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978-1-108-05589-5 - The History of India, as Told by Its Own Historians: The Muhammadan Period: Volume 7

Henry Miers Elliot Edited by John Dowson

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The History of India, as Told by Its Own Historians

This extensive eight-volume work was first published between 1867 and 1877 by the linguist John Dowson (1820–81) from the manuscripts of the colonial administrator and scholar Sir Henry Miers Elliot (1808–53). Before his death, hoping to bolster British colonial ideology, Elliot had intended to evaluate scores of Arabic and Persian historians of India, believing that his translations would demonstrate the violence of the Muslim rulers and 'make our native subjects more sensible of the immense advantages accruing to them under the mildness and the equity of our rule'. Volume 7 covers the period from Shah Jahan (1592–1666) to the early reign of Muhammad Shah (1702–48). It includes various *Padshahnama*, the works comprising the official visual history of Shah Jahan's reign, most notably that of Abdul Hamid Lahori (*d.*1654). Also included are substantial extracts from the *Muntakhab-ul-Lubab* of Khafi Khan, covering the long reign of Aurangzeb (1618–1707).

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VOLUME 7

HENRY MIERS ELLIOT
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THE HISTORY OF INDIA.

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AS TOLD
BY ITS OWN HISTORIANS.
THE MUHAMMADAN PERIOD.

THE POSTHUMOUS PAPERS
OF THE LATE
SIR H. M. ELLIOT, K.C.B.,
EDITED AND CONTINUED
BY
PROFESSOR JOHN DOWSON, M.R.A.S.,
STAFF COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

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P R E F A C E.

THE present Volume contains the history of the reigns of Sháh-Jahán, Aurangzeb, Bahádur Sháh, Jahándár Sháh, and Farrukh-Siyar, of the little brief authority of Rafi'u-d Daula and Rafi'u-d Daraját, and of the early years of the reign of Muhammad Sháh.

Several works hitherto unknown to the European reader are here brought to notice. The history of the reign of Sháh Jahán is derived from the *Bádsháh-náma* of 'Abdu-l Hamíd and from other *Bádsháh-námas* and *Sháh-Jahán-námas*. The special works relating to the reign of Aurangzeb have been examined and the most interesting passages translated; but the history of his long rule, and of the subsequent times which appear in this Volume, has been derived from the great work of Kháfí Khán, a contemporary history of high and well-deserved repute. This important history is well known at second-hand. All European historians of the period which it covers have been greatly indebted, directly or indirectly, to its pages. Elphinstone and Grant Duff used it, and they refer to a MS. translation by "Major Gordon, of the Madras Army." It is not known what has become of this MS. trans-

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lation, for the inquiries made after it have met with no success. Not a line of translation had been provided by Sir H. M. Elliot; so this heavy labour has fallen upon the Editor, who has provided the 330 pages of print which the work occupies, as well as the long translation from the *Bádsháh-náma*.

Ample and very diversified matter remains for the concluding volume.

The following is a list of the articles in this volume, with the names of their respective writers:—

- LXI.—Pádsháh-náma of Muhammad Kazwíní—Editor.
 LXII.—Bádsháh-náma of 'Abdu-l Hamíd—Editor.
 LXIII.—Sháh Jahán-náma of 'Ináyat Khán—Major Fuller.
 LXIV.—Bádsháh-náma of Muhammad Wáris—Editor.
 LXV.—'Amal-i Sálíb—Editor.
 LXVI.—Sháh Jahán-náma of Muhammad Sádik—Editor.
 LXVII.—Majálisu-s Salátín—Sir H. M. Elliot and *munshís*.
 LXVIII.—Tárikh-i Mufazzalí " "
 LXIX.—Mir-át-i 'Álam " "
 LXX.—Zínatu-t Tawárikh—Sir H. M. Elliot.
 LXXI.—Lubbu-t Tawárikh-i Hind " "
 LXXII.—'Álamgír-náma—Sir H. M. Elliot and Editor.
 LXXIII.—Ma-ásir-i 'Álamgír—Sir H. M. Elliot and "Lt. Perkins."
 LXXIV.—Futuhát-i 'Álamgír—Sir H. M. Elliot and Editor.
 LXXV.—Tárikh-i Mulk-i Áshám " "
 LXXVI.—Waká' of Ni'amat Khán " "
 LXXVII.—Jang-náma of Ni'amat Khán " "
 LXXVIII.—Ruka'át-i 'Álamgír—Sir H. M. Elliot.
 LXXIX.—Muntakhabu-l Lubáb of Kháfi Khán—Article by Sir H. M. Elliot—all the translation by the Editor.
 LXXX.—Tárikh of Irádat Khán—Captain Jonathan Scott.
 LXXXI.—Tárikh-i Bahádur Sháh—"Lieutenant Anderson."
 LXXXII.—Tárikh-i Sháh 'Álam Bahádur Sháh—Editor.
 LXXXIII.—'Ibrat-náma—Editor.

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ERRATA IN VOL. VII.

- Page 31, for "1241 A.H." read "1041 A.H."
,, 32, for "1240 A.H." read "1040 A.H."
,, 33, for "1241 A.H." read "1041 A.H."
,, 463, for "Muhakkim Singh," read "Mohkam Singh."