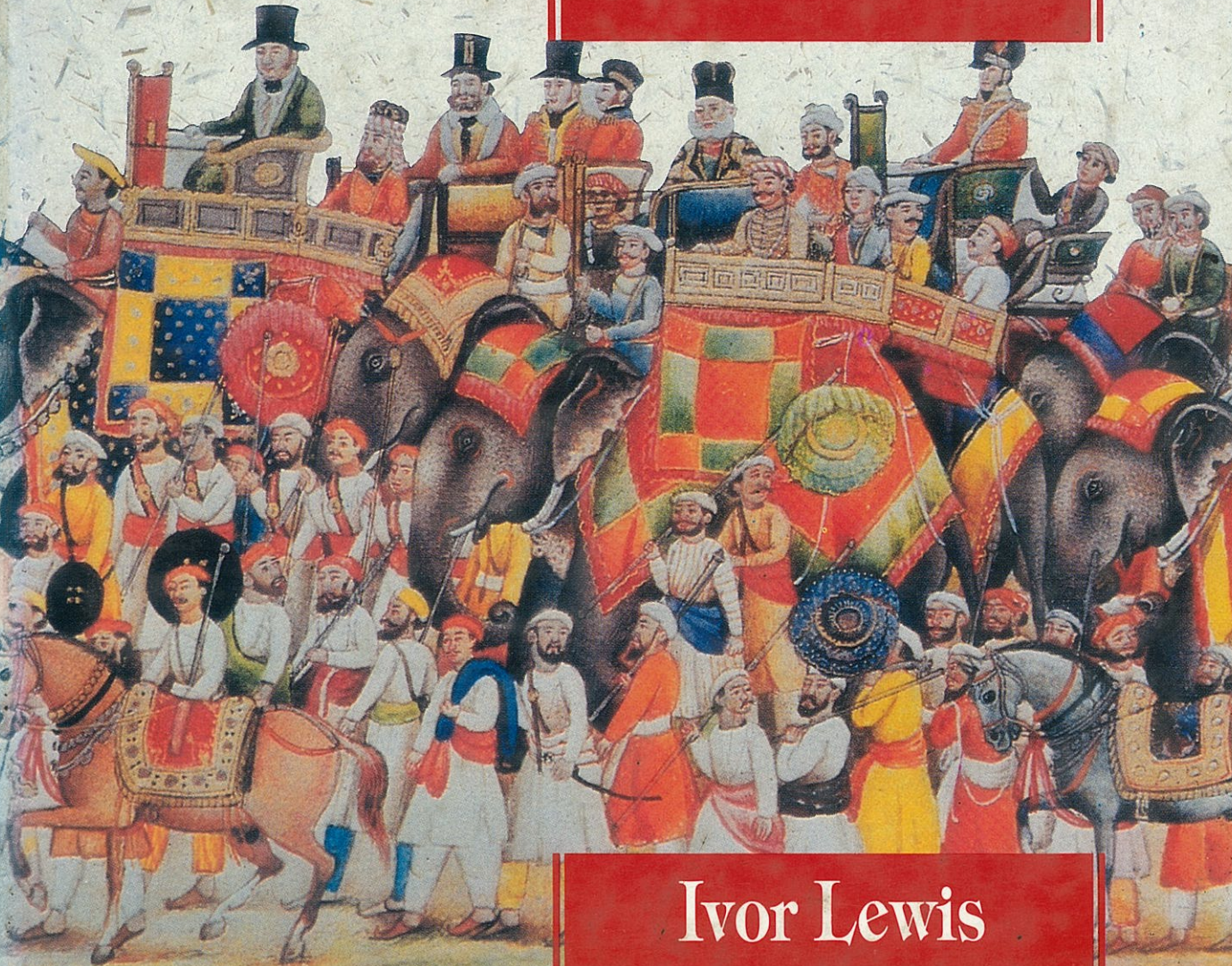


# Sahibs, Nabobs and Boxwallahs

A DICTIONARY OF  
THE WORDS OF  
ANGLO-INDIA



Ivor Lewis

PREFACE

# SAHIBS, NABOBS AND BOXWALLAHS

## A Dictionary of the Words of Anglo-India

IVOR LEWIS

This is not the first time this has been attempted. About a century ago two English scholars—IVOR LEWIS—who had served the government of India from about the middle of the nineteenth century, Col. Henry Yule and Dr A. C. Burnell, collaborated to produce a noteworthy master-work, *Hobson-Jobson*, aptly described by Yule in his preface as a 'portly double-columned edifice'. It is unique and has held the field ever since 1866 for its extensive exposition of the history of Indian words, and words of Indian provenance, in English, and more widely, the history of Anglo-India in Indian words. This must be said with some reservation, which will be mentioned later. The present work will attempt to fill in some measure certain lacunae in *Hobson-Jobson* in order to achieve a better balance between the words of the common sort and those in the learned registers of theology, diplomacy, philosophy and the like.

