

BIBLIOGRAPHY ABOUT INDIAN JEWRY

PART I:

PUBLICATIONS FROM 1993-1997

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About This Bibliographical Column:

This bibliographical column constitutes the beginning of what we hope will be an ongoing effort to keep readers of this journal informed of some of the writings—both academic and popular works—that have appeared in recent years about the Jews and Jewish communities of India. It supplements the article by Nathan Katz entitled “An Annotated Bibliography About Indian Jewry (Revised)” that was published early in 1994 by Congregation Bina of New York City on behalf of an audience of both scholars and general readers.

The entries within the column are organized by community. First are general works on Indian Jewry, followed by sections on the Cochin Jews, the Bene Israel, the little-known Mughal Jews, the Baghdadi communities of Indian port cities, the Ashkenazim (many of whom—but not all—were refugees to India from Nazi-dominated Europe), and finally the mysterious tribal Jews. Excluded from this bibliography are items pertaining to Indo-Israeli diplomacy, except insofar as they bear on the religious and cultural life of Indian Jews.

Each section, wherever appropriate, is subdivided as follows:

- First are listed sources of incidental bearing on Indian Jewry—for example, a work on Indian history which makes mention of it, or a study of Jewish commerce of the middle ages which mentions the India trade, etc.
- Second are primary sources such as liturgical texts, indigenous historical writings and memoirs.
- Third are reprints of accounts by Jewish travelers from years past, many of which make for charming reading.
- Fourth are works of modern scholarship, followed by the fifth category, general interest works. There is a good deal of overlap between the fourth and

fifth categories, and the reader is advised that in assigning a classification, no judgment is implied as to the value of a given work. The difference between a scholarly and a general interest piece is purely stylistic. Furthermore, some could just as easily be considered "primary documents," since they present their communities' historical self-understanding uncritically or defensively.

- Finally, documentary films and sound recordings are listed.

Despite the column's obvious shortcomings and incompleteness, we believe that it will facilitate some of the work being undertaken by our colleagues in the small field of Indian-Jewish studies. Indian Jews themselves are avid historians and enjoy reading about themselves—as we all do—and this bibliographical column therefore is also for them.

While copies of some of the items in this bibliography are difficult to obtain, and newspaper articles may at times be even harder to locate, scholarly studies are generally accessible. As this column should always be regarded as a work in progress, readers are invited to communicate additional items, as well as corrections, to the compiler-editors.

I. INDIAN JEWRY IN GENERAL

I.A. Sources with Incidental Reference to Indian Jewry

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II. THE COCHIN JEWS

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