

ACTS OF SEEING, WAYS OF KNOWING
Visual Culture in the Making of Modern India

Author: Sandria B. Freitag

ISBN: 978-93-6627-188-0

Year: 2025

Pages: 436

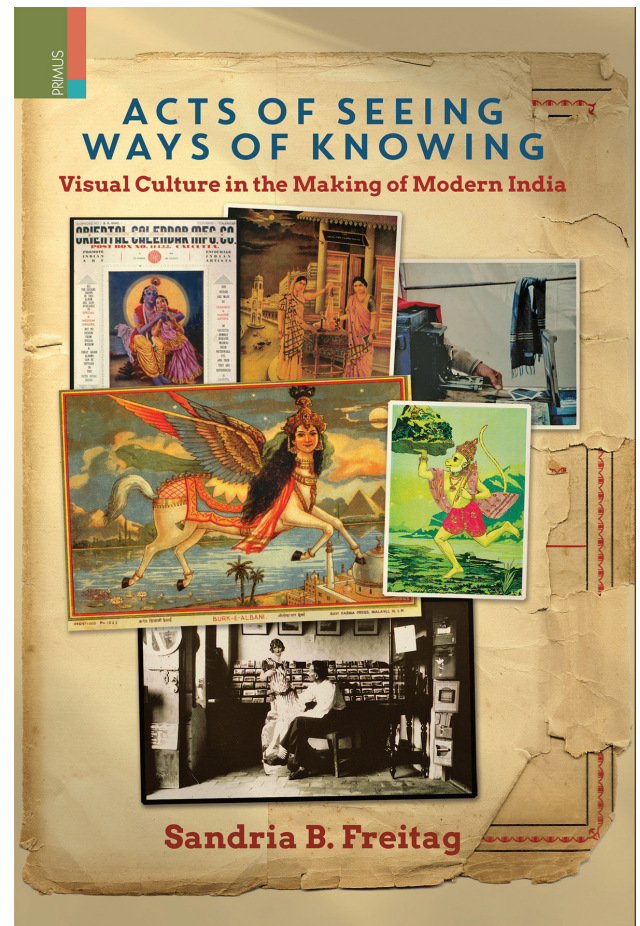
Price: ₹1995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Acts of Seeing, Ways of Knowing: Visual Culture in the Making of Modern India refracts the nineteenth and twentieth centuries history of India through reception of the first two ‘mass’ forms of visual culture, photography and posters (those with the capacity to produce multiple copies). India’s responses to a changing public world are revealed, intriguingly, through this visual-culture repertoire. Production and consumption of these material objects revolve especially around visual culture’s capacity to prompt and express identity-narratives that draw on the nexus of a dramatic expansion of consumption practices with individual efforts to construct meaning by collecting, displaying, designing, and interacting with mass-produced materials. They emerge as markers of those intending to be good, modern, citizens, who are drawn, significantly, from *both* middle- and lower-class/caste participants.

THE AUTHOR

Sandria B. Freitag teaches History at North Carolina State University and received her PhD from the University of California-Berkeley.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Visual History, Cultural History, Social History, Mass Communication, Modern Indian History, etc.



AN OCEAN OF GEMS

Essays on Language, Linguistics, and Education in Memory of Dhanesh Jain

Edited By: Deven M. Patel

ISBN: 978-93-6627-390-7

Year: 2025

Pages: 212

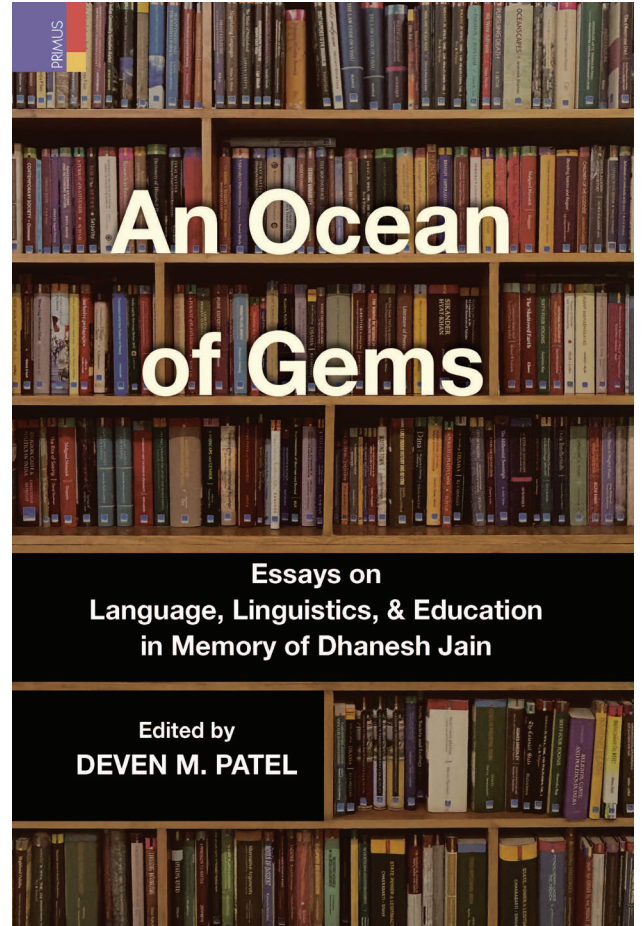
Price: ₹1095/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

An Ocean of Gems is dedicated to Dr Dhanesh Jain (1939–2019), distinguished scholar of Indian sociolinguistics and founder of Ratna Sagar, parent company of Primus Books. He was also a dedicated academic and co-editor, with George Cardona, of *The Indo-Aryan Languages*, a seminal reference work on the subject. As a publisher, Dhanesh Jain was an inspiration to authors and readers, tirelessly advocating and pragmatically supporting the Indian academic publishing industry with high-calibre academic reference books and Indological scholarship. As a scholar and reviewer for major presses, he recognized the urgent need for such a publishing enterprise in the humanities and social sciences, particularly in the discipline of South Asian languages. To this day, Primus Books provides a viable alternative publishing platform to academics globally.

