

SOME VARIETIES OF INDIAN SILKEN STUFFS IN PERSIAN  
SOURCES C. 1200-1700

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Silk was known and by inference woven into fabrics long before the advent of Muslim rulers in India.<sup>1</sup> It were however in the peripheral regions of Kashmir, Assam,<sup>2</sup> Bengal and Orissa that silk worms yielding silk yarns were nurtured. In Kashmir quality silk yarn was obtained from the silk worms reared on the mulberry trees grown in abundance.<sup>3</sup> Here silk worm eggs were imported from Gilgit and Tibet.<sup>4</sup> As the road between Kashmir and Tibet was less difficult than those running in other directions, communication between these two points could be more frequent or relatively less infrequent though the loaded horses used to perish en route because of some poisonous herbs growing there.<sup>5</sup> The manufacture of silken goods was practised in Kashmir since antiquity.<sup>6</sup> During the fifteenth century Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin (1420-70) re-suscitated the declining industry by introducing certain technical improvements through the agency of Iraqi, Khurasani and Turki experts.<sup>7</sup> Emperor Akbar annexing the province in 1596 promptly placed the silk industry under imperial monopoly.<sup>8</sup> In Bengal eastern districts of Rangpur, Goraghat and Maldah were specially noted for extensive cultivation of silkworm rearing trees<sup>9</sup> which are reported to have been not more than two to three feet in height.<sup>10</sup> This indigenous and plentiful supply of silk yarn accounted for progress of the craft in the area.<sup>11</sup> Over a period of time the craft had gained in the volume of turn over, excellence of texture and adroit daintiness of ornamentation.<sup>12</sup> In Orissa the yarn was obtained from a yellow coloured herb (*yura*) growing wild and worked into a material called *tasser*.<sup>13</sup> It was tough, glossy and extremely durable.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>For import of silk yarn from China in the B.C's, Hadi Hasan, p. 43.

<sup>2</sup>*Haft Aqlim* (H.A.), I, 89; Khafi Khan, I, 130; *Indian Art*, 292.

<sup>3</sup>*Tarikh i Rashidi* (T.R.), 425; *A. A.* 11, 353; *Tuzuk*, 300.

<sup>4</sup>*Tuzuk*, 300.

<sup>5</sup>*T. R.* 432.

<sup>6</sup>M. Hasan, 248.

<sup>7</sup>op. cit., 143.

<sup>8</sup>*A. N.* 111, 725.

<sup>9</sup>*Haft Aqlim*, I, 88; *Riyaz us Salatin* (R.S.), 47, 50.

<sup>10</sup>Bernier, 422.

<sup>11</sup>*R. S.*, 50.

<sup>12</sup>Pyrard, I, 329; *R. S.*, 50.

<sup>13</sup>C. Frederick, *Hakl. Voy.* 111. 236; R. Fitch, Ryley, 114.

<sup>14</sup>Linschoten, q. by Pyrard, I, 328n.

In all the above cases silk weaving craft was spread over the villages and, as in Bengal, small towns, or in other words, the craft here as yet had not acquired an urban character. Low level of urban growth in the area<sup>15</sup> might have been the principal deterrent in carrying the craft to towns. Moreover, while the Kashmir silk yarn obtained from the mulberry trees was of standard quality,<sup>16</sup> that of Assam, Bengal<sup>17</sup> and Orissa were of inferior grade commanding lower price range<sup>18</sup> and perhaps wider popularity.

The Sultans of Delhi assuming power in 1206 generally strove to augment the volume of production of manufactured goods,<sup>19</sup> with special stress laid on the output of cotton textiles.<sup>20</sup> Whether in pursuance of the same scheme (raising the production of manufactured commodities), their traditional encouragement to weaving industry in their erstwhile hometowns,<sup>21</sup> fondness for silken materials, or a combination of all these factors was the motivating force in their attempt to promote the silken industry,<sup>22</sup> is largely a matter for conjecture. Certain is the fact that, (i) in the heartland of the Sultanate raw silk yarn was being imported from Persia,<sup>23</sup> Arab, Khurasan, Turki and China,<sup>24</sup> as also from Bengal.<sup>25</sup> (ii) Delhi had, by about the middle of the fourteenth century, emerged as the chief centre for the production of silken stuffs: taken together Amir Khusru (1253-1325) and Ziauddin Barni (d. 1358) enumerate at least 13 varieties of silken fabrics produced presumably in Delhi.<sup>26</sup> (iii) The varieties noticed generally bear the same nomenclature as they did in places of their origin, such as *khazz*, *harir*, *makhmal* or *mushajjar*<sup>27</sup>, signifying their subsequent introduction in the Indian environment.<sup>28</sup> The indigenous pre-Muslim varieties, whatever these might have been, are seldom mentioned in our sources. It may thus be inferred that some skilled silk weavers had crossed the border in the company of the incoming *qafilas* at early dates and spread their particular art in Hindustan.

By about the sixteenth century, as demonstrated in the appended Table the industry had been well established in the metropolitan towns of Delhi, Agra and Lahore; however it was the Gujarati capital of Ahmadabad which emerges as the most important centre of this craft. Abul Fazal reports seven varieties of pure silk and a dozen worked with gold as reaching the Agra market.<sup>29</sup> The volume of production was of such an order as to yield a considerable sum of income to the State

<sup>15</sup>Naqvi, *Urbanisation*, 9, 130-35.

