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CHOWKIDAR

Volume 8 Number 3 Spring 1998
Editor: Dr. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

British Association For Cemeteries In South Asia (BACSA)

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Notes on BACSA

The Association was formed in October 1976 to bring together people with a concern for the many hundreds of European cemeteries, isolated graves and monuments in South Asia.

There is a steadily growing membership of over 1,700 (1997) drawn from a wide circle of interest- Government; Churches; Services; Business; Museums; Historical & Genealogical Societies. More members are needed to support the rapidly expanding activities of the Association - the setting up of local committees in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc., and the building up of a Records archive in the Oriental and India Office Collections in the British Library; and many other projects for the upkeep of historical and architectural monuments.

The enrolment fee and subscription rates are obtainable from the Secretary.



The Association has its own newsletter, *Chowkidar*, which is distributed free to all members twice a year and contains a section for 'Queries' on any matter relating to family history or condition of a relative's grave etc. There are also many other publications both on cemetery surveys and aspects of European social history out East.

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THE MADRAS CITY POLICE

A chance remark in *Chowkidar* 'that the story of the lower ranks has yet to be written' prompted Derek Stokoe to compile a family history of five British police sergeants, based on personal acquaintanceship and records in the India Office Library. The history, entitled 'A family's long connection with the Madras City Police' is a model example of its kind, with an interesting text, a clear family tree and excellent photographs from family albums. 'Readers may', writes Mr Stokoe 'sometimes come across a reference to a "British police sergeant". The modest description "usually a former British soldier" may add a little more substance to the original reference. More often than not, perhaps inevitably, books on law enforcement matters are written by higher ranking members of the police service.'

The story starts with Allan Walton (1886-1962), from the mining village of Peckfield, near Aberford in Yorkshire, the son of a farm labourer. He began his working life as a miner, but the death of his mother prompted him to 'join up' and he was assigned to the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He thrived on Army life and achieved a Certificate in Education. He also became an accomplished horseman, and when he received his army discharge he was described as 'thoroughly sober and reliable'. Promotion in the regular army was a slow affair in those days, and Walton left to better himself in the Madras City Police in 1914. There he met, and was befriended by, Henry St Clair Gibson Lionel (1882-1920) who had been born and bred in Madras, from a family whose forbears had been in India since the late 18th century, with long connections at Fort St George. His invaluable local knowledge was a distinct advantage to the newcomer and the two colleagues became brothers-in-law when Allan Walton married Henry Lionel's sister, Inez Beryl Lionel, in September 1915. Five children were born of the marriage, two sadly dying in infancy from dysentery and diphtheria, and it is the third daughter, Joan Walton, who became Derek Stokoe's wife.

Service for police sergeants in India was certainly not dull, for they were dealing with communal disturbances, strikes at the Buckingham and Carnatic mills, general disorder, criminals of all kinds, and rabid dogs. On one occasion, surrounded by a hostile crowd intent on doing him harm, Allan Walton jumped his horse over a barricade and made his escape. He was once summoned to a jeweller's shop in Madras to find the owner lying on the floor with his stomach slashed open. He managed to save the jeweller's life with emergency first aid, earning the shop-keeper's grateful thanks, though Walton had to return the gifts of handsome jewellery which were subsequently pressed on him. He was awarded the King's Medal for Gallantry, with its proud inscription 'To Guard My People' although he modestly kept news of this award to himself.

Robert Spurling McMahon (1909-1983) was a nephew of Allan Walton, whose father (brother to Inez Beryl) was a sub-inspector of police. Robert and his sister Colleen were orphaned at an early age, and put into the Civil Orphanage Asylum in Madras. When Allan Walton and his wife learnt of this they promptly decided to adopt the children and bring them up with their own, a serious commitment on the less than princely pay of a police sergeant. Robert McMahon joined the Calcutta police in 1930 and served for thirty years. During the disturbances of 1946 he witnessed such dreadful atrocities that his mind was deeply scarred and he left the force in 1950 to settle in England. He never returned to India.

Tragedy struck the Waltons when Inez Beryl died suddenly from smallpox in April 1933. So feared was the disease that the local Minister did not attend her death bed, with the result that her death is unrecorded in the India Office Library records. She was buried in the cemetery at Tondiapet, just behind the isolation hospital, under a handsome marble cross and plinth. Sadly, when her daughters returned to visit the grave in 1988, they found both plinth and cross toppled and the surrounding chains and posts gone, but they arranged for a local mason to restore as much as possible.

