



1823-2023

A NEWLY RESTORED EDITION *of* JAMES TOD'S

# ANNALS AND ANTIQUITIES OF RAJAST'HAN

*with* COMPANION VOLUME *by* NORBERT PEABODY



*Published in association with Yale University Press*





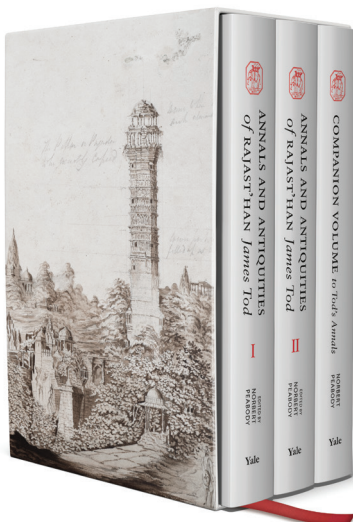
Jain temple in the fortress of Komulmer, unknown artist, after a drawing by P.Y. Waugh, RAS 063.023

TO COMMEMORATE ITS BICENTENARY, the Royal Asiatic Society has commissioned a limited edition re-issue of Lt.-Col. James Tod's *Annals and Antiquities of Rajast'han*, with a new *Companion Volume* by Norbert Peabody (to be co-published by the Society and Yale University Press in Summer 2023).

Tod was a founding member of the Society and its first librarian. While librarian, he completed his *Annals* (originally published in 1829 and 1832), which was the literary fruit of his 23-year East India Company

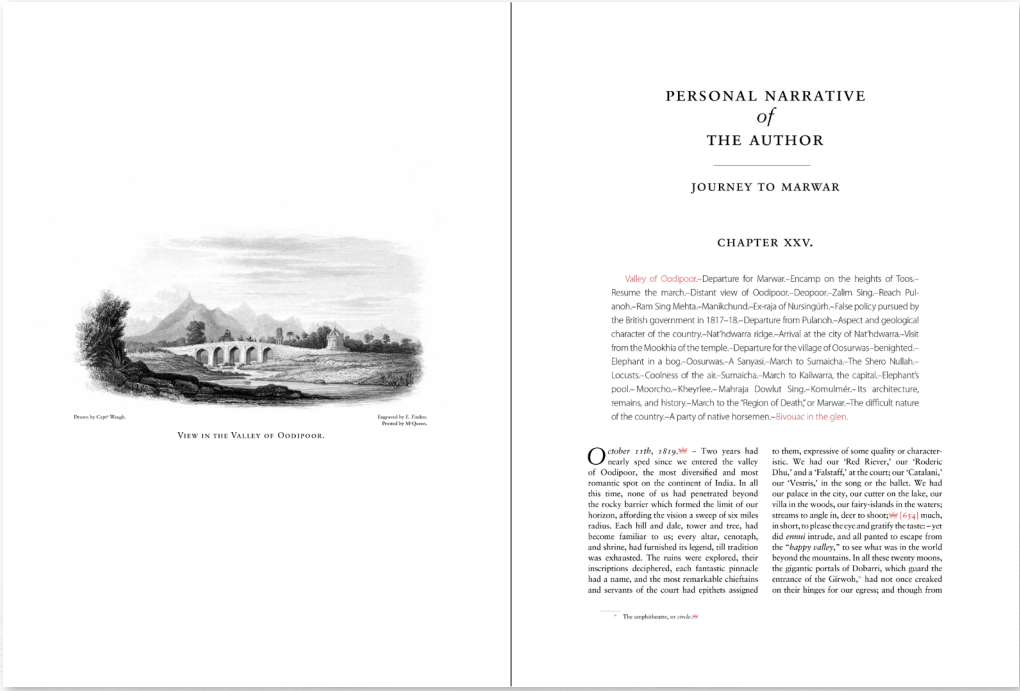
career, during which he served as the first Political Agent to the Western Rajput States of Rajasthan (1818–22).

The two volumes of his now classic text remain essential reading for anyone interested in the history and culture of Rajasthan and the early colonial encounter in India. The text also became an inspirational source for early Indian freedom fighters, who drew on Tod's rich narrative of Rajasthan's history, which he articulated in explicitly nationalist terms, as a call for India's independence from British rule. The book continues to exert a subtle influence on the national imagination of contemporary India. Tod's text, thus, remains an indispensable source for understanding not only Rajasthan's historical past but also important aspects of India's political present.