<sup>16</sup>T. R., 425.

<sup>17</sup>Kindersaley, 241-42.

<sup>18</sup>Bernier, 440.

<sup>19</sup>Naqvi, op. cit., 3.

<sup>20</sup>op. cit., Chap. VI; Naqvi, *Urban Centres and Industries*, Chap. IV, V.

<sup>21</sup>Goitein, 222, 223, 261.

<sup>22</sup>Arif Qandhari, 45.

<sup>23</sup>Barbosa, I, 193; Ras, 133, 154; Pelsaert, 32.

<sup>24</sup>Barbosa, I, 193; C. Frederick, op. cit. 232; E. F., 1618-21, 229; Pelsaert, 32, Goitein, 343-44.

<sup>25</sup>Barbosa, I, 154.

<sup>26</sup>Table Nos. 7, 8, 9, 12, 24, 27, 29, 41, 50, 51, 56, 57.

<sup>27</sup>Table Nos. 15, 17, 24, 27, 34.

<sup>28</sup>Arif Qandhari, 45.

<sup>29</sup>A. A. I. 98-99. Also Pelsaert, 19; *Badshahnama*, II, 77, 78, 84, 421.

from its market,<sup>30</sup> which was not only confined to the country but because of its wide repute<sup>31</sup> for excellence was much in demand in the west and Central Asian countries.<sup>32</sup> The Ahmadabadi silken stuffs were characterised with extraordinary smoothness and delicacy of texture, sometimes were ornamented with delicate embroidery work,<sup>33</sup> and were also remarkable for the sheen of their colour and lustrous print.<sup>34</sup> Certain select wells of Ahmadabad possessed the quality of lending lustre to the colours and resplendant look to the fabrics when washed in them.<sup>35</sup> In addition, the occurrence of brackish water in and around the town<sup>36</sup> together with the use the tools made of *khirni* wood<sup>37</sup> were helpful attributes in turning out excellent silken fabrics at Ahmadabad, even a few miles away same results could not be obtained.<sup>38</sup> Most of the silk workers engaged in silk craft were concentrated in the Haripur quarter of Ahmadabad,<sup>39</sup> the workers of each process of craft such as fuller, dyer or weavers were organised in their separate guilds<sup>40</sup> and at least in the case of *baadla* workers only *Sirimal* (some special group) could be employed.<sup>41</sup>

Other towns of Gujarat, for example, Cambay,<sup>42</sup> Surat,<sup>43</sup> Champaner,<sup>44</sup> Pattan,<sup>45</sup> Broach,<sup>46</sup> too produced generally unspecified varieties of silken goods. In these towns again, the extraordinary brightness of colour was obtained by the stringent content in the soil and citrus property found in the water,<sup>47</sup> occasioned by the occurrence of extensive lemon fields in the area.<sup>48</sup> In the eighteenth century the upcountry town of Sirihind and the *suba* of Thatta are attested to have been producing a particular variety of silken fabric known as *gulbadan*.<sup>49</sup>

The dyeing, printing<sup>50</sup> and painting processes of silk in Gujarat do not seem to have differed substantially from those employed for cotton goods in the central parts of the empire.<sup>51</sup> By virtue of the local availability of some of the colouring agents and mordants the process was simplified and cost reduced. For instance, grown around Sarkhej<sup>52</sup> was refined at Cambay,<sup>53</sup> or the lac market at Ahmadabad yielded a revenue

<sup>30</sup> *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, (M.A.), I, 18.

<sup>31</sup> *Supplement*, 7.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*; *M.A.*, I, 15.

<sup>33</sup> *Supplement*, 7.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> *Supplement*, 249.

<sup>36</sup> *Tuzuk*, 301 (U).

<sup>37</sup> *Supplement*, 7.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Op. cit.*, 13.

<sup>40</sup> *M.A.*, II, 293.

<sup>41</sup> *M.A.*, I, 293.

<sup>42</sup> *Barbosa*, I, 129, 141, 154.

<sup>43</sup> *Op. cit.*, 154.

<sup>44</sup> *Commissariat*, I, 200.

<sup>45</sup> *Barbosa*, I, 59, 127.

<sup>46</sup> *Barbosa*, I, 154.

<sup>47</sup> *E.F.*, 1646-51, 33; *Tavernier*, II, 6.

<sup>48</sup> *Tuzuk*, 245.

<sup>49</sup> *Mirat-ul-Istelah*, 460.

<sup>50</sup> *B.*, Anand Ram, 67a.

<sup>51</sup> *Naqvi*, *Urban Centres*, 158-75.

<sup>52</sup> *Barbosa*, I, 154; *A. A.*, II, 248.

