

~~5149~~

JOURNAL
OF
FRANCIS BUCHANAN
KEPT DURING THE SURVEY OF THE
DISTRICT

" 9401 OF
SHAHABAD
IN
1812-1813

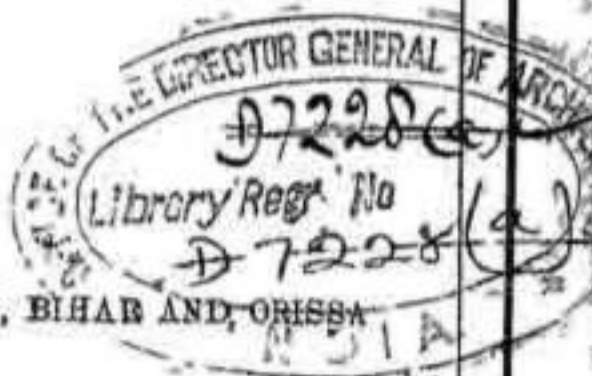


Edited with Notes and Introduction

BY

C. E. A. W. OLDHAM, C.S.I.

915.416
Buc / Old



PATNA:

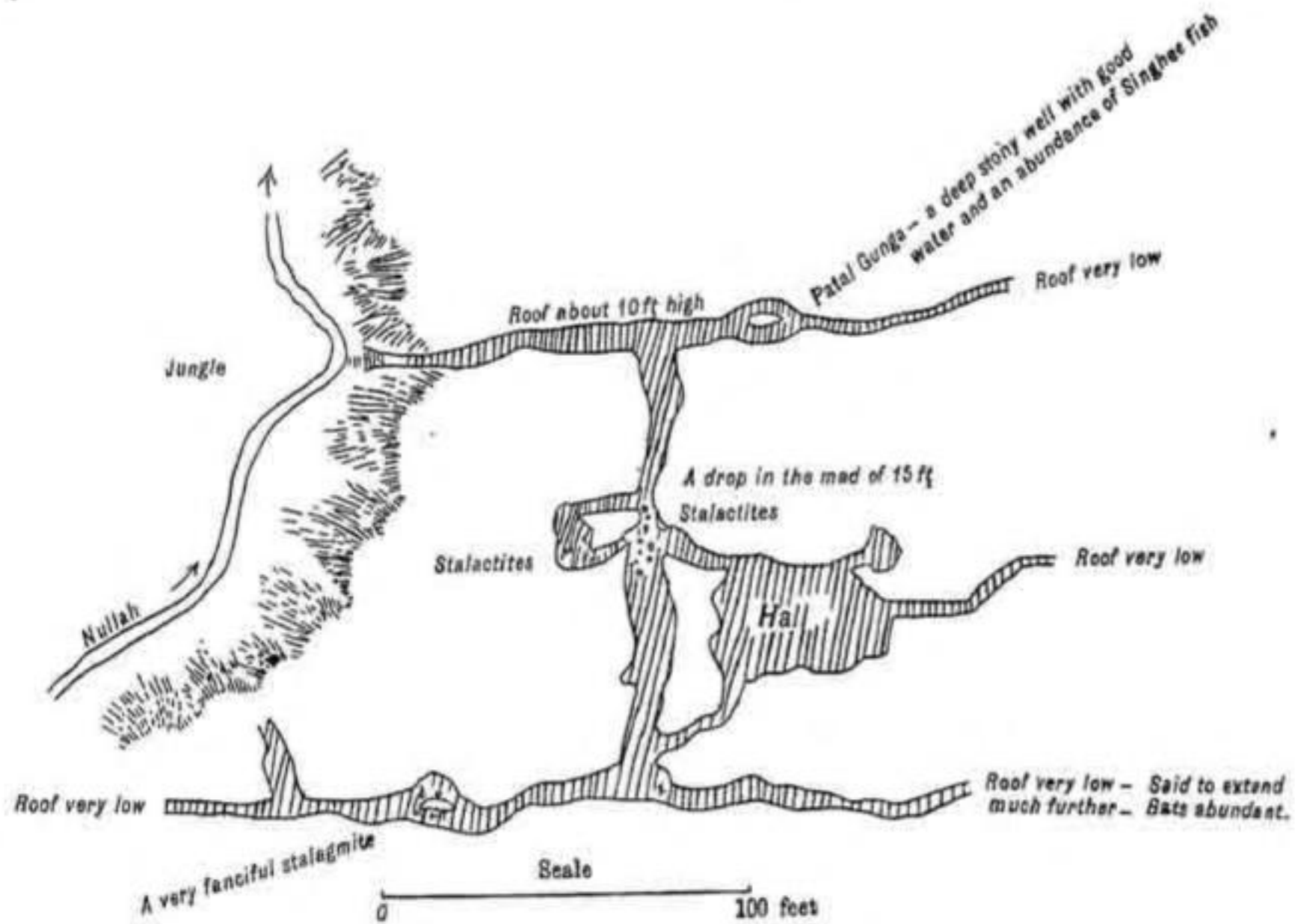
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. PRINTING, BIHAR AND, ORISSA

1928.

. [Price Rs. 2-9-0.]

Limestone Cavern named "Gupta"
Pergunnah Sasseram.

[Hand-sketch copy of inset on W. S. Sherwill's
Geological Map of the Southern Portion of
Shahabad, 1846]



Zineographed in the B. & O. D. O.

APPENDIX B.

WILD CATTLE IN SHAHABAD.

The emperor Bābur in his memoirs relates that, among other animals, wild elephants and wild buffaloes used to roam over the Mirzapur hills in his time. Captain DeGloss refers (1766) more than once to rhinocaros. Peter Mundy (1632), when near Sāsarām, met two wild buffaloes that were being driven up country as a present for the emperor, Shāh Jahān. Buchanan in his Report tells us that in the woods of Jagdiśpur and Dumrāon there were some wild cattle "of the common breed; they resemble entirely in form and in variety of colours those bred about the villages of this district, but are more active and very shy". They were carefully preserved from injury by the Rājā of Dumrāon and his kinsman of Jagdiśpur; but many of their neighbours alleged that these "sacred herds" were committing wide devastation and causing lands to be deserted. He adds: "The origin of these herds is well known. When the Ujayani Rajputs incurred the displeasure of Kasem Aly, and for some years were compelled to abandon their habitations, some cattle were left in the woods without keepers, and on their owners' return had acquired the wild habits, which their offspring retains. Several calves have been caught; but it has been found impossible to rear them, their shyness and regret for the loss of liberty has always proved fatal." When I was acting as Collector of Shāhābād in 1894, Nawāb Saiyid Imdād Imām mentioned to me that during a shooting excursion in the north of the Bhojpur pargana he had seen wild cattle. In reply to a reference recently made to this gentleman, he writes: "They have now totally disappeared from the Jagdispur side on account of the clearance of the *jungle* after the mutiny. But I remember to have come across them three times while camping in the Dumraon *diara* lands. The first herd I saw must have numbered over forty. They looked superior in size and general condition to the ordinary domestic cattle. The bulls were much bigger and healthier looking than the breeding bulls that are imported into India for improving the Indian breeds." I believe that some of these "wild cattle" are still to be found in the northern *dīārās*. When I was Sub-divisional Officer of Buxar in 1892-4 they were said to be found in the vicinity of Mahuar and Nainijor. Mr. W. Johnston, who has recently held charge of the district, tells me that