82
Frag. XXXII. Of the seven Castes among the Indians	83
Frag. XXXIII. Of the seven Castes among the Indians	83
Frag. XXXIV. Of the Administration of Public Affairs—of the use of Horses and Elephants .	86
Frag. XXXV. Of the use of Horses and Elephants.....	89
Frag. XXXVI. Of Elephants.....	90

CONTENTS.

ix

	PAGE
Frag. XXXVII. Of Elephants	93
Frag. XXXVII. B	93
Frag. XXXVIII. Of the Diseases of Ele- phants	93
Frag. XXXIX. Of Gold-digging Ants	94
Frag. XL. Of Gold-digging Ants	96
Frag. XL. B	96
Frag. XLI. Of the Indian Philosophers	97
Frag. XLII. Of the Indian Philosophers	103
Frag. XLII. B	104
Frag. XLII. C	104
Frag. XLIII. Of the Indian Philosophers	104
Frag. XLIV. Of Kalanos and Mandanis.	106
Frag. XLV. Of Kalanos and Man- danis	107 & 115
Frag. XLVI. That the Indians had never been attacked by others, nor had themselves at- tacked others	107
Frag. XLVII. That the Indians had never been attacked by others, nor had themselves at- tacked others	112
Frag. XLVIII. Of Nabuchodrosor.....	112
Frag. XLVIII. B	112
Frag. XLVIII. C	113
Frag. XLVIII. D	113
Frag. XLIX. Of Nabukodrosor	113
Frag. L. Of the Indian Races—of Dionysos—of Heraklès— of Pearls—of the Pandai- an Land—of the Ancient History of the Indians ...	114

	PAGE
Frag. L. B Of Pearls	114
Frag. LI. Of the Pandaian Land	114
Frag. L. C Of the Ancient History of the Indians	115
Frag. LII. Of Elephants	117
Frag. LIII. Of a White Elephant.....	118
Frag. LIV. Of the Brâhmanas and their Philosophy.....	120
Frag. LV. Of Kalanos and Mandanis.....	123
Frag. LV. B	127
Frag. LVI. List of the Indian Races	129
Frag. LVI. B	154
Frag. LVII. Of Dionysos.....	157
Frag. LVIII. Of Hercules and Pandæa	158
Frag. LIX. Of the Beasts of India	159

THE INDIKA OF ARRIAN.

Introduction	177
Cap. I. Of Indian Tribes west of the Indus	179
„ II. Of the Boundaries of India ...	181
„ III. Of the Size of India	184
„ IV. Of the Indus and Ganges and their Tributaries.....	186
„ V. Of the Legendary History of India.....	194
„ VI. Of the River Silas—of the Rains in India, and Inun- dations of the Rivers—of the Likeness between the Indians and the Ethio- pians	196

	PAGE
Cap. VII.-IX. Of Dionysos and Heraklês ...	198
„ X. Of Indian Cities, especially Palinbothra.....	204
„ XI. XII. Of the seven Indian Castes ...	208
„ XIII. Of the Indian mode of hunt- ing the Elephant	213
„ XIV. Of the docility of the Elephant, its habits, diseases, &c. ...	215
„ XV. Of Tigers, of Ants that dig for gold, and Serpents.....	217
„ XVI. Of the Dress of the Indians, and how they equip them- selves for war, and manage their Horses	219
„ XVII. Of the modes of Travelling in India—of Female Unchas- tity—of the Marriage Cus- toms of the Indians, and the nature of their Food. Concluding Remark	221