<sup>53</sup> *Pearson*, 20.

of Rs. 5,000/- to the State,<sup>64</sup> were more frequently employed for treating the silken stuffs or lac,<sup>65</sup> (*Coccus lacca*), bark of the *lodh* tree (*Symploca racemosa*)<sup>66</sup>, catechu,<sup>67</sup> galls and flowers of the pista<sup>68</sup> (*Pistachia vera*), *har singhar* (*Nyctanthes arboriste*) whose stalks of the flowers yielded the dye,<sup>69</sup> or henna,<sup>63</sup> were used to obtain red, brown, yellow and hennai shades. Besides being too expensive for using these agents for cotton goods, these were also better suited for imparting their particular hue on silken texture.<sup>61</sup>

Though prohibited by Islamic law to males,<sup>62</sup> silken stuffs were used for wear of the affluent segment and on festive occasions by few people.<sup>63</sup> Climatically silken fabrics did not suit most part of India, hence it could command only a limited market within the country. Beddings,<sup>64</sup> furnishings and *niwar* (bed tape) too were made of silk.<sup>65</sup> Silk carpets were turned out at Delhi,<sup>66</sup> Lahore,<sup>67</sup> Agra<sup>68</sup> and Ahmadabad,<sup>69</sup> but these have been excluded from the scope of present work as these constitute a separate subject of study. Silken stuffs specially velvet was used as covers of objects such as arms, small boxes or mirrors<sup>70</sup> or as bags to contain articles.<sup>71</sup> Some white or red varieties<sup>72</sup> of silk when cut with scissors into tiniest possible particles was employed in some medicinal prescriptions.<sup>73</sup>

Silken stuffs are generally covered in our sources under the generic term of *qamāsh* or *aqmashā*, the plural form.<sup>74</sup> Specific names of particular varieties are but rarely mentioned except by Amir Khusru, Ziauddin Barini, mulla Zahuri and Abul Fazl. Contemporary lexicons have therefore been of enormous help to us in identifying a particular variety. In fact a more systematic and detailed study of the Farhang corpus beginning from *As-Sorah*<sup>75</sup> down to the eighteenth century *Mir'at-ul-Istelah*<sup>76</sup> would certainly yield a much longer list of varieties and at times, alongwith some attendant particulars of the current names of silken goods.

<sup>64</sup>Supplement, 18.

<sup>65</sup>O'conor, 27; Buchanan, 11, 650; Moti Chandra, *J.I.T.H.* Vol. V, 1960, p. 22.

<sup>66</sup>Wardle, 34. It cost four seers per rupee.

<sup>67</sup>T. Wardle, 14.

<sup>68</sup>Wardle, 32; Liotard, 11.

<sup>69</sup>Liotard, 59.

<sup>60</sup>*Mirat-ul-Istelah*, 212; *Bahar*, 1, 531.

<sup>61</sup>Wardle, 32, 34; Liotard, 11.

<sup>62</sup>*Nijat ur Rashid*, 105b, 106b, 107a.

<sup>63</sup>Manrique I, 62, 63.

<sup>64</sup>*Khatirat*, 47.

<sup>65</sup>*A. A.* 1, 99. For furnishings, Arif Quandhari, 43, 48; Afif, 81, 86; Khwandmir, 90, 109.

<sup>66</sup>*Mc. Lagan*, p. 4.

<sup>67</sup>*A. A.* 1, 57; *E. F.*, 1418-21, 167-8, Manucci, II, 424.

<sup>68</sup>*A. A.* 1, 57; *E. F.* 1618-21, 161.

<sup>69</sup>Pelsaert, 71.

<sup>70</sup>*Bayaz*, 136b.

<sup>71</sup>*Bayaz*, 134a.

<sup>72</sup>*Bayaz*, 20a-b, 21a.

<sup>73</sup>*Bayaz*, 19a, 56a, 57b, 58b, 60a, etc.; *Mir'at-ul-Istelah*, 10. It was called *Abreshan i muqarraz*.

<sup>74</sup>For example, Barni, 310, 311, 312; *Badshahnama*, I, 84; B. Annand Ram, 61a.

<sup>75</sup>*As-Suruh minas Suhah* by Jamal ul Quraishi, wr. 681/.

<sup>76</sup>By Anand Ram Mukhliss, in mid 18th century.

In the appended Table enumerating fifty-eight varieties no claim to accuracy is laid, as distinction between cotton and silken fabrics is not always indicated. For example *aljah*, *cheerah* or *narima* could both be cotton or silken, could have been silken at one point of time or place, or cotton or mixed at another point of time or place. Even in cases where price range is quoted, the selection of one fabric from the other is not always conclusive because superfine cotton fabric such as *khasa*<sup>77</sup> could be much more costly than many a silken stuff. In the Table the provenance of the majority of the stuffs is not cited by our authorities which is a prohibitive deterrent in plotting the spatial distribution of the production of the listed varieties of silken goods. It is, however, abundantly clear that unlike the peripheral regions, production of silken stuffs in the Central Zones of the empire and Gujarat was an urban phenomenon. All the attributes of a busy craft—raw silk yarn, as it was an imported commodity, skilled workmen to operate the entailed processes and principal market for the goods produced—were all available in towns. Distribution of the finished stuffs to the non-local consumers too could be more conveniently effected from towns. The urban based silken goods would thus travel to, besides other points, small towns and villages.

As is manifest from the Table varieties of eastern regions are by and large overlooked by our authorities. Further, non-Indian names of the silken varieties listed in the Table dominated, though it is quite clear that these were being produced in the empire. Because (i) some of them are specified as such, for instance *khazz* of Delhi or *zarbaft* of Ahmadabad, (ii) the imported varieties are stated in so many words, at least by Abul Fazl such as *makhmal-i-firingi* or *tafsila* from Mecca, (iii) no source mentions any large scale import of silken stuffs from abroad during the period under review, (iv) some of the minimum prices shown as that of *ambari* or *aljah* are so low as to exclude any suggestion of long distance travel in the medieval context, (v) references to the acquisition of foreign experts<sup>78</sup> and the prompt response of the Indian artisans in learning the craft<sup>79</sup> would also suggest Indian base of the industry.

