Chapter - III

REGIONAL AND LOCAL HISTORIES—
DISTRIBUTION AND BRIEF ACCOUNTS
Regional and Local Histories—
Distribution and Brief Accounts

3. We have mentioned earlier that a number of lists of regional and local histories had been published in the past few decades.¹ In such lists regional and local histories are not classified separately. Moreover such lists included not only specific regional and local histories but also books which had information on regions and localities, travel accounts, histories of particular families, castes, communities etc. The lists furnished by Santra and Chaudhuri also included books in English written both by Bengalis and Europeans. For our study we have only considered specifically the regional and local histories written in Bengali, published between 1850 and 1950 because such histories belonged to a new and distinct genre.²

3.1 Santra divided his chosen period of study (1802-2001) in six unequal parts: 1802-50, 1851-75, 1876-1900, 1901-25, 1926-49, 1950-2001. Chaudhuri’s list for 1861-2007, however, had no such phase divisions.³

In order to have a view of the general frequency of regional and local history as well as their zone-wise distribution over the 100 years period of our study, we have arranged our list both in scales of time and space. With reference to the scale of time we have divided our 100 years from 1850 to 1950 in 4 equal phases of 25 years each:

- Phase 1: 1850-1875
- Phase 2: 1876-1900
- Phase 3: 1901-1925
- Phase 4: 1926-1950

3.2 With reference to the scale of space we have arranged the districts of Bengal of our period into six zones. These zones are not equal to one another in terms of their areas, actual inhabitants, size and density of urban centres and availability of necessary infrastructure which might have influenced or conditioned the publication of regional and local histories.
Table 3.1
Zonal divisions and their respective districts/places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Zonal Divisions</th>
<th>Name of the Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Chattagram, Noakhali, Comilla, Srihatta,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Dhaka, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Jasohar, Khulna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Miomonsingh, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Murshidabad, Nadia, Kushtia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Darjeeling, Coch Behar, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Malda/Gaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Howrah, Hooghly, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura, Medinipur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3. Our distribution of the hundred years of our study in phases as well as arrangements of districts in zones are for the sake of our convenience only. We now place the phase-wise and zone-wise distribution of regional and local histories between 1850 and 1950.

Table 3.2
Distribution of Regional and Local Histories between 1850 and 1950

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE A</th>
<th>1850-1875</th>
<th>1876—1900</th>
<th>1901-1925</th>
<th>1926-1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattagram</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noakhali</td>
<td>Noakhalir Itihas (1900)*</td>
<td>Sandwiper Itihas (1923) – a pargana/island in Noakhali</td>
<td>Noakhali Itihas (1940) 2nd Ed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comilla</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Books</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Understanding that there was an earlier edition of this book and knowing that Santra placed its first publication in 1900, we place the same in 1900.
### ZONE B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Subdivision</th>
<th>Total Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>Bikrampurer Itihas (1869)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhawaler Itihas (1875)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subarnagramer Itihas (1891)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dhakar Bibaran (1910)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dhakar Itihas, vols I–II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1913-15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dhakar Katha (1924)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bikrampurer Itihas (1909)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bikrampurer Bibaran, vols 1–II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1919-22).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manickganjer Katha (1930) – a</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subdivision in Dhaka Bikrampur,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vols.1-3 (1931-34)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bikrampurer Itihas (1939) 2nd Ed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakarganj</td>
<td>Kasipur Kusum (1881) – a village</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in Barisal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bakarganjer Itihas (1898).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chandradwiper Itihas (1912).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bakla (1915).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kalashkathir Itihas (1927) – a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>village in Barisal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faridpur</td>
<td>Faridpurer Itihas, vols 1 and 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1909-21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rajnagarer Bibaran (1938) – a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>village in Faridpur.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saidpurer Itihas (1921) – a village in Khulna.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maheswarpasha Parichay (1929) – a village in Khulna.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lohagarha Kahini (1930) – a village in Jasohar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daulatpur Bibaran (1932) – a village in Khulna.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senhati Kahini (1933) – a village in Khulna.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khulnar Itihas (1935).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ZONE C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Subdivision</th>
<th>Total Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moimonsingh</td>
<td>Sherpur Bibaran (1872) – a pargana in Moimonsingh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moimonsingher Bibaran (1904)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moimonsingher Itihas (1906)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atia Parganar Itihas—a pargana in Moimonsingh (1916).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moimonsingh Bibaran (1938)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogura</td>
<td>Setihas Bogura Brittanta (1861)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bogurar Itihas (1912-13), Pts. I–II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mahasthan (1935) – a village in Bogura.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pabna</td>
<td>Sirajganjer Itihas (1915) – subdivision in Pabna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pabna Jelar Itihas (1924-26) vols. I–VI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>Rajshahir Itihas (1901)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Books</strong> 2 0 7 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ZONE D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murshidabad</td>
<td>Murshidabader Itihas (1864)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murshidabader Kahini (1897)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murshidabader Itihas (1902), Pt. 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murshidabader Kahini (1903) 2nd Ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murshidabad Katha (1932-34) Pts.I–III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadia</td>
<td>Nabadwip Mahima (1884)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nadia Kahini (1910). Nadia Kahini (1912) 2nd Ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nabadwip Darpan (1917)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adim Nadiar Katha (1919)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Khaturar Itihas O Kushdwip Kahini (1902)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ula ba Birnagar (1926) – a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santipur Smriti (1929) – a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kanchraparar Itihas (1933) - a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nabadwip Mahima (1937) 2nd Ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santipur Parichay (1937) vols.I–II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Books</strong> 1 2 7 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ZONE E**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darjeeling</td>
<td>Darjeelingter Itihas (1880)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinajpur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coch Behar</td>
<td>Coch Beharer Itihas (1881) Gosanimarir Bibaran – a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coch Beharer Itihas (1936) vol.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malda/Gour</td>
<td>Gourer Itihas, (1907-09) vols.1 and 2 (1904 - '09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gour O Pandua (1922).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Books</strong> 0 3 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZONE F</td>
<td>Bardhaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooghly</td>
<td>Hooghly Kahini (1903).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uttarpara Bibaran (1920) – a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bankura</td>
<td>Bankura Jelar Bibaran (1925).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mallabhum Bishnupur (1916)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birbhum</td>
<td>Birbhumer Itihas (1911)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hetampur Kahini (1910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhadrapur Itibritta (1911) – a village in Birbhum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birbhum Bibaran (1916-27), Pts.I–III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medinipur</td>
<td>Tamluker Prachin O Adhunik Bibaran (1872)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medinipurer Itihas (1888-96), vols 1-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tamluker Itihas (1902).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tamluker Itihas (1912).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kesriari (1916) – a village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medinipurer Itihas (1921), Pt.1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Books**

| 1 | 1 | 18 | 7 |

3.3.1 From the above chart the following summary table emerges which shows the total number of books between 1850 and 1950 and their phase and zone-wise distribution.
Table 3.3
Phase and Zone-wise Distribution of Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zones</th>
<th>1850-75</th>
<th>1876-1900</th>
<th>1901-25</th>
<th>1925-50</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>99</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table we see that most of the books during entire period were published from B and F zones: 26 and 27 books respectively. Most of the books were published during the third phase: 54 out of a total of 99 books, i.e., more than 50 per cent.

It is evident from Table 3.2 that not a single regional or local history was published either on Comilla or Rangpur; Rajshahi, Darjeeling, Dinajpur and Bardhaman had one book each. The one book that Dinajpur had does not represent the history of the district, but a history of one of its villages. The book *Bardhamaner Itikatha* was a small book of little more than sixty pages which hardly represented the history of the district in the sense that Srihatta, Jasohar Khulna or Pabna were represented in the works of Achyut Charan Chaudhuri Tattwanidhi, Satish Chandra Mitra, or Radharaman Saha respectively.

In sharp contrast to above stood Dhaka, Murshidabad and Medinipur which had books published in all the phases of our hundred years.

The question as to why some districts had a small number of books or none at all at the time when others had quite a few to their credit perhaps cannot be answered with any degree of certainty. Let us take up the cases of Rangpur and Bardhaman. Both the districts apparently fulfilled almost all the terms and conditions for having their own regional and local histories. Both were quite rich in historical experience. In the case of Rangpur, however, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s treatise was a rare
one. In the early 20th century the Rangpur branch of Bangiya Sahitya Parishad as well as Barendra Anusandhan Samiti were launched, one of whose objectives were conducting historical researches at regional level and publishing regional histories. For example, the former association published Rajanikata Chakraborty’s first volume of the history of Gaur in 1907 and Haragopal Das Kundu’s work on the history of Sherpur in 1910. So far as Bardhaman was concerned, the Rarh Anusandhan Samiti was founded in 1915 to explore and collect materials on different aspects of its history. Archaeological excavations were carried on in the district by Rakhaldas Bandopadhyay, agenda for compiling its history were prepared, educated and competent persons were mobilized to work on it, patronage of the Maharaja of Bardhaman and Haraprasad Sastri were secured—literary conference was organized to launch the project—all by 1915; yet all that these could produce in the next thirtyfive years was nothing but the small book referred above.

Our above tables show that zones B and F led in the number of books published in the hundred years of our study—they had 26 and 27 books respectively. Among these, it is evident, that Dhaka and Medinipur produced 11 and 9 books respectively. In zone B, Dhaka was closely followed by Jasohar-Khulna with 8 books to its credit. In zone D Murshidabad and Nadia districts had a total of 16 books—5 on Murshidabad and 11 on Nadia. That Dhaka, Murshidabad and Nadia accounted for a total of 27 books between themselves might have been due to their political and cultural importance. The regions that Dhaka comprised of Bikrampur, Subarnagram and Jahangirnagar were political centres for quite a long time particularly during early-medieval and medieval times: Dhaka itself became important during the Nawabi rule. Nadia was primarily the centre of philosophical studies as well as a political centre of importance during the Sena dynasty and later during Maharaja Krishnachandra. Murshidabad was the capital of the Bengal Nawabs from early 18th century till the East India Company shifted the political activity to Calcutta during the same century. Medinipur, with its centre at Tamluk, was also quite important: out of 9 books on Medinipur 3 were on Tamluk alone. However, it is somewhat strange that Chattagram and Srihatta, both frontier regions with not much importance in mainstream politics had 6 and 5 books respectively. The two districts which they had between themselves i.e., Noakhali and Comilla had 2 and 0 books respectively.
Similarly, though Bardhaman overtook Jasohar and Khulna in political importance, it had only one book to its credit compared to 8 belonging to the latter.

It is evident that, number of district histories did not depend upon its importance. Within districts and villages regional and local histories largely depended on their specific conditions and were more often results of a few committed individuals and patrons rather than a set or sets of fixed terms and conditions.

