

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book, as it developed over many years, owes its existence to the support of a large number of persons and institutions.

The project emerged in 2004 following the encouragement given to me by Aniruddha Ray, Emeritus Professor of History at Calcutta University, to embark on a monograph on James Tod and the Rajputs, in the course of a discussion about India's pre-colonial historiography. I was further inspired by childhood memories of accounts of adventurous 'shikars' or hunting expeditions in Rajasthan, by my paternal grandfather, my father and his sister, who were all influenced by the experiences in Rajasthan of my paternal grandmother, Mary Macedo-D'Souza, to whom this work is dedicated. She unfortunately expired at the age of sixty-nine, six months after my birth in 1959. Born in 1890 in Poona, she had qualified as a medical doctor from Poona's B.J. Medical College around 1915, and obtained employment with the then Nawab of Tonk, Ibrahim Ali Khan (r.1867–1930) from around 1916, and then under his successor, Saadat Ali Khan (r.1930–47), until her retirement in Poona from 1936. Thus, Mary Macedo-D'Souza worked over some twenty years in Tonk (1916–36, approximately) as the ruling Nawab's zenana doctor, looking after the health of the wives, children and domestic staff of these early twentieth-century Nawabs. Her link with James Tod is that the ancestor of these Nawabs of Tonk, who employed her, was the Pathan military adventurer Amir Khan (1768–1834), who had been 'pacified' from his violent incursions into Rajasthan by the British Representative, Tod, in 1817, through the award of a princely state in Rajasthan, made up of Tonk, Rampura (west of Sawai Madhopur) and Neembahira, together with the title of 'Nawab'. The present Nawab of Tonk is Aftab Ali Khan, in power since 1994, whose son, Junaid Ali Khan, was born in 1986.

In preparing this book, I was able to avail myself of the invaluable assistance of staff members of the Royal Asiatic Society, especially the recently retired librarian, Kathy Lazenbatt, her assistant Helen Porter and Kathy Lazenbatt's successor, Edward Leech. At the British Library, Andrew Cook and Jennifer Howes were very helpful.

Correspondence and personal conversations with Robert Skelton, Giles Tillotson, Lloyd Rudolph and Ann Buddle of the National Galleries of Scotland helped me along my way.

Academics working on India, in particular Muzaffar Alam, Daniel Carey, Michael Fisher, Jason Freitag, P.J. Marshall, Rosane Rocher, Massimiliano Vaghi and David Washbrook, enlightened me with constructive comments.

In France, my research supervisor, Alexis Tadié, and my Orientalist colleague, Marc Rolland, provided generous support with finalising my manuscript. Encouragement from friends Beena Anand, Marie-Joëlle Ravit and Armelle Saint-Martin, as also from my brother Leslie, kept my spirits up over the slow maturing of this project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the unhesitating defence of my publication proposal by John M. MacKenzie, the founding editor of the Manchester University Press Studies in Imperialism series, following upon my chance meeting with him at a lecture he was invited to give in Paris, the book would never have got off the ground. I am also indebted to Emma Brennan and Polly Bentham of Manchester University Press, for their constant vigilance and kindness throughout the production of this work.

Finally, to my life partner, mentor and guide, Guy Deleury, my deep gratitude for his unquenchable optimism, through thick and through thin.



A map of James Tod's journeys through Rajasthan and Gujarat.

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