

# **HISTORY OF MANDU: THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF MALWA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649028061

History of Mandu: The Ancient Capital of Malwa by Bombay Subaltern

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**BOMBAY SUBALTERN**

**HISTORY OF MANDU:  
THE ANCIENT  
CAPITAL OF MALWA**



HISTORY OF MANDU,  
THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF MALWA.

BY

A BOMBAY SUBALTERN.

(A REPRINT.)

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 1844.

SECOND EDITION.



**Bombay:**  
PRINTED AT THE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

1879.

DS  
486  
.M34  
H67  
1879

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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THESE few pages contain a reprint of the First Part of a book compiled and published in 1844 by an unknown author, "A Bombay Subaltern." The remaining portion contained a description of Ajanta and other places. The work having been long out of print, His Highness the Raja of Dhar has liberally paid for the republication of that portion relating to his fort of Mandu.

It is pleasant to record that the ruins of these noble temples, palaces, and tombs are now cared for. The interior view of the grand hall of the 'Hindola (or 'Jula') Mahal,' the most unique specimen of pure Pathan architecture in India, has been long obscured by the rubbish of the fallen roof. Last year the Raja caused the débris to be cleared to the floor, and the full proportions of this magnificent room are now open to view.

The ascent of the hill on which Roop Muttee's pavilion stands has hitherto been difficult; a new track has now been completed—it is still steep, but an improvement on the old rugged footpath. It may be of interest to note that the iron pillar mentioned at page 10 as in position opposite the great Mosque at Mandu is now ascertained to have formed part of an iron 'Lath' that stood in front of a Buddhist Temple at Dhar outside the city (now called Lath Musjeed). Three pieces have been found—one fallen *in situ*, 24 feet long, a square of 10 inches each side; another in the Fort of Dhar; the third at Mandu,—the last an octagon 2 ft. 8 in. in circumference, with 9 inches of a circular end, showing another piece is missing. It has been suggested

that the Raja might put these pieces together and cause them to be erected in the midst of his Palace square; but it is easier to talk of moving these enormous masses of iron than to provide local mechanical means for their transport. The total height would be 41 feet,—nine less than the 'lath' near the Kootub at Delhi (this latter, however, is round and 4 ft. 10 in. in circumference). There is a short Persian inscription on the longer length. The Lath Musjeed is simply the transformation of a Buddhist Temple, the re-arrangement being apparently of an earlier date than the Mosque at Mandu.

This mode of adapting pagan temples to their own service has been practised by the Mahomedans at Mandu: it is described in Fergusson's History of Architecture.