This memorial volume of essays by prominent scholars of Indian languages and linguistics aims not only to honour Dhanesh Jain but also hopes to encourage those who pursue his footsteps in scholarship, editing, or publishing to maintain the purity of purpose and ceaseless efforts necessary to ensure that the best of humanistic knowledge about South Asia is preserved for posterity in India and across the world.

THE EDITOR

Deven M. Patel is a Sanskrit scholar, translator, and professor in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, USA.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Linguistics, Indology, Hindi, Pali, Urdu, Digital Humanities, Classical Languages etc.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

ASSAM IN HISTORY AND MEMORY

Restructuring the Past in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Author: Sudeshna Purkayastha

ISBN: 978-93-6177-867-4

Year: 2024

Pages: 352

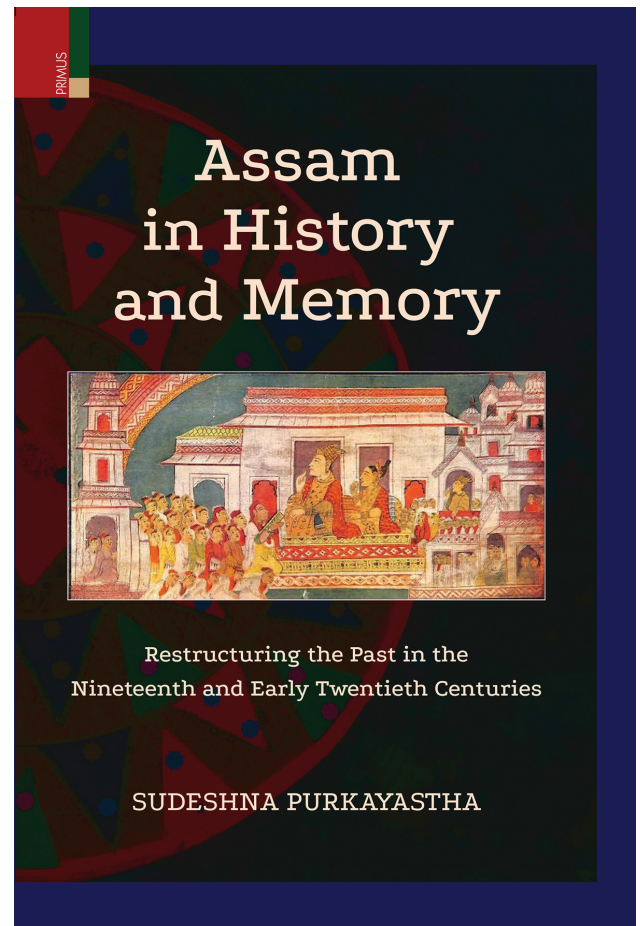
Price: ₹1550/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Assam in History and Memory examines the shaping of Assamese historiography in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A major theme of this study is the fascinating local tradition of *buranji* literature, which gives primacy to historical memory and has played a key role in the creation of the modern Assamese past. The book also explores the complex relationship between vernacular historiography, Assamese nationalism, and the construction of an Assamese linguistic identity in the colonial and postcolonial periods. In tracing such historiographical transformations, the book identifies the changing political, social and cultural contexts in the colonial period, when the politics of identity were reworked and the modern Assamese past was restructured.

THE AUTHOR

Sudeshna Purkayastha teaches history at Assam University, Silchar. Her areas of interest include economic and social history of colonial India in general and Assam in particular, as well as the vernacular historiography of Assam in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the colonial expansion in India. She has contributed several research papers to academic journals and edited volumes and is the author of *Indigenous Industries of Assam (1870–1925)*.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Assam, Assamese Historiography, Buranji Literature, Local History, Indian History, etc.