Walter Henry Cutting Holdaway (1909-1968) was another regular ex-soldier who joined the Madras police, and became part of the Walton family by marrying their eldest daughter Aileen Barbara in 1937. His own father, Thomas Henry Holdaway (1869-1935) also served in the Madras force, once narrowly escaping the poisoned arrows of the Moplah tribe who were in revolt in the 1920s. Walter Holdaway, like his father, preferred service in remote areas, for he was fond of wild life, and became a competent ornithologist and lepidopterist. Aged sixteen, Walter left the Lawrence School and enlisted at Wellington, in the Nilgiris, as a band boy in the 5/6th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. He served on the North West Frontier, where rifle stealing by tribesmen was so prevalent that the men had to sleep with their weapons chained to them. Horses were one of his enduring passions, which made him a good candidate for the police, whom he joined in 1936, after his Army discharge. Indeed, this seems to have been the common link between Army and Police, as the latter were receiving well-trained men to keep law and order. As Independence approached Walter was recalled to Madras and spent days and nights patrolling the streets on horseback.

The lives of these five sergeants were all closely interwoven, not only through their work, but through their marriages. Their history is beautifully illustrated with evocative photographs of wedding groups, young mothers with their children, life on the North West Frontier, and the restored grave of Inez Beryl. Mr Stokoe is to be congratulated on his research, and the family history will be a valuable asset to the BACSA archives.

MAIL BOX

✓ 'The Short Life of a Plague Doctor' is the intriguing title of an article contributed by Anthony Greenstreet of Camberley. The story starts just over a hundred years ago, on 16 November 1897, when the India Office wrote to Dr Henry Covernton Selby (Mrs Greenstreet's great uncle). 'You have been selected for temporary Plague duty in India' he was told. He was given two days to pack, and informed that his appointment was guaranteed for three months, and would possibly be extended, but was terminable on fifteen days notice. His salary would be Rs500 a month, and he got an 'outfit allowance' of £25 and a first class return passage. On his arrival in Bombay he was ordered to proceed to Poona and report there to the Chairman of the City Plague Committee for duty. There were 22 special plague medical officers on duty in December 1897 and they were allocated as follows: Bengal - 7; Madras - 7; Bombay, Sholapur and Nasik - 2 each; Belgaum, Dhulia and Malegaon - 1 each. Two of the doctors were Indians with British qualifications, and three others had 'home' addresses in India.

Dr Selby reached Poona on 10 December and stayed at the Napier Hotel. 'He died suddenly on 2 January - twenty-four days after arriving in India. He was buried on the following day, the arrangements being made by E Duckett, Army and Station Undertaker, of Petty Staff Lines, Poona.' The funeral cost Rs215 - a polished teak wood coffin for Rs135, first class hearse Rs10, masonry grave Rs41, six bearers Rs12, two carriages for bearers Rs3 and Government fee Rs14. A monument was proposed, but it is not known if it was ever executed. It was not money that persuaded Selby to become a temporary plague doctor, but possibly the fact that his cousin J Covernton, was a Professor of English and History at Elphinstone College, Bombay. Many years after Dr Selby's funeral (which he attended), Professor Covernton wrote 'Personally (tho' his colleagues failed to diagnose it) I think he caught the plague himself - owing to his keen and self-sacrificing interest in his work.' Mr. Greenstreet would be interested to know more of the circumstances under which temporary plague doctors were appointed, and their precise duties. BACSA would like to know if Dr Selby's tomb still exists in a Poona cemetery.

✓ The isolated grave of Peter Williams-Hunt lies high in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia, near the village of Tapah. He was a brilliant young anthropologist who was appointed Adviser on Aborigines (and Director of Museums) in the troublesome early days of the Malayan Emergency. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the aborigine groups in the jungle, and married a girl from the Semai group, a headman's daughter named Wa Draman. In 1953, while walking in the jungle, he fell and was impaled on a bamboo stake, sustaining injuries from which he died on 11 June.

Initially he was buried in a simple earth grave close to his wife's village, but later his many friends, aborigine, Malay and British paid for the grave to be roofed over, the area fenced, and a headstone erected. The grave was recently visited by a traveller, Peter Heber-Percy, who discovered it surrounded by deep jungle. The people of the nearby Batu Tige aborigine settlement apparently regard it as a sacred place, and believe that the dead man's spirit resides there. During Mr Heber-Percy's visit an aborigine relative of Williams-Hunt suggested that a lighted cigarette be placed in a bamboo stick by the grave so that the departed, always a great smoker, could enjoy it! A rather poor photograph of the tombstone reveals that Williams-Hunt was known to the aborigines as Bah Janggot, and that in addition to his widow he left behind a son, Anthony Peter to mourn his loss. The inscription continues: 'Another memorial is in the hearts of the people he loved and served so well.' We are indebted to Mr Michael Jones of Brecon for this story.

