FOREWORD

My teacher, the late Professor H. C. Raychaudhuri, was suffering from illness for several years before his untimely death in 1957. That is why it was not possible for him to revise, to his satisfaction, certain sections of Part II of his Political History in the light of the discoveries made even some years before the latest edition of the work came out in 1953. A number of important records have also come out since that date. As Raychaudhuri’s book still remains the most reliable and comprehensive treatment of the subject and is in great demand among the students of early Indian history, the University of Calcutta deserves our sincere thanks for bringing out the present reprint. When at the final stage of its printing, Dr. A. K. Raychaudhuri, son of the late Professor, saw me for the elucidation of a few minor points, I thought of adding a list of at least a few of the many important epigraphic, numismatic and literary records which have been discovered, studied or re-studied during the past two decades and throw light on the problems discussed by the author. The intention is of course to lead inquisitive students to further study of some of the topics. The epigraphic records, mostly appearing in the Epigraphia Indica, have been enumerated according to the order of their publication.

1. Mandasor (Mandsaur District, Madhya Pradesh) inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol. XXVII, pp. 12 ff.), dated Mālava year 524 (467 A.D.), which speaks indirectly of the rule of Govindagupta, son of Chandragupta II, in Western India or the Malwa region apparently at an earlier date. There is no reason to believe that Govindagupta ruled for some time from the Imperial Gupta throne (cf. Journ. Anc. Ind. Hist., Vol. III, pp. 101 ff.).

2. Sumandala (Ganjam District, Orissa) copper-plate inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol. XXVIII, pp. 79 ff.) of Prithivīvīgraḥa-bhatāraka, dated Gupta year 250 (569 A.D.), issued when Gupta sovereignty was prevalent in the area (cf. 1 Gupta-rājye varttamāne with a similar phrase in Bhandarkar’s List, No. 1068: Aīṅgareja-rājye varttamāne). This has to be read in relation to the Jain literary tradition in Jinasena’s Harivaiśā, to which Raychaudhuri himself first drew our attention and which speaks of the duration of Gupta rule as 231 years and indirectly of the fall of the Guptas about the Gupta year 231 (550 A.D.). Now we have traced another Jain literary tradition, side by side with the said one, in Yati Basaha’s
Tiloyapannati, giving the duration of Gupta rule as 252 years, so that Gupta sovereignty ended about 571 A.D.; and we have suggested that the Guptas lost their hold on U.P. and Bihar about 550 A.D., but continued to dominate Orissa and the neighbouring regions till 571 A.D. See Essays presented to Sir Jadunath Sarkar, ed. H. R. Gupta, 1958, pp. 343 ff.

3. Badagani (Sibsagar District, Assam) inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol. XXX, pp. 62 ff.) of Bhūtivarman. It was formerly supposed to contain a date in the Gupta year 234 or 244; but a careful examination has shown that the record is undated. Bhūtivarman’s epithet ‘performer of the horse-sacrifice’ is interesting because the seal of Bhāskaravarman assigns the performance of Aṣvamedha not to Bhūtivarman, but to two other rulers.

4. Pedda-Dugam (Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh) copper-plate inscription (ibid., Vol. XXXI, pp. 89 ff.) issued by Satrubadama (about the fifth century A.D.) owing allegiance to a Bhāṭṭāraka who seems to have been a Gupta emperor.

5. Gujarra (Datia District, Madhya Pradesh) MRE (ibid., pp. 205 ff.) of Aśoka. This text of MRE I has a passage which throws light on the intermingling of gods and men in his empire as claimed by Aśoka. It says that people who followed Aśoka’s Dharma would, as a result, be able to mingle with gods.

6. Kailvan (Patna District, Bihar) inscription (ibid., pp. 229 ff.) of Ārya-Viśākhamaitra who was ruling over the area in question in the Kanishka or Śaka year 108 (186 A.D.). The use of the era of 78 A.D. in this record seems to be related to the question of expansion of Kushāna power in Eastern India. See Sircar, Problems of Kushāna and Rājput History, pp. 52 ff.

7. Kurud (Raipur District, Madhya Pradesh) copper-plate inscription (Ep. Ind., Vol. XXXI, pp. 267 ff.) of king Narendra of Sarabhapura, who flourished about 500 A.D. The inscription shows that the early members of this ruling family owed allegiance to a Paramābhaṭṭāraka apparently of the Gupta dynasty.

8. Erragudi (Karnul District, Andhra Pradesh) Edicts (ibid., Vol. XXXII, pp. 1 ff.) of Aśoka. These contain the two Minor and the fourteen Major Rock Edicts. Their discovery has helped scholars in locating Suvarṇagiri, capital of the southern province of Aśoka’s empire, at Zonnagiri near Erragudi.

