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GLOSSARY TO ACCOMPANY DEPARTMENTAL
DITTIES AS WRITTEN
BY RUDYARD KIPLING



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GLOSSARY

PREFATORY NOTE

THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTION TO
KIPLINGIANA IS OFFERED TO THE
ENTHUSIASTS AND STUDENTS OF THE
WRITINGS OF MR. KIPLING MERELY AS
A SUGGESTION TO THOSE WHO MIGHT
CARE TO COMPILE FOR THEIR OWN
USE STILL FURTHER MATTER ALONG
THE SAME LINES. TO THIS END AMPLE
MARGINS HAVE BEEN GIVEN, AND IT
IS HOPED THE BOOK WILL FORM
AT LEAST A SUITABLE KEY TO THE
FURTHERANCE OF SUCH A LINE OF
WORK

GLOSSARY

A

Afridis

An Afghan clan west and south of Peshawar.

Allah

The Mahommedan name for God.

Annandale

A valley near Simla—the Simla Racecourse, Cricket, and Recreation Grounds.

Aryan

A Sanskrit word signifying “noble.” A term frequently used to include all the races (Indo-Persic, Greek, Roman, Celtic, Slavonic, etc.), who speak languages belonging to the same family as Sanskrit.

Avatar

An incarnation on earth of a divine Being.

B

Babu

A title such as " Mr.," used frequently to signify a Bengali clerk.

Babul

A small thorny mimosa jungle tree, blossoms profusely a bright yellow tassel-like flower, of the size and form of a bullet, of an aromatic fragrance resembling that of the wallflower.

Bandar

A monkey.

Bazugar

A tumbler, one who exhibits feats of activity.

Begum

A lady, a queen.

Benmore

The old Simla Assembly Rooms.

Bhamo

A district in Upper Burma, bordering on Yunnan.

Bikaneer

A state in Rajputana.

B

Bob

A captain in the Burmese native army.

Boileaugunge

A suburb of Simla, named after General Boileau.

Bow Bazar

One of the principal bazars in Calcutta.

Brabmin

A member of the priestly caste.

Brinjaree

The Brinjarees of the Deccan are dealers in grain and salt, who move about in numerous parties with cattle, carrying their goods to different markets.

Bukhsbi

A paymaster in the Anglo-Indian army.

Bul-bul

The Persian nightingale.

Bunnia

A corn and seed merchant or dealer.

B

Bursat

The rains, which set in about the middle of June—the first burst of them is known as the “chota bursat,” or small rains—after which there is generally a break before the regular monsoon sets in.

Bursati

A disease to which horses are liable during the rains.

Byle

A bullock.

C

Charnock

Job Charnock, the founder of Calcutta.

Chota bursat, see "bursat."

Collinga

One of the principal bazars in Calcutta, where, until a few years since, most of the demi-monde, many of whom hailed from Austria and the Danubian provinces, resided.

Cooly

A hired labourer, or burden-carrier.

D

Dab Blade

“Dah” is a short Burmese sword.

Dak

“Post,” *i.e.*, properly, transport by relays of men and horses; and thence the mail or letter post, as well as any arrangement for travelling or for transmitting articles by such relays.

Dak-bungalow

A rest house for the accommodation of travellers.

Darjeeling

A famous Sanitarium in the Eastern Himalaya. The summer seat of the Bengal Government.

Deodars

The “*Cedrus deodarus*” of the Himalaya.

Dibs

A slang term for money—rupees.

Dom

The name of a very low caste representing some old aboriginal race spread all over India. In many places they perform such offices as carrying dead bodies, removing carrion, etc.

D

Duftar

Book, Journal, Record — sometimes used instead of “duftar khana” for “the office.”

Dustoorie

That commission or percentage on the money passing in any cash transaction which, with or without acknowledgment or permission, sticks to the fingers of the agent of payment.

Dykes

A firm of coach builders in Calcutta.

F

Ferash (faras)

A specie of date tree.

Fultah

A village in Bengal, situated on the Hughli; also an anchorage for vessels.

G

Garden Reach

The reach or bend forming the entrance to the Port of Calcutta—so-called, no doubt, on account of the fine garden residences which at one time lined the banks of the river at this part.

Ghat

A mountain pass, a landing place, or a ferry.

Ghi

Boiled or clarified butter.

H

Hafiz

A guardian, governor, preserver.

Hamilton

Hamilton & Co., a well-known firm of jewellers.

Hookum

An order, a command.

Howrah

A large town on the Hughli, opposite Calcutta.

Hughli (or Hooghly)

One of the principal rivers of Hindustan on which Calcutta is situated.

Hurnai

A pass leading from Baluchistan to Afghanistan.

J

Jain

The non-Brahminical sect so called—believed now to represent the earliest heretics of Buddhism, at present chiefly found in the Bombay presidency. The Jains are generally merchants, and some have been men of immense wealth.

Jakko

A mountain peak in the Punjab—one of the highest of the Himalaya on which Simla is situated.

Jat

A tribe among Rajputs.

Jaun Bazar

One of the principal bazars in Calcutta.

Jebannum

Hades, hell.

Jemadar

The second native officer in a company of Sepoys.

Jeṣail

A heavy Afghan rifle, fired with a forked rest.

J

Jingal

A small piece of Burmese artillery mounted on a carriage, managed by two men.

Jungle

Forest, or other wild growth.

Jutogh

A military station in the Punjab, at the entrance of Simla.

K

Kafir

An unbeliever in the Moslem faith.

Kakabutti

A village in the Punjab, on the road to Simla from the plains.

Kalka

A villa in the Punjab, at the foot of the Himalaya, on the road from Umballa to Simla.