Out of the 99 books published in our period 54 belonged to our third phase i.e., the period between 1901 and 1925. A few scholars ascribed this spurt in regional and local history to the anti-Partition and Swadeshi movement in Bengal in 1905 and its following years. However, the proposition is not substantiated with relevant data. Of the 54 books mentioned above 8 books were published between 1901 and 1905, 47 books were published between 1905 and 1925. Of these 47 books the narratives of quite a number did not reach up to the events of the 20th century — these included books on Bikrampur, Gaur, Bakla, Dhaka, Chandradwip, Jasohar-Khulna, Birbhum, etc. Quite a few covered the post-1905 years but did not deal with the anti-Partition or Swadeshi movements. These included books on Nadia, Dhaka, Faridpur, Srihatta, Sirajganj. A few books mentioned anti-Partition and Swadeshi movements but treated them in a cursory manner. These included works on Moimonsingh, Sandwip, Medinipur. A very few books treated the anti-Partition and Swadeshi movements with due importance. These were books on Pabna and Bankura. It is to be stated that the regional and local histories generally avoided references to anti-British or nationalist ideas directly. This was not unexpected because in most cases landholders and government officials were associated with them as patrons and well wishers. During our entire period not a single regional and local history was proscribed. If the anti-Partition and Swadeshi movements are taken to mean, amongst others, extolling ones' own homeland and the spurt of regional and local history during 1905-25 is taken to be one of its expressions, it may perhaps be countered with the fact that extolling ones' own homeland was not a post 1905 feature: pride for the glories of ones' homeland was there almost from the earliest regional and local histories.

3.3.2 We shall now look into certain aspects of the histories of the different types of regions and localities i.e., districts, sub-divisions, parganas, villages etc.
Table 3.4
Types of regions and localities and their respective histories during 1850-1950

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>PHASE</th>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>VILLAGES</th>
<th>OTHERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1850-1875</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1876-1900</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1901-1925</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1926-1950</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table indicates the following: —

a) The total number of district histories in our entire period was 51 i.e, slightly more than 50 per cent of the total publication.

b) Books on all three types of regions and localities showed a rise in the first seventyfive years of our study – for village histories the period considered should be fifty years ending in 1925 as there was none in our first phase.

c) In the last phase of our study the number of village histories showed a constant rise vis-à-vis the works on districts and other areas both of which indeed showed a fall. Indeed in this last phase the village histories was even more than fifty per cent of the total books published. A number of village histories had quite a volume each: for example, the history of Ula had about 275 pages, that of Maheswarpaasha more than 300 pages, that of Lohagara close to 300 pages, that of Santipur a total of 1156 pages (in two volumes).14 A large number of village histories, tended to hint a rise of Congress activities in rural areas and different village reconstruction activities under its auspices.

3.4. We now enter into brief descriptive accounts of the 78 books that we have been able to trace and consult.

1. SETIHAS BOGURA BRITTANTA 1861 Kalikamal Sarbabhauma.

This book was the first amongst the regional and local histories of our period. The book consisted of six chapters. The first defined the limits of the district and described some of its natural and physical features. The second chapter defined the limits of the Bogura town and described the different administrative establishments
and arrangements, educational institutions, prisons, bookshops, markets and gave the names of early Muslim Zamindars and Europeans residing in the district. The third and fourth chapters dealt respectively with Mahasthan and the kingdom of Birat. The fifth chapter dealt with fifteen or sixteen places along with a few places of general attraction. The sixth chapter gave accounts of miscellaneous items such as certain model schools and other schools, a few places and a few families, fairs, dacoits, the rebel Majnu Fakir, tigers etc.\footnote{15}

2. MURSHIDABADER ITIHAS 1864 Shyamdhan Mukhopadhyay.

The history of Murshidabad was a small book of less than 65 pages. The main text of the book consisted of an unbroken narrative of the political incidents and events centering round the Nawabs – from Murshid Quli Khan to the mid 19\textsuperscript{th} century. The political history was followed by a brief description of the Nawabi celebrations and festivals such as Muharram Nawara, Byara, Id, Sabebarat, Nauroz etc. From here the narrative moved on to a description of some of the important architectural monuments. Among these were Motijheel with its park and masjid the graveyard at Jafarganj, Khosbagh. After this there was a brief account of the Dewans from Maharaja Janaki Roy to Raja Prasanna Narayan Dey. Next was given a translation of the treaty signed between Siraj-ud-daulah and the English dated 07.02.1757. The last few pages of the book were devoted to the geographical and physical conditions; the administrative and economic features — these included agriculture, crafts and industries; trade and commerce — with bits of information regarding education, health and the Oswals from the north west.\footnote{16}

3. BIKRAMPURER ITIHAS 1869 Ambica Charan Ghosh

This book did not have chapters. The text was divided into two parts and each part into sections in accordance with the topics dealt with. The introduction had information of the boundaries, rivers, nature of land and climate, crop production, inhabitants and their religions, trade and commerce, administrative arrangements including law courts, post offices and educational institutions. The historical part gave accounts of Ballal Sena, the Sena ruler of early medieval times. Without going into subsequent chronological history the book next gave accounts of late medieval and early modern landowners such as Chaudhuries of Naupara, Chand Ray, Kedar Ray,
Raja Rajballav, the Munshis of Kartickpur. Next brief accounts of certain areas and their Zamindars or important persons were given. Such areas were Srinagar, Sholaghar, Hashara, Birtara, Bairagadi, Malkhanagar. The book regarded the name Bikrampur to have originated from Bikramaditya of Ujjain who was supposed to have come to the place. One of the earliest attempts to write regional and local histories the book had to depend more on information received from elders than on concrete sources.  

4. SHERPUR BIBARAN 1872 Hara Chandra Chaudhuri  
This was a descriptive account of Sherpur pargana in Mymensingh, furnishing relevant historical information as and when required. The author had the plan of writing the historical part in the second part but it was not published. The book consisted of thirteen chapters the first five dealing with the geographical limits, physical and natural features of Sherpur. The next 7 chapters dealt with different aspect, social, economic and administrative matters of the pargana. The book was particularly important for the invaluable information about land tenures and land relations. Written before the publication of Statistical Accounts and District Gazetteers, the Sherpur Bibaran was a remarkable book in its own right.

5. TAMOLUKER PRACHIN O ADHUNIK BIBARAN 1872  
Umacharan Adhikary  
This book consisted of two parts. The first part based essentially on legends and heresies and a few texts, was intended to be a historical account of ancient Tamluk. Here Tamluk was claimed to be associated with certain events and incidents described in the Mahabharata. Subsequently Tamralipta was associated with Ashok and his empire and then with Hiuen Tsang who supposedly visited the place. On the basis of legend Tamluk was also associated with Behula Lakshinder’s journey to the abode of gods — the washer woman Neta associated with these characters was claimed to be a resident of Tamluk. The second part of the book described Tamluk as it was during the author’s own time. This account described the limits of Tamluk and its population; its relation with export and import of salt; its agricultural production and the condition of the peasants and the Zamindars; its administrative establishments, education, different castes etc.
6. BHAWALER ITIHAS 1875 Nabin Chandra Bhadra

The book had an introductory section followed by five chapters. According to the book, Bhowal was a part of Chedi kingdom out of which the area comprising Dhaka town (of the author's time) was taken out and renamed as Jahangirnagar by Jahangir Khan in 1608. The introduction also gave information regarding the boundaries of Bhaowal, nature of its land, crops, vegetables, trees and fruits minerals, craft productions and inhabitants. The first chapter dealt with King Sisupal, one of the Barabhuinyas, whose capital was supposed to be Bhowal. The subsequent three chapters offered brief accounts of the Hindu and Muslim rulers of medieval Bhowal and their decline. The fifth chapters gave an account of the Zamindar family of Bhowal—the Pushilals. The book came up to the Zamindari of Kalinarayan Raychaudhuri Bahadur of the author’s own time who patronized the publication of the book.20

7. DARJEELINGER ITIHAS 1880 Hari Mohan Sanyal

This was a compact and organized work. In its first five chapters the author dealt with the location and limits of the district, population, its physical features and natural beauty. The economic aspects of the district — artisan production and their exchange, agricultural production and land relations were discussed. The historical account of the district started with its formation in 1835. A list of words in local dialects were appended in the appendix.21

8. COCH BEHARER ITIHAS 1881 Bhagabati Charan Bandopadhyay.

This book was divided into three parts. The first part dealt with the boundaries of the district, its geographical and natural conditions, physical features, inhabitants, their religions, rituals, customs and social practices. The second part consisting of about 18 pages dealt with the early history of Coch Behar which the author himself accepted as uncertain : he termed it as “mythological period”. This part was written largely on the basis of oral traditions and legends. According to the author, the proper history of Coch Behar started from early 16th century with the foundation of the kingdom of Coch Behar by Maharaja Viswasimha (1523-1553). This comprised the third part of the book. The narrative was brought up to the assumption of authority of the Commissioner of Coch Behar by Colonel Haughton in 1864 and introduction of diverse administrative reforms.22
9. KASIPUR KUSUM BA KASIPUR GRAMER ITIHAS 1881.