**CITIES, CITIZENS,
CLASSROOMS AND
BEYOND**
Essays for Narayani Gupta

**Edited by: Partho Datta, Mukul Kesavan
and Kumkum Roy**

ISBN: 978-93-6627-004-3

Year: 2025

Pages: 416

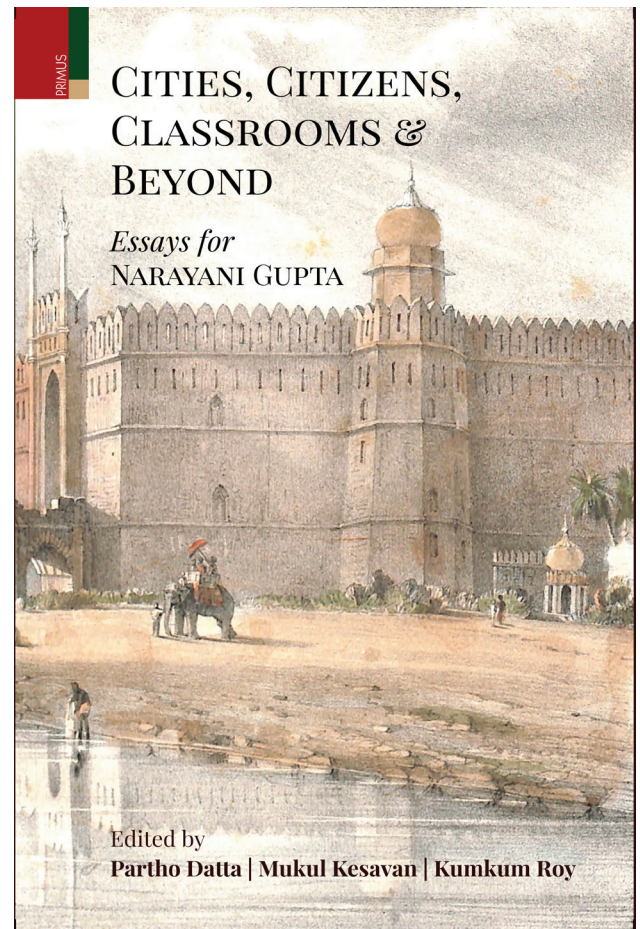
Price: ₹1295/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Cities, Citizens, Classrooms and Beyond is a tribute by scholars, colleagues, students and friends which includes memoirs as well as discussions of various facets of urban history, teaching methods and pedagogy. In this volume, divided into three sections, the contributors have explored medieval Srirangam, the legacy of Agra, the marsiya in Delhi, the urban natures of colonial metropolises and the conservation of the Nizamuddin complex. There are essays on Patrick Geddes, the fascinating phenomenon of informal towns, early nationalist Delhi and the activities of Communists in the city. Architects, planners, historians, teachers have all reflected on Narayani Gupta's enduring legacy: the personal and humane touch she offers to all her endeavours.

THE EDITORS

Partho Datta taught undergraduate history and now teaches music studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Mukul Kesavan is a writer based in Delhi. He taught history at Jamia Millia Islamia, along with Narayani Gupta, for many years.

Kumkum Roy taught for several years in colleges and universities in Delhi, and retired from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, in 2021.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Delhi, History of Towns, Urbanisation, Pedagogy, Education and Learning, Historiography etc.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

CLIO REVISITS CALLIOPE
A Historian's Excursion to the
Kāvya Literature

Author: Kesavan Veluthat

ISBN: 978-93-6883-199-0

Year: 2025

Pages: 258

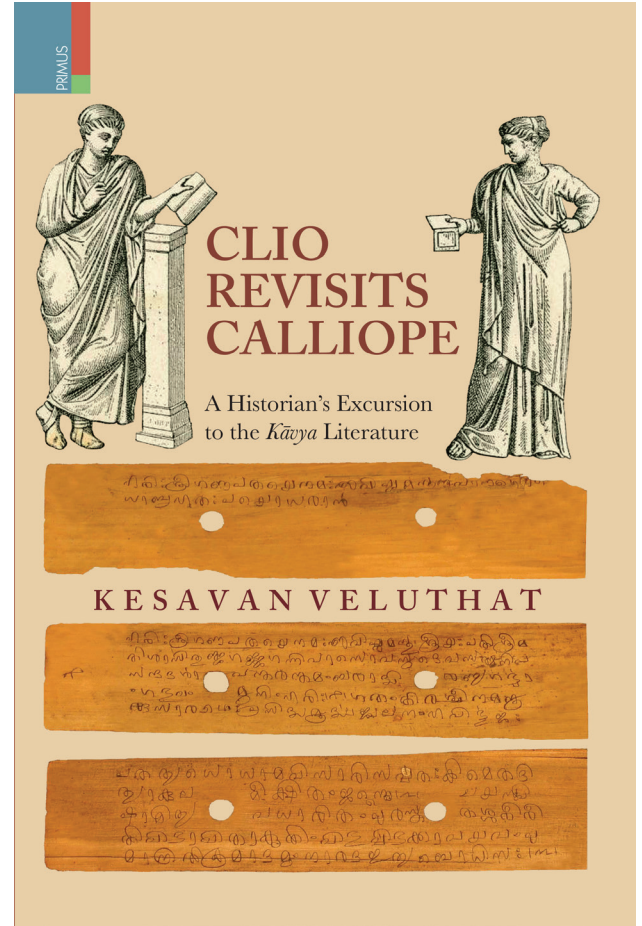
Price: ₹995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

The essays included in *Clio Revisits Calliope: A Historian's Excursion to the Kāvya Literature* analyze *kāvya* literature in Sanskrit, bringing to bear on it a sense of history. Taken up for study are the *kāvyas* of Kālidāsa, Bhāravi and Māgha, as well as a few *praśastis*. There is also a study of the Maṇipravāḷam poetry from Kerala, which partake of all features of Sanskrit *kāvyas*. The burden of argument in these essays is that even when the theme taken up by two texts are the same, each has a different flavour and character and that it is the social formation which produced a literary piece that determines them.

Although not planned and written as a disciplined monograph, the essays, when read together, will bring home the point that Clio, the muse of history, and Calliope, the muse of epic poetry, are not antagonistic to one another. They complement each other. A sense of history is essential in appreciating poetry; so also, a literary sensibility is a desideratum in understanding the past. It emphasizes that one will be able to understand by reading poetry what a thousand volumes of history books could not possibly tell us, i.e. it is possible to *feel* history rather than *know* it.

THE AUTHOR

Kesavan Veluthat has taught history at the Universities of Calicut, Mangalore and Delhi. He has been a Visiting Professor at many universities in India and abroad.