W. KINCAID, Lieut.-Col.,  
Bheel Agent.

*Sirdarpoor, 17th April 1875.*



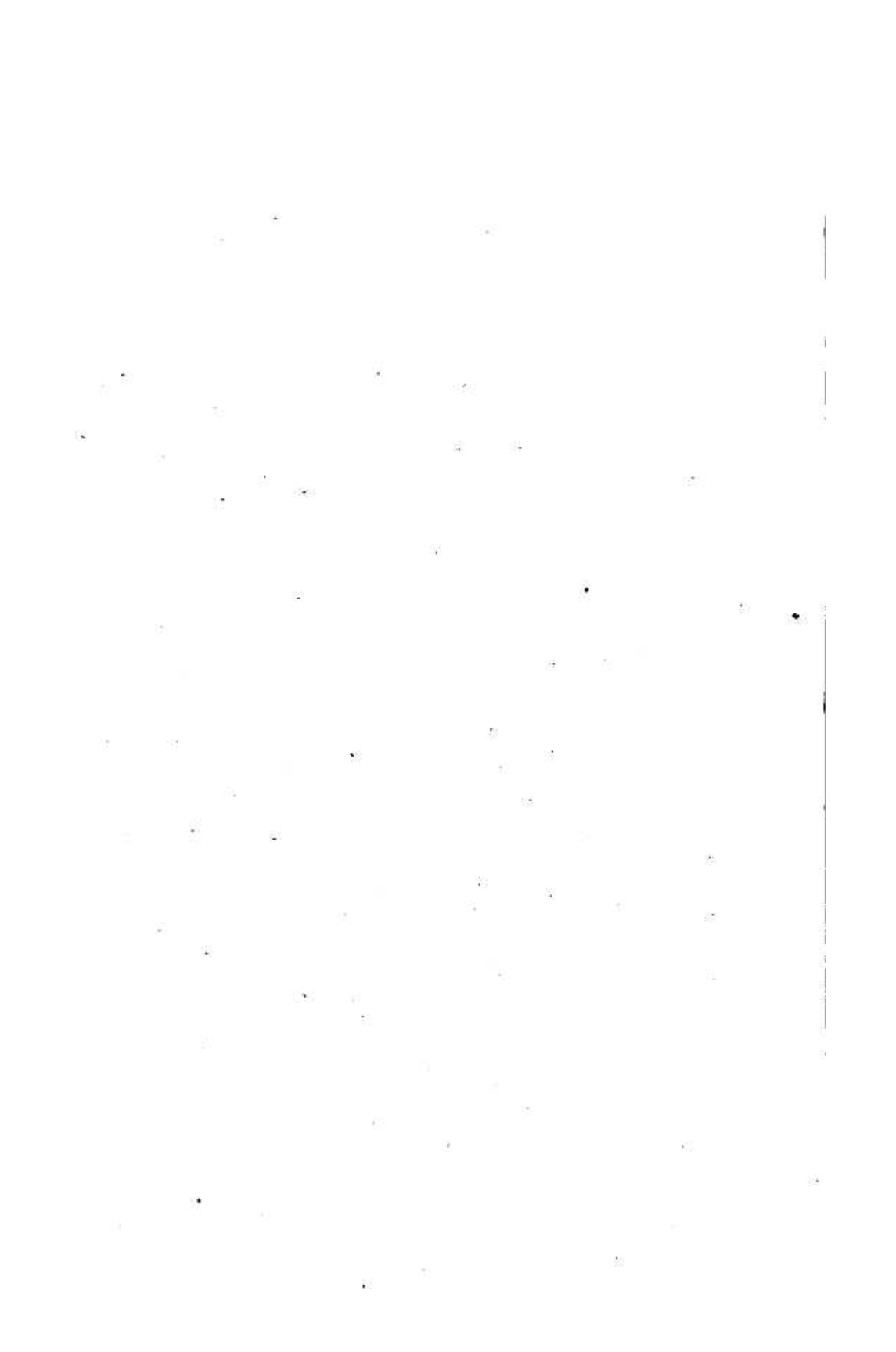
## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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The first edition of this book appeared in 1875. His Highness Sir ANAND RAO POWAR, K.C.S.I., the Maharaja of Dhar, made then a very liberal payment for the publication of it, and is very grateful to Col. W. Kincaid, the then Political Agent at Bhopawar, who, being a lover of antiquities, undertook to publish the first edition, reprinted from the compilation alluded to in his preface. That edition being now out of print, the Maharaja, with his usual liberality, has paid for the republication of it. This book is, therefore, but a reprint of the first edition.

P.

*Dhar, 21st November 1879.*



## PART I.

### MANDU AS IT IS.

A PERSON who has fully made up his mind to visit Mandu usually proceeds to Nalcha,\* where he can procure a guide conversant with the objects of interest there; for amongst the present inhabitants of the mouldering capital of Malwa no individual can be found sufficiently enlightened regarding its remains to act as cicerone. Any article of provender not already laid in should be provided at this place, as the bazaar of Mandu can at present boast of but few supplies beyond the mere necessities requisite for the support of a grazier's existence.

Nalcha is a small and insignificant village, but, owing to its situation, it has earned some slight degree of importance as a *Bhil* rendezvous, and a mart for "Rhonsa ka tel" (Rhonsa oil), which is extracted from the seeds of a grass growing about the hills around, and brought in for sale after the rains. A few Bhoras residing here have usurped the trade, and dispose of it at the rate of Rs. 3-12† per pukka seer (80 Rs. weight); it is a celebrated application for rheumatism, sprains, &c., and can very seldom be procured genuine at other places; it is of great consistency, and the scent is powerfully fragrant. (Note 1.)

Nalcha was on several occasions the residence of the Mandu vice-regents, and there are still sundry ruined tombs and palaces which remain as monuments of their occupation; the most worthy of mention is one which was fitted up as a bungalow by Sir John Malcolm, and is usually occupied by the traveller during his stay here. In exterior appearance it is an oblong building of masonry (a red calcareous stone), with a small European-built chuppered apartment raised on the terrace above; in front of the building is an open terrace paved and

\* Nalcha is 25 miles from Mhow and 16 from Dhar.—ED.

† Now 5 Rs. per seer.—ED.