Pratap Chandra Mukhopadhyay

This book comprising of 132 pages was a descriptive account of Kasipur, a village in Barisal. The book had no chapter divisions. It opened with the lists of villages in the Kasipur chakla, as well as its landholders. Further there were lists of persons with high status, well known scholars, astrologers, traders and merchants, bureaucrats, contractors, employees in court and other establishments, physicians, lyricists, singers etc. According to the Census Report of 1880-81, the chakla had 460 houses and 3418 inhabitants. The narrative went on to enlist brick-houses, markets and fairs, water bodies, canals, libraries etc. There were schools, printing presses and magazines etc. There were as usual temples and places of worship. The historical account of the place was limited within the genealogies and activities of the landholders.23

10. NABADWIP MAHIMA 1884. Kanti Chandra Rarhi

This book was set upon a very interesting theme: the glory of the place was not due to its importance as a political center of Bengal (it was indeed a capital of the Sena rulers for quite some time) but to its philosophical and intellectual achievements and excellence. The ascendancy of Nabadwip started with the foundation of Nabadwip Sanskrit Vidyalaya and gained height with the predominance of the place in Nyaya, Smriti and finally Agam or Tantrasastra. Eventually all these philosophical intellectual exercises gave way to Chaitanyas Vaishnavism. The first four pieces dealt briefly with history of Nabadwip as political center under the Senas. Next the three philosophical schools were described in terms of brief biographical sketches of forty-one major exponents. However the portion dealing with Chaitanya and his Vaishnav movement was dealt with in more details in comparison to the others.24

11. TARAFA ITIHAS 1887 Syid Abdul Aghfar

This book of 114 pages did not have a proper list of contents—it was divided into sections each with its own title. To begin with the book had an introduction and a discourse on true knowledge which the study of history helped to unfold. The first part of the book dealt with the natural conditions, agriculture, trade and commerce, craft and production, education, religion, material and mental condition of the people of Taraf. The second part dealt with the history of the place from the earliest times to
the times of the author himself. In the first section after a summary discussion of the earliest inhabitants of the place the second, third and fourth sections focused mainly on the evolution of Muslim rule. The fifth section described British authority and power over Taraf. A significant portion of this section dealt with the arrangements between the English Company and the zamindaries of Taraf — one of these, the Syid Zamindars of 9 annas in 1793 were the original landlords of the place at least from late 15th century onwards. Their conditions further deteriorated due to their initial reluctance to enter any agreements with the English Company. The sixth section dealt with the decline of Syid Zamindaries in Daudnagar, Poil etc. The seventh section dealt with the so called Hindu division of Taraf. Here the main focus was on the Kanungoes of Taraf. 25


This book of four volumes had the histories of the Zamindar families of Narayangarh, Karnagarh, Narajole, Balarampur and Dharenda as its central theme. The period covered by this account comprised of the later part of the Mughals and the early part of English rule. Naturally the vicissitudes and changing fortunes of these zamindaries during the period of the 18th century political change were indeed informative. Almost always the accounts of the Zamindaries were preceded by general discussions on the Boundaries, geographical features, economic aspects of the areas concerned. The book dealt with two important social features. It provided with the accounts of Sadgope Zamindars which caste was not much there in Bengal; it also furnished information about a particular category of Brahmins ‘madhya sreni Brahmins’, who were nowhere else in Bengal except Medinipur. 26

13. SUBARNAGRAMER ITIHAS 1891 Swarup Chandra Roy.

This was a well planned and organized book in six chapters but none of them had any title. The first two chapters traced the continuous existence and fluctuating frontiers of Subarnagram from the times of the Mahabharat through the rule of the Mughals up to the author's own time. A part of the second chapter mentioned the places of Hindu pilgrimages and Muslim mosques, the important streets and roads, fauna, important officials and educated professionals and Zamindars of Subarnagram. The next four chapters described the political history of Subarnagram. The third chapter briefly touched upon the original inhabitants of the place, its political situation
during Harshabardhana’s time, the rule of the Palas and Senas moving up to the so
called second Ballal whose capital was claimed to be Subarnagram and whose death
marked its passing to the hands of the Muslim rulers between 1320 and 1324. The
fourth and fifth chapters dealt with the history of Subarnagram during Pathan and
Mughal rule. The high point of that history was the rule of Isa Khan after whose death
the extensive territories began to fall into pieces. The sixth chapter described the last
phase of the Mughal rule and rule of the Nawabs up to 1757 with particular reference
to the rule of the local landlords. The appendix contained the author’s views regarding
the fluctuating fortunes of Subarnagram during its earlier times and the late 19th
century.27

14. BAKARGANJER ITIHAS 1898 Khosal Chandra Roy.
This book consisted of seven chapters. In the history of Bakarganj the parts
dealing with history proper were much smaller than sections describing the different
aspects of materials life during the author’s days. Indeed the whole history of
Bakarganj from about mid 15th century (nothing is mentioned about its earlier times)
to mid 19th century were dealt with in just a few pages. The first chapter described the
natural features of Bakarganj including its climate, products, flora and fauna. The
second chapter touched upon the early history of the place very briefly and gave a
small sketch of its history during the 17th and 18th centuries. The third and fourth
chapter gave accounts of the parganas and their revenues and conditions of people
under British rule. The fifth chapter gave information on people of the district and the
different religions, the castes, craft production and trade, conveyance, disease and
health, education, press, journals and newspapers, literati etc. The sixth and seventh
chapters described different administrative units (sadar and sub-divisions) and their
administrative arrangements. A descriptive account of thirtynine villages including
their important families were given in the appendix.28

15. MURSHIDABAD KAHINI 1897 Nikhil Nath Roy.
This book was a unique experiment in presenting Murshidabad, the 18th
century centre of Bengal politics, through highly informative pieces which, though
mutually unconnected in terms of sequence of time or events, gave a lively but tragic
picture of the doomed capital. The author did not wish to make this book a
chronological historical account. The material out of which these pieces were
composed were actually collected in course of the authors researches on his projected history of Murshidabad. Nikhilnath Roy himself stated that Murshidabad Kahini presaged his history of Murshidabad. The book had twentyfive articles and an appendix with miscellaneous contents. The articles dealt with the battle of Giria, Begum of Alivardi, Motijheel, Heerajheel, Lutfunessa, Palasi etc. There were also pieces on the Kiriteswari temple, the Katra mosque, Kantobabu, Byara etc, touching on aspects other than politics of Murshidabad Particularly remarkable was the article on Nanda Kumar and his death — an event of collective injustice and wrong perpetrated by Hastings and his collaborator. The appendix reprinted certain firmans, family genealogies, rural ballads, Nanda Kumar's letter to his son Gurudas etc.29

16. RAJSHAHIR ITIHAS 1901 Kalinath Chaudhuri.

The history of Rajshahi was one single publication on the district in our entire period. The book had thirteen chapters and an appendix. The book was a general account of Rajshahi rather than its history proper. The introduction discussed the antiquity of the district, the size of its area and population, transport, agricultural methods and products, crafts, commodities, trade and commerce, markets and fairs, dresses and houses etc. The first and second chapters described the different tribes, castes, communities and their religions. The third chapter described urban centers and villages. The fourth chapter dealt with such items of urban life as educational institutions and arrangements, post and telegraph offices, streets and roads. The fifth chapter dealt with land tenures and land relations from 1793 onwards and the sixth with general administration and taxes. The next five chapters were descriptive accounts of the Zamindari families of Puthia, Natore, Dubalhata etc. The twelfth chapter dealt with the zamindars and their ryots. The thirteenth chapter was a comparative discussion between the early and later times of the district, the time of Rani Bhabani was taken to be the watershed. The appendix stated that the Barendra Brahmins descended from Sushen Mani, one of the five Brahmins believed to be brought to Bengal by Adisur. The Zamindari family of Natore belonged to the above Barendra Brahmins and were related with many other Zamindari families. The argument was substantiated with necessary genealogies.30
17. MURSHIDABADER ITIHAS Part I 1902 Nikhil Nath Roy.

This book began with a lengthy introduction of 50 pages and the text consisted of twelve chapters, comprising of 650 pages. In the introduction the author discussed the political transformation in different parts of India including Bengal in the 18th century. The book explored the early histories of the place and in the first three chapters the author traced the ancient and medieval histories of the place up to the late 17th century. According to Nikhil Nath Roy the actual history of Murshidabad started with Murshid Quli Khan. The five chapters between the fourth and eighth dealt with different activities of Murshid Quli Khan. The nineth and tenth chapters described the rule of Shujauddin and the eleventh with that of Sarfaraz Khan, his death and Alivardi’s occupation of the throne of Bengal. There were scattered discussion of religious, social and economic aspects of Murshidabad in course of its long history. The twelveth chapter was almost fully dedicated to Bengali literature and general conditions of Bengal during the first half of the eighteenth century, which gave valuable information on such literati as Adbhut Acharya, Krishnaram, Ghanaram etc. as well as their works.31

18. KHATURAR ITIHAS O KUSHDWIP KAHINI 1902

Bepin Bihari Chakraborty.

Khatura and Kushdwip was, according to the book, once a glorious area occupying an extensive territory between Chandradwip and Jasohar. The book was divided into four chapters. In addition to the introductory first chapter the second, third and fourth chapters respectively dealt with Kushdwip itself, its inhabitants and accounts of the Tambuli families. The location of Kushdwip and its boundaries, its natural and physical features, its different places, fairs and places of pilgrimages, agricultural and craft production and trade, dacoities and thefts etc were described. Due to the importance of sugar production in the area the making of sugar and its trade were described in details. The account of the inhabitants included educated persons and literati, certain zamindar families, the Brahmos and Kayasthas. The last chapter described nineteen important families, the unknown clans and kins and finally the population of the place.32

This book consisted of seven chapters. The first chapter dealt with the geographical features, position, boundaries and origin of the place in ancient times. In the next three chapters the author enumerated the association of Tamluk with mainstream developments in India in the times of Mahabharata, Puranas and the period between Buddha and the Chinese travellers in India. That Tamluk enjoyed pride of place in the above times were highlighted. Tamluk was important as a port as well as a centre of salt production and trade. The diverse elements of modern life during British rule were next described. The subjects included education, establishment of post offices, dispensaries, municipalities and local boards, court, police etc. The work ended with apprehension of the impending decline of Tamluk much similar to Troy and Babylon.33

20. SRIHATTER ITIHAS 1903 Mohini Mohan Dasgupta.

This was a small book of 28 pages, consisting of two parts broadly – geographical and historical description. The author dealt with the physical feature, economic, social aspects in a very concise form. The historical part started with the advent of Muslims in Srihatta up to the consolidation of English rule.34

21. MOIMONSINGHER BIBARAN 1904 Kedar Nath Majumdar.

This descriptive account had eleven chapters and an annexure with fifteen sections. The general account of the district with its location and boundaries was followed by administrative, judicial and revenue divisions, population, education, and literature. The remaining six chapters dealt with physical and geographical features, production (both agricultural and craft) and trade, land tenures and land rents, local self government institutions, general conditions of the land and miscellaneous items such as transport arrangements, police, post and telegraph etc. The annexures furnished with information regarding village and population detail including Hindus and Muslims of different castes, details of educational institutions and their students, streets and roads, detail of people in service, post offices, police deployment, local dialects, rainfall statistics etc. Historical information were given as and when required by the subjects dealt with.35
22. MOIMONSINGHER ITIHAS 1906  Kedar Nath Majumdar.