Kedgerree

A village and police station near the mouth of the Hughli; also an anchorage for vessels.

Khitmutgars

Table servants—a Mahommedan who will also perform the duties of a valet.

Khud

A precipitous hillside, a deep valley.

Khyraghaut

A halting station near Simla.

Khyberee (Khaibari)

An Afghan tribe inhabiting the Khaibar pass, in Afghanistan.

K

Koil

The Indian nightingale.

Kullah

A term used generally by Burmese for a western foreigner, a stranger.

Kurrum

A mountain pass into Afghanistan from the Punjab.

L

Lakh

One hundred thousand rupees.

Langur

The great white-bearded ape, much patronized by Hindus, and identified with the monkey-god, Hanuman.

M

Mag

Natives of Arakan.

Mabratta

The name of a famous Hindu race. The British won India from the two Hindu confederacies, the Marathas and the Sikhs.

Mallie

A gardener.

Mashobra

A village and hill in the Punjab, near Simla.

Michni

A fort in the Punjab.

Mlecb

One without caste.

Mooltan

A district in the Punjab.

Marri (Murree)

A Hill Station and Sanitarium in the Punjab.

Musth

In a state of periodical excitement.

N

Nat

A term applied to all spiritual beings, angels, elves, demons, or what not, including the gods of the Hindus.

O

Octroi

A municipal tax.

P

Padre

A priest, clergyman, or minister of the Christian religion.

Peg

A term used for brandy (or other spirit) and soda.

Peliti

A well-known confectioner.

Pice

The smallest copper coin—12 pice = 1 anna; 16 annas = 1 rupee.

Pukka

Ripe, mature, cooked; and hence substantial, permanent, with many specific applications. One of the most common uses in which the word has become specific is that of brick and mortar in contradistinction to one of inferior material, as of mud, matting, or timber.

Punjabi

A native of the Punjab.

Punkab

A large swinging fan suspended from the ceiling and pulled by a cooly.

Q

Quetta

A town and cantonment in Baluchistan under British administration.

R

Rajah

A native chief.

Rama

One of the Puranic Deities. The hero of the Sanskrit epic, the Ramayana.

Ranken

Ranken & Co., a well-known firm of tailors.

Rickshaw

A contraction of "Jinny rickshaw," a two-wheeled conveyance drawn by a cooly—imported from Shanghai.

Rupaiyat of Omar Kal'vin

A play on Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, signifying (The Poem) connected with rupees of Omar Kal'vin (a late financial member of the Viceroy's Council).

Ryot

A tenant of the soil: an individual occupying land as a farmer or cultivator—a native agriculturist.

S

Saeristadar

The head ministerial officer of a court, whose duty it is to receive complaints and see that they are in proper form and duly stamped, and generally to attend to routine business.

Sahib

A lord, master, companion, gentleman, commonly used to denote a European.

Samadh

A cenotaph.

Sat-bhai (lit. the seven brothers)

A species of thrush, so called from the birds being gregarious, and usually seven of them are found together.

Shaitanpore

A fictitious name for a place. Shaitan signifies the Evil One—pore, a common termination, signifies a city.

Sbikar

Sport, hunting, chase, prey, game, plunder, perquisites.

Sbrai

A place for the accommodation of travellers, a khan, a caravansary.

S

Sbroff

A money changer, a banker.

Sikh

A "disciple," the distinctive name of the disciples of Nanak Shah, who in the sixteenth century established that sect, which eventually rose to warlike predominance in the Punjab, and from which sprung Ranjat Singh, the founder of the brief kingdom of Lahore.

"Simpkin"

A Hindustani corruption of the word "champagne"

Siris

The tree Acacia, a timber tree of moderate size, best known in the Upper Provinces.

Siva

A Hindu god, the Destroyer and Reproducer, the third person in the Hindu triad.

Solon

A cantonment and hill sanitarium in the Punjab, near Simla.

S

Subadar

The chief native officer of a company of Sepoys.

Sunderbunds

The well-known name of the tract of intersecting creeks and channels, swampy islands and jungles which constitute that part of the Ganges Delta nearest the sea.

Sutlej

One of the principal rivers of India.

Suttee

The rite of widow-burning; *i.e.*, the burning of the living widow along with the corpse of her husband, as formerly practised by people of certain castes among the Hindus, and eminently by the Rajputs.

T

Tamarisks

A graceful feather-like shrub; is covered with numberless little spikes of small pink flowers when in blossom.

Tatia the Bhil

A well-known dacoit of the Central Provinces.

Tara Devi

One of the Himalaya mountain peaks, near Simla.

Thag

A highway robber, garotter.

Thana

A police station.

Thakur

A chief (among Rajputs).

Thermantidote (heat antidote)

A sort of winnowing machine fitted to a window aperture, and incased in wet tatties so as to drive a current of cool air into a house during hot dry weather (tatties are screens or mats made of the roots of a fragrant grass).

T

Tonga

A two-wheeled car drawn by two ponies in curricie fashion, used for travelling in the hills.

Tonk

A state and city in Rajputana.

“Trichi”

A contraction of Trichinopoly, a place on the S.E. coast of Hindustan, noted for its cigars—hence “Trichi” denotes a Trichinopoly cigar.

Tulwar

A saber, used by the Sikhs.

U

Umballa

A city and cantonment of the Umballa district, Punjab. Formerly the nearest station on the railway to Simla.

W

Wahabis

A fanatical Mahomedan sect in South Arcot.

Waler

Horses imported from New South Wales are called "Walers."

Y

Yabu

A class of small hardy horse which comes from the highland country of Kandahar and Cabul.

Yusufzaies

Pathan tribe in Afghanistan.

Z

Zenana

The apartments of a house in which the women of the family are secluded.



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