Virgil Miedema from Delhi recently had the opportunity to visit the old St Ann's Church in Indore and its two cemeteries and has sent an interesting report on what he found there. 'St Ann's Church (locally known as White Church; there is a red Catholic church down the road), is hardly standing, although an effort has been made to preserve the historic stained glass window above the altar and some of the pillars with memorial plates. The local English speaking congregation has built a new church next to the ruins of the old. The Masiha (Christian) Cemetery in the Azadnagar section of Indore is looked after by a local Muslim. The graveyard, which has sites from around 1800 onward, is completely overgrown but not yet encroached on and the boundary wall is intact. The congregation of St Ann's still uses it as a burial ground. Many of the head stones are damaged or removed. I was shown by the pastor of St Ann's, the Rev MP Dilraj, a pile of these which had been returned to the churchyard by some good soul. These relics could be returned to the graveyard itself.' Mr Miedema had gone to this particular cemetery in search of the grave of Sir Francis Younghusband's mother-in-law. 'I found it and the record of her burial in the church log. The grave has been severely damaged. The inscription on the base reads:

The HONble Augusta Frederica Anne/second daughter of/John, Lord Castleton of Upper Ossory/she married first/Lt. Colonel the HONble T. Vesey Dawson/Coldstream Guards/secondly, Charles [Magniac Hollingsworth, Colworth?]/She passed away at Indore on [Februa]ry 23rd, 1903./"Come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest".

Augusta (née Fitzpatrick) is said to have died at 'about 70, from old age, heart failure' and according to Patrick French in his recent biography *Younghusband, The last Great Imperial Adventurer*, she died while visiting her daughter Helen, when Younghusband was in Indore as Resident, before his Expedition to Tibet.

Augusta's grandfather, Hollingsworth Magniac (or Maynac) had opium trading concessions in southern China and went into partnership with William Jardine. After he sold out, the company became the famous trading house of Jardine, Matheson and Co. Sadly, Mr Miedema found that the second cemetery at Indore, near the television tower is almost completely destroyed and used as a refuse heap and latrine by the local *jhuggi* dwellers, who moved in some years ago. The Rev Dilraj has given up hope for this cemetery, but is seeking assistance for the former.

It is always nice to report a success, and readers who have followed the long campaign to safeguard the obelisk tomb of General Sir Henry Havelock, at the Alambagh Cemetery in Lucknow will be pleased to learn that it has now been made secure. The Editor found on a recent visit that all encroachments within the cemetery have been demolished, new gateposts built, a high barbed wire fence erected, and *chowkidars* posted day and night. The Archaeological Survey of India, who carried out this work, at the prompting of General Havelock's great great grandson Mark Havelock-Allan, and architect Arun Saksena, have also put up a large blue noticeboard, signposting the historic site. Congratulations to everyone concerned in the preservation of this important memorial. Sadly, reports have come in of other cemeteries in Lucknow, including the Kaisarpasand, burial place of Mariam Begum, the Anglo-Armenian wife of Nawab Ghazi-ud-din Haider, where all is not well.

Mr SK Pande from Bombay has kindly answered a query raised in *Chowkidar Vol 8 No 1* about the grave of Major Robert Gill, the artist of the Ajanta caves, who died on 10 April 1879. Not only does the grave still exist in the Bhusaval cemetery, but it is in excellent condition, newly whitewashed and wreathed with beautiful jasmine and bougainvillea (see page 57). Less happily, Mr Pande reports that a cemetery he found on a recent visit to Jaipur, on the old Maajibagh Road, is in a sad state. 'It contains graves of the staff of the Jaipur Residency, dating back to the 1840s. These are in a walled enclosure in the compound of the old Residency building, which is now the Rajmahal Palace Hotel. They are badly vandalised but are finely made with very delicate plaster ornamentation of the early 19th century. There are about 17 or 18 graves and inscriptions are available on six graves. This is on the north side of the hotel complex. As the cemetery is completely unprotected and is in a prime area, it is likely to suffer even worse depredations in the near future.' Mr Pande has copied out all the remaining inscriptions (BACSA has a completed list now) and he found 'a local citizen, who lives in a nearby shanty, who volunteered the information that the missing plaques had been stolen by the antique dealers of Jaipur and sold to foreign tourists.' What a pity that the hotel has not seen fit to preserve what could have been an interesting tourist attraction, and that Indian customs officials did not prevent prohibited historic artefacts from being smuggled out.

Chowkidar's reference to the Madras cyclone of November 1864 reminded BACSA member David Morphet of a description of the Calcutta cyclone a month earlier, in which over 90,000 people perished (see illustration on back cover). 'The first English mail steamer which arrived after the storm met hundreds of bodies floating out at the mouth of the river' reported 'The Times' correspondent Louis Jennings, whose house at Serampore was blown down about him. 'Incidentally' adds Mr Morphet 'when news of this disaster reached Queen Victoria, she sought details from the Viceroy and - with a nice sense of priorities - particularly expressed the hope that "the tomb of dear Lady Canning was not injured".'

CAN YOU HELP?

Only very recently has the Anglo-Indian community before 1947 been studied in any depth, and now it is surely time that some-one did the same for another minority group - the Armenians of India. The only extensive work seems to be that by Mesroby Jacob Seth, which was published sixty years ago. Although a little is known about the Armenians in northern India, especially as merchants in Calcutta, their activities in the south have not been investigated. This is why a short article by Omar Khalidi at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, is particularly welcome. Mr Khalidi has noted two Armenian cemeteries in Hyderabad, one of which, at Uppuguda in the old city, long predates the turbulent reign of Tipu Sultan. Forgotten for years, it was 'rediscovered' by an American anthropologist in 1971, and dates from 1640. One of its earliest burials was of a priest, the Rev Johanness, who died in 1680. The State Archaeological Department has excavated the cemetery, finding more previously hidden graves, and the site is now a protected monument. 118 graves have been identified, with 48 remaining inscriptions.