These acquired words are to be found in the literature of Anglo-India, and scattered in the pages of dictionaries, especially those compiled on historical principles, notably *The New English Dictionary* which, under the aegis of the Philological Society at Oxford began publication at about the same time as that of *Hobson-Jobson* and continued to its final part in 1928. Afterwards, its successor, *The Oxford English Dictionary*, has carried the good work up to the present day in

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## G

- Gadi, guddy, guddee** [19C. Mar. *gādī*, H. *gaddī*, 'cushion'.] (1) 'The Throne', the seat of royalty. To be placed on the *guddee* (*gādī*) is to succeed to the kingdom. [OED & YB.] (2) The expression is still used to denote any seat of authority or eminence symbolic of authority. [OED & YB.] Also *gadi-nashin* (P. 'who sits'). One who sits upon the throne; sometimes an heir-apparent. (GCW.) (3) 'The word is also used for the pad placed on an elephant's back.' [YB; Broughton, *Letters from a Mahratta Camp* (1809; ed. 1813), 28.]
- Gaekwar, Gaikwar, Guicowar** [19C. Mar. *gāekwād*, lit. 'cow-herd'.] 'The title of the Mahratta kings of Guzerat descended from *Dāmāji* and *Pīlāji* Gaekwar, who rose to distinction among Mahratta warriors in the second quarter of the 18th century.' [YB.] (2) Until the abolition of the Indian princely states, the native ruler of Baroda, and now still the family name of the ex-ruler. [OED & YB; Forbes, *Oriental Mem.* (1813), ii. xviii. 84.]
- Gajra** [20C.] Flower-bracelet. See **Veni**. [CIWIE.]
- Galabha** [20C. H. *galabha*, 'noise'.] A noisy commotion, disturbance. [CIWIE.]
- Gali, galee** [19C. H. *gālī*, 'abuse; bad language'.] See **Crab Bat**. [YB; Broughton, *Letters from a Mahr. Camp* (1809; ed. 1813).]
- Gallece** [18C. Domestic Hindustani *gālīs*, 'a pair of braces'.] Orig. from E. *gallows(es)* (obs. in E., and dialect in Scot. & U.S.). [OED & YB; Nathan Bailey, *Dictionarium Britannicum* etc. (1730-36).]
- Gallegalle** [17C. H. *galgal*.] A mixture of lime and linseed oil forming a waterproof mortar. [YB; Cocks, *Diary* (1621, ii. 190; Hak. Soc., 1883).]
- Gallivat, gallevat, galley-watt** [17C. Pg. *galeota*. Obs.] 'A large boat used in Eastern seas, having a triangular sail as well as oars.' [OED.] Like a **Grab** but smaller. See **Jalebote** (Jolly-boat). [OED & YB; Downton in Purchas (1618; 1625-6), i. 501.]
- Gambier** [19C. Mal. *gambir*.] 'An astringent extract prepared from an Eastern plant, *Uncaria gambir*, and largely used for tanning and other purposes.' [OED.] 'The substance in chemical composition and qualities strongly resembles **Cutch**, and the names **Catechu** and **Terra Japonica** are applied to both.' [YB & OED; De Bry, *Indien Orientalis* (1599-1614); Lindley, *Nat. Syst. Bot.* (1830), 205.]
- Ganda** [19C. H. *gainda*; S. *ganda*.] 'a rhinoceros.' [YB; D'Albuquerque, *Commentaries* (1557; E. tr. by de Grey Birch, Hak. Soc., 1875-84); Barbosa, *Desc. of the Coasts of E. Africa and Malabar* (1516; E. tr. by Stanley, Hak. Soc., 1866).]
- Gandharva, Gandharba, -arwa** [19C. S. *gandharva*. (Cf. Gr. *kentauros*).] Hindu myth. A class of genii in the retinue of **Indra**, considered in the epics as celestial musicians. *Gandharva music* is 'celestial music', also called *marga music* and *Vedic music*, said to please the gods. It lost its popularity and was replaced by *deshi music* in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. [OED.] *Gandharva* marriage: a love-match; marriage by mutual consent as opposed to an 'arranged' marriage. Cf. **Glendower**. [H. H. Wilson, *Sk. Relig. Sects Hindus* (1846), ii. 17.]
- Gandhi** [20C. Family name fr. H. 'gandhi', a **Banya**.] The name of M.K. Gandhi (1869-1948), otherwise known as **Mahatma** (Great Soul) Gandhi; great Indian political leader and social reformer. Noted for his espousal of non-violence in political protest (**Ahimsa**), adherence to truth (**Satyagraha**), and the dignity of labour. *Gandhi-cap*: a close-fitting **Khadi** cap worn by Gandhi's followers and disciples and by a great many Indian politicians, but not by him. *Gandhian*, *Gandhism*: The principles and policies advocated by Mahatma Gandhi (1921). [OED.] Also, 'Gandhi's revenge' (slang) 'Matches that, made in India, would, when struck either ignite explosively or lose their heads'. (R.A.F. slang (1935-48). [Partridge, *Dict. of Slang* (Supp.) (1979), E.M. Forster, *Hill of Devi* (1953), 125.]
- Ganesh, Ganapati, Ganesa** [19C. S. *Ganesa*, fr. *gana*, 'a flock' + *isa*, 'a lord'.] The elephant-headed god of wisdom, son of **Parvati** and **Shiva** (or of Parvati alone). His *Vahan* (vehicle) is the rat. [Whitworth, *Anglo-Indian Dict.* (1885).]
- Ganges** [H. *Ganga*; S. *ganga*.] The great river of India, most sacred to Hindus. (See next.)
- Gangetic** [17C.] (See prec.) Belonging or pertaining to the river Ganges, e.g., the Gangetic