The book had twelve chapters and an annexure with four sections. It covered the period from Vedic times up to the Swadeshi Movement. The first chapter dealt with the situation of Bengal in early India. The second and third chapters dealt with the ancient history of Bengal in general and Moimonsingha in particular. The history of the early medieval rulers occupied the fourth chapter and the Mughal rulers the fifth. The sixth chapter was about the Zamindars both before and after 1793. The remaining chapters dealt with the preliminary arrangements of English rule, the Sannyasi Rebellion, the foundation of the district followed by steps to organize the administration. The rebellions of Pagalpanthi, Tipu, Jankupathar, Mangal Singha and eventually the Indigo Rebellion and the so-called Sipahi uprising constituted a significant part of the eleventh chapter. The twelfth chapter dealt with education, religion and society, literature and politics. The annexures provided with the list of government officials of the district, chronology of events, incidents and early coins found in the district. The Moimonsingher Bibaran and Moimonsingher Itihas collectively constituted a comprehensive and informative account of the district. 36


This book in two volumes dealt with the history of Gaur, an extensive territory including Malda district and its adjoining areas, the political centre of Bengal from the earliest times up to the early decades of the 17th century in two volumes. This highly informative and influential book was based on extensive literary and archaeological sources. The first volume with seven chapters covered ancient history. The first four chapters described areas of ancient Bengal as Sumha, Rarh, Samatat, Banga and Upabanga. Pundradesh and its history were dealt with in some details followed by an account of the five Gours of five different places. The history of Gaur proper began with the Sur family. The subsequent rulers discussed were the Palas, Barmas and finally the Senas. The first volume ended with an account of Bengal including its mercantile classes, religions, castes and tribes and position of the Bengalis in history. The second volume also consisted of seven chapters and gave detailed chronological accounts of the Muslim rulers of Bengal from Ikhtiyar-bin-Bakhtiyar Khalji to the death of Islam Khan in 1614. The seventh chapter described the social life of Gaur. Both volumes had appendices with texts of inscriptions and certain relevant documents. The book described such important archaeological and religious points of
constructions of Gaur. The book had valuable information on the literature, literati and important religious personalities of medieval Gaur.37

24. BIKRAMPURER ITIHAS 1909 Jogendra Nath Gupta

The author in his forward to the second edition of his book stated: “The history of Bikrampur was not merely a history of a pargana, it was the history of Bengal itself.” In keeping with this the author devoted six of the nine chapters of his book to the history of Bikrampur from its earliest times to the times of Kharga, Chandra, Barma and Sena rulers of Bengal, all of whose centre was Bikrampur. The earlier three chapters contained a general descriptive account of Bikrampur, its natural and physical features, population and their religions and castes. The book touched on the history of Muslim ascendancy in Bengal but did not go any further. The last chapter dealt with diverse aspects of Bikrampur such as a few architectural monuments, a few places and things of interest and certain historical themes. The first volume was never followed by the second.38

25. FARIDPURER ITIHAS vols. I and II 1909-1921 Ananda Nath Roy

This was the only book in the long span of our hundred years on the district of Faridpur. In the introductory chapter of the first volume were treated the boundaries and physical features of the district, social and religious lives, agricultural and artisan craft production, trade etc. The second chapter dealt with the natural features of the district. The third and fourth chapters dealt with the early history of the district during Sena rulers and subsequently during the Barabhuinyas and the Mughal rulers. The second volume had four chapters. These dealt with the introduction of mahals or parganas, descriptive accounts of the parganas, history of the foundation of the district and descriptive accounts of the urban centers and villages. In course of its accounts, this volume travelled through the transfer of power from the Mughal Governors to the Bengal Nawabs and subsequently to the English. The accounts of urban centers and villages also included histories of the zamindars, important families and personages.39

26. DHAKAR BIBARAN 1910 Kedar Nath Majumder

This book contained eleven chapters including general description of the district, its administrative arrangements, population, education, literature, natural features, agricultural and craft production and trade, land relations and land-revenue,
local self government, general conditions of the district and the miscellaneous section including modes of transport, military and police, prisons, postal arrangements, political associations etc. The chapters had the historical accounts as and when required. This highly informative book offered the reader a more or less comprehensive picture of the district as it was in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries.40

27. NADIA KAHINI 1910 Kumud Nath Mallick

This book was an informative, historical portrait of the politics, society and culture of Nadia. Consisting of six chapters, the first chapter discussed the origins of the name Nadia. The second chapter in its three sections described the political evolution of Nadia during the Hindu, Muslim and British rules. However the pride of place was accorded to academic and intellectual attainments of Nadia. This was evident in dedicating the largest chapter of the book (Chapter III with 126 pages) to this theme. Naya, Smriti, Tantra, astrology, Bengali language and education, the religious studies and practices, life and activities of Chaitanya, different religious sects in Nadia etc. were discussed in this chapter. The fourth chapter was a description of the social life of the district. The fifth and sixth chapters described places of importance and fame as well as furnished information on geographical features, rivers, streets and roads, census summaries, agriculture, trade and commerce. The appendix had information on the important Europeans associated with Nadia and its Zamindars.41

28. HETAMPUR KAHINI 1910 Kisori Lal Sarkar

This was a small book consisting of less than 100 pages. The first part dealt with the ancient and legendary account of Hetamipur and the second part with the account of the Zamindari family of Raja Ram Ram Chakraborty including both his predecessors and successors. Few poems and songs of Birbhum were appended in the appendix.42

29. BHADRAPUR ITIBRITTA 1911 Nabin Krishna Bandopadhyay

This small book of 42 pages, started with an eulogy of Nanda Kumar. The first few pages gave a very short description of the location, natural and physical features of the area Bhadrapur, Nandakumar’s birth place. Once a centre of glory and
affluence it was no longer so when the author wrote his book but certain remains still bore their past testimony. The author described Nandakumar’s house and the adjoining areas where the close relatives of the Raja lived. Next the author gave an account of uncertain and turbulent political transformation of the late 18th century and in this context focussed on Maharaja Nanda Kumar and his killing which the author did not hold to be just.\textsuperscript{43}

30. SRIHATTER ITIBRITTA Pts. I-II 1910-1917

Achyut Charan Chaudhuri Tattwanidhi

This book had a grand scale and sweep. In writing this book the author not only delved into the district's past times but also casted glances at the neighbouring Ahomland, Cachar, Tripura etc. The general description was extensive consisting of the location, limits, geographical features, agricultural and craft production, trade, people, education and religion, places of pilgrimage and administrative units and arrangements. The historical part covered the whole period between the ancient times right up to the first century of English rule. The descriptive accounts of the Hindu families of different castes (Brahaims, Baidyas and Kayasthas) and Muslims formed a very important section of the book. The final section had brief biographies of quite a large number of persons of the district who left their marks on religion, education, literature, music etc. The author tried to give quite a comprehensive descriptive historical account of Srihatta and so in addition to the published sources he made extensive use of such manuscript sources as sanads, kobalas and various land grants—all these made the book extremely rich and highly valuable.\textsuperscript{44}

31. BOGURAR ITIHAS vols I-II 1912-13 Provas Chandra Sen Debbarma

The book consisting of two volumes but published together was a comprehensive history of the district. The first volume was denoted as introductory part (bhumikangsha) by the author himself. The volume had descriptions of the general and geographical features of the district. This description included population with its features and trends, the natural conditions, rivers and canals, waterbodies etc. Next described were the antiquities and early annals, temples, monasteries and archaeological remains of Sherpur and Mahasthangarh. This was followed by descriptive account of parganas and thanas and villages placed under them. The different social lives of the different localities were next described. The evolution of
land tenures and land relations since the Permanent Settlement were also discussed with due importance. The second volume was historical in nature. It traced the history of the district from the early times and insisted on the sameness of Poundravardhan and Mahasthan. Next the evolution of Poundradesh from the Vedic times through the times of the Ramayana and Mahabharata eventually to the Pal and Sen rule was described. The Pathan and the Mughal rule over Bogura were next dealt with. It was with the English rule that the district of Bogura came to be formed. An account of the English rule included the administrative organization of the district – the establishment of law courts, police stations, prisons, post offices, dispensaries and hospitals, educational institutions and libraries, municipalities, transport system etc. The book included an account of important zamindari families of Bogura – the Zamindars of Shelbarsha pargana and the tarafs of Kathali, Kundagram, Bihar, Jhankoir, Koroi, Madla and Murail. It ended with an assessment of the condition of the district under English rule.  

**32. TAMLUKER ITIHAS 1912 Sebananda Bharati**

This book had eleven chapters an introduction and conclusion and six appendices. The first chapter entitled geographical account gave details of the location and extent of the Tamralipta kingdom, both ancient and modern. The five chapters from second to sixth dealt with the history of Tamluk under independent rulers. Of these the first three deal with ancient matters. The independence of Tamluk came to the forefront under its Mahishya Kshatriya rulers during the Pala kings. From here onwards right upto mid 17th century Tamluk was ruled by independent rulers and gave rise to the term ‘bhunyas’ which subsequently became quite widespread in Bengal. It was from mid 17th century that Tamluk started descending downhill. The remaining two chapters tenth and eleventh dealt with the important religious and archaeological sites and social composition of Tamluk. The appendices even described colonial exploits of Tamluk in ancient times. 

**33. CHANDRADWIPER ITIHAS 1912-1913 Brindaban Chandra Putatunda**

The focus of the book was the once glorious political centre which ruled over the large tracts comprising of Barisal, Noakhal, Faridpur and Khulna but which had subsequently been reduced to a mere pargana of the Barisal district. The book had seven chapters. The first dealt with the boundaries of Chandradwip both during the
author's time as well as during the times of the past glories. The second chapter dealt with the origins and formation of Chandradwip. The third chapter dealt with the political history of the place from Danujmardan to the descendants of Ramchandra Roy and the bidding of estates of Chandradwip in 1793. The fourth chapter consisted of miscellaneous accounts including rivers and canals, water bodies, agricultural and craft production and trade hurricanes etc. The fifth chapter discussed the Barabhuinyas – here Raja Kandarpanarayan of Chandrawip was placed in power and importance only second to Pratapaditya of Jasohar. The sixth chapter was a brief account of the Kharija lands of Chandradwip. The last chapter described the zamindars of the pargana in the times of the author.47

34. DHAKAR ITIHAS Vols. I-II, 1913-1916 Jatindra Mohan Roy

This was a valuable book on the ancient and medieval times of Dhaka. In addition to author’s preface the first volume had twenty four chapters including introduction. The volume gave a general account of the natural and physical features of Dhaka and its economic life in considerable details. The extent of the district, its rivers, canals, water bodies, forestlands, natural resources, products both agricultural and artisan craft, land systems and land revenues and trade were described extensively. The other chapters included elements of culture, i.e. architecture and sculpture, fairs, places of interest both religious and historical. Administrative features were also dealt with. The second volume was historical and had fourteen chapters including introduction. The volume dealt with the history of Dhaka from its earliest times up to the end of the Sena Kings. Though the author was well aware that more than hundred years spanning some years before and after the 17th century was the most glorious period of Dhaka, he did not deal with it but ended the history much before that time somewhere in early medieval period.48

35. JASOHAR – KHULNAR ITIHAS Pt. - I 1914

Hiralal Bhattacharjee

This was small book of less than one hundred pages. The narrative described the geographical and natural conditions of the district the divisions of Jasohar – Khulna. In addition the account of their parganas, communication and transport, description of the socio – economic scenario, flora and fauna, general climate and
public health were also discussed. The historical account of the district which the author promised to publish in the subsequent volumes were never published.49