The Table provides two sets of price range, for c. 1300 and c. 1590 by Barni and Abul Fazl respectively. But while Barni quotes them usually in terms of pieces of unspecified measurement, Abul Fazl has quoted both in terms of pieces and yards. Therefore, setting aside the piece price and considering only the yard prices, while from Barni's account the *barad i kaminar* variety of *mashru* (no. 29) appears to be the cheapest, out of Abul Fazl's price list the lowest is touched by *ambari* at 4 dams per yard. This is just double the price of cotton *chhint* at 2 dams a yard, reported again by Abul Fazl.<sup>80</sup> Moderateness of the silken *ambari* would thus ensure a relatively steady market for the gratification of low income groups.

<sup>77</sup>Priced at Rs. 3 to 15 Mohurs per piece. *A. A.*, 1, 94. (Mohur's price fluctuated between Rs. 10 to Rs. 8, 12, *A. A.*, 1, 31-32.)

<sup>78</sup>*A. A.* 1, 55, 87.

<sup>79</sup>*A. A.* II, 247.

<sup>80</sup>*A. A.* I, 95.

Over a period of time the industry appears to have acquired a predominantly Indian character by introducing larger quantity and greater frequency of cotton admixtures in essentially silken varieties. *Mashru*, for instance, a double layered material with a thick cotton base and covered with almost a single stranded silken warp and woof, was presumably an Indian innovation. Varieties containing silk and cotton admixtures gained greater currency in the empire, more particularly after the sixteenth century when the inflow of silken yarn had dwindled owing to the prohibition imposed on its export by the Persian Government.<sup>81</sup> Thus varieties like *aljah*,<sup>82</sup> *cheera* for *dastars*<sup>83</sup> (turbans) or *mindil*<sup>84</sup> though originally of silken yarn had later on assumed cotton character. Similarly *Susi*,<sup>85</sup> a reputed silken material of Shush—a town in Iran, was originally brought to the Deccan via Alexandria (or some Egyptian port) during the eleventh century A.D.<sup>86</sup> In the subsequent centuries, it had lost its silken character somewhere along the line and reappears as a cotton fabric in the subah of Lahore (Punjab) in 1620s.<sup>87</sup> Bihar<sup>88</sup> and Thatta<sup>89</sup> seem to have taken to producing silk-cotton mixed goods on a relatively larger scale. Again, by about the seventeenth century, purely Indian varieties such as Aurangzebi<sup>90</sup> and Manikchandi<sup>91</sup> too had made their appearance. Finally, according to an eighteenth century evidence, the Indian mode of tie-dyeing was introduced on silken stuffs as well,<sup>92</sup> which went a long way in improving their finishing processes.

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<sup>81</sup>Palsaert, 31; For a brief history of the export of silk yarn from Iran, *Asr i Safawi*, 116-22.

<sup>82</sup>E. F. 1618-21, 192-93.

<sup>83</sup>*Nuskha* 134a-b, 133b, 134a, 117a-b.

<sup>84</sup>A. A. I, 99, for mindil with fold; A. A. I, 101 for cotton mindil.

<sup>85</sup>*Barrasiyah ye Tarikh* No. 70 (T. x1, vol. 2), June-July 1977, pp. 254-55.

<sup>86</sup>Goitein, 266; here he discusses the origin of the variety as well.

<sup>87</sup>*Dutch Records*, 1629-34, 14, p. cccxvii, 13.

<sup>88</sup>E. F. 1618-21, 192-93.

<sup>89</sup>*Mir'at ul Istelah*, 460.

<sup>90</sup>Table no. 4.

<sup>91</sup>Table no. 29.

<sup>92</sup>*Mirat ul Istelah*.

