MYSORE GAZETTEER
MYSORE GAZETTEER

COMPiled FOR GOVERNMENT

VOLUME II

HISTORICAL

PART I

EDITED BY

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PREFACE

THIS Volume, forming Volume II of the Mysore Gazetteer, deals in a comprehensive manner with the History of Mysore. A two-fold plan has been adopted in the treatment of this subject. In view of the progress of archæological research in the State during the past forty years, occasion has been taken to deal in an adequate fashion with the sources from which the materials for the reconstruction of its ancient history are derived. The information scattered in the Journals of the learned Societies and Reports on Archæology has been carefully sifted and collected under appropriate heads. Among these are Epigraphy, Numismatics, Sculpture and Painting, Architecture, etc. The evidence available from these different sources has been brought together to show not merely their utility in elucidating the history of Mysore during its earliest times, for which written records are not available, but also to trace, as far as may be, with their aid, periods of history which would otherwise be wholly a blank. In dealing with that part of the history of Mysore for which written records are to any extent available, a more familiar plan has been adopted. It has been divided into periods
and each period has been treated under convenient sub-heads.

No person who writes on the history of Mysore can do so without being indebted to Mr. B. L. Rice, C.I.E. or Mr. R. A. Narasimhachar, M.A., whose laborious research in the field of Archæology has won for them a more than Indian reputation. The present Volume owes much to their scholarly work. The learned and erudite Reports of the Southern and Western Circles of the Archæological Survey of the Government of India, have also been made full use of. The time has long since past when the history of the Chola, Hoysala, Vijayanagar and other dynasties with which Mysore had much to do in the past, could be written from the inscriptions relating to them found only within the present limits of Mysore, Madras, or Bombay. But for the help derived from all these different sources, a great many points in the early history of Mysore, if not of the whole of India south of the Vindhyas, would remain for ever unsolved. An attempt has been made with the aid furnished by these materials to save research from becoming a mere mechanical registration of records. In treating of the more recent period, the records of Fort St. George, which have been made available by the enlightened generosity of the Government of Madras, have been largely laid under contribution. Indeed, it might be remarked, that almost every period of Mysore history has been re-written in the
light of new facts made available by research within the past four decades. Occasion has been taken to correct certain errors that had crept into the last edition of this work in connection with the account of the reign of His Highness Sri-Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. The present version is based on the original documents now available in regard to it. These will be found quoted in the text of this volume in the proper places. It is earnestly to be hoped that the myth of mal-administration that has for some time gathered round the name of this historic personage will now be dissipated for good and ever.

As in the previous Volume, footnotes have been avoided, the authorities being quoted, wherever required, in the body of the text. In regard to spelling of place names, the spelling authorised by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore has been generally adopted, the only change being the substitution of the mark of length (—) for the accent (‘) over long vowels.

The chapters forming this Volume have been for the most part drawn up by the Editor. The revised sketch of the section relating to “Kannada,” included in Chapter IX “Literature,” is from the pen of Rao Bahadur R. A. Narasimhachar, M.A. It brings up-to-date the account of Mr. Rice in the last edition. The section on “Persian and Hindustani” in this chapter has had the benefit of revision at the hands of Mr. A. K. Syed Taj Peeran Saheb, B.A., Chairman, Board of Studies in Persian and
Urdu, in the Mysore University. Material help has been rendered by Mr. P. R. Krishnaswami, M.A., in the drafting of the Chapter on "Mysore in Modern Literature." The late lamented Rao Bahadur H. Krishna Sastri, B.A. Epigraphist to the Government of India, obligingly read through in proof the greater part of this Volume. His suggestions have proved invaluable.

In the preparation of the Index, care has been taken to make each entry comprehensive.

Full acknowledgments to various writers on the different topics dealt with in this Volume will be found in the Bibliography given at the end of each Chapter. It is hardly to be expected that in controversial points, especially in regard to the dates and periods of rule of the Kings of the Ganga, Pallava and other ancient dynasties, the views expressed in the sections dealing with them, will command universal acceptance. But it is earnestly hoped that critics will concede that no pains have been spared to provide them with the necessary data for readily checking the conclusions arrived at.

This volume is, for the sake of convenience of handling, bound in four separate Parts. The Index will be found at the end of Part IV.

Bangalore,
12th May 1930.

C. Hayavadana Rao,
Editor.
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