

GOA



THROUGH THE TRAVELLER'S LENS

NINA CALDEIRA
EDITOR

Goa, Through the Traveller's Lens

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<http://goa1556.goa-india.org>, goa1556@gmail.com +91-832-2409490

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Travel writing comes packaged as documentary, or as literary and journalistic works. Such writing could range from the humorous to the serious or the clichéd. Travel writers have increasingly been associated with tourism and their output finds its way into guidebooks too. Such work can be found on websites, in periodicals, in books and, increasingly, in blogs. But the situation was

different in the past. Across the centuries, travel writing has come from a wide variety of writers—travellers, anthropologists, spies, military officers, missionaries, explorers, pilgrims, social and physical scientists, educators and migrants.

For a region like Goa, such writing carries with it a lot of implications. Not only does it interpret this tiny region to the outside world, but it even influences Goans' perceptions of themselves. This book focuses on how travel writing depicts the small, historic, often hard-to-understand region called Goa. For a change, scholars from the area turn the magnifying glass onto those who have long presented Goa to the world.

These pages look at how scholars travelled to meet kindred spirits. Or, how an American anthropologist then based in Australia understood villages in Salcete. Other contributions look closely at travel blogs focussing on Goa; a French journalist's radio travelogues; travel narratives; Naipaul's "Goa"; the depiction of this region in the works of writers of distant centuries such as Francois Pyrard de Laval, Tomé Pires and Denis Cottineau de Kloguen; reflections in Manohar Shetty's *Goa Travels* and the *Goa Writers' Inside/Out*. One essay looks at Goa's depiction in some works of fiction.



CONTRIBUTORS: Nina Caldeira, Ph.D., is Professor and Head of the Department of English, Goa University. This book is based on papers presented at an eponymous seminar held at the GU in March 2017. Contributors to this volume include Dr Isabel de Santa Rita Vás, Dr Sushila Sawant Mendes, Dr Xavier M. Martins, Maria de Lourdes Bravo da Costa, Dr Prema Rocha, Sunita Mesquita, Dr Glenis Maria Mendonça, Dr Brian Mendonça, Irene Silveira, Akshata Bhatt, Nafisa Oliveira, Natasha Maria Gomes, Palli Gaonkar, Ambika Kamat and Frederick Noronha.

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