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TABLE : SILKEN FABRICS

*List of some of the varieties occurring in the Persian Sources c. 1200-1800*

| (1)<br>Varieties        | (2)<br>Provenance | (3)<br>Price                                  | (4)<br>Remarks  | (5)<br>Source   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. <i>Alchah, Aljah</i> | —                 | Rs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per yard               | a kind of coloured silken fabric                            | Khwandmir, 72, 75.  |
|                         | Broach            | —   | —   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.   |
|                         | Ahmadabad         | —   | excellent quality   | <i>Chahar Gulshan</i> , (C.G.), 64a. <i>Supplement</i> , 7.                                   |
| 2. <i>Ambari</i>        | —                 | Rs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4a. per yard             | —   | <i>A. A. I</i> , 100/76.  |
| 3. <i>Atlas</i>         | —                 | —   | —   | <i>Ejaz i khusravi</i> (E.K.) I, 12.  |
|                         | —                 | —   | red or in other colours painted work on plain coloured silk | <i>Meena</i> , 12.  |
|                         | —                 | —   | —   | <i>Khwaandmir</i> , 51, Anand Raj, I, 218.  |
|                         | —                 | Rs. 1 to $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard                 | —   | <i>Arif Qandhari</i> (A.Q.), 134.   |
|                         | imported          | Rs. 2 to 2 mohurs a yard                      | plain variety used for <i>kurtas</i> (men's?)               | <i>A. A. I</i> , 100/75.  |
| —                       | Indian            | —   | well known Indian silken stuff                              | <i>Bahār</i> , I, 103.  |
| —                       | Gujarat           | —   | reserved for royal wear                                     | <i>Tuzuk</i> (U.), 301.   |
| 4. <i>Aurangzebi</i>    | —                 | —   | silken material   | B.A. Ram, 61a.  |
| 5. <i>Baadla</i>        | —                 | —   | beautiful and costly silken material                        | <i>M.I.</i> , 383; C. G. 33b, 81b.  |
|                         | Ahmadabad         | —   | sirimal sect had monopolised its production                 | <i>Mirat i Ahmadi</i> (M.A.), I, 293.   |
| 6. <i>Baharman</i>      | —                 | —   | silken material; available in all shades                    | <i>E.K.I.</i> 52; IV, 85.   |
| 7. <i>Barad</i>         | Delhi             | two grades, 6 <i>jitals</i> , 3 <i>jitals</i> | —   | Barni, 310.   |
| 8. <i>Bhiram</i>        | Delhi             | —   | costly silken material                                      | Barni, 311.   |
| 9. <i>Cheenee</i>       | —                 | —   | costly silken fabric  | Barni, 311.   |
|                         | —                 | —   | delicate, attractive silken fabric                          | <i>Meena</i> , 14.  |
|                         | —                 | —   | striped silken stuff  | <i>Bahār</i> , I, 505.  |
| 10. <i>Cheera</i>       | —                 | 8 to $\frac{1}{2}$ mohurs a piece             | worked with gold, used as turbans                           | <i>A.A.</i> 199/75; <i>Bahār</i> , I, 505; <i>Khatirat</i> , 21; <i>Ruqat</i> , 12; C.G. 81b. |



| (1)                          | (2)                   | (3)  | (4)  | (5)   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 11. <i>Dara'i</i>            | —                     | Rs. 2 to $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard                                      | red silken material<br>yellow coloured<br>coloured, silken material  | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/76.<br><i>Meena</i> , 15.<br><i>Bahār</i> , I, 629.   |
| 12. <i>Dara'i baf</i>        | Gujarat               | 50 to 2 <i>mohurs</i> per piece<br>30 to 2 <i>mohurs</i> per piece | silken stuff<br>,,   | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/75.<br>Ibid.  |
|                              | Deogiri (Daulatabad)  | —  | white, fragile (as spider's web)<br>expensive silk used by aristocrats   | <i>E.K.</i> IV, 85; <i>Khazāin</i> , 22.<br>Barni, 311.   |
| 13. <i>Diba</i> <sup>1</sup> | Europe, Yezd          | 4 to 1 <i>mohur</i> per yard                                       | silken fabric<br>reputed, delicate material  | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/75; <i>Badshahnama</i> , I, 78.<br><i>Bahār</i> , I, 742.   |
| 14. <i>Doroi</i>             | —                     | —  | reversible silken stuff (?)  | <i>Meena</i> , 13.  |
| 15. <i>Gulbadan</i>          | —                     | —  | silken fabric<br>reputed Hindustani silk, dyed in two colours, e.g. red and black  | <i>Meena</i> , 13.<br><i>Bahār</i> , II, 518.   |
|                              | Sirihind, Thatta suba | —  | though superior in texture resembles <i>mashru</i>   | <i>M.I.</i> 460.  |
| 16. <i>Harir</i>             | —                     | —  | red and green <i>harir</i> bags, a kind of silken stuff<br>a kind of silken fabric<br>a single layered material resembling sun rays in brightness and delicacy<br>costly silken fabric<br>silken fabric with soft texture<br>also used for sieving | <i>Baihaqi</i> , 412.<br><i>Surah</i> , 207.<br><i>E.K.</i> , IV, 85; also Mahru, 210; Hadi Hasan, 135.<br>Barni, 31.<br><i>Bahār</i> , I, 517; also <i>Bayaz</i> , 27a.<br><i>Bayaz</i> , 90a. |

<sup>1</sup>Ibn Faqih in *Al-Baldan*, p. 86 maintains that in Shush the craft was already known when the Greeks appointed it as their capital. Subsequently, the town became one of the principal centres of silk weaving industry and the Shushian craftsman had specialized in weaving *diba*. q. by Akram Bahrami in *Shahr Hai Sabani, Barrasiha ya Tarikhi*, No. 70 (T. XII, 2), June-July 1977, pp. 254-55.