36. JASOHAR - KHULNAR ITIHAS Vol. I-II 1914-1922

Satish Chandra Mitra

This was one of the most widely read and acclaimed regional histories published during our period. The first volume had two broad parts, the first part covering the natural aspects and the second part covering the historical evolution in two sections: the Hindu – Buddhist period and the Pathan period. Except the account of the physical features the remaining eleven chapters describing the natural divisions of Jasohar-Khulna including the Sunderbans, their innumerable rivers and canals, soil and agricultural products, flora and fauna, human settlements deep into the forests and their languages—all these read more like a travelogue than a historical account. The historical part preceded by land formation in the delta region and the nature of its islands covered the entire period of the districts in particular and Bengal in general from the times of the Vedas to the end of the Pathan rule. It is interesting to note that after depicting the Pathan rule as the usher of dark age in Bengal the author acknowledged that the foreigners eventually assimilated with both the people as well as their culture in Bengal. As a result, Hinduism remained the religion of the majority, the Brahmins stayed on top of the society and the study of scriptures continued as before. The central place of the second volume was accorded to Pratapaditya and his associates during whom Jasohar acquired great prominence and respect. Soon after the passing away of Sitaram Jasohar-Khulna were taken over by the Nawabs. The subsequent ascendancy and rule of the English in the two districts was the subject matter of the last part of the second volume. Here Henckel’s activities, the formation and organization of Jasohar-Khulna, the Permanent Settlement and new tenurial arrangements, the new Zamindars, the production and trade in cotton, sugar and indigo and the Indigo Uprising of late 1850s were discussed. The last three chapters were concerned with the different caste societies and their elites, art architecture and literature.50

37. HOOGHLY BA DAKSHIN RARH 1914 Ambica Charan Gupta

Originally an award winning essay it was subsequently developed and published as a book. In earlier times Hooghly did not have a distinct existence; the
author gave account of the place situating it in the broader geographical area known as Sumh and Rarh—the southern Rarh included Howrah, Burdwan, Bankura and Medinipur in addition to Hooghly. The first part of the book dealt with the antiquity and ancient location of Hooghly, its geographical and physical features. This was followed by account of its historical developments during Hindu, Pathan and Mughal periods. An important inclusion was copper plate inscription of Lakshman Sena. The second part which proposed to deal with the English rule, Zamindars and Rajas of the contemporary period, its renowned and influential persons and men of letters and the socio-economic details was never published.51

38. PALLY ITIHAS – GOIRALA GRAMER BIBARAN 1915

Jatra Mohan Biswas

This book was the first publication of a projected Pally Itihas series. Goirala was a village in Chattagram. It was a book with a unique style. It was in the form of a dialogue between two youths curious to know how the village Goirala came into existence. An elderly informed person satisfied their quest. He went on describing the origin, geographical and natural aspects of the village. He also gave information regarding the original settlements of the village and expansion thereafter.52

39. BAKLA 1915 Rohini Kumar Sen

The book was published after author’s death and after the incomplete manuscript was completed along with necessary corrections by the author’s son with valuable help from Professor Hemchandra Roychoudhuri of Presidency College. The book had seven chapters. The author of the book stuck to the earlier place name Bakla which existed in Ain-i-Akbari but disappeared afterwards so Beveridge treated Bakla as a Chandradwip pargana. In the first chapter the author defined the boundaries of Bakla both according to the practice of his own times as well as to the early times — the area of the former was shown as significantly smaller than that of the latter. The second chapter gave detailed information about the natural features of Bakla including its soil conditions, rivers, canals, water bodies, forestlands, flora and fauna, climate, winds and storms and conditions of the people. The third chapter was a historical account of Bakla from the times of the Mahabharata to mid 18th century when a large part of the district passed into the hands of Raja Rajballav. The fourth chapter eulogized and idealized traditional society. The fifth chapter described thirty eight of
the fortyseven parganas of Bakla along with their Zamindari families. The sixth chapter was an account of English rule in Bakla including its administrative arrangements, educational institutions, diverse associations and their branches, social and religious lives etc. The seventh and last chapter gave an account of the literati and their works, painters, sculptors, photographers as well as good quality craft production.\textsuperscript{53}

40. SIRAJGANJER ITIHAS 1915 Mokhtar Ahmed Siddiqui

This was a small book of twentynine chapters. The book was basically a general descriptive account of the sub-division during author’s time. The frontiers and size of the mahakuma, the origin of the name of Sirajganj, agricultural products and trade were followed by discussion of modes of transport. The accounts of Zamindars, different craft production and conditions of the people were next dealt with. The other chapters covered education, language, administrative arrangements of Sirajganj town, its rivers, ports and markets, weights and measures and memorable climatic and geographical events and incidents.\textsuperscript{54}

41. BARDHAMANER ITIKATHA. 1915 Edited and compiled by Nagendra Nath Basu

This small book was published on the occasion of the foundation of the Rarh Anusandhan Samiti. The book was a collection of articles. Of the first two articles on early and modern Bardhaman the first traced the mention of Bardhaman in the early scriptures and the latter gave a descriptive account of the different aspects of the district in the late 19\textsuperscript{th} and early 20\textsuperscript{th} centuries. In addition to this thirteen places of the district were briefly described.\textsuperscript{55}

42. CHATTAGRAMER BIBARANI 1916 Satish Chandra Ghosh

This book was only the first part (geographical) of a larger project of an account of Chattagram including its historical and ethnographical aspects. It was a very small book of 16 pages dealing with the boundaries, geographical features, area and population of the district. It also dealt with its traditions and legends.\textsuperscript{56}
43. KESIARI 1916 Radhanath Pati

The book was the history and descriptive account of thirtysix villages comprising of one-third of the Baghbhum pargana which made up Kesiari. Kesiari was situated between Bengal and Orissa and being on important trade routes enjoyed considerable wealth and prosperity. The historical account recounted historical events as well as popular legends and follores centering round its archaeological remains, places, fortresses and temples (the account of Sarbamangala Temple was quite detailed), large ponds, places of importance and repute. The period dealt with was quite long and covered Hindu, Muslim and British rules. The narrative did not give account of rulers of Kesiari and in this sense the treatment was somewhat unconventional. The book described religious and popular fairs, places, artisan production, particularly tassar production and its decline. Malaria and other epidemics affected the economy adversely. In the last chapter the book gave an account of some of the ancient families of Kesiari and adjoining Gaganeshwar. Such families included Zamindars, traders, scholars and men of letters etc.\textsuperscript{57}

44. ATIA PARGANAR ITIHAS 1916 Akshay Kumar Moulick

The book of eleven chapters, consisting of about 100 pages of which the first 23 pages traced the history of Bengal in general from the Vedic period up to that of the Mughals. It is in the sixth chapter that the English settlement of Moimonsingh and bringing of Atia thana under Moimonsingh district in 1866 was discussed. The next five chapters dealt with various aspects of Atia –its geographical boundaries, rivers and canals, important villages and talukdar families, learned people, different categories of land and land tenures, production, trade fairs, education, administration, local language, sports, religious places and rituals. The author also gave account of the legends connected with certain villages. The last part of the book dealt with the partition of the Zamindari rights up to the author’s times.\textsuperscript{58}

45. BIRBHUM BIBARAN vols. I—III 1916 – 1927

Mahima Niranjan Chakraborty

This is a large book having three volumes, forty chapters and more than 750 pages. It was the result of grand scheme which started with the foundation of Birbhum Anusandhan Samiti in 1914. Birbhum was a large district rich in the variety of its people and their culture. The book gave descriptive accounts of Hetampur, Bhadrapur,
Supur, Bhandirban, Bakreswar etc, generally each area in each chapter. The accounts of such areas included their natural and physical features, socio – economic lives, the histories and activities of their Zamindars and other important families and places of interests. Such places were associated with diverse historical events, religious functions and pilgrimages, festivals and fairs and cultural activities. The three volumes of Birbhum Bibaran replete with a large number of photographs – a very costly production indeed – constituted a significant contribution to the history and culture not only of Birbhum alone, but of Bengal in general.59

46. SREERAMPUR MAHAKUMAR ITIHAS 1917 Basanta Kumar Basu

The book had eleven chapters. It traced the history of the Sreerampur subdivision from the 17th century and focussed mainly on the activities of the Patli Zamindars and the Dinemar East India Company. The first chapter described the conditions of Sripur, Gopinathpur and Mohanpur, the three constituent areas of Sreerampur during the early days and depicted the entire region as well administered and prosperous. The second chapter described the history of the Patli Zamindars, the oldest Zamindar family in Bengal and one of the Barabhuinyas of late medieval times. This history was drawn up to the 19th century. The chapters three to nine dealt with the diverse activities of the Dinemar East India Company from their arrival in India in the 17th century and their subsequent consolidation in Sreerampur in the 18th century. The third and fourth chapters dealt with the history of the Dinemars and discussed the transactions between the Dinemars and the English East India Company. The fifth chapter described the way in which Sreerampur town became a port, the sixth its revenue and judicial administration, the seventh its trade, the eighth miscellaneous incidents related to the Dinemars and the ninth with the end of their rule. The tenth and the largest chapter described the activities of the Baptist Missionaries. The eleventh chapter described the matters related to literature, newspapers, journals and missionary college.60

47. NABADWIP DARPN 1917 Brojo Mohan Das

This small book of eleven chapters claimed to be a highly valuable Vaishanava text on geographical and historical matters about Nadia. The first few chapters dealt with the original location of Nabadwip which was submerged under the
Ganga. The next few chapters identified the temple built by Ganga Govinda Singha in the light of archaeological evidences and extant Vaishnava text.61

48. BIKRAMPUR BIBARAN 1919-1922 Vols I-II Jogendra Nath Gupta

These two volumes of descriptive account were written with a view to pave the way for a large history of the country as a whole. The first volume had twentyfour chapters. The general account of the then Bikrampur was followed by the history of the Zamindars of Naira, Kalipara, and Bhagyakul in the first three chapters. The remaining twentyone chapters were descriptive accounts of some of the more important villages of Bikrampur. The book also gave brief biographies of important persons, accounts of craft production and exchange, markets, educational institutions, public health arrangements, religious customs and practices, places of interest, archaeological remains etc. The second volume continued the pattern of the first and described in a similar manner eighteen well-known villages along with their important families, personages and other items. The third volume with descriptive accounts of fifty villages was planned but was not published.62

