



ROCK-CUT ELEPHANT ABOVE THE ASOKA INSCRIPTION AT DHAULI, ORISSA

THE EARLY HISTORY OF INDIA

FROM 600 B.C. TO THE
MUHAMMADAN CONQUEST
INCLUDING THE INVASION
OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

BY

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PREFACE

THE plan and limitations of this book have been explained so fully in the Introduction that little more need be said by way of preface. The room for difference of opinion on many of the subjects treated is so great that I cannot expect my views on controverted points to meet with universal acceptance; and the complexity of my undertaking forbids me to hope that positive errors, justly open to censure, have been avoided altogether; but I trust that critics will be prepared to concede the amount of indulgence which may be granted legitimately to the work of a pioneer.

The devotion of a disproportionately large space to the memorable invasion of Alexander the Great is due to the exceptional interest of the subject, which, so far as I know, has not been treated adequately in any modern book. The extreme brevity of the fourteenth and fifteenth chapters, dealing with the mediæval kingdoms of the north and the Deccan, which may be open to adverse criticism, is attributable to the limited interest of merely local histories. In the final chapter an attempt has been made to give an intelligible outline of the history of the South, so far as it has been ascertained. The story of the Dravidian nations seems to me deserving of more attention than it generally receives.

The presentation of cumbrous and unfamiliar

Oriental names must always be a difficulty for a writer on Indian history. I have endeavoured to secure reasonable uniformity of spelling without pedantry. The system of transliteration followed in the notes and appendices is substantially that used in the *Indian Antiquary*; while in the text long vowels only are marked where necessary, and all other diacritical signs are discarded.

Vowels have values as in Italian; except the short *a*, which is pronounced like *u* in *but*, when with stress, and like *A* in *America*, when without stress. The consonants are to be pronounced as in English; and *ch*, consequently, is represented in French by *tch*, and in German by *tsch*; similarly, *j* is equivalent to the French *dj* and the German *dsch*. The international symbol *c* for the English *ch*, as in *church*, which has been adopted by the Asiatic Societies, may have some advantages in purely technical publications; but its use results in such *monstra horrenda* as *Cac* for *Chach*, and is unsuitable in a work intended primarily for English and Indian readers.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of help of various kinds from the following gentlemen:—M. Édouard Chavannes, Professeur au Collège de France; Mr. J. S. Cotton, editor of the *Indian Imperial Gazetteer*; Mr. William Crooke; Professor Rhys Davids; Dr. J. F. Fleet, C.I.E.; Dr. Rudolf Hoernle, C.I.E.; Mr. James Kennedy; M. Sylvain Lévi; Professor E. J. Rapson; and Mr. R. Sewell.

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ERRATA

Page 31, line 8, *for* the place of his birth
read his ancestral home

Page 225 note, *for* 57 B. C. *read* 57 or 58 B. C.

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CONTENTS OF PLATE OF INDIAN COINS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

No.	King.	Obverse.	Reverse.	Reference.
1	Sophytes.	Head of the king r., in close-fitting helmet, bound with wreath; wing on cheek-piece.	ΣΩΦΥΤΟΥ Cock r.; above, caduceus.	Gardner, <i>Catal. of Greek and Scythic Kings of Bactria and India</i> , Pl. I, 2.
2	Eukratides.	Bust of the king r., diademed, and wearing helmet (<i>krausia</i>), adorned with ear and horn of bull, and crest.	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΕΥΚΡΑΤΙΔΟΥ. The Dioskouroi charging r., holding long lances and palms. Not figured.	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. V, 7.
3	Menander.	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΜΕΝΑΝΔΡΟΥ. Bust of the king r., diademed.	Not figured.	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. XI, 7.
4	Hermaios.	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΕΡΜΑΙΟΥ. Bust of the king r., diademed.	Not figured.	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. XV, 4.
5	Kadphises I.	ΧΟΡΑΝΣΥ ΖΑΟΥΥ ΚΟΖΟΛΑ ΚΑΔΑΦΕΣ. Head of the king r., diademed, and closely resembling that of Augustus.	Not figured.	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. XXV, 5.
6	Gondophares.	Greek legend imperfect, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΝ ΥΝΔΟΦΕΡ Bust of the king r., diademed.	Not figured.	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. XXII, 11.
7	Sivalakura of Andhra dynasty.	<i>Kūho Madhartputasa Sivakurasa</i> . Strung bow, with arrow fixed.	Not figured.	Cunningham, <i>Coins of Ancient India</i> , p. 109.
8	Kadphises II.	ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΟΟΗΜΟ ΚΑΔΦΙΣΗΣ. Bust of king emerging from clouds; helmet and diadem; Greek chlamys; club? in r. hand.	Kharoshthi inscription, <i>maharajas</i> , &c. Siva and Indian bull.	Gardner, <i>op. cit.</i> , Pl. XXV, 7.
9	Kanishka.	Standing king in Turki costume, with spear and sword. Legend in modified Greek characters ΡΑΟΝΑΝΟΡΑΟ ΚΑΝΗΡΚΙ ΚΟΡΑΝΟ (P to be read sh).	ΑΡΔΟΧΡΟ (P = sh). Female deity with cornucopias.	Gardner, <i>op. cit.</i> , Pl. XXVI, 6.
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12	Chandra-gupta II, Vikramaditya.	King shooting lion. Legend, <i>maharajadhiraja</i> &c.	Goddess seated on lion. Legend, <i>Sri Sinha Vikramah</i> .	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. II, 6.
13	Kirtivarman Chandella.	Legend, <i>brimat Kirtivarmanadava</i> .	Four-armed goddess, seated.	Cunningham, <i>Coins of Mediaeval India</i> , Pl. VIII, 12.
14	A Pandyā king.	Two fishes under an umbrella, with other symbols.	Legend uncertain.	Elliot, <i>Coins of Southern India</i> , Pl. III, 129.
15	Rājarāja Chola.	Standing king.	Seated figure. Legend, <i>Rajaraja</i> .	<i>ibid.</i> , Pl. IV, 165.
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