READERSHIP

This book will attract scholars, students, and general readers interested in Ancient Indian History, Literary Texts and Indology.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

CONFLUENCE OF INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA THROUGH THE AGES

Edited by: Syed Akhtar Husain

ISBN: 978-93-6883-941-5

Year: 2025

Pages: 376

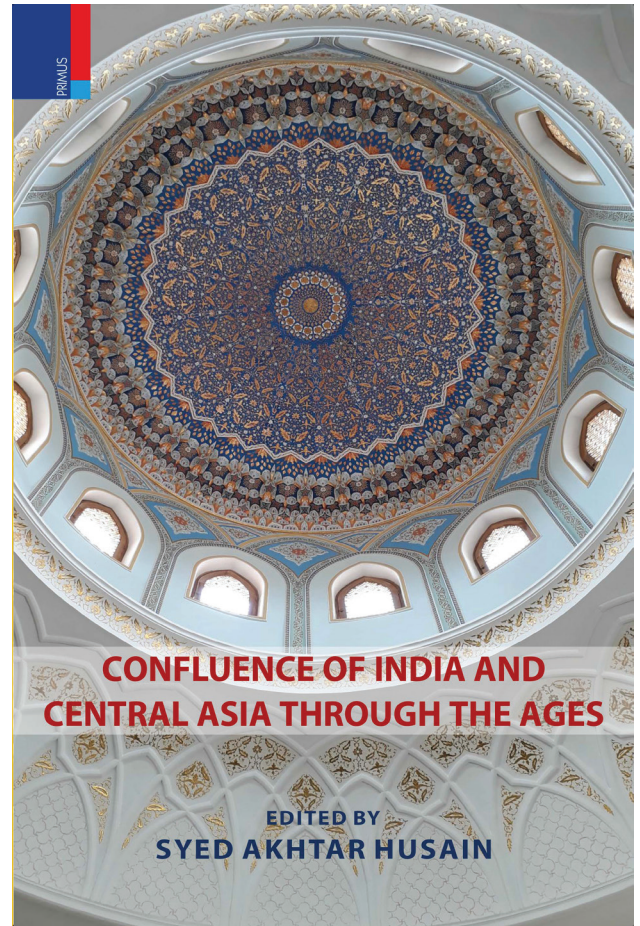
Price: ₹1450/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Confluence of India and Central Asia through the Ages is a compendium of papers presenting the colourful past and promising future of Central and South Asia. Scholars have discussed Buddhism as the leitmotif of the Silk Route, criss-crossing Asia, in this book. The volume also deals with Persian and Urdu texts which demonstrate the cultural richness of the regions. Other chapters in the book give insight into connectivity, multilateralism, threats of terrorism to and hopes of peaceful coexistence and cooperation for India and Central Asia.

THE EDITOR

Syed Akhtar Husain is Professor at the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and President of the Institute of Indo-Persian Studies, New Delhi. He has published articles in leading journals of Persian studies in India and abroad and has two books to his credit. He has also co-edited *Essays on the Arabian Nights* (2015) and *Revisiting Sadeq Hedayat's Blind Owl: Writings on a Modern Persian Novel* (2023).

READERSHIP

This book will attract scholars, students, and general readers interested in Economic History, History of Trade & Commerce, Cultural Studies, International Relations, Religious Studies, Travelogues and Literature.

DILEMMAS OF A TRISHANKU
Memory, Self and Society in
Contemporary India

Author: Deepak Kumar

ISBN: 978-93-6177-161-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 292

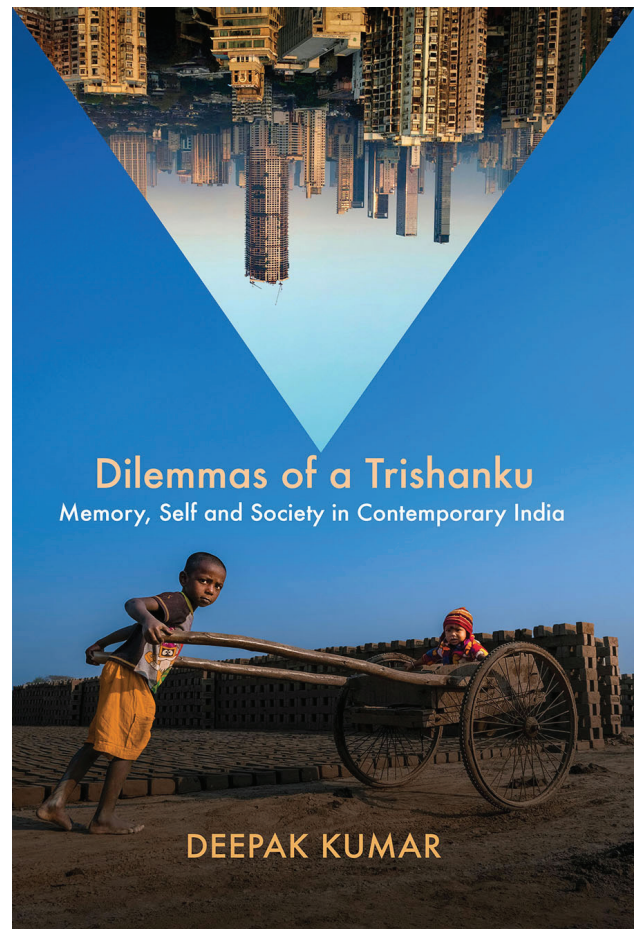
Price: ₹695/-

Format: Paperback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



THE BOOK

Dilemmas of a Trishanku presents a thought-provoking account of a society and a nation marked by its contradictions and seamlessly combines everyday social and political experiences with academic insights. The Pauranic story of a pious king called Trishanku, who probably still hangs between heaven and earth, is used as a metaphor to capture the different nuances of dilemmas which we all face in life as individuals and as citizens.

