

# Sources of Medieval Assam History

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Sources of Medieval Assam History can be broadly divided into two categories:

1. Literary Sources, and
2. Archaeological Sources

# Literary Sources

- Buranjis or Chronicles
- Assamese Literature
- Persian Chronocles
- Account of Contemporary Foreign Travellers and British Officers

# 1. Buranjis or Chronicles

- Assamese Buranjis
- Tai-Ahom Buranjis

# Assamese Buranjis

- i) Purani Asam Buranji : In 1992, the *Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti* published the Purani Asam Buranji in Assamese.
  - This Buranji deals with the events from the foundation of the Ahom power in the Brahmaputra valley to the reign of Gadadhar Singha, as well as with the origin of several Ahom Families.
- ii) The Kamarupar Buranji : This Buranji is important for a study of Assam's war with the Mughals.
- iii) Asam Buranji : Asam Buranji obtained from the family of Sukumar Mahanta, describes about the Ahom progenitors and on their ancestral kingdom.

# Assamese Buranjis

- iv) Satsari Asam Buranji : This is a collection of seven different chronicles, compiled and edited by S.K. Bhuyan, dealing with various events of Assam history and written at different periods ranging from the early 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- v) Tungkhungia Buranji : It was written by Srinath Duara Barbarua, which deals with the rule of the Tungkhungia clan of the Ahom kings from Gadadhar Singha to kamaleswar Singha (1681-1810).

# Assamese Buranjis

- vi) Asamar Padya Buranji : *Belimrara Buranji* composed by Viswaswar Vaidyadhip dealing with the events from 1786-1899 and *Kalibharat Buranji* composed by Dutiram Hazarika dealing with the events from 1679-1858, was collected and edited by S.K. Bhuyan in a single work *Asamar Padya Buranji*.
- vii) Other important chronicles in Assamese are *Saraighatar Yuddhar Katha* edited by L.Gogoi, *Deodhai Assam Buranji*, *Buranji Bibek Ratna* by Maniram Dewan etc.

# Assamese Buranji

- There are also a number of Assamese chronicles dealing with the history of other states. Among them, *Padshahnama*, the *Kachari Buranji*, the *Jayantiya Buranji* and the *Tripura Buranji* are worth mentioning.
- *Kataki Buranji*
- *Chakialar Buranji*
- *Datialiya Buranji*
- *Chang-Rung Phukanar Buranji etc.*

# Tai-Ahom Buranji

- Among the Tai-Ahom buranji, the most important are:
- Ahom Buranji, translated and edited into English by Rai bahadur golap Chandra Barua
- Deodhai Asam Buranji compiled and edited by S.K. Bhuyan.
- *Weissalisa* translated by B. Barua and edited by M. Bora

# Other Historical Works

- The *Vamsavalis*: Among Vamsavalis, we may mention about :
- the *Darrang Raj-Vamsavali*,
- the *Bhuyanr Puthi*,
- the *Satriya vamsavali*,
- the *Mayamara Satrar vamsavali*,
- the *Dihing satrar vamsavali etc.*

## 2. Assamese Literature

- The Vaishnava literature of the period forms an important source for the socio-economic history of medieval Assam.
- Assamese literature abounds with a large variety of folk songs, wedding songs, nursery songs, ballads etc.
- Amongst the historical ballads, *Mani Konwarsr Git*, *Badan Barphukanar Git*, *Bakhar Barar Git*, *Padum Konwarir Git*, *Radha-Rukminir Git*, *Maniram Dewanar Git* etc. are of immense value to the historians.
- Mantra Puthis are also important source for history.

### 3. Persian chronicles

- *Tabaquat-i-nasiri* by Minhuj-ul-Siraj
- *Tarikh-i-Firoz-Shahi* by Ziauddin-Barani
- *Baharistan-I Ghaibi* by Mirza Nathan Alau-din Ispahani
- *Akbarnamah*
- *Ain-i-Akbari*
- *Alamgirnamah*
- *Maasir-i-Alamgiri*, *Maasir-ul-Umara*, *Muntakhab-ul-Lubab*, *Zafarnamah-i-Alamgiri*, *Fathiya-i-Ibrahiyah* by Shihabuddin Talish, *Munakhab-ut-Tawarikh*, *Padshah Namah*, *Riyaz-us-Salatin*
- *Farmans* of Aurangzeb

## 4. Account of Foreign Travellers and British Officers

- Ralph Fitch, an Portuguese traveller, left his account on administrative set-up and social and economic conditions.
- *Early Jesuit Traveller in Central Asia* by C. Wessel
- *Travels in the Mughal Empire* by M. Francois Bernier
- *Storia do Mogor* by Niccalao Manucci
- *Geographical Sketch of Assam* and *An Account of Assam* by Dr. John Peter Wade



**Thank you**