The majority of Armenians there were merchant traders, but one of them, Abid Avitek, had the unusual job of valet to Mahboob Ali Pasha, the Nizam of Hyderabad between 1869 and 1911. Abid quickly became indispensable to the Nizam, and it is said that he had easier access to him than his own Prime Minister. 'Every time His Highness unfastened a button or changed a garment Abid was there. He had to be...His Highness could not do without him'. Abid was instrumental in the Nizam's controversial purchase of the Jacob diamond in 1898 (see *Chowkidar Vol 8 No 1*) bought from the Simla merchant who inspired Kipling to create Lurgan Sahib. (Jacob is sometimes thought to have been an Armenian too.) It was shortly after this incident that Abid married an English woman and emigrated to England, settling in Devon. Unusually, he adopted her surname and is thus known as Abid Evans. One of the couple's sons, Alexander Malcolm Satur Abid Evans was educated at Clifton College, and subsequently joined the Nizam's service as a boiler inspector.

Alexander Evans prospered, setting up his own Company and the Palace Cinema (better known as the Palace Talkies). Abid Road in Hyderabad is named after him. But does anybody know when and where his father, Abid Evans died? Perhaps members and friends living in Devon could investigate, and let Mr Khalidi know, through the Secretary?

Charles Philip Brown (1798-1884) entered the East India Company's College at Haileybury in 1814 and spent most of his working life in the old Madras State (now Andhra Pradesh). He became an expert in Telegu literature, and on his return to England was made Professor of Telegu at University College London in 1865, becoming examiner for the Indian Civil Service Telegu test three years later. He died in London on 12 December 1884 and his death was notified at the Kensington Registry Office. He is buried in Kensal Green cemetery, although no tombstone remains. An enquirer from Nellore, India, Mr SP Rao is a great admirer of Charles Brown, and wishes to pay tribute to him in the 50th year of Indian Independence. 'This' he writes, 'will highlight the valuable and exemplary contribution of the British at personal level to the culture of the Telegu speaking people.' Mr Rao is particularly interested in tracing two things - an authentic portrait or photograph of Charles Brown, and any descendants of the great man. Can anyone help with these two queries?

Bosco Robert D'Gama from Santa Cruz, Bombay, is particularly interested in missionaries and their activities in the Western Ghats. His home town is the hill-station of Dapolee, about 150 miles from Bombay, where the European cemetery is now in a ruinous condition, with no inscriptions left. 'The last, and only, missionary in the area was the Rev Alfred Gadney, who did tremendous dedicated service for more than 50 years.' He retired to England in 1946 and Mr D'Gama wonders where his own grave lies. The earliest missionary he has found was Donald Mitchell of the Scottish Missionary Society of Edinburgh, who arrived in January 1823 and who tragically died only ten months later from malaria. He was buried in the isolated village of Poladpur, by the Bombay-Goa highway. Some years ago his memorial, around which iron railings had been placed at government expense, was in a poor condition. Has it disappeared completely today, Mr D'Gama wonders? Other places where he believes missions were founded, or missionaries stationed are Bankot, Harnai, Ratnagiri and Vengurla. Ideas please via the Secretary.

Georgina Gowans from the University of Southampton has set herself an interesting task. She is collecting, for a PhD, information on how British women readjusted to life here when they returned home from a prolonged residence in India. The majority of course came back in 1947, to face a country crippled by its sacrifices during the Second World War. Food was still rationed, the worst winter

of the century exacerbated power shortages, decent accommodation was hard to find, because much had been lost in the blitz and there were no servants. Some memsahibs, although they had successfully run large households, did not know how to cook, a problem compounded by scant rations. Others, whose dresses had been expertly made by *darzis*, now found that clothes were rationed as well, and everyone was exhorted to 'make do and mend'. Perhaps women who returned to pre-War Britain found it easier to adjust. And did they maintain their links with India? Personal or written reminiscences, covering the period 1900 to 1947 would be welcomed by Miss Gowans, who points out that these kinds of memories do not usually find their way into recognised archives. Please write to her at The Department of Geography, The University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ

✓ Ramona Venner is researching details of her ancestor Lt Henry Stamper of the 2/5th Native Infantry, who died at Puri, on the Orissan coast on 15 October 1805. Although he is mentioned in casualty lists there is no reference to how he died or where he is buried. Lt Stamper had served in the second Mahratta War at the reduction of Cuttack and the capture of Kurda. Miss Venner would appreciate more details on the campaign in Orissa, and any information on the Stamper tomb, believed to be at Puri. Letters via the Secretary please.