Based on both historical data and what sociologists call ‘participant observation’, this account dwells on the predicaments and struggles of post-independence India. It begins with a depiction of life in a mofussil town and moves on to examine closely the issues of caste, religion, governance, corruption, education, science, culture, and lot more.

Presented with rare verve and wit, and by using the lens of both historical and personal experiences, these ‘rumblings’ help unfurl layers of life in contemporary India.

THE AUTHOR

Deepak Kumar has worked and popularized research and teaching on the history of science in India for almost five decades. In 2017 he retired as Professor of History of Science and Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Post-Independence Indian History, Indian Polity, Social History, Sociology, History of Science and Medicine, and Development Studies.



**FORESTS, FORAGERS,
AND EMPIRES**
**Socionatural Histories of
Southern India**

Author: Kathleen D. Morrison

ISBN: 978-93-5852-034-7

Year: 2024

Pages: 459

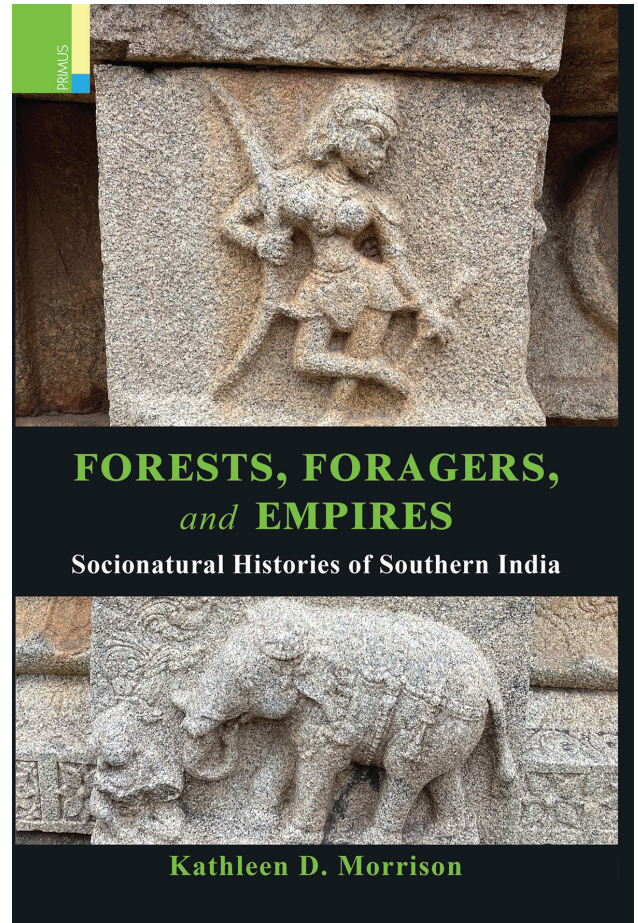
Price: ₹1695/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Forests, Foragers, and Empires: Socionatural Histories of Southern India explores the complex histories of south Indian forests and foragers, focusing on historical recognitions and misrecognitions emerging from prior assumptions about human and non-human history, and about presumed fundamental characteristics of ‘nature’ and ‘culture’. Many of these essays focus on the hunting and gathering peoples of southern India, especially as they have articulated with others throughout the Holocene. Other essays consider the larger-scale landscape histories within which these are situated, from the forests themselves to local and long-standing networks of production, trade, and power. These histories include multiple forms of agency—kings, hunters, merchants, farmers, sailors, city-dwellers, and of course plants, animals, and the forests themselves. This collection of essays aims to reinsert both forests and foragers into mainstream South Asian history, including the history of European colonial expansion and conquest, as well as those of other imperial polities.

THE AUTHOR

Kathleen D. Morrison is the Sally and Alvin V. Shoemaker Professor of Anthropology and Lead Curator, Asian Section, at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Her research focuses on the historical ecology of Southern Asia, integrating paleoenvironmental analysis, archaeology, and history.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Environmental History, Anthropocene, South Indian History, Colonial History and Forestry.



