

**NOTES ON CRIMINAL TRIBES
RESIDING IN OR FREQUENTING
THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,
BERAR AND THE CENTRAL
PROVINCES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649482528

Notes on Criminal Tribes Residing in Or Frequenting the Bombay Presidency, Berar and The Central Provinces by E. J. Gunthorpe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

E. J. GUNTHORPE

**NOTES ON CRIMINAL TRIBES
RESIDING IN OR FREQUENTING
THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,
BERAR AND THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES**

NOTES
ON
CRIMINAL TRIBES
RESIDING IN OR FREQUENTING
THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, BERAR
AND
THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

BY
MAJOR E. J. GUNTHORPE, M.S.C.,
thorpe
BERAR POLICE.

Bombay:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED AT THE TIMES OF INDIA STEAM PRESS.
1882.

① (247183

e. 16

PREFACE.

These few notes were originally commenced with the intention of aiding the Police to recognize, and cope with, the Criminal Tribes who frequent these parts of India. At the request of friends the papers appeared first in the *Times of India*, and in hopes that they may be of some slight interest to the public, and especially to those whose duty brings them in constant contact with the predatory classes, they are now issued in book form.

Much time and trouble has been expended in collecting and verifying the facts set forth, from the people themselves concerning whom they are written, and it is believed they will be found accurate.

E. J. G.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.	
Bowrie (Budhuck)	1
CHAPTER II.	
Takenkar or Tukkarree, true caste name Wagri or Moghya.....	11
CHAPTER III.	
Lungotee Pardhi, true caste name Bowrie.....	16
CHAPTER IV.	
Cheetawalla Pardhi, true caste name Bowrie.....	21
CHAPTER V.	
Soonaria	24
CHAPTER VI.	
Bunjara, called in some parts of the Deccan "Lumbhana"	29
CHAPTER VII.	
Mooltanee, true caste name Kaynjur, and known by Bunjaras as "Kaynjur"	42
CHAPTER VIII.	
Kolhatee	46
CHAPTER IX.	
Kaikaree, known also as "Korwee," and "Kul-korwee," and in Madras and Mysore as "Korwurroo"	53

	PAGE.
CHAPTER X.	
Professional Poisoners.....	65
CHAPTER XI.	
Poona Bhampta	70
CHAPTER XII.	
Fakir Coiner	74
CHAPTER XIII.	
Kunjur or Sansya	78
CHAPTER XIV.	
Deccanee Kunjur.....	81
CHAPTER XV.	
Marwaree Kunjur, known also as "Bhat," also "Oonchalaingawalla" or "Bylewalla"	85
CHAPTER XVI.	
Gopaul, known also as "Boreykar," or "Boria- walla"	89
CHAPTER XVII.	
Mang	95
CHAPTER XVIII.	
Mang Garodee	101
CHAPTER XIX.	
Ramoosee.....	105

NOTES ON CRIMINAL TRIBES.

CHAPTER I.

BOWRIE^o (Budhuck).

BOWRIES, who are Hindoos, are known by different names, according to the part of the country in which they have settled, *i.e.*, Bagoris, Bagris, or Wagris, Budhucks, Moghyas, Delhiwal Bowries, Malpooras, Marwarras, &c., &c. All make use of the same language, which was originally Guzeratee, and observe

* In Khandeish, Berar, parts of the Central Provinces and Deccan generally, there are six tribes who are of the true Bowrie family, who immigrated south into these parts many generations ago, and still retain their caste names, though they are known in the provinces by assumed ones. They are—

1. Wagris or Moghyas known as Takenkars.
2. Bowries known as Lungotes Pardhis.
3. Bowries known as Cheetawalla Pardhis.
4. Bowries known as Seelsajet Pardhis.
5. Maywarrees known as Phansi Pardhis.
6. Bowries known as Kalbailias, disguised as Kanipou Naths.

All these use a language similar to that of the Bowries or Budhucks of the north.

the same customs and rites. When away from their homes on a thieving expedition, in the presence of strangers Budhucks always talk Hindustani to one another. Those who come periodically down to the Deccan in search of plunder are chiefly the "Malpoora" Bowries from Bhopal, "Marwarras" from Marwar, and "Delhiwals" from the districts of Delhi. They penetrate as far south as the southern parts of the Madras Presidency, but do not cross over to Ceylon. Moghyas rarely come further south than Indore. All assume various disguises when visiting the Deccan. The Malpooras and Marwarras adopt those of Byragees and Gosseins; occasionally, but very rarely, as ordinary Purdesees in search of work, and also as Marwari Brahmin mendicants; Delhiwals at one time invariably as Byragees, but very often now as Aghorees and Gosseins; and Moghyas only as Byragees.

Their disguises are extremely well got up, and they learn so well the prayers, sayings, and doings of the religious mendicants whose guise they assume, that it is next to impossible, save for a real Gossein or Byragee, to see through the artifice. A few suggestions as to how to detect them are offered further on. All Bowries have been from ages past and are still by profession inveterate and irreclaimable robbers. In former days

they were most daring dacoits, but the Thuggee and Dacoity Department has much broken up violent crime amongst them, and their great *forte* now is burglary, at which, and at cutting into tents and robbing camps, they are most expert and daring. It is only the Delhiwal Bowries, however, and not the others, who practise the latter styles of crime. Moghyas still commit dacoity. Bowries were originally Rajpoots, and still retain the same "ghotes" or sub-divisions, &c. They are very fond of liquor, always live well, and are fond of mutton and buffalo flesh, but not beef. After a successful exploit the gang have a feast, at which much liquor is drunk. When disguised as Byragees or Gosseins, Bowries always put up at a temple (a halting-place is called "Asen" by them), and when otherwise they do as do the people whose guise they have assumed.

Women never accompany them. They move about in gangs of from three to eight or even more, sometimes thirty or forty. The headman of a gang is styled "Kadoo;" it is his duty to make the breach and to enter a house, and to be the leader in all exploits. The house-breaking implement is called a "Gyan." If talking about it in the presence of strangers a "Dass" is added to it, making it "Gyandass," as if it were a