HEROIC FIGURES

Only a few days after the Autumn 1997 *Chowkidar* had gone to press, lamenting that we were no nearer to finding the statue of General John Nicholson which had stood at the Kashmir Gate, Delhi until 1956, a letter in 'The Daily Telegraph' solved the mystery. It had been re-erected at Nicholson's old school, the Royal School Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland. The Headmaster, PD Hewitt kindly sent us much valuable information, and a photograph of the statue in situ (see page 56). How it travelled from Delhi to Dungannon is related as follows:- the statue was removed by the Indian Government shortly before the centenary of the 1857 uprising, in case it became a target for demonstrations. It was then stored behind the walls of the British High Commission, but was in danger of being destroyed by vandals.

Mrs Edith Wilson, a missionary in India, wrote to her nephew, Major TCH Dickson of Miltown House, Dungannon, informing him of the removal of the statue and suggesting it should leave Delhi. Major Dickson was at the time a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal School and it was decided to offer the statue a home there. The Old Boys Association got together, permission was granted (through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) by the Indian Government for its transfer and it left Delhi on 17 July 1958, arriving at

Dungannon on 5 September, at a cost of £320. It was erected on a granite plinth, facing the School, and officially unveiled by Lord Mountbatten on 13 April 1960. A plaque attached to the plinth reads: 'Brigadier General John Nicholson, born 11th December 1822 a pupil of Dungannon Royal School 1834-1838. He led the assault at Delhi but fell in the hour of victory mortally wounded and died 23rd September 1857, aged 34. Fortes Creantur Fortibus.'

The message from the Adjutant General of the Army, Neville Chamberlain giving the news of his death said simply 'In him the Bengal Army has deeply to deplore the loss of one of its noblest and bravest soldiers.' Mr Hewitt tells us that the statue is made of bronze, but that Nicholson's ceremonial sword (in his left hand) has occasionally been stolen, so is now only put up for major School events. He adds that Lord Hailsham (Quentin Hogg), former Lord Chancellor is a distant relative of John Nicholson. BACSA, in return, is planning to send the School some photographs of the statue when it stood in the Kashmir Gardens so many years ago.

Last November saw the unveiling of the statue of another revered hero, that of Raja Ram Mohun Roy, which stands on the College Green, Bristol, in the shadow of the Cathedral. It was unveiled by the outgoing Indian High Commissioner, Dr LM Singhvi, and is the work of an Indian sculptor, whose name was unfortunately omitted from newspaper reports. Speaking of the decrepit tomb of this great reformer, in the Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Dr Singhvi said he has urged Chris Smith, the new Art and Culture Secretary, to intervene in the dispute over its repair. The Indian Government have on several occasions pledged money for restoration, but their offer has not been taken up by the cemetery owner, who has stated that the tomb is in a dangerous condition.

A memorial of another kind was reported last year by Council member Michael Stokes, from the little Kent town of Wingham. It is a superb baroque monument of 1682 to various members of the Oxenden (or Oxinden) family, one of whom, Sir George Oxinden, lies buried under an equally grandiose structure at Surat. The Wingham memorial is a masterpiece in marble, its sculptors supposed to have been Grinling Gibbons and his partner Arnold Quellin (see page 57). Black ox heads support an engraved plinth, above which are four sorrowing *putti* at the base of a richly carved obelisk of fruit and flowers. (Interestingly a head of Indian maize appears among them.) The inscription reads in part: 'In memory....of Sir George Oxinden Kt (who dyed at Surat in East India President for ye Honoble East India Company there, Governor of ye Iseland and Castle of Bombay) gave a legacy of £300 for ye erecting of this Monument.' The memorial almost reaches the ceiling of the south transept, and is fronted by an intricate iron and gilded screen. Well worth a visit.

NOTICE BOARD

The British Ancestors in India Society (BAIS)

This new Society was formed in 1995, and we have wished it well from the start, with its separate aims and complementary activities pursued by a rapidly growing number of enthusiastic genealogists, many of whom are also members of BACSA. The Patron of the Society is also a distinguished member of our own, Lord Weatherill, of Speaker fame. BAIS's emphasis on genealogy contrasts with our main focus on cemeteries; theirs towards records and research for the *individual* member, our towards charitable objectives which are essentially for *general* benefit through the restoration, recording and upkeep of all graves within particular places in South Asia. Both organisations do, however, share a joint interest in UK Monumental Inscriptions (MIs) that is, inscriptions in churches and churchyards in Britain with reference to the Orient), and family histories. Both are actively building up their own archives on these subjects with an understanding that we will exchange information, a process that has already started.

We have been asked by BAIS to encourage our members to send in copies of family history material, such as pedigrees, brief biographical records, photographs and so on, which will be added to their data base. These should be sent to: Alan Hardcastle, BAIS Archives, 48 Oak Bank, New Addington, Surrey CR0 9EB. One of our main concerns in this field is to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, both in maintaining our own respective records and to save researchers the anguish of recording diligently, only to find material has already been collected. We will be publishing shortly an index of the areas covered by BACSA (UK MIs and Family Histories) and our advice is to check first before undertaking any detailed research. This is not to discourage the occasional snippet of information gleaned from a random visit to a church which may or may not have been recorded, either in Britain or the East.