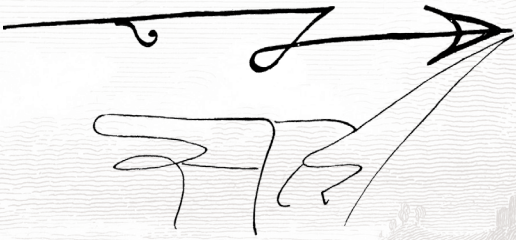


Although this text has remained in print since its first publication, almost all currently available reprints of it derive from the 1920 'Crooke edition' in which the editor heavily edited Tod's text – silently distorting it in the process – so that much of its original intellectual intent and expressive force became lost. The RAS's anniversary edition, with the accompanying *Companion Volume*, returns the text to its original





ABOVE: Sample pages from vol. 1 of the new re-issue; BELOW LEFT: The sign-manuals of the Rawat of Salumbar (top) and the Maharana of Mewar (bottom), RAS TOD MS. 145; BELOW RIGHT: Maharana Bhim Singh of Mewar receives James Tod, inscribed to Chokha, c.1818, ANIL RELIA COLLECTION, AHMEDABAD



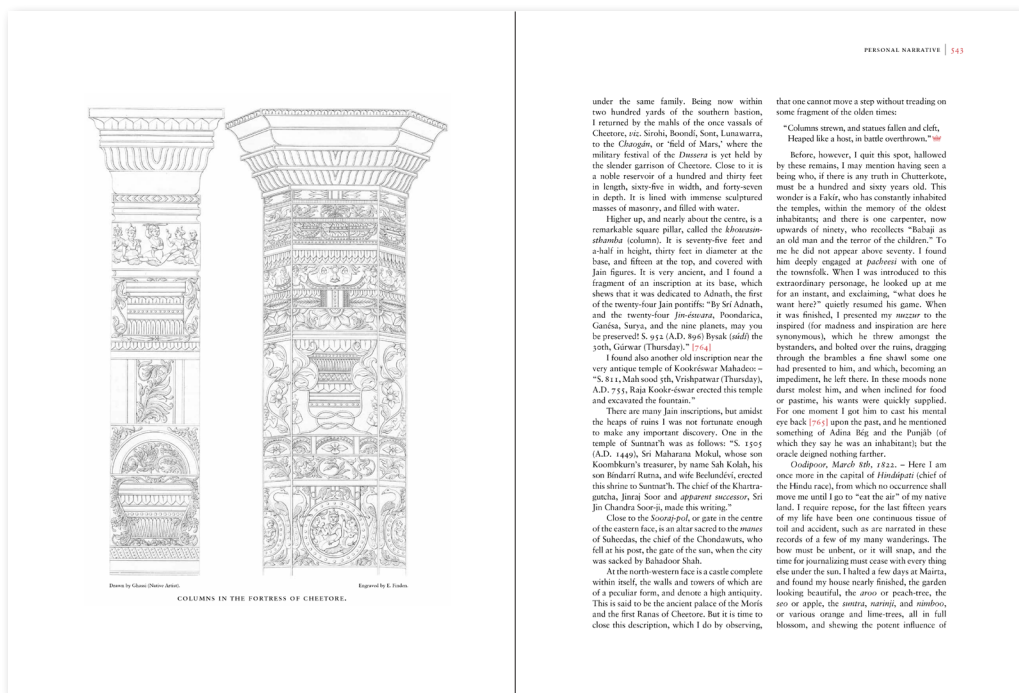
state and provides the contemporary reader with the necessary background, critical apparatus, and interpretive frames to better understand this monumental, but often misunderstood, work.

One of the principal contributions of the *Companion Volume* lies in its exploration of how Tod's *Annals* is a vibrantly collaborative text in which his authorship is continuously supplemented, and not infrequently destabilised, by the voices of his numerous Indian informants and interlocutors. The resultant cacophony renders Tod's text surprisingly multivalent



and discrepant in its significance and potential uses. In re-articulating the variety of Indian voices that simultaneously inhabit Tod's *Annals*, the *Companion Volume* makes a larger argument for a conjunctural, contingent, and open-ended reading of colonial history.

James Tod



ABOVE: Sample pages from vol. 2 of the new re-issue; BELOW: Woodcut print by Mary Byfield, c.1828, from vol. 1 of the new re-issue.

## KEY FEATURES of the RE-ISSUE

**A COMPLETE RESTORATION** of the two volumes of Tod's original text and the 80+ original copperplate engravings, woodblock prints, and lithographs to its first edition state. All the illustrations have been digitally restored from proof prints in the RAS. Reproductions of five additional, previously unpublished engravings from the Tod collection supplement the restored text.