9. Copper coin of Harigupta (ibid., Vol. XXXIII, pp. 95 ff.) The Garuda reverse of the coin was imitated from the coins of Chandragupta II. The same Harigupta may be the Guptavāniṣodita Harirāja of the Ichchhawar inscription (loc. cit.); but he was a local ruler of the East Malwa region about the fifth century A.D. and did not belong to the Imperial Gupta dynasty.
10. Bhumara (Satna District, Madhya Pradesh) inscription (ibid., pp. 167 ff.). Formerly it was believed that the inscribed pillar was the boundary post between the kingdoms of the Parivrājaka Mahārāja Hastin and the Uchchakalpīya Mahārāja Sarvanātha; but the recent study has shown that an area named ‘Mahārāja-Sarvanātha-bhoga’ (literally, ‘the jāgīr in the possession of Mahārāja Sarvanātha’) formed a part of Hastin’s kingdom.

11. Supia (former Rewa State, Madhya Pradesh) inscription (ibid., pp. 306 ff.) of the time of Skandagupta, dated Gupta year 141 (460 A.D.). In this record, the Gupta genealogy is begun from Ghatotkacha (not from Ghatotkacha’s father Gupta) as in Prabhāvatigupta’s grants, and the Gupta emperors Chandragupta II and Kumāragupta I are mentioned by their titles, viz., Vikramāditya and Mahendraditya, respectively.

12. Kandahar (Afghanistan) MRE (ibid., pp. 333 ff.; Vol. XXXIV, pp. 1 ff.) of Asoka in two versions, viz. Greek and Aramaic, meant respectively for the Yavana and Kamboja subjects of the Maurya emperor. The Aramaic version represents the local officers as mentioning Priyadarśin (Asoka) as ‘our lord’ and points to the inclusion of wide areas of Afghanistan in the Maurya empire.

13. Mathura (U.P.) inscription (ibid., Vol. XXXIV, pp. 9 ff.) of year 4 of Kanishka’s reign. The record shows that, like Śrāvasti, Vārānasī and Kauśāmbī in U.P., Mathurā also formed a part of Kanishka’s empire early in his reign.

14. Chitorgarh (Rajasthan) inscription of Aulikara Yasodharman (ibid., pp. 53 ff.). The inscription suggests that the city of Madhyamā (Madhyamikā), modern Nagarī near Chitor, was an administrative centre of the Aulikara dominions.

15. Nagarjunikonda (Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh) inscription (ibid., pp. 197 ff.) of Ābhīra Vasusheha. The record seems to be dated in the year 30 of the era of 248 A.D., i.e. in 278 A.D., and to indicate the temporary occupation of the Ikshvāku capital, viz. Vijayapuri in the Nagarjunikonda valley, by the Ābhīras of Maharashtra.

16. Varanasi (U.P.) Sanskrit University Museum inscription (ibid., pp. 243 ff.) of the time of Rudrādāmāśrī who seems to have had the blood of the Śaka Satraps of Western India in his veins and ruled over Eastern U.P. in the third century A.D.

17. Amaravati (Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh) pillar inscription (ibid., Vol. XXXV, pp. 40 ff.). The record has been regarded as a fragment of an Aśokan Pillar Edict. In that case, this is the only Pillar Edict of the Maurya king so far discovered in South India, and Aśoka may be associated with the earliest phase of the Buddhist establishment at Amaravati.
18. Coins of the so-called Mahisha dynasty (*ibid.*, pp. 69 ff.). Some coins of about the third century A.D., discovered in the southern part of the former Hyderabad State, were attributed to a ruler of the Mahisha dynasty of Śaka origin; but, with the help of similar other coins, it has been shown that the letters *Mahasa* in the legend stand not for *Mahisha*, but for *Mahāśeṇapatiśiva*, so that the existence of the Mahisha dynasty is imaginary.

19. Silver coin of Vāsishthiputra Śātakarnī (*ibid.*, pp. 247 ff.). Formerly silver coinage (imitated from the Śaka type) only of Gautamiputra Yajña-Śātakarnī (c. 178-202 A.D.) was known, so that it was supposed to prove his conquest of the Thana District from the Śaka Sattars of Western India. Now we have similar coins of his predecessors, viz., Vāsishthiputra Pulumāvi (c. 131-59 A.D.) and Vāsishthiputra Śātakarnī (c. 159-65 A.D.) who had in their possession the Nasik-Poona region, and apparently Thana also, which had been conquered by Gautamiputra Śātakarnī (c. 106-31 A.D.) from the Kshaharāta-Śaka Sattars. The other tracts conquered by Gautamiputra from Naṭapāṇa were reconquered by the Kārdamaka-Śaka Sattars Chashāna and Rudrādana. See also Sircar, *Studies in Indian Coins*, pp. 107 ff., and *Ancient Malwa and the Vikramāditya Tradition*, pp. 88-89, 104. The legend on Vāsishthiputra Śātakarnī’s coin, exhibiting the Dravidian forms of Middle Brāhmī and Prakrit speech, helped us in reading the damaged part of the legend on the coin of Gautamiputra Yajña-Śātakarnī.