LIVING WITH THE PAST
The Law Family of Calcutta

Author: Supriya Law

ISBN: 978-93-6177-909-1

Year: 2025

Pages: 378

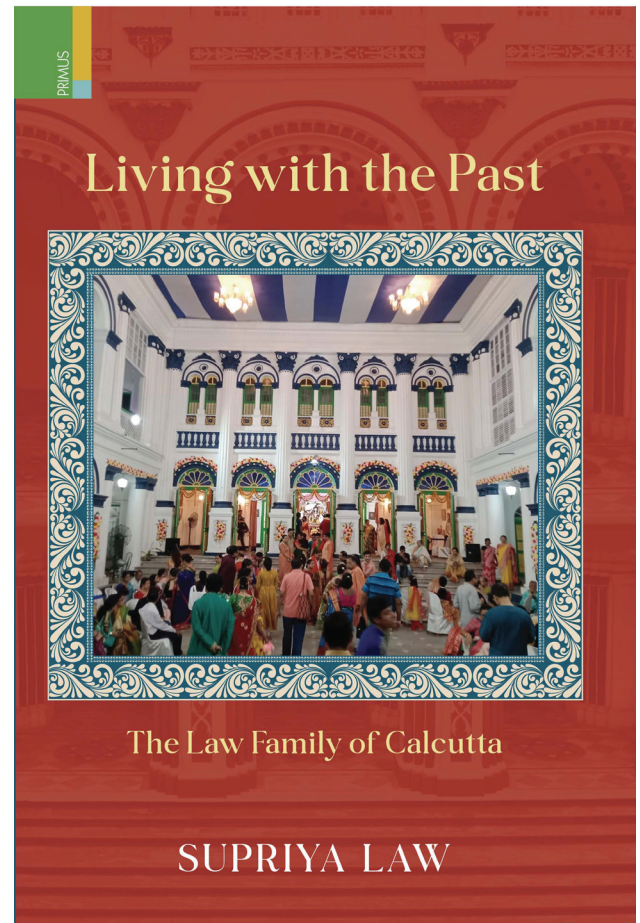
Price: ₹1995/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Living with the Past provides an insider’s view into the history of the Laws (an Anglicized derivative of the Bengali surname ‘Laha’), a Subarnabanik mercantile family that rose to prominence in the commercial world of mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century Calcutta. This study delves into the mercantile origins of the family, examines the functioning of the family firm, Messrs Prawn Kissen Law & Co. (established in 1839), and explores the religious life of the Laws. Written by a member of the family, this book juxtaposes archival sources with oral narratives and memories to share unique insights into the family as well as the intricate workings of their various religious beliefs and rituals, especially their opulent Durga Puja celebrations, which continue to this day. Primarily focusing on four generations, starting with Prawn Kissen Law (1790–1853), the book traces the linkages of caste, commerce, and kinship that contributed to building the reputation of this bonedi bari.

THE AUTHOR

Supriya Law is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of Calcutta. She has conducted in-depth research into the history of the Law family and is, at present, working on the Subarnabanik community in West Bengal with a focus on the family history of Muty Lall Seal (1792–1854) and Prawn Kissen Law (1790–1853).

READERSHIP

This book will attract scholars, students, and general readers interested in Colonial History of Bengal, Modern Indian History, Cultural History, and History of Trade and Commerce.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

STRANGE FAMILIARITIES
Tracing Epistolary Cultures in
the Subcontinent, (1857–1915)

Author: Nandini Bhattacharya

ISBN: 978-93-6883-430-4

Year: 2025

Pages: 340

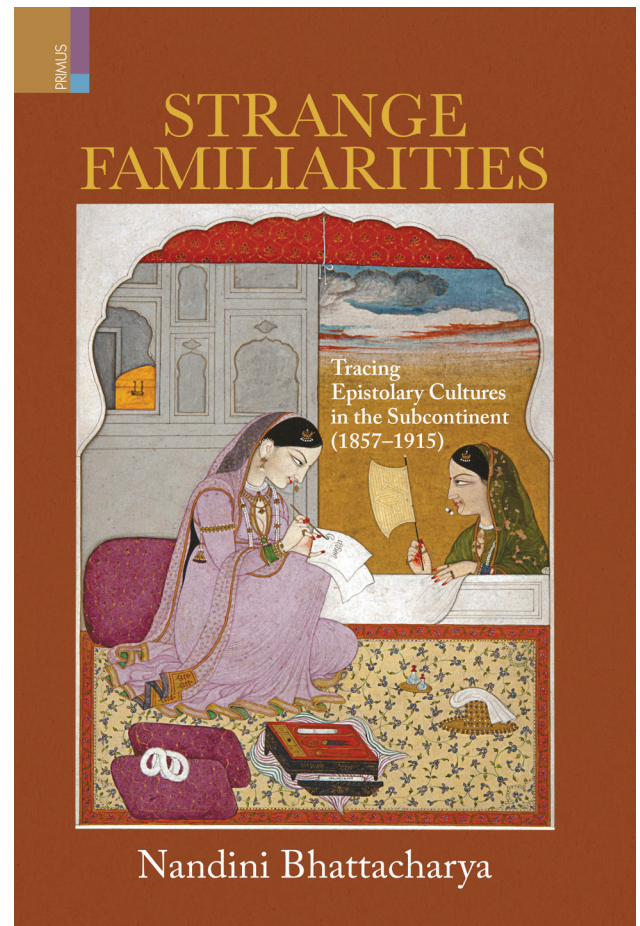
Price: ₹1450/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Strange Familiarities traces epistolary traditions produced within the ethnolinguistic cultures of nineteenth-century Bengal and the North-West Provinces in colonial India. The book provides a close reading of texts and English translations of epistolary literature, selected due to their novelty and radical responses to the ‘postal revolution’ of the time.

Through the study of epistolarities, the book also directs the reader’s attention towards cultural histories, especially the conceptual complexity of the ‘subcontinent’. Trained as we are to see ‘the subcontinent’ through a post-Partition nationalist lens, and as a composite of distinct, bordered entities, this renders us less inclined to consider subcontinental cultures in terms of their interconnected histories. The book, thus, not only serves as a reader of nineteenth and early twentieth-century epistolary texts, it also acts as an archive and provides a glimpse into aspects of cultural history.

THE AUTHOR

Nandini Bhattacharya is Professor, Department of English and Culture Studies, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal.