| (1)   | (2)           | (3)                           | (4)   | (5)   |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Harir</i> <sup>1</sup> ( <i>Contd.</i> ) | —             | —                             | the yarn obtained from the cocoons of silk worm, was bleached first, <i>Shami harir</i> was considered best | <i>Mualim</i> , 141.                            |
| <i>Hari-gul barg</i>                        | —             | —                             | flame coloured  | <i>Meena</i> , 13.                              |
| 17. <i>Jama guldoz</i>                      | —             | —                             | —   | <i>Meena</i> , 13.                              |
|   |               |                               | a kind of silk material   | <i>Bahār</i> , 431.                             |
| 18. <i>Joozi</i>                            | Kabul, Parsia | Rs. 10 to 4 a piece           | —   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 99/76.                          |
| 19. <i>Kamkhab</i> (brocade)                | —             | —                             | expensive silk, used by aristocrats   | Barni, 311; <i>A.Q.</i> , 134.                  |
|   | Kabul, Persia | 5 to 1 <i>mohurs</i> a yard   | —   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 99/76.                          |
|   | Gujarat       | 6 to 4 <i>mohurs</i> a piece  | worked with gold  | <i>Ibid.</i>                                    |
|   | Ahmadabad     | —                             | —   | <i>C.G.</i> 62a; <i>Supplement</i> , 7.         |
|   |               |                               | exported to West & Asian countries  | <i>Supplement</i> , 7.                          |
| <i>Kamkhab: Tas</i>                         | —             | 35 to 1 <i>mohur</i> a piece  | worked with golden thread   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 98/00.                          |
|   | Hindustan     |                               | worked with golden thread: a kind of <i>kamkhab</i>   | <i>Bahār</i> , II, 250.                         |
| 20. <i>Kapurnoor</i>                        | —             | Rs. 1 to $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard | —   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.                         |
| 21. <i>Kataan</i>                           | Egypt         | —                             | best variety  | <i>Muslim</i> , 145.                            |
|   |               |                               | silk having a shine like moonlight  | <i>Meena</i> , 13; Nuh, 68; <i>Bayaz</i> , 20b. |
|   |               | Re. 1 to $\frac{1}{2}$ a yard | —   | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.                         |
|   | Hindustan ?   | —                             | a reputed flax silk, delicate and soft  | <i>Bahār</i> , II, 404; <i>F.J. I</i> , 138.    |
|   |               |                               | cool, dry, shrinkable, reduces the figure of the wearer   | <i>Burhan</i> , II, 237.                        |
| <i>Kataan i Rusi</i>                        | —             | —                             | a variety of <i>kataan</i>  | <i>E.K. IV</i> , 86.                            |

<sup>1</sup>For *harir* of Shushtar *Barrasthaye*, op. cit., p. 260.

| (1)                                    | (2)                      | (3)                             | (4)   | (5)   |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Kataan i qasb</i><br>or <i>qasb</i> | —                        | —                               | another variety of<br><i>kataan</i>   | <i>Bahar</i> , I, 433, II,<br>368; B. A. Ram,<br>61a.                             |
|  |                          |                                 | <i>qasban farosh</i><br>(sellers of <i>qasban</i> )                         | <i>Nijat</i> , 49b.   |
|  | Gujarat<br>(Ahmadabad ?) | —                               | —   | <i>Mirat i Sikandari</i> .<br>1961 ed., p. 137.                                   |
| 22. <i>Khāra</i>                       | —                        | Rs. 1 to 6 a yard               | —   | <i>A.A.</i> I, 100/76.  |
|  | Ahmadabad                | —                               | introduced by Euro-<br>pean and Persian<br>experts; beautifully<br>imitated | <i>A.A.</i> II, 115;<br><i>Khulasat</i> , 36a.                                    |
|  |                          |                                 | silken fabric, coarse<br>wrong side   | <i>Meena</i> , 13; <i>Bahār</i> ,<br>I, 536.                                      |
|  |                          |                                 | costly, craped silken<br>material   | <i>Burhān</i> , I, 354; <i>F.R.</i><br>266. also see<br><i>Ghiyas ul Lughāt</i> . |
|  |                          |                                 | silk having craped<br>wavy texture  | <i>F.J.</i> I, 137, 454.  |
| <i>Khara i ata'i</i>                   | —                        | —                               | striped <i>khara</i>  | <i>F.R.</i> 266.  |
| 23. <i>Khashan</i>                     | —                        | —                               | coarse silken material  | <i>Meena</i> , 13.  |
|  |                          |                                 | made of grass;<br>mendicants use it   | <i>Burhān</i> , I, 378.   |
| 24. <i>Khazz</i>                       | —                        | —                               | silken stuff, super<br>fine   | <i>E.K.</i> I, 12, 70;<br><i>Khazain</i> , 22.                                    |
|  | Delhi                    | 16 <i>tankah</i><br>(a piece ?) | costly silk fabric  | Barni, 310 311.   |
|  | Koela (?)                | 6 <i>tankah</i><br>(a piece ?)  | silken fabric   | Barni, 310.   |
|  |                          |                                 | worked with gold<br>thread  | <i>A.A.</i> , I, 99/75.   |
|  |                          |                                 | a kind of <i>kataan</i><br>woven from flax                                  | <i>F.J.</i> , 138.  |
| 25. <i>Laah</i>                        | —                        | Rs. 1/7 to 1/4 a<br>yard        | silken material when<br>used in Arabic                                      | <i>A.A.</i> I, 100/76;<br><i>F.R.</i> 281.  |
|  |                          |                                 | In Persian it denoted<br>red silk   | Steingass, 1114.  |
| 26. <i>Makhmal</i><br>(velvet)         | Lahore                   | 2-4 <i>mohurs</i> per<br>yard   | —   | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/74.   |
|  |                          | 10-40 <i>mohurs</i><br>per yard | with brocaded<br>border   | <i>A.A.</i> I 98/74; also<br><i>Supplement</i> , 7.                               |