The Society for the Preservation of European Architecture in South Asia

This Society (SPEASA) was formed last year in response to the BBC television programme 'One Foot in the Raj' which showed colonial buildings, particularly in Calcutta, in a dilapidated and dangerous condition. The Society's aims are 'to facilitate the preservation of European architecture of the period 1670-1860 in South Asia, to assist and support local organisations who share this objective, and to promote related research and educational activities'. In fact it sounds like a 'BACSA for Buildings' which should certainly interest our members. Ideas and financial assistance would be welcomed by the Acting Chairman Dan Cruickshank c/o The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DX.

The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

BACSA members who attended last Autumn's meeting at the Commonwealth Institute will have enjoyed the short talk by Dr Gareth Griffiths on this new Museum, part of which opened last year. The Museum is housed in the largest group of Grade 1 listed industrial buildings in Britain, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Bristol Old Station, the earliest surviving railway terminus in the world. It is fitting that the British Empire should be commemorated in such a splendid location, and we will be organising a BACSA outing to it in the future. The Museum, at Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH (tel: 0117 9254980) contains a wide range of exhibits, including costumes, artefacts, furniture, diaries, photographs, films and an oral history collection. The majority of recent contributors to the oral history archives appear to be mainly old Africa hands, with few from the sub-continent, so perhaps this is where BACSA members could help. The Museum is also seeking to enhance its collections, and people wishing to donate items should contact Dr Griffiths at Temple Meads.

The CSA-BASAS Prize for young scholars

This is a joint prize of £100 by the journal *Contemporary South Asia* and the British Association of South Asian Studies, to be awarded for an outstanding paper by a scholar under 35 years of age. The winning paper will be presented at the BASAS conference in Manchester this April. It will also be published in *Contemporary South Asia*. The paper should focus on ways in which our understanding of contemporary issues in the sub-continent can be enhanced. Time is short, and papers must be submitted by 15 March 1998. Details from Dr Apurba Kundu or Dr Yunas Samad, at The Department of Social and Economic Studies, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP (tel: 01274 384 804)

BACSA visit to Knebworth, September 1997

During this very successful visit, organised by our Press and Publicity Officer, John Wall, the Secretary, Theon Wilkinson and his wife Rosemarie had the thrill of being driven around the grounds in a 1922 Rolls Royce (see page 68). Not just any Rolls Royce either. This one was an Indian Trials Car (demonstration car) supplied to His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur. Its Hindi numberplate is RJY 2 Nathdwara, having been presented by the Maharana to the Nathdwara temple. It is unique as the earliest original 20 horse power car in the world, and was a 'Torpedo' tourer. (Information kindly supplied by John Fasal who acquired the car in the 1960s.) Knebworth House itself is celebrated as the home of Robert Lytton, Viceroy of India and there is a permanent 'British Raj' exhibition commemorating his time in India and the great Delhi Durbar of 1877.



Found! General John Nicholson's statue, now at the Royal School Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland (see page 52)

Ruskin Bond (right) with another BACSA author, Andrew Ward, at the Landour Cemetery, Mussoorie in 1997 (see page 60)



top: The Oxinden Memorial, Wingham, Kent (see page 53)



bottom: The Bhusaval grave of artist Robert Gill, 1997 (see page 49)

Books by BACSA Members

[These can be ordered via BACSA, at no extra cost to the purchaser]

What Really Happened During the Mutiny: A Day-by-Day Account of the Major Events of 1857-1859 in India

PJO Taylor

Following the success of his *Companion to the Indian Mutiny* (1996) which adopted an encyclopedic approach, the author has taken the logical step of compiling a chronology of the Mutiny. This book is of smaller format, but no less densely packed, and ideally the two should be read in conjunction. The book under review carries the same definitive Mutiny bibliography as the *Companion*, nearly a thousand volumes in English (though it inexplicably omits Andrew Ward's magnificent Cawnpore book *Our Bones are Scattered*, mentioning it only in the text). PJO Taylor hopes that his numbering of Mutiny publications will become standard usage for scholars and antiquarian booksellers - an excellent notion. The value of the chronological, rather than the locational approach is that it allows one to see how that famous cloud 'at first no bigger than a man's hand' grew with horrifying rapidity over northern India. The first entry is for January 1857, eleven months after the annexation of Awadh, which was the political trigger for the uprising. Ominously the 'passing of the *chapatties*' had already begun, and the sepoy alerted to the greased cartridges.

