CHAPTER 2

Text A: ANTT MS—Annotated English Translation

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\[ \text{I H S M A}^1 \]

Treatise of the Court and Household of Jahangir Padshah² King of the Mughals, briefly addressing his kingdoms, and his treasures, and the great majesty and preeminence by which he is served in his court; his wives, children, and his chief captains³

_Duarte da Costa Homem⁴_

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1 A set of ornamented letters probably meaning Jesus and Mary. The first three letters correspond to _I H S_, or the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus, an insignia which meanwhile became the symbol of the Society of Jesus. The remaining letters seem to be the abbreviation of Maria (\(M^A\)), which directs us to Ignatius of Loyola’s devotional relationship to Mary. Although formulaic, this can therefore be read as a Jesuit marking of the text. The other ornamented letters in this folio are the _T_ of ‘Tratado’ and the _I_ of ‘Iamguir’ (Jahangir). See Fig. 1.

2 ‘Iamguir Pachá’. Sultan Salim (b. 30 August 1569–d. 7 November 1627) became the fourth Mughal emperor in 1605, succeeding his father, Akbar. He ruled under the name Nuruddin Muhammad and the title Jahangir, his posthumous title being Jannat-Makani (‘whose place is the garden of paradise’). The author of the Treatise calls him _Padshah_ (Pachá is the Portuguese rendering), thus employing the Persian word for emperor.

3 Crossed out (after ‘chief captains’): ‘and of the Kingdoms he is Lord of’ (\(e\ dos\ Reinos\ de\ que\ he\ Senhor\)).

4 Autograph signature. The same handwriting as of the marginal note in folio 9r (see n. 52).
On the Court of the Great Mughal

§1 The Great Mughal, King Jahangir [Jamguir], holds court in the famous city of Agra, a very celebrated and renowned city because it is one of the richest of all the Orient. It is also the largest and most opulent city that this King has in all his Kingdoms. Agra lies in the midst of them, as the head and princess of all cities. The King is so fond of its freshness and good air that he elected it the Lady of all his other cities. The city is advantageous to the King’s and his children’s health, and thus he made it his seat of power.

§2 This city is situated alongside a fresh river that comes from a mountain range, an eight-day journey thence. The river is very refreshing, graceful, and populated, because it has many vegetable gardens, and many cities, villages, and settlements alongside it, which make it more valuable. Its clear waters are excellent and beneficial, and they run mildly into the River Ganges of Bengal.5

§3 This city is four or five of our leagues in diameter6 and is surrounded by teeming vegetable gardens and fresh and graceful flower gardens. It is not a walled city, but has a beautiful and large fortress (called Draba)7 in which the King lives made entirely of red stone in Roman style, and is very curious. Within the fortress there are several sumptuous palaces of great grandeur, curiously worked, very ornate, and worthy of the King’s person, where he resides with his wives and children. In this fortress there are also three palaces where his older children live, as well as other quarters for the chief captains and persons who continuously wait on the King so that they can be close to their duties.

§4 It is said that this city has more than a million people comprising men, women and children. It cannot be less than this because there are so many

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5 The *gangas de Bemgala* in the Portuguese original. The author employs *ganga*, the Sanskrit word for the Ganges river and its delta, as did the Portuguese chronicler Diogo do Couto in his *Década xii* (1, 5), also written in 1611: ‘it seems now appropriate, for the pleasure of curious people, to give an account of these *Gangas de Bengala* (which in our language means rivers) because they are many and diversified’. In this passage of the *Treatise*, the *BNE MS* (f. 63r) notes that the river flowing through Agra (Yamuna) runs gently, ‘until it looses its name in the great river Ganges, which enters the ocean sea in the river of Bengal’ (*va a perder su nombre en el gran rio Ganges que en el rio de Bengala entra en el mar occeano*).

6 The author uses the term *sitio* (*BNE MS circuito*) for diameter. He certainly refers here to the ‘league’ as a unit of area, not as a unit of length. Although both units varied substantially from place to place in this period, the square league roughly corresponded to six kilometers.

7 In all likelihood, the author means *dargah* (Persian), royal court, or palace (also used in §12 and §16). Often more ‘pedagogic’, the *BNE MS* (f. 63r) explains that Draba ‘is the palace where the king lives and has his house’ (*es el palacio donde el rey habita, y tiene su cassa*). *RAH MS1* and *RAH MS2* employ ‘Derbar’ (*Darbar*) instead of Draba (*Dargah*).