**A THIRD, COMPANION VOLUME** including a preface, two introductory essays, 125,000 words of annotations, a full bibliography, and an extensive glossary of Indian terms used by Tod.

**HIGH QUALITY COLOUR REPRODUCTIONS** of approximately 130 Rajasthani paintings and drawings and 25 European watercolours of Rajasthan from the Tod collections in the RAS, the BL, the BM, and the V&A. This visual material is supplemented with reproductions of other Rajasthani paintings that have a direct bearing on Tod's life in and writings on Rajasthan. A significant amount of this material has never been reproduced before.

**OVER-SIZED, FOLD-OUTS** of maps (including a full-size reproduction of Tod's historically important, hand-coloured map of Rajasthan), tables, and an additional reproduction of one of the engravings.

**THE THREE VOLUMES WILL BE** case bound with ribbon bookmarks and cloth headbands. The entire set will be boxed.

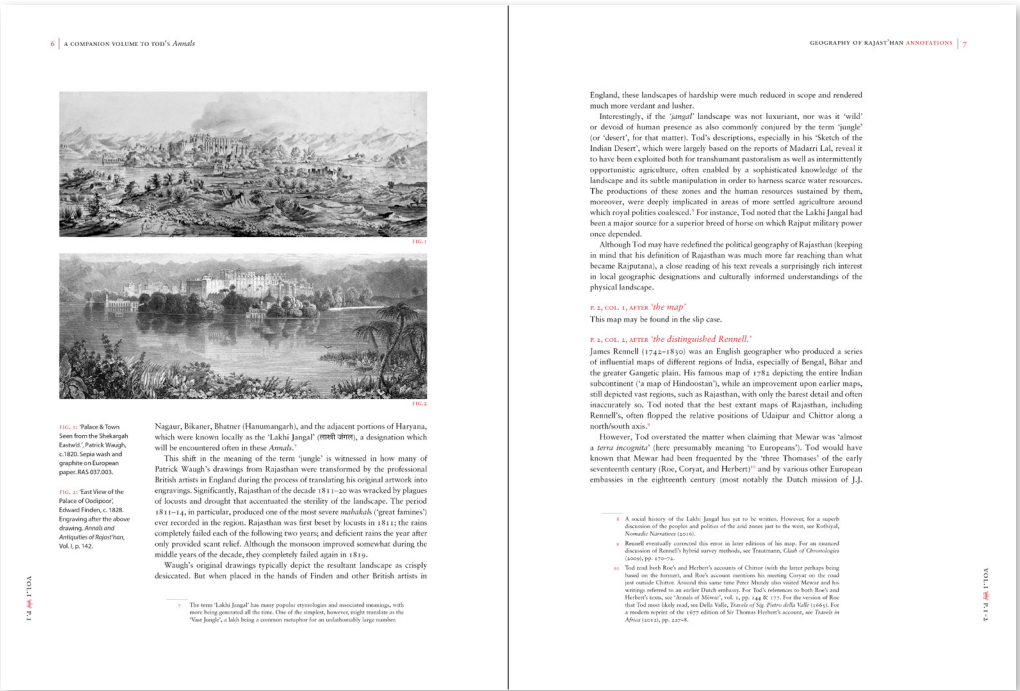
**DESIGNED IN ENGLAND** and printed in Italy to a high production standard, befitting the sumptuous (but now rare) first edition.

**EDITION LIMITED TO 750. EACH HAND NUMBERED.**



PAKES OF MARWAR.





Sample pages from the *Companion Volume* to the new re-issue

SUBSCRIPTION APPEAL *to the* RE-ISSUE

Fellows and friends of the Society are offered the opportunity to subscribe to the anniversary re-issue in advance of its publication for the discounted price of £725 (the standard list price will be £850). To qualify for the reduced price, full payment must be received by 16 December 2022. Subscribers will have their names published (if they so wish) in the List of Subscribers that will appear in the *Companion Volume*.

For further information on how to subscribe and make payment, please visit the ‘Tod Subscription’ page on the Society’s website:

<https://royalasiaticsociety.org/tod-subscription>

If you have questions regarding the subscription, please email Camilla Larsen, [cl@royalasiaticsociety.org](mailto:cl@royalasiaticsociety.org)



Bundi Princesses hunting a lion (and vice versa), unknown artist, c.1820, RAS 061.002



ON THE FRONT COVER: Maharana Bhim Singh of Mewar, attrib. to Chokha, c.1805–10. RAS 063.027



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