

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The main object which I had in view in preparing this book was explained in the Preface to the First Edition. The fact that the edition was sold out within a few years proved that there was need of such a popular book. Nevertheless, on account of my various preoccupations I did not find sufficient time to prepare a revised edition, incorporating the results of later researches on the subject, based mainly on the discovery of new archaeological data and new interpretation of the old data. A comparison of this edition with the first will show the advances made in the study of this subject during the last sixteen years. Many dates and sequence of events have been corrected, and a great deal of new information has been added. All these have been taken into consideration in preparing this new edition. I have spared no pains to make it an up-to-date account of the history and culture of the ancient Hindu colonies in the Far East without modifying the original plan. Some illustrations in the first edition have been omitted, and new ones have been added, the total number of plates being increased by five.

In the Preface to the first edition reference was made to my plan to write a series of five volumes on the history of ancient Indian colonies in the Far East. In addition to the three volumes mentioned therein the following two have since been published:

1. Kambuja-deśa or an Ancient Hindu Colony in Cambodia.
2. Inscriptions of Kambuja.

They do not, however, complete the series, as the history of Burma and Siam still remains to be written.

I received many urgent requests from many quarters for the publication of the second edition. I apologise to them for the long delay in bringing it out, and hope it will prove useful to the large and growing section of the readers who are interest-

ed in this subject. Since the achievement of independence by India, Indonesia and Indo-China, political relations between them have assumed a new importance, and this small book may contribute to the growth of fellow-feeling among the peoples of these regions by revealing the part played by India in the cultural development of South-east Asia for a period of more than fifteen hundred years. If this work, written in a popular style, fulfils this object to any extent, I shall consider my labour amply rewarded.

R. C. MAJUMDAR

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

NEARLY twenty years ago, I planned to write a series of five volumes on the history of Ancient Indian colonies in the Far East. The first volume on Champā was published in 1927, and the second and third volumes, dealing respectively with the political and cultural history of Suvāṛṇadvīpa, were published in 1936 and 1938. The last two volumes, dealing with Kambuja, Siam, Burma and other parts of Indo-China have not yet been published. It was my intention, immediately after the publication of the whole series, to bring out a single short volume dealing briefly with all these colonies. This was meant to serve as a popular handbook for those who were unwilling or unable to go through the five big volumes of the series. As the publication of the last two volumes has to be indefinitely postponed on account of the war I thought it better to bring out the short popular volume without further delay.

In this short book I have tried to include all the essential facts bearing upon the history and culture of the ancient Hindu colonies in the Far East. I have avoided all critical discussions and references to authorities. For these, as well as fuller and detailed treatment of the topics dealt with herein, the reader may refer to the bigger volumes.

Since the publication of the first volume of the series there has been a growing desire in this country for knowledge of the ancient Indian colonies, and I hope this small book will enable even those who are not professed students of history to gain a fair idea of this fascinating aspect of ancient Indian history and culture. Recently the University of Calcutta has introduced the subject in both Intermediate and B.A. Courses in History. But the books prescribed are hardly suitable for Under-Graduate students. The absence of suitable text-books has proved a great handicap to both teachers and students and seems to be mainly

responsible for the fact that the alternative Courses including the study of this subject have not yet been very popular among the students. In writing this book I have specially kept in view the need of these University students. If this book facilitate their study of the subject and attract a larger number to these Courses I shall consider my labour amply rewarded.

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THE SYSTEM OF TRANSLITERATION

Vowels:

a, ā, ī, u, ū, ṛi, ḷ, e, ai, o, au

Consonants

k, kh, g, gh, ṅ

ch, chh, j, jh, ñ

ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, ḍh, ṇ

t, th, d, dh, n

p, ph, b, bh, m

y, r, l, v, ś, sh, s, h

Anusvāra = ṁ

Visarga = ḥ

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