20. Dhāreikātura grant of Achaṇḍavarman (*Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 1 ff.) The inscription shows how formerly the name Achaṇḍavarman was wrongly read in various epigraphs by all scholars as Achaṇḍavarman.

21. Ahraura (Mirzapur District, U.P.) MRE of Aśoka (*ibid.*, pp. 239 ff.) An interesting passage in the last sentence of the record shows that MRE I was issued when Aśoka passed 256 nights away from his capital in the course of a tour of pilgrimage which he had undertaken after the installation of the Buddha’s corporeal relics on a platform apparently for worship at Pāṭaliputra. For *vivuta*, etc., see *Ind. Hist. Quart.*, Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 222-24.

22. Nagarjunikonda (Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh) inscription (*Ep. Ind.*, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 273 ff.) of Gautamiputra Vijaya-Śātakarnī of the Śātavāhana dynasty, dated in his sixth regnal year. The record supports the Purānic reference to the Andhra king named Vijaya and shows that the Buddhist establishment at Nagarjunikonda, so long attributed to the Ikshvākus, started under Later Śātavāhana patronage.

pp. 94 ff.) of Vākāṭaka Devasena, dated in śaka 380 (458 A.D.). This is the only definitely dated record of the Vākāṭaka dynasty, and also offers the earliest reference to the association of the Śakas with the era of 78 A.D. Another important feature of the inscription is that it equates śaka 380 (458 A.D.) with the year 3020 of a cyclic reckoning of the astronomers.

24. Kandahar (Afghanistan) version of RE XII and XIII of Aśoka in Greek (ibid., pp. 103 ff.; Foreigners in Ancient India and Lakshmī and Sarasvatī in Art and Literature, ed. Sircar, pp. 25 ff.) This fragmentary record suggests that all the Major Rock edicts of the Maurya emperor may have been engraved at the place which was the headquarters of a district inhabited mostly by the Yavanas (Greeks).

25. Copper coins of Rāmagupta (Journ. Ind. Hist., Vol. XL, Part III, December 1962, pp. 533 ff.). The coins, it has been suggested, prove that there was a ruler named Rāmagupta in Malwa, but not that he belonged to the Imperial Gupta dynasty of Magadha and ruled at Pātaliputra about 376 A.D. The coins resemble the Mālava and Nāga issues, some of them being imitated from Gupta coins like the issues of Harigupta and Indragupta who did not belong to the Imperial Gupta house.

26. Paramadāivata (Indian Studies: Past & Present, Vol. V, No. 1, October-December, 1963, pp. 89 ff.). It has been shown that the title has no Imperial association, but merely means ‘devoted to the gods’.

27. Ariaka (Journ. Ind. Hist., Vol. XLIII, Part III, December, 1965, pp. 693 ff.). Here an attempt has been made to show that ‘Ariake of the Sadenoi’ in Ptolemy’s Geography (c. 145 A.D.) means ‘Aparantā of the Śatavāhanas’ which included the present Thana District, but that the Ariake of the Periplus (c. 82 A.D.) included Southern Gujarat later called Lāta (Ptolemy’s Larike which formed a part of the dominions of Tiastenes, i.e. Chashtana, and also of the latter’s successor, Rudradāman).

28. Matrimonial Relations between Seleucus and Chandragupta (Journ. Anc. Ind. Hist., Vol. I, pp. 87 ff.). It has been shown that there was no difficulty for the Maurya king in marrying a Greek princess because in India a king could choose his bride from any other royal family irrespective of caste considerations.

29. Andhau (Kutch, Gujarat) inscription (ibid., Vol. II, pp. 104 ff.) of Chashtana, dated in the year 11 (89 A.D.). The record shows that Chashtana’s territory included Kutch as early as the eighties of the first century A.D. and that he was a Satrap under Kanishka I (78-102 A.D.).

30. Guntupally (West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh)
inscriptions (ibid., Vol. III, pp. 23 ff.). The records prove the rule of the Mahâmeghavâhana king Sada, called lord of Kaliṅga and Mâhishaka, over the said region. The king, who ruled about the second century A.D. was wrongly identified with Khâravela who flourished in the first century B.C.

31. Mankuwar (Allahabad District, U.P.) inscription (ibid., pp. 133 ff.) of the time of Kumāragupta I. The date of the inscription is not the Gupta year 129 (448 A.D.), but the year 109 (428 A.D.). This reading suggests the introduction of the decimal system in India as early as the beginning of the fifth century A.D.

32. Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh) inscription (ibid., pp. 145 ff.; Journ. Or. Inst., Vol XVIII, March, 1969, pp. 247 ff.) of Mahârâjâ-dhirâja Râmagupta. An attempt has been made to show that there is no reason to regard this Jain king Râmagupta of Malwa as the Imperial Gupta monarch of 376 A.D. since the palæography of the Vidisha records is really about a century later than that of the Sanchi inscription (412 A.D.) of Chandragupta II.

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