| (1)                    | (2)                    | (3)                                | (4)  | (5)  |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
|                        | Gujarat<br>(Ahmadabad) | Rs. 2 to 1 per<br>yard             | —  | <i>A.A. I, 99/74.</i>  |
|                        |                        | 150 to 15 <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece | with brocaded<br>border  | <i>A.A. I, 98/74;<br/>Supplement, 7.</i>                         |
|                        |                        |                                    | excellent quality,<br>large quantity   | <i>C.G. 62a.</i>   |
|                        | Gujarat<br>(Ahmadabad) | Rs. 1,00,000<br>worth              | invested in gold<br>brocaded velvet  | <i>Badshahnama, I,<br/>77-78, 84.</i>                            |
|                        |                        |                                    | used as covers of<br>objects, e.g.<br>weapons, boxes,<br>mirrors etc.                  | <i>Bayaz, 134a, 136b;<br/>B.A. Ram 61a;<br/>Zakhira, I, 191.</i> |
|                        |                        |                                    | the <i>firingi</i> variety<br>used for covering<br>elephants, copriso-<br>ning horses. | <i>Zakhira, 1.21;<br/>Khatirat, 32.</i>                          |
|                        | Ahmadabad              |                                    | winter wear of the<br>poor and indigent  | <i>Supplement, 187.</i>  |
|                        |                        |                                    | exported to Central<br>and West Asian<br>countries                                     | <i>Ibid.</i>   |
|                        |                        |                                    | used for furnishing  | <i>A.Q. 48; 43, 90,<br/>103.</i>                                 |
| 27. <i>Magna'</i>      | ?                      | —                                  | used as head gear  | <i>Jahan Gushai, I,<br/>77.</i>                                  |
|                        |                        |                                    | mossy looking silk<br>material   | <i>E.K., IV, 86;<br/>Mahru, 110.</i>                             |
| 28. <i>Manikchandi</i> | —                      | —                                  | silken fabric  | <i>B.A. Ram, 61a.</i>  |
| 39. <i>Mashru</i>      | Delhi                  | 3 <i>tankas</i> (a<br>piece ?)     | pin striped  | <i>Barni, 310.</i>   |
|                        |                        | 6 <i>jitals</i> (a yard?)          | striped on red fine<br>soft material   | <i>Barni, 310.</i>   |
|                        |                        | 3½ .. ..                           | coarse variety   | <i>Ibid.</i>   |
|                        |                        |                                    | —  | <i>B.A. Ram, 61a.</i>  |
|                        |                        |                                    | turned out in large<br>quantity  | <i>C.G. 62a.</i>   |
|                        |                        |                                    | exported abroad  | <i>Supplement, 7.</i>  |
| 30. <i>Milak</i>       | —                      | 7 to 1 <i>mohurs</i> a<br>piece    | —  | <i>A.A. I, 99/76.</i>  |
|                        |                        | 70 to 3 ..                         | worked with gold<br>thread   | <i>A.A. I, 99/76.</i>  |

| (1)                  | (2)                     | (3)   | (4)   | (5)   |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| 31. <i>Mindil</i>    | —                       | 14 to 1 <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece  | worked with gold,<br>costly<br><br>a costly material<br><br>with ornamental<br>border, used as head<br>gear<br><br>its piece measured<br>27 yards by 1½ yards   | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/76.<br><br><i>Khatirat</i> , 21.<br><br><i>M.I.</i> , 205; Goitien,<br><i>JESHO</i> , IV, Part<br>II, 1961, p. 175.<br><br><i>Haft Aqlim</i> , I. |
| 32. <i>Muqqaysh</i>  | —                       | 20 to 1 <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece  | a silver striped<br>silken stuff  | <i>A.A.</i> 89/85;<br><i>M.I.</i> , 383.  |
| 33. <i>Mushajjar</i> | Europe                  | 1 <i>mohur</i> to Rs. 2<br>a yard                                       | imitated in<br>Hindustan ?  | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/75.   |
| 34. <i>Mutabbaq</i>  | —                       | 30 to 1 <i>mohur</i> a<br>piece<br><br>70 to 2 <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece | —<br><br>—  | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/75.<br><br><i>A.A.</i> I, 98/75.  |
| 35. <i>Narmina</i>   | —                       | —   | used for furnishings<br>of silk   | Afif, 81, 123.  |
| 36. <i>Niwar</i>     | —                       | Rs. 2 to 2<br><i>mohurs</i> per piece                                   |   | <i>A.A.</i> I, 99/76.   |
| 37. <i>Nuqra baf</i> | Gujarat<br>(Ahmadabad)  | —   | —   | <i>Badshahnama</i> , I,<br>78.  |
| 38. <i>Parand</i>    | —                       | —   | plain but luxurious<br>silk<br><br>plain <i>harir</i> too may<br>be called so   | <i>Meena</i> , 13.<br><br><i>Burhan</i> , I, 225.   |
| 39. <i>Pari</i>      | —                       | —   | soft velvety texture,<br>dyed in various<br>shades, also used as<br>carpet or <i>masnad</i><br>coverings  | <i>Meena</i> , 13; <i>Bahar</i> ,<br>I, 292.  |
| 40. <i>Parniyan</i>  | —                       | —   | painted <i>harir</i><br><br>painters of fabrics in<br>the Mughal <i>karkha-<br/>nas</i> were paid Rs. 8/-<br>a month<br><br>Chinese printed,<br>painted silk<br><br>painted embroidered<br>silk often used as<br>saddle cloth | <i>E.K.</i> IV, 85.<br><br><i>Supplement</i> , 184.<br><br><i>Meena</i> , 15.<br><br><i>Burhan</i> I, 224.  |
| 41. <i>Patola</i>    | Deogiri<br>(Daulatabad) | —   | —   | Barni, 223.   |