READERSHIP

This book will attract scholars and students and general readers interested in Literature, English Literature, Bengali Literature, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies and Linguistics.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

**THE RISE OF ISLAM AND
THE BENGAL FRONTIER,
1204–1760**

Author: Richard M. Eaton

ISBN: 978-93-5852-718-6

Year: 2024

Pages: 388

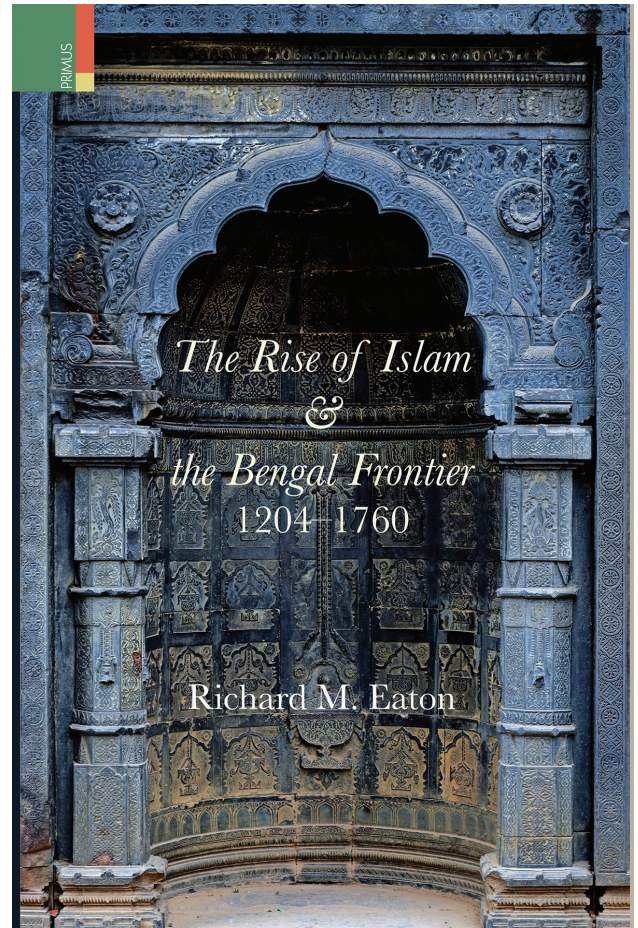
Price: ₹650/-

Format: Paperback

Territory: South Asia

Category: Academic

Size: Demy 8vo



THE BOOK

Among the regions of South Asia, Bengal proved extraordinarily receptive to the Islamic faith. This area, and especially the eastern delta comprising today's Bangladesh, contains the world's second-largest Muslim ethnic population. How and why did such a large Muslim population emerge there? And, more broadly, how does the religious transformation of an entire population take place? Richard Eaton's study examines the unique processes that shaped Bengal's cultural landscape, focusing on the dynamics of moving frontiers and the long historical encounter between Islamic and Indic civilizations.

The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier, 1204–1760 is as much an essay in geography as in history, for the Bengal delta was a frontier of many facets. Eaton traces the establishment and evolution of the Indo-Islamic community from the year 1204, when Persianized Turks from North India swept into and annexed the former Hindu states of the lower Ganges delta, to 1760, when the British East India Company rose to political dominance in the region. Whether Bengal was ruled as a province of the Delhi sultans, as an independent kingdom under local sultans, or as a province of the Mughal empire, sociopolitical developments were accompanied by economic transformation—the eastward expansion of the agrarian frontier and the advance of settled agricultural communities, organized around wet rice cultivation.

THE AUTHOR

Richard M. Eaton is Professor of History at the University of Arizona, with a special interest in India from the eleventh to the eighteenth centuries.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Medieval Indian History, History of Medieval Bengal, History of Bengal Sultanate, Mughal History, History of Sufism, etc.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com

TRADE AND COMMERCE IN COLONIAL BOMBAY

A History of the Emergence of its Business and Financial Establishments, c.1661–1935

Author: Meenu Kanojia

ISBN: 978-93-6627-219-1

Year: 2025

Pages: 350

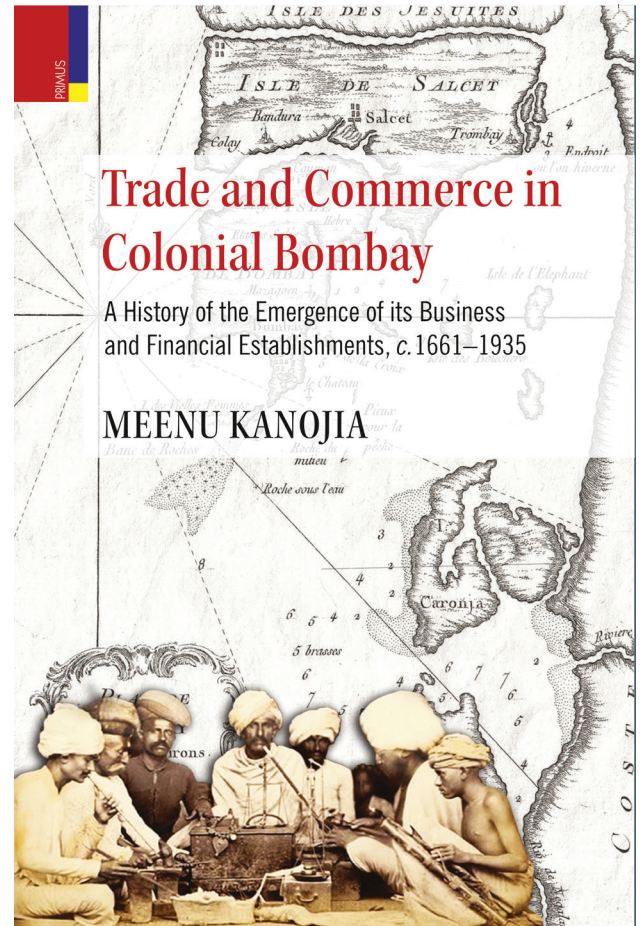
Price: ₹1495/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: Royal 8vo



THE BOOK

Trade and Commerce in Colonial Bombay: A History of the Emergence of its Business and Financial Establishments, c.1661–1935 examines the evolutionary history of the Bombay Mint along with the banking institutions which led to an efflorescence of trade and commerce in colonial Bombay. From a small trading island in the seventeenth century, Bombay developed into a financial centre during British rule.