49. SHIBPUR KAHINI 1919 Annada Prasad Chattapadhyay

This book offered a comprehensive history of Shibpur within its very short span of less than 80 pages. In early times the place of modern Shibpur was submerged under water. The place closely associated with it was Betor which formed a part of Saptagram, centre of ancient trade and commerce of Bengal. The prosperity of Betor continued during the time of European merchants also. All these were dealt with in the first five sections of the book. The next three sections described the consequences of Portuguese influence, the foundations of police stations and general administration and the expansion of the English Company in Shibpur. Shibpur’s fame owed largely to the Botanical Gardens, Bishops College and Engineering College—the ninth section gave relevant information about these. In course of the late 19th century and early 20th century Shibpur was transformed into a town teeming with industrial activities and a mixed urban population.63

50. UTTARPARA BIBARAN 1920 Abani Mohan Bandopadhyay

This book was an enlarged version of author’s prize winning essay on Uttarpara. The book consisted of eight chapters completed within 70 pages
approximately. The first chapter dealt with the location and origins of the name of Uttarpara. Uttarpara was so named because of its position in the north of Bally, a prosperous village since earlier times. The second chapter dealt with the gradual settlement, prominence and expansion of Uttarpara since the coming of the Sabarna Chandhuries. Even in the early 19th century Uttarpara was thinly populated, a place full of jungles and marsh lands. It was only in the mid 19th century that Uttarpara municipality was formed. In the third chapter the activities of the important persons of Uttarpara residing outside Bengal were dealt with. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh chapters focussed on the literati, printing presses, magazines, libraries, theatre groups and other associations, education, public health and administration, temples, festivals and fairs of Uttarpara. Trade and commerce were briefly dealt with in the eighth chapter.64

51. CHATTAGRAMER ITIHAS 1920 Purna Chandra Deb Barma

The history of Chattagram consisted of four parts divided into sixteen chapters. The first two chapters of the first part dealt with the geographical and natural features of the place, origins of the name of the place and where it stood in relation to mainstream historical development of the Indian sub-continent since the Puranic period. The next four chapters narrated how Chattagram grew out of its early political uncertainties and vicissitudes during the Arakan and Hindu rulers and became a part of Mughal rule at the time of Shah Shuja. The second part described the history of the district from the rule of Shaista Khan, the Mughal Governor to the uprising of 1857. The three chapters of the third part described agriculture, different craft production and trade, important places and places of pilgrimage, fairs etc and such miscellaneous items as land sales, sati, thefts and dacoities, travels abroad and different medical treatments in the district. The fourth part had four chapters on police and different administrative arrangements, ponds, large water–bodies of repute, different communities such as Mags, Baruas, Rajbanshis and Portuguese and their respective languages and finally literature and literati as well as the journals and magazines of the district According to the author Chattagram owned its improvements and prosperity to the British rule and more than half of the book was dedicated to prove it.65
52. SYIDPURER ITIHAS 1921 Ebene Sabar

The history of Syidpur was a very small book and essentially an elaboration of the author's idea on the way in which the place got its name. According to the book, Khan Jahan Ali came to Bengal during Pathan rule, made Fatehabad his centre, and sent his men in different directions to expand his influence and found villages. The author thought that the name Syidpur owed its origin to Sheikh Abu Syid who had to fight a Hindu Zamindar to occupy the place and consolidate his authority on it. The history of Sheikh Abu’s family and his descendants were next discussed — the morols of Syidpur was one of their off-shoots. Two other items the book dealt with briefly were the fakir Muslims and the need for proper education for the uplift of the Muslims.66

53. AMODPURER ITIHAS 1922 Prakash Deb Roy Chaudhuri

The history of Amodpur, a village in Kasimnagar pargana of Srihatta started with a geographical description of the pargana and then give a general description of the village in brief. This description included the local Zamindars and learned people, school, post-offices, places of worship, markets etc. Along with the above the author gave details of his personal life. Though the author was a teacher by profession he practiced Ayurveda and his son practiced Homeopathy. Towards the end of his book he described various ailments and their Ayurvedic and Homeopathic treatments. The book ended with information on cows and advices as to how to increase their milk output. This was a unique book in the sense that it combined past information with present day advices on very general day to day matters. Perhaps this was done to make the book indispensable for every household of the village.67

54. GAUR O PANDUA 1922 Jogendra Narayan Chaudhuri

This small book was a descriptive account of Gaur and Pandua. It described the constructions and archaeological remains related to the early and medieval times. Included in it were brief descriptions of Kotowali Darwaza, Ghari Khana, Rajbibi-Jhanjhania-Chhota Sona and Darasbari Masjids etc. Accounts of the Hindu idols and their temples, the garhs of Kalapahar and Sonarai were given along with the ancient remains of Malda in early times. Two brief chapters on Pandua and historical activities of Lakshman Sen were also given. An interesting feature of the book was
that the accounts of all these items were enriched with relevant historical information about each culled from different acknowledged sources.  

55. SANDWIPER ITIHAS 1923 Rajkumar Chakraborty and Ananga Mohan Das

The book had fifteen chapters. The first dealt with geographical features of the place, along with its markets, transport, export, import etc. The chapters two, three and four focussed on the origins of the place name and its antiquity, past glories and geographical changes recorded in the 18th and 19th century works. The fifth chapter was a summary of the census report. As Portuguese occupation of Sandwip formed a crucial phase of its history so three chapters with more than forty pages were devoted to the Portuguese dominance over the place, their decline and the rule of Deelal. The history and activities of the local Zamindars constituted the ninth chapter and was followed by the description of the diverse land tenures and conditions of the peasants in the tenth. The eleventh chapter focussed on the dhal, the flood and subsequent epidemic which took a heavy toll on its population and economic condition. The twelfth chapter described the development of British rule over Sandwip from the 18th century onwards. Different aspects of social life especially the castes, tribes and Muslims were the theme of thirteenth chapter. the fourteenth and fifteenth chapters dealt with education and literature, agricultural and craft productions and trade respectively.

56. PABNA JELAR ITIHAS Vols I -VI 1924 – 1926 Radharaman Saha

This was a large book of six volumes. The first volume having four chapters, divided into thirteen sections was a general account of the district and dealt with its location and antiquity, climate, geographical features, conveyance arrangements, villages and markets. The second volume had only one chapter divided into four sections and dealt with the history of the district. The starting point was the time of the Mahabharta. The second, third and fourth sections dealt respectively with the rules of the Hindus, Muslims and the English. The third volume had two chapters : archaeology and land and landholders. The first chapter had three sections dealing with temples and mosques, archaeological remains, copper plates and sanads. The second chapter gave a detailed account of different land tenures, revenues, peasant movements and Zamindar families — both residents and absentees. The fourth volume had two chapters on material life dealing with agricultural and craft
production and their trade. The third chapter dealt with education in the district. This consisted of institutions of formal education, accounts of educated classes, libraries, press and newspapers, scholars, poets and literati, the famous musicians etc. There was also a section on different associations of the district as well as accounts of its district people settled abroad. The fifth volume had two chapters, eight sections. The first chapter dealt with the Pabna Sadar Mahakuma and its eight important places along with their villages in eight separate sections. The second chapter dealing with the Sirajganj Mahakuma gave accounts of its four important places along with the villages of each in four separate sections. The sixth volume had three chapters. The first chapter had the nature of Census Report. General population features, distribution of population and its trend, castes and tribes, religious sects, features and profession of people and different species of fauna of the district were each described in separate sections. The second chapter had four sections dealing with different aspects of material life including natural calamities. There was a section on games, rituals, food habits, health vocabularies and behavior patterns. The third chapter dealt with the general administrative scenario along with self – government elements in district boards and municipalities.⁷⁰

57. BANKURA JELAR BIBARAN 1925 Ramanuj Kar

This descriptive account of Bankura consisted of eight chapters. The first chapter gave a very brief history of the district from the 18th century onwards. In the next six chapters population features, trends, public health and arrangements of medical treatment, education, agriculture, craft production and trade and commerce were described. The eighth chapter had the nature of a general account of the district. The geographical and natural features, flora, fauna, different administrative features as taxes, district boards, municipalities, police and post office etc were dealt with. The other items of the chapter included accounts of important persons and Zamindars, names and address of traders and merchants, newspaper, music, educational institutions and finally the activities of the Congress.⁷¹

58. ULA BA BIRNAGAR 1926 – Srijan Nath Mustafi

The book was a descriptive account and history of the village Ula in Nadia written by a member of one of the most important families of the village. It was a book with about 275 pages divided into twenty chapters and an appendix. The first
chapter gave information on the area of the village and its boundaries, origins of its name, its existence since early Mughul period and physical and natural features of the village. Apparently the settlement of the village was begun by Raghabendra, the son of Bhabananda Majumdar. The village was almost ruined by the attacks of malaria, storms and famines — naturally there were two chapters dealing with these. The remaining part was rather a descriptive account than history of the village. The different deities and their temples, religious traditions and functions, education, entertainment, agriculture and craft production and markets etc were described. Also described were the different government institutions, administrative arrangements and non governments including police station, post office, dispensaries, libraries, banks, municipalities and different associations. The Zamindars as well as the traditional families of the village were described in the book. The theme of the appendix was Sati.72

59. HOOGHLY O HOWRAR ITIHAS vols I-II 1926-1928
Bidhu Bhushan Bhattacharjee.

The book had two volumes. The first volume having eleven chapters dealt with the history of the two districts from the Vedic times to the eve of Muslim rule. The first three chapters described the location and boundaries, natural divisions, area, population, rivers and water bodies and streets and road of the district. The fourth chapter described the agricultural and industrial products including iron and steel, jute, cotton textile shipbuilding, paper, brick, brass, bell-metal and copper, tannery etc. Trade and commerce also received due treatment. The next seven chapters were history proper. The fifth chapter described the Sumha or Rarh during the times of Vedas and Mahabharata. The focus of the sixth chapter was the Buddhist time when Rarh was the shelter of Hinduism – Tantra also arrived here at this time. The seventh and eighth chapters were concerned with Karnasubarna and its rulers, Gaur and Adisur and his descendants. The ninth, tenth and eleventh chapters were about the place during the Palas, tenth and eleventh chapters were about the Senas. The last three chapters were particularly rich in such diverse aspects as law, Tantric Buddhism and diverse popular cults, organization of the castes etc. In the second volume the first chapter dealt with the Muslim conquest of North India and Bengal. The second and third chapters discussed the Pathan rule and the resistance they occasionally faced. The fourth, fifth and sixth chapters described the social condition of the Hindus, their
philosophical and intellectual exercises and the activities of Chaitanya and Nityananda in Bengal. During the Mughal times Howrah and Hooghly passed under Portuguese control. (chapter 7), Jahangir’s retaliatory actions (chapter 8) and the resistance of Shobha Singh. The next eight chapters dealt with the history of Bengal in general and Howrah Hooghly in particular during the 18th century. The first five of these chapters were about the rise and fall of the Bengal Nawabs from Murshid Quli Khan through Alivardi to Siraj-ud-daulah. In course of these matters related to Kinkar Sen and Gouri Sen were discussed. After dealing with the establishment of Company’s domination over Bengal in the fifteenth chapter the book focussed on the foundation of the Andul Raj (chapter 16) and the affairs of Maharaja Nandakumar — his relations with Mir Jafar, Mir Qasim and Hastings and finally his death sentence. The chapter ended with an account of the Zamindars of Howrah and Hooghly, activities of Raja Rammohan Ray, religious atmosphere, conditions of society and finally activities of the scholars and literati.73