| (1)                 | (2)        | (3)                                      | (4)  | (5)  |
|---------------------|------------|--|--|--|
| 42. <i>Qababand</i> | —          | Rs. 6 to 2<br><i>mohurs</i> per<br>piece | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.  |
|                     |            |  | a special variety for<br>making <i>qabas</i>                                 | See <i>Bahar</i> , II, 350.  |
| 43. <i>Qatni</i>    | Hindustan  | Rs. 1½ to 2<br><i>mohurs</i>             | silk and cotton<br>admixture, in<br>Hindustan it was<br>called <i>mashru</i> | <i>A.A. I</i> : 100/76;<br><i>Bahar</i> , II, 366.                   |
|                     | Ahmadabad  | —  | exported to West<br>Asian and other<br>countries                             | <i>Supplement</i> , 7.   |
| 44. <i>Sār</i>      | —          | Rs. 1/5 to 1/10<br>a yard                | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.  |
| 45. <i>Sarkhash</i> | —          | —  | a kind of silken<br>material   | <i>Meena</i> , 15.   |
| 46. <i>Shirwani</i> | —          | 10 to 1½ <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece        | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 99/76.   |
| 47. <i>Shiribaf</i> | —          | —  | has soft smooth<br>texture; a silken<br>variety                              | <i>Meena</i> , 13; <i>Bahar</i> ,<br>II, 255.                        |
| 48. <i>Sirhang</i>  | —          | 3 to 1 <i>mohur</i><br>a piece           | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.  |
| 49. <i>Sitipur</i>  | —          | Rs. 6 to 2<br><i>mohurs</i> a piece      | (Indian variety ?)   | <i>A.A.</i> , I/100/76.  |
| 50. <i>Sushtar</i>  | —          | —  | costly silken material<br>used for men's wear                                | Barni, 311.<br>Afif, 80.   |
| 51. <i>Tabrizi</i>  | Delhi      | —  | fine costly silk   | Barni, 311.  |
| 52. <i>Tafsila</i>  | Hindustani | Rs. 12 to 7 a<br>piece                   | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.  |
|                     | Mecca      | Rs. 15 to 20<br>a yard                   | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 99/75.   |
| 53. <i>Taftah</i>   | —          | Re. ½ to 1 a yard                        | printed,<br>a kind of silken<br>material                                     | <i>Meena</i> , 15.<br><i>F.J. I</i> , 126;<br><i>Burhān</i> , I, 257 |
| 54. <i>Tajbaf</i>   | —          | Rs. 1½ to 1 a<br>piece ..                | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 99/75.   |
|                     |            |  | <i>Taja</i> a costly multi-<br>coloured silk                                 | Anand Raj, I, 621<br>q. Khwandmir,<br>p. 70.                         |
|                     |            |  | <i>Taja e haft rang</i> —<br>(seven coloured)                                | Khwandmir, 70.   |
| 55. <i>Tassar</i>   | —          | Rs. 1/3 to 2<br>per piece                | —  | <i>A.A. I</i> , 100/76.  |

| (1)  | (2)                    | (3)                             | (4)  | (5)  |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 56. <i>Tassej</i>                            | —                      | —                               | fine costly material                                   | Barni, 311; <i>E.K.</i> 1.12.                            |
| 57. <i>Zarbaft</i><br>(brocade) <sup>1</sup> | Delhi ?                | —                               | costly silk  | Barni, 462;<br>Khwandmir, 70.                            |
|  |                        |                                 | floral motifs worked with gold thread on silken stuffs | <i>Bahar</i> , II, 21.                                   |
|  | Gujarat<br>(Ahmadabad) | —                               | —  | Gulbadan Begam.  |
|  | „                      | 4 to 6 <i>mohurs</i><br>a piece | —  | <i>A.A.</i> I, 98.                                       |
|  | Ahmadabad              | —                               | best in India, inferior to that of Persia              | <i>M.</i> I, 285, <i>C.G.</i> 62a; <i>Supplement</i> , 7 |
|  | Jainagar               | —                               | inferior to that of Ahmadabad                          | <i>M.</i> I, 285.  |
| 58. <i>Zartar</i> (tissue)                   | Ahmadabad              | —                               | for use in the royal palace                            | Gulbadan Begam, 28; <i>Badshahnama</i> , II, 126.        |

<sup>1</sup>In English language the generic term brocade covers all silken material worked with gold thread, regardless of the silk weave or design of the motifs. In the Orient, on the other hand, each variety of *Zarbaft*, *mushajjar*, *tas* or *kamkhab* is separately specified. Compare for instance, the English of *Ain-i-Akbari* by Blochmann on pp. 99-100 and Sir Syed's edition of *Ain-i-Akbari*, I, Newal Kishore Press, pp. 75-76.