The book also investigates the effect of import of bullion from parts of South America, Europe, and Asia and its role in India's economic development. The monetary concerns of the British paved the way for trade and commerce in Bombay with the introduction of English currencies minted in the Bombay Mint. The idea of banking thus developed from this Mint under the governorship of Charles Boone in 1720. Origins of banking in South Asia and South-East Asia can, thus, be traced to the Bombay Presidency. Given the dynamic role that the British Government and Indian merchants played, the period between 1661 and 1935 constituted a critical phase in transforming Bombay into a leading entrepôt for international trade as well as a thriving cosmopolitan city in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

THE AUTHOR

Meenu Kanojia is an independent historian. Her areas of specialization include history of western India under the Portuguese and development of banking and commerce, in the specific context of Bombay.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of History of Bombay, Maritime History, History of Trade and Commerce, Economic History and Modern Indian History.



**TRANSCENDING
BOUNDARIES
Premodern Cultural
Transactions across Asia: Essays
in Honour of Osmund
Bopearachchi**

Edited by Susmita Basu Majumdar

ISBN: 978-93-6177-059-3

Year: 2024

Pages: 863

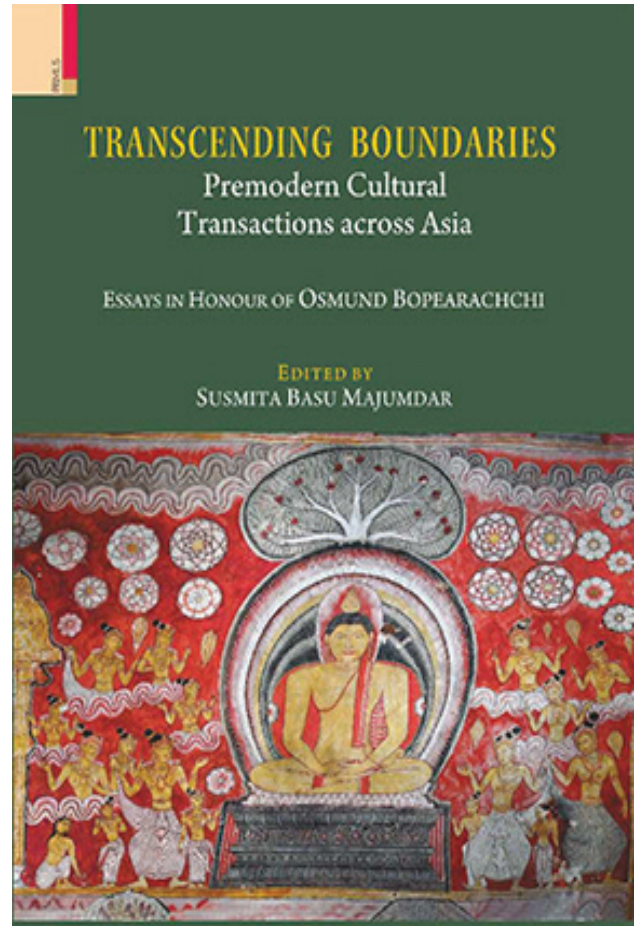
Price: ₹6500/-

Format: Hardback

Territory: Global

Category: Academic

Size: A4



THE BOOK

Transcending Boundaries: Premodern Cultural Transactions across Asia celebrates the scholarship of Osmund Bopearachchi, a pioneering scholar in the fields of art history and numismatics, whose work has impacted numerous other domains of history. Going beyond the traditional approach of cataloguing coins, Professor Bopearachchi has worked to link numismatics with sculptural and pictorial iconography. Across his decades-long career, he has transcended the boundaries of academic disciplines to carry out path-breaking research.

The chapters presented here consist of six themes related to Professor Bopearachchi's diverse interests: archaeology, material remains and archives form the first segment; the second relates to epigraphic and numismatic sources and interpretative histories; the third deals with texts and their contexts; the fourth deals with art and architecture; the fifth is on religious studies with a special focus on Buddhism; and the final section deals with varied aspects of cultural history and beyond. Through these broadly interconnected themes, the volume transcends boundaries to reflect different aspects of cultural history and the changing vignettes of society in the premodern era based on a study of empirical sources, art historical material and texts

THE EDITOR

Susmita Basu Majumdar is Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, India. She specializes in Indian epigraphy and numismatics. Her other areas of interest are history of medicine and surgery and early Indian religion.

READERSHIP

This book will be of interest to scholars and students of Archaeology, Ancient Indian History, Art History and Religious Studies.



PRIMUS BOOKS

Virat Bhavan, Commercial Complex, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009

Phone: (011) 47038192 • Fax: (011) 47038099

mail: publicity.primus@primusbooks.com