The end of June 1857 marked the apogee of Indian success - the Lucknow Residency was firmly encircled, Meerut over-run, Delhi declared for the Mughal Emperor and the first Cawnpore massacre (of British men) underway. 'From now on the British built up their military power, largely by reinforcements from England, and began slowly to win back the ground that had been lost.' 1858 was the year of British retribution, the defeat of the now scattered Indian forces, the re-capture of the towns. The last entry is 1867, when Mr Burton, a police assistant in Lucknow, showing 'considerable detective ability' hunted down the man who had murdered his father, who had been political agent at Kotah, in Rajputana. 'The British retained long memories....and, despite proclamations and amnesties for many of the lesser rebel participants, continued to hunt down individuals for many years'. The black and white illustrations, though not of outstanding quality, are all taken from contemporary sources, including 'Punch', 'The Illustrated London News', and 'Narrative of the Indian Revolt'. The latter was issued in instalments, as news came in, literally a 'penny dreadful'. This adds an immediacy to the book, and provides the raw details, before the analysts and politicians got hold of the Mutiny and threw its long shadow over the remainder of British rule. A valuable book. (RLJ)

1997 Oxford University Press, Delhi Rs450 (£19.99 in Britain) plus postage pp323

Soldiers of the Raj: the Indian Army 1600-1947 ed. Alan Guy & Peter Boyden

This is the catalogue of the National Army Museum Exhibition of the same name. It is a large format book printed on fine paper and with excellent colour reproductions of many of the items that are on display in the exhibition which will run for another eighteen months. But it is more than that. Part catalogue and part wide-ranging collection of essays to provide background to the whole and to illuminate the individual artefacts on display, it is never less than instructive and often very much more. The first 196 pages comprise fourteen articles specially written for the publication. Each is written by an expert in his line. They cover such subjects as 'The early years of the East India Company's Armies to c1800'; 'Officers' Income, Expenditure and Expectations in the service of John Company c1750-1840'; 'Race, Caste, Mutiny and Discipline in the Indian Army from its Origins to 1947'; 'Arming the East India Company's Forces'; 'Arming the Indian Army 1857-1947'; 'The Indian Army in the Era of Two World Wars' and 'The Legacy of the Undivided Indian Army in the Sub-Continent' are just some of the titles. These fourteen articles cover all aspects of the history, the organisation and the administration of the Army for nearly 300 years, and they give a good overall picture of that period that is useful both as a reference or just for reading. Then follow 120 pages explaining and illustrating the items in the actual exhibition. The photographs and the colours are excellent, and full and informative explanations are given for every one of the displays. This is a book that every Indian Army officer should have if he is interested in the background and history of that army. Obviously not every regiment is represented by an item on display - that would not be possible, but this does not detract from the effectiveness of this book. Already some Associations have presented a copy to their Regimental Centre Museum in India or Pakistan where it will provide a really good reference book of the period when the Indian Army was an integral part of the Raj and the Empire. [With acknowledgments to the Indian Army Association Journal]

1997 The National Army Museum, London £29.00 plus postage pp367

Scenes from a Writer's Life

Ruskin Bond

One of the Editor's happiest memories of 1997 was sitting on a Mussoorie verandah drinking gin and tonic with the author Ruskin Bond while he related amusing stories from his new book. Now a wider audience can share my pleasure too, in this first autobiographical volume. Although much of Bond's writing is clearly based on his own experiences, he has not previously put it down in chronological order. We learn of his family, of Herbert Bond, born in 1863 at Islington, then in Middlesex, who enlisted for the Scottish Rifles when he was

twenty years old and who served in India, where he married Gloriana Elizabeth Enever, known later to young Ruskin as 'Calcutta Granny'. Although he writes sympathetically about children, and has written childrens' books, his own childhood was not an entirely happy one. Indeed Bond says if it had been, he would not have written so much about children, for those who spend a contented youth seldom remember much about it. His parents separated when he was seven, and after a miserable time in a Mussoorie convent school (tactfully not named), he lived with his father in Delhi for two years, during the Second World War. Bishop Cotton Prep School in Simla was more congenial, but it was here that he was told of his adored father's death from malaria, a tragedy one senses from which never fully recovered. But there were good times too, during Bond's three year sojourn in Jersey, and later in 1950s London, where his first prizewinning book *The Room on the Roof* was published. With a £50 advance on it from his publishers, he very sensibly bought a one-way ticket home to India, from where he has not moved since. And why should he? Up in the hills, with his adopted family 'a prisoner of love', as he puts it, visitors from all over India come to meet him (see photograph on page 56). How he got to this stage, from the day he returned to Bombay as a twenty year old in 1953, clutching a suitcase and a typewriter, will, we hope emerge in the next volume. (RLJ)

