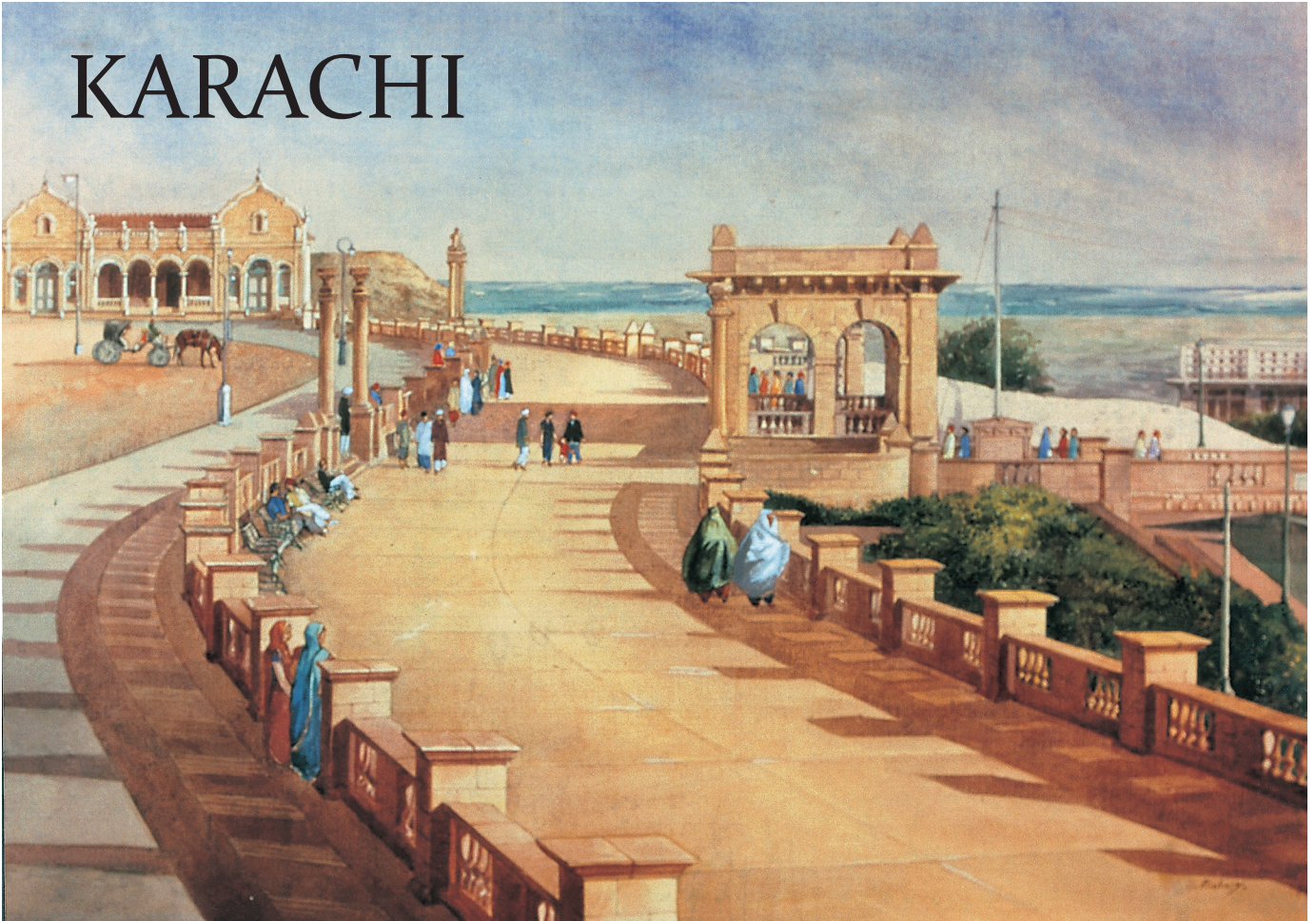


KARACHI



Scene in Aqua tint of the Jehangir Kothari Parade, New Clifton, Karachi.

During the 17th and early 18th centuries, Karachi was a prominent deep-harbour port used to export opium brought from the northern provinces to China. Like Bombay its sister city, Karachi had merchants who came from all over the world to trade. There were Armenians, Jews, Azeris, Christians and Arab traders living in the city.

The Parsis began to migrate to the port city of Karachi in the aftermath of General John Jacob's conquest of Sindh in 1846. General Jacob was an officer of the East India Company and with him came Parsis, mainly from Navsari and Surat working as commissariat agents for the British. Some, stayed in Jacobabad the town named after him while many settled in Karachi. Like in Bombay the Parsis in Karachi helped build the ports, hospitals, educational institutes and buildings of public benefaction in the city.

At its apex in the early 1900s over 5000 Parsis lived in Karachi. Today fewer than a thousand Parsis continue to live in Karachi where there are two functioning fire temples, the H.J. Behrana Fire temple and the D.M. Wadia Fire Temple. The Parsis of Karachi live largely in their own colonies and have retained their own personal and religious laws.