



# The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns

**Robert Elgood**

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- The first book to be written specifically on historic Indian firearms by an international arms expert
- It offers scholars and collectors the opportunity to see the superb Jodhpur collection that includes the best Indian matchlocks, modern British and American sporting guns, shotguns, revolvers and automatic pistols by many of the great makers of the 20th century
- Features more than 350 unique images of guns and Rajput paintings from private collections showing their use, as well as explains Rajput traditions relating to hunting and war

In 1972 H.H. Maharaja Gaj Singhji, of Jodhpur-Marwar transformed the Rathore's magnificent Mehrangarh Fort into a highly successful Rajput museum and cultural center. As part of this work, the Mehrangarh Museum Trust commissioned this book. The author discusses the worldwide medieval diffusion of firearms technology and Arab, Ottoman, European and Chinese influences on the development of Indian firearms. Jodhpur was one of the most important military states in Rajasthan, playing a major role in the history of the subcontinent, never more so than during the reign of Maharaja Ajit Singhji (1678–1724) who purchased large numbers of guns when his daughter married the Mughal emperor. Jodhpur owns the best Indian matchlocks in the subcontinent, much admired at the Delhi Durbar in 1911. Successive maharajas have added to the collection, which includes modern British and American sporting guns, shotguns, revolvers and automatic pistols by many of the great makers of the twentieth century, collected by the Maharaja's grandfather, a noted hunter, and his father, a gun designer. *The Maharaja of Jodhpur's Guns* is the first book to be written specifically on historic Indian firearms. With more than 350 unique images of guns and Rajput paintings from private collections showing their use, this book offers scholars and collectors the opportunity to see the superb Jodhpur collection and to learn about Rajput traditions relating to hunting and war.

**Robert Elgood**, an expert on the historic arms of Hindu India and the Islamic world, has lectured and worked in many countries. He is the author or editor of numerous books, the major ones being *Islamic Arms and Armour* (1979), *Arms and Armour of Arabia* (1994), *Firearms of the Islamic World in the Tareq Rajab Collection, Kuwait* (1995), *Hindu Arms and Ritual* (2004), *The Arms of Greece and her Balkan Neighbours in the Ottoman Period* (2009), *Arms and Armour at the Jaipur Court* (2015) and *Rajput Arms and Armour: The Rathores and their Armoury at Jodhpur Fort* (2017). He has a BA from SOAS in Islamic History and a DPhil in Indian Anthropology from Oxford. He has worked at Sotheby's and the Wallace Collection and as a guest scholar or consultant at various major museums. He is an independent consultant and a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, and the Society of Antiquaries. His website is: <http://www.robertelgood.co.uk>.  
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