

A  
COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE  
TO  
AGRA  
AND ITS  
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS.

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**AGFA**

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1. SHAH-JAHAN,
2. FORT—AMAR SINGH GATE.
3. TAJ.
4. MUMTAJ MAHAL.
5. TAJ—THE MAUSOLEUM.
6. ITMAD-UD-DAULAH.
7. SIKANDRA.
8. EMPEROR AKBAR.

## VISITORS TO AGRA.

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# PREFACE

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It is not intended that this booklet may serve the purpose of a detailed history of the Mughal Emperors and of the monuments they have left behind them. For a tourist it is not always convenient to read bulky volumes about the places he is visiting. He has a short time at his disposal and he wants to use it as best as he can. In a place like Agra, where a tourist has to visit a number of the old and famous historical buildings, he has very often to hurry from one place to the other, and he should have such accounts of the places of interest he is visiting, which he can conveniently read while he is driving on visiting.

My object in writing this booklet is to give all the necessary information about the chief places of interest in a brief and concise form, so that it may not prove tiresome to the

wearied and busy tourist. There was also a bad want of a cheap and reliable guide to Agra and this booklet may perhaps serve the desired purpose. It is not for the tourist alone that I have written this booklet, for is it not desirable, nay necessary, that every educated Indian should acquaint himself with the history of the sublime emblems of power and magnificence that have been bequeathed to him by Mughal Emperors.

It was at the suggestion of a few friends that I had undertaken to write this booklet. But the suggestion was rather late, and so during the short time I had at my disposal I had not been able to read carefully what I had written. However imperfect the information contained in it, or poor the language in which it is clothed, it shall be the consolation of the writer if this booklet serves as a one-glance *vade-mecum* to the busy reader.

G. S. SHARMAN.



## APPENDIX A.

### MacDonnel Park and the Queen Victoria Memorial.

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**T**HE whole space between the Taj and the Fort was at one time covered with the beautiful dwelling places and palaces of the nobles and omrahs of the Mughal Emperors. But before Sir Antony MacDonnel began this Park during the famine of 1897, the site looked very unsightly. The park, extensive as it is, is a great improvement. It begins near the fort and extends right up to the entrance of the Taj. Instead of passing through the clouds of dust we now drive leisurly by the side of the picturesque lawns with lakes and water-courses running through them. It is used by the Europeans for playing golf on its lawns. In the north-west corner of the park stands the Memorial Statue of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. It is a bronze stand-

ing statue, 13 feet high, placed on a pedestal of 14 feet in height. On the sides of the statue are the allegorical figures of Truth and Justice. The whole thing stands on a platform in the centre of a reservoir of water which is inclosed by a marble parapet. Its approximate cost was about Rs. 1,40,000 which was paid from a fund raised by public subscriptions.

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## APPENDIX B.

### Trade and Manufactures.

Agra possesses a central position as a road and railway junction. At one time it used to be a great centre of trade. Before the introduction of railways in this part of the country, river jumna was the only means of exporting and importing the raw materials and manufactures of one place from the other and owing to the connection of metalled roads Agra was in easy reach of Rajputana and Central India. Besides, till lately, there was no Government monopoly of salt, and the whole Rajputana, which produced salt in large quantity, used to send it to Agra. Thus till lately Agra used to import an enormous quantity of salt and cotton from Rajputana and other parts of the neighbouring places and export it on the river to other parts of India. Thus in comparison to its former trade Agra has little or

no trade now and besides the market of Agra there is no market of any importance in its district. The few manufactures worth mentioning are as follows :—

*The stone-work.*—It has acquired a reputation, the most celebrated being the delicate fretwork known as *jali* in either sandstone or marble and the inlaying on marble of coloured stones, such as agate, cornelian, bloodstone, jasper, turquoise, lapis, lazuli and mother of pearl. This craft is worked to its best, in the well known firm of Nathu Ram and Sons on the Drummond Road near the Agra College.

*Carpets and Rugs* :—They are exported in a quantity from here. The central jail produces these things of the best quality. But it is rather expensive and, of late, a carpet factory near Bailungunj has been carrying a very lucrative trade. Besides there are several local firms in the city which are doing a roaring trade in these goods.

*Embroidery*.—There are no elaborate designs in weaving, but these are sometimes effected by embroidery, for which Agra is deservedly famous. There are two well-known firms of embroiderers, one of Ganeshi Lall and son adjoining the Hotel Metropole and the other of Chutten Lall and Bros in the Tikonea Bazar.