60. KALASKATHIR ITIHAS 1927 Dinesh Chandra Datta

This is a very small book of 70 pages divided into five chapters. The first chapter dealt with the boundaries, natural features and origin of the name of Kalaskathi. The second chapter dealt with the emergence of the village as an ideal self-sufficient village, particularly from 18th century onwards under Janaki Ballav and his successors. The details of this Zamindar family were given. Towards the end of the book while discussing the cultural aspect of the village the author highlighted its ancient glory and the learned persons belonging to this village.74

61. KHEJURI 1927 Mahendra Nath Karan

This was a small book which in addition to the foreword consisted of three parts, the Khejuri port, Kaukhal (Cowcolly) light house and appendix consisting of miscellaneous information about Khejuri police station area. The first chapter described the history of Khejuri from its growth out of silting in Bhagirathi between mid 16th and late 17th century to its conditions up to the time of the author in the first couple of decades in the 20th century including an account of Khejuri port. The origins of the name Khejuri, the presence of the Portuguese and Mughals there, the need to keep Khejuri secured for its salt manufacturing factories etc. were dealt with briefly. During the 18th century Khejuri became the place of anchorage of the larger ships
from which unloaded material were carried to Calcutta in smaller vessels. Soon Khejuri became a small English colony with necessary infrastructure. Around 1800 the importance of Khejuri port dwindled due to geographical, logistic and climatic adversities. The section on Kaukhali lighthouse was short mentioning that it remained functional from 1810 to 1925. The appendix included the number of villages and their areas under the Khejuri police station, names and areas of villages transferred from Heria to Khejuri in 1925, the total area of Khejuri police station and their population both Hindus and Muslims, educational institutions, charitable dispensaries, 

62. SANTIPUR SMRITI 1929 Radhika Prasad Mondal

The book took the ancient glorious times of Santipur as its starting point and stated to have marked just the beginning of the illustrious history of the place. The book had eleven chapters consisting of about 100 pages. The first chapter gave an account of the ancient and present location and boundaries of Santipur and discussed its population. In the next five chapters the book dealt with the ancient legends connected with the antiquity of Santipur. The next five chapters described the lives and activities of Adwaita Acharya and Chaitanya. The last chapter dealt with the ancient families which resided at Santipur.  

63. MAHESWARPASA PARICHAY 1929 Khagendra Nath Basu

The book had five chapters and more than 330 pages. The first chapter traced the history of the village back to the person Maheshwar Ghosh to whom the village owed its origin and name. The second chapter with about 100 pages gave brief accounts of the important and upper caste families of the village: the number of families dealt with were forty-six. The same chapter also had information about the newly arrived families and Baisya Barujibi caste and Baniks, artisan and trading castes etc. It also included the Muslims. The third chapter provided with miscellaneous information on education, health, society, entertainment, famines, public institutions and a comparison between the bygone and the author's own times. The fourth chapter gave brief accounts of 23 important persons — one of them a woman. It also gave additional information on four different families. The fifth chapter contained a brief section on Daulatpur. This was followed by the appendix.
which gave information about a few families, a Kulaji text and the author's genealogy. 77

64. MAHANAD BA BANGLAR GUPTA ITIHAS Vols I-II 1929-1932

Provas Chandra Bandopadhyay

The book was in two volumes. The first volume dealt with eighty topics and the second with fortytwo topics. The main themes under focus were the origins of the name, the boundaries, its rulers and important families, such modern institutions as railway station, post office, educational institutions, libraries etc. A significant part dealt in a selective way with political events: the battle of Pandua, the Muslims in Bengal, the Bargi invasion, the battle of Palasi etc. A substantive part was devoted to different persons and families, archaeological remains and relics, old manuscripts and rituals closely associated with the secrets and mysteries of Nath cult. 78

65. LOHAGARA KAHINI 1930 Hirendra Nath Majumdar

This book with five chapters and an appendix ran into almost 300 pages. The first chapter dealt with the origins of the name Lohagara, its natural beauties and resources. The second chapter briefly narrated the history of the village without going much further back than mid 18th century. The third chapter gave detailed information on the Brahmin, Kayastha and Baidya families of the village. Notwithstanding the dominance of certain high caste Brahmans, the majority of the village people belonged to the Baisya Barujibi, Saha, Subarnabanik and Tili castes. There were many other castes in the village. Indeed in terms of the people of a very wide variety of castes living together in one village, Lohagara was regarded as an exception in such adjoining districts as Jasohar, Khulna, Faridpur etc. The other items dealt with in the book were education, literature, arts and crafts, sports etc. The other aspects of village life such as religions functions, trade and commerce and social lives were also adequately dealt with. Towards the end of the book such disrupting factors as storms, hurricanes, tides, outbreaks of fire, epidemics, earthquakes and famines were discussed. The concluding section noted with pride increasing nationalist activities in the village. 82
66. BIKRAMPUR 1931-1934. vols I - III Himangsu Mohon Chattopadhyay

It was a very large book having three volumes and more than 1321 pages. The first volume had ten chapters and an appendix consisting of miscellaneous information. It covered an extensive period from the ancient times to the eve of British domination. The first chapter discussed the antiquity, extent, population, rivers water and land transport systems, agriculture and industry, markets, flora and fauna etc. The next three chapters discussed diverse aspects of early times, the history of the people of Bikrampur and their social arrangements. The next three chapters focussed on Bikrampur under the so called early medieval ruling dynasties i.e. the Palas, the Barmas and the Senas. The eighth chapter described the condition of Bikrampur during the Pathan and Mughal rulers. The ninth chapter was on the rise of Bikrampur, Chand Roy and Kedar Roy, the illustrious zamindars of Bikrampur and regarded as very important elements of the Barabhuinyas. The appendix gave the texts of few copper plate inscriptions and their translations and detailed information on population of the three hundred and fortyfour and fortyeight villages of north and south Bikrampur respectively during the author’s times.

The second volume had a brief introduction and twelve chapters describing the Zamindar families from the Pathan and Mughal to the author's times. Twelve important regions of Bikrampur were dealt with: Kalipara, Srinagar, Naupara, Naria, Malkhanagar, Tarpasha, Maijpara, Japsha, Lohajang, Kartickpur, Bahar and Baghra. In the appendix the earlier history of Bikrampur by Ambica Charan Ghosh was reprinted.

The third volume contained descriptive accounts of twentyfive villages of north Bikrampur. These included information about the important families and persons of each village.

67. MURSHIDABAD KATHA Vols I-V 1932-34 Srischandra Chattopadhyay

This was a large book of five volumes. The first volume consisted of a general descriptive account of the district including its geographical and natural features, diverse productions, administrative establishments and arrangements, charitable dispensaries etc. An account of thirtyeight sacred places of Hindu deities were also added. The second volume described some of the more important villages and towns, mosques, important events and their places of occurrence. It also had an account of Alauddin Hussain Shah followed by the history of the Nawab Nazims from Murshid
Quli Khan of the early 18th century up to Wasif Ali Mirza Bahadur of early 20th century. The third volume was an account of the Zamindari families of Murshidabad. The fourth and fifth volumes described the Vaishnava poets, lyricists and singers etc. of earlier times and the men of letters of modern times i.e. the 19th and early 20th centuries.\(^81\)

68. **DAULATPUR BIBARAN 1932  Khagendra Nath Basu**

This was a small book of ten chapters and less than 150 pages. The first and second chapters dealt with the early accounts and geographical descriptions of Daulatpur, an important river port of Khulna situated on river Bhairab. The early account included information about the ruling Zamindars of the region. The third chapter was contributed by Sarada Kanta Das, retired teacher and head master of Daulatpur High School. The fourth chapter described the educational institutions of Daulatpur. The fifth and sixth chapters described certain other institutions as well as such institutions which were no more in existence. The seventh chapter gave an account of the physicians of Daulatpur and the eighth biographies of important persons. The ninth chapter also did the same. The tenth chapter gave an account of merchants and traders of Daulatpur.\(^85\)

69. **SENHATI KAHINI 1933  Sarada Kanta Das**

This modest book with 141 pages on “big, old village” Senhati, neither had contents nor chapters. The book was organized in sections. The name of the village originated with the settlement of Baidyas in it. With its history going back to the early 14th century Senhati was famous for its educated and established upper caste Hindus as well as for medical practice and education. The first section described the geographical limits, agricultural products and natural beauty of the village. The second section was about public health and the third about education. With the establishment of English rule, Sanskrit studies gave way to English and Bengali courses and schools—brief descriptions of a number of such schools were given. Efforts to educate women received particular attention. The book particularly focussed on early Senhati and Senhati during the time of the author. The early Senhati had brief descriptions of remains of Rajballav’s constructions, large ponds and roads with many legends and folklores. A part of it was devoted to people’s education and training in crafts—public reading of Ramayan and Mahabharat and various creative
 arts. At the end of this part accounts of aristocratic families were given. The account of Senhati of author’s time mainly contained information on important and famous persons—literati, professors, government servants, lawyer and advocates, engineers, physicians, traders and merchants, journalists and patriots. The concluding section discussed a decline of values and moralities amidst almost every possible signs and symbols of material progress.83

70. KHULNAR ITIHAS 1935 Phanibhusan Mukhopadhyay

It was a small book of 144 pages that was not arranged in chapters. Quite an extensive period was dealt with very briefly in the book beginning with the coming of the Aryans to India up to the establishment of English rule in Bengal. The geographical space covered by the book was much larger than the district itself as its area formed parts of Upbanga, Samatat, Bagri, Chandradwip etc. in different times. The book had about fifty-five short sections. The first twenty-four were about the ancient and early medieval the so called Hindu period. The advent of the Muslims were stated to have marked ‘the epoch of anarchy’. The Zamindaries of Bikramaditya, Basanta Roy and Pratapaditya were considered to be the high points of history of Khulna. Eventually, however, the Jasohar-Khulna Zamindars were defeated by Mansingh and Mughal consolidation followed. A few of the other items dealt with were the Faujdars of Jasohar, the rulers of Chanchra and Syidpur etc. The four sections dealt briefly with English rule, formation of the Khulna district its administration and its education and literature.84

71. COCH BEHARER ITIHAS Vol I 1936

Khan Chaudhuri Amanatullah Ahmed

The book had nineteen chapters. To begin with there was an extensive section on historical sources. The first and second chapters were concerned with origins of place name, location, ancient societies and an account of the rulers of Bengal followed by those of Coch Behar. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth chapters dealt with the physical features and conditions of Kamtapur, the rulers of Kamtapur (the Kamteswars), the conditions of Kamrup and the religious reformers and preachers both Hindus and Muslims respectively. The seventh chapter dealt with the Haihayas from the 5th century onwards. Chapters eighth to twelfth gave accounts of the rulers of Coch Behar from the 15th century onwards. The accounts of Viswasingha,
Naranarayan, Lakshminarayan, Birnarayan, Prannarayan, Modnarayan, Basudevnarayan etc. up to Dhairyendranarayan were given in these chapters along with different social, economic, and political developments. The thirteenth chapter dealt with the different branches of the royal family. The fourteenth chapter described Coch Behar’s contact with the Muslims. The fifteenth chapter dealt with the different currencies prevailing in Coch Behar. The sixteenth chapter was concerned with the Nazir–Goswami conflict. The seventeenth chapter was about Bhutan Duar. The eighteenth discussed the treaty between the Coch Behar rulers and English. The nineteenth chapter discussed the times and dates associated with different rulers and corrected them as and when necessary establishing a proper chronology of ruler. The nineteenth chapter was followed by chronologies of the event. The book was never followed by the second volume.

72. BIRBHUMER ITIHAS Vols I-II 1936-1938 Gourihar Mitra

The book had two volumes; the first covered the history of Birbhum from the earliest times to the eve of British rule and the second focussed on the different aspects of British rule itself. The first volume had fourteen chapters. The first three chapters dealt with location and boundaries, origins of the name and natural accounts of Birbhum. The fourth chapter dealt with Birbhum during the Puranic or Tantric times, an account of certain religious places and personalities culled mainly from legends and folklores. The fifth chapter, the Hindu rule over Birbhum was sketchy. The sixth, seventh and eighth chapters dealt with the rulers or Faujdars of Birbhum and their battles. The last four chapters discussed the day to day material life of the people, information regarding rural transactions, ballads and literary exercises.

The second volume had ten chapters. The first described the arrival and subsequent activities of the European traders. The second chapter described the condition of Birbhum during Diwani. The third and fourth chapters dealt with the land revenue matters of Birbhum first up to 1793 and then following 1793. The fifth and sixth chapters described the fate of Nagar Raj family and their tax free land grants. The seventh and eighth chapters described matters related to land revenue settlements and their proper measures. The last, ninth and tenth chapters described the Santhal Rebellion.
73. NABADWIP MAHIMA 1937 Kanti Chandra Rarhi (second revised edition)

The revised and enlarged edition of the book was published by Rarhi’s grandsons Jitendriya Datta and Phanibhusan Datta. This time the book had four volumes. The first volume dealt with the location as well as physical and natural features of Nabadwip followed by its political and intellectual history up to the end of the so called Hindu rule. The second volume, with the rules of the Pathans and Mughals as backdrop, described the main philosophical school as well as their major exponents. The third volume described Chaitanya and his Vaishnava movement including the literature of those times. The fourth volume gave accounts of the Zamindars of the district, Sanskrit education during English rule, spread of western education and brief sketches of persons proficient in English, the exercise of Vaishnavism, craft production and trade and general administrative and civic arrangements.87

74. SANTIPUR PARICHAY Vols I-II 1937 Kalikrishna Bhattacharya

The first volume of this book was devoted to Bijoy Krishna Goswami, the Sadhu of Santipur. The second volume was quite a large book of more than 700 pages out of which about 330 pages were dedicated to a general picture of Santipur. The first chapter on geographical and historical matters described the boundaries of Santipur, its natural and physical conditions. The historical part was mainly concerned with demonstrating Santipur’s antiquity and importance and significance of its location during ancient times. The second chapter dealt with the administration and law; the shift of mahakuma sadar in 1867-1868 from Santipur to Ranaghat. The third chapter on municipality described its various functions: maintaining dispensaries, streets and lanes, controlling traffic, supplying water, maintaining public health etc. The fourth chapter on trade and commerce described the vicissitudes of Santipur particularly its cotton textile industry in course of the Company’s and British rule. The other products and their markets were also described. The last two chapters were concerned with different aspects of society, the diverse religious customs and practices, educational arrangements and literary output of Santipur. The rest of the book dealt with the life and times of the Vaishnava Sadhu Adwaitacharya Goswami.88
75. MOIMONSINGH BIBARAN 1938 Girish Chandra Vedantatirtha

The 100 pages book was divided into thirty chapters. The first chapter gave a brief idea about the material life of the district. Four chapters (second, fifth, sixth and seventh) dealt with different aspects of society and social organisation. There was one chapter each on the Brahmin Zamindar, Hindu – Muslim relations, loyalty to the government and education. Most of the remaining chapters focussed on individuals belonging to different walks of life: these included Jugal Kishore Roy, Balaram Tarkabagish, Bhagirath Devi and Krishnamoni Devi, Purnananda Giri etc. Apart from a very brief chapter on the non-Brahmin devotees, people lower down the society were never mentioned. 89

76. MEDINIPURER ITIHASPts I-II 1939 Jogesh Chandra Basu

The first part of the book was first published in 1921. After a gap of eighteen years the second edition was published in 1939 with Part I and Part II, the earlier part revised and enlarged. This was a large book of more than 700 pages. The first part had ten chapters on the location and evolution of the district of Medinipur, a descriptive account of the district and its history from pre-historic times to the British rule covering the Swadeshi and armed revolutionary movements of the early 20th century. The chapter on pre-history had very little on actual pre-history as it is defined nowadays – the chapter discussed the Vedic period, Aryan conquest, times of Mahabharata. In the early times Medinipur was very closely associated with Orissa and naturally the author discussed the history of Kalinga or Utkal Rajya. The chapters on early and later medieval periods provided much information on the regional and local rulers and chronological treatment of their activities. Reasonably enough the battle of Palasi and its antecedents were treated very briefly. The ninth chapter dealt with the British rule and its diverse administrative arrangements and measures. The last chapter described the ancient legends and archaeological remains of Medinipur. The second part similarly had ten chapters and its main focus was a cultural account of the district, description of the people, land tenures and land relations and traditional Zamindar families. The tenth and final chapter offered diverse information and legends centering round the district.

On the one hand the history of Medinipur regarded English rule as harbinger of modernity and enlightenment and criticized such anti – English movements as
Sannyasi and Chuar Uprisings and uprising of 1857. On the other hand he highlighted the late 19th and early 20th century nationalist movements including Swadeshi.  

**77. NOAKHALIR ITIHAS 1940 Pyari Mohan Sen (second edition)**

The history of Noakhali was a small book—this is evident in the recent reprint of the book from Dhaka, Bangladesh in less than 85 pages. The book was not divided into chapters; it had forty five sections dealing with the physical features, trade and commerce and important centres of exchange, thanas, conditions of the land during the earlier Muslim and subsequent English rule. An important part of the book consisted of brief historical and descriptive accounts of twelve parganas including Jogdiya, Babupura, Allahabad, Daura etc. The conditions of the people of each pargana, their professions, administration of the pargana and activities of its Zamindars were described. Valuable area-specific information were also given. Towards its end the book dealt with the main branches of the family of Adisur.

**78. SANBANDAR ITIHAS 1941 Sasanka Sekhar Bandopadhyay**

This was a small book of 41 pages with a single appendix suffixed to it. The author described the foundation and eventual flourish of a village in Bankura in course of 19th century. The Chuar uprising of 1789, the creation of Jungle Mahals, the importance of the region in diverse production and trade, notwithstanding its disorders and dangers formed the backdrop of the history. The author described how the village got its name and subsequently how it increased in population and prosperity. The author described the diverse trade and commerce and regional administration. Nanda Kumar and his nephew Darpanarayan Mukhopadhyay were the persons under whom the village showed significant advances in diverse cultural activities such as debating competition, jatras, theatres, physical exercises, body building, eating competition etc. The author also credited the people of this family with developing modern infrastructure.

**79. HOOGHLY JELAR ITIHAS 1948 Sudhir Kumar Mitra**

This was a large book of twenty chapters having more than 1000 pages. The first four chapters described the conditions of Bengal in general and Rarh in particular during the earliest time, the geographical conditions including rivers and canals, population, natural conditions and geographical location and evolution of boundaries.
of Hooghly over many centuries. The fifth chapter dealt with the Singha and Sena rulers of Bengal. From here onwards the chapters were description of social conditions (sixth chapter), communication and transport (seventh chapter), educational system (eighth chapter), each of whose information were periodized in terms of ancient, medieval and modern times. The nineth, tenth and eleventh chapters gave descriptive accounts of ancient places, archaeological remains and different features of Hooghly. Next the book concentrated on the different localities of the district. The twelfth chapter was on Chandannagore. The thirteenth chapter described diverse information about such places as Guptipara, Champdani, Baidyabati etc. The fourteenth chapter similarly gave accounts of such diverse places as Ramnagar, Boichi, Kamarpukur, Jerat etc. The fifteenth chapter followed with Bhadreshwar, Telinipara, Haripal etc. The sixteenth chapter focussed on places of pilgrimage and the seventeenth on dacoities in Bengal. In the eighteenth chapter a detailed account of evolution of literature in Hooghly and information about literati were given. The nineteenth chapter was devoted to diverse crafts and industrial products of Hooghly and the twentieth chapter gave lists of writers and authors and their books as well as the libraries of Hooghly. 

This chapter indicated the phase and zonewise distribution of local histories and also gave an idea of the wide variety of their historical ideas and narratives.

End Notes

1. Chapter I, of the present work.
2. Ibid, Chapter I.
4. Table 3.2 above.
6. Rangpur Sahitya Parishat and Barendra Anusandhan Samiti were founded in 1905 and 1910 respectively. See, Shyamali Sur, Bangla Bhasar Anchalik Itihascharcha in Sahitya Parishad Patrika vol.13(3), Kartick-Pous, 1413, Calcutta, January 2007, p 79. The author, however, did not cite her sources.


Kalikamal Sarbabhauma, *Setihas Bogura Brittanta*.


Ambica Charan Ghosh, *Bikrampurer Ithias*.


76 Radhika Prasad Mandal, *Santipur Smriti*, Santipur, 1929.