*Shoe factories*.—For the last fifteen years Agra has a reputation for producing English shoes and boots. The *Swadeshi* movement started in Bengal has given a new impetus to this industry. The two well known firms are of Moosi Raza in Shahganj and the Stewert factory on Chilli Ent road.

*Factories*.—There are about fifteen of them, which are for the most part connected with the cotton trade. The largest European firm is that of Messrs A. John & Co. This firm owns several mills and factories. Besides those belonging to this firm, there are other

ginning and pressing factories of which the largest belong to Hira and Chunni Lall of Sambhar. Other enterprises include the leather and bone-crushing factories, ice factory and mills for flour, jute and oil.

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## APPENDIX C.

### Municipality.

Local self-government in Agra is represented by a municipal board consisting of 21 members, of which 3 are officials, two are government nominees, and the remaining 16 are elected from various wards. There is one handsomely-paid European Secretary and his 2 or 3 assistants. As a matter of practice the District Magistrate is the chairman, the joint Magistrate is the official vice-chairman, and the Civil Surgeon the Health officer of this board. Its yearly income is about 7 Lakhs and the expenses are about the same. The main income is derived from an octroi tax on imports which amounts to about 3 lakhs of rupees a year.

The total population of Agra including the Cantonments is 182022, comprised as follows:—

Male. 99,903. | Female 88119.

Municipality.		Cantonments.	
Hindus	... 1,07,429	Hindus	... 13,820
Musalmans	... 52,120	Musalmans	... 5,640
Jains	... 3,490	Christians and	
Christians	... 2,148	others	... 2,581
Aeyas	... 683		
Sikhs	... 61		
Parsis	... 30		
Budhists	... 20		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,65,981		22,041
	<hr/>		
Total	... ..	1,88,022	



## APPENDIX D.

### Education.

The history of modern education here begins with the foundation of the Agra college in the year 1823. It was originally endowed with the income of certain villages in the Aligarh and Muttra districts bequeathed by Ganga Dhar Shastry in 1818. The average expenses of this college come to about 65000 Rs a year and the average yearly income is about the same. The income from the endowments is about 28,000 rupees a year, and annual grants from the Government and the Municipality are 12000 and 25,00 Rs respectively. The rest of the income consists chiefly of the monthly fees charged from the students.

In 1860 this college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. It now forms part of the Allahabad University, having been affiliated

in Arts and Law in 1889, and in Science in 1896. It consists of two departments one being the college and the other the High School, the former containing about 200 students. The college staff consists of the Principal, 6 professors and 2 Assistant professors. The school staff consists of the Head master and about 20 teachers.

In 1883 its management was handed over to a board of trustees who have entrusted its immediate control to a committee, of which the chairman and the vice-chairman are the Commissioner of the division and the Magistrate of the district. The college has taken a very important part in the history of education in these provinces, at one time the whole Rajputana getting its young officials from this college. But for the last 15 years it is no more the only first class college in these provinces.

*St. John's College.*—Even in Agra there is a keen competition going on between the Agra

College and the St. John's College, their friendly rivalry acting sometimes as a useful stimulus. It was established in 1850 by the local committee of the Church Missionary society, the primary object being to give higher education to the Indian Christians. In 1862 this college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. It now forms part of the Allaha-  
bad University. Its staff consists of the principal, vice-principal, 6 professors. and 2 assistant professors. If the authorities of this college have not succeeded in spreading christianity largely amongst the people, they have surely succeeded in making their college a centre of education. In 1888 one could count its students almost on fingers, in 1905 their number swelled to 175.

*St. Peter's College.*—This college belongs to the Roman Catholics. It was founded in 1841 by Bishop Borglie and Colonel Filose. In 1890 it was affiliated to the Allahabad University. Attached to this are the orphanages

for European and Indian christian girls and St. Aloysim's boarding house and school. Close by is the residence of the Archbishop of Agra, the Roman Catholic Church and the convent. These buildings cover a considerable space of ground, which is said to have been granted to jesiuts by Akbar. They are located in Padri-tola, to the east of the central jail.

*The Medical School.*—It was started in 1855 for the education of Indian hospital assistants. It is divided into 3 main classes known as the civil, military, and female classes. The female class of the school is the first of its kind in India. There are female students in the medical schools and colleges of Lahore and other places, but there is no separate class for the females in those schools and colleges.

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# MAP OF THE ENVIRONS OF AGRA

Scale 1 1/2 Inch to Mile