1997 Penguin India Rs200 plus postage pp178

Golden Afternoon

MM Kaye

In the first volume of Mollie Kaye's autobiography *The Sun in the Morning* we left the author exiled from her beloved (then undivided) India. Would she make it back? As the years passed and the second volume failed to appear, anxiety on both scores mounted. So it is a relief to report that *Golden Afternoon*, the second book in the trilogy *Share of Summer* was published last year, and yes, the author did go back to India, with her parents and sister Bets. Now a young woman, there were some changes on her arrival nine years later. Families she had known in Delhi had dispersed, and with those that remained, an invisible barrier seemed to have fallen between them and the English girl. This was partly because she had lost her once fluent Hindustani, which was never to be regained, but also because times were changing and there was disappointment, certainly among middle class Indians, that more had not been offered by Britain towards self-rule. Her father, nicknamed Tacklow, had returned to India to revise the treaties between the British and the princely states, notably Tonk, in Rajputana. Luckily this left plenty of time for a season in Simla, much of it spent designing shows for the Gaiety Theatre, for the author was an ingenious costume and scenery designer. There was also a prolonged visit to Kashmir. She found this a dreary place at first, cold and grey, with seemingly barren hills, but as spring came and covered them

with flowers, and a froth of blossom she became enchanted. There are idyllic descriptions of holidays around the lake, and painfully honest accounts of her entry into Srinagar society, via a formal dance at the Residency, when she had no partner and spent most of the time howling in the cloakroom. She also fell in, and out, of love. We leave the family as they embark for China, and hope that the third volume will not be too long delayed. *Golden Afternoon* is well illustrated with nostalgic photographs of a vanished era. (RLJ)

1997 Penguin Books £20.00 plus postage pp464

The Order of the Star

Evelyn Hart

This book too is the second part of a trilogy, and readers who enjoyed *The Stars Still Shine* (1990) will enjoy this romantic adventure story. It begins dramatically with the death of Camille Winter, the heroine of the first book, in the dreadful Yokohama earthquake of 1923. Camille's young daughter, Izolda is subsequently sent to live with her father, who promptly puts her into dreadful 'school' near Guildford (shades of young Rudyard Kipling here, not to mention *The Little Princess!*). It is Izolda's story, and her escape from darkness to light, that is the main theme of this novel. Set in China, England and France, it is an exciting tale, the more so since the author writes beautifully, with acute observation. In the best tradition of reviewers, we will not give away the ending. A sequel *Star of the Rising Sun* is due this spring. (RLJ)

1997 Severn House Publishers £16.99 plus postage pp314

Anniversary Chowkidar 1977-1997 - this was a special publication to mark BACSA's 20th anniversary and contained commissioned articles covering Calcutta cemeteries, 'Pakistan Surveyed', the India Office Library, BACSA books, British ghosts in India, War graves, and 'India in Britain'. It also has four short stories by noted BACSA authors. Some copies are still available from the Secretary, at £5.50 including postage.

Under the Old School Topee originally published by BACSA in 1990 has been re-published by the author, Hazel Craig. This revised edition includes updated information on the Schools mentioned, with details of ten more schools and reminiscences of past students. The new edition also contains two appendices: 'Who are the Anglo-Indians?' and 'A brief history of Dr Graham's Kalimpong Homes' by ex-student Pat Hardie, plus a list of useful addresses. Copies available through the Secretary at £10.00 including postage in Britain.

Books by Non-Members (that will interest readers)

[These should be ordered direct and not via BACSA]

The Making of Arthur Wellesley

Antony Bennell

The book gives the story of Arthur Wesley, covering a three year period of his service in India. The family name was changed from Wesley to Wellesley by his elder brother Richard, Lord Mornington. Lt Colonel Wellesley arrived in Calcutta in February 1797 with his regiment, the 33rd (West Riding) Regiment of Foot. He quickly appreciated the critical situation that existed within the East India Company's territories and soon proved himself to be a competent and stern leader. The Regiment moved to Madras, and Wellesley and the 33rd Foot campaigned against Tipu Sultan and were present at the capture of Seringapatam. Following the surrender, Wellesley was appointed Governor of Seringapatam and was able to demonstrate his ability to produce order out of chaos. The book glosses over the early years of his service in India and concentrates on the years 1803 to 1805 and the narrative has been compiled largely from correspondence of that time and gives an extremely good insight into the politics of the East India Company and its dealing with the Maratha Confederacy.

The book has a great deal of background detail which has not previously been covered in the many studies that have been published on Wellesley. It shows that he was able to take command and responsibility from a young age. He was only 28 years of age when he commanded the 33rd Regiment of Foot, and this experience in India was to enable him to accept the greater responsibilities during the Peninsula and Waterloo campaigns which culminated in his being created Duke of Wellington. The 33rd Foot was given the distinction of being named the Duke of Wellington's Regiment by Queen Victoria on 18 June 1853 just nine months after the death of Arthur Wellesley. It was the only British regiment to be named after a subject 'not royal'. The book, although extremely informative, is really a reference book for the historian and those studying Arthur Wellesley. It certainly should be included in all military libraries. (AH)

1997 Oriental Longman, Hyderabad Rs280.00 (£17.95 in Britain) pp235

Dr Brighton's Indian Patients: December 1914 - January 1916 Joyce Collins

Brighton has had an Oriental air about it ever since the Prince Regent got his modest farmhouse re-designed and transformed into the Royal Pavilion. Before the Pavilion stands the Indian Memorial Gateway, which was unveiled and dedicated by the Maharaja of Patiala in 1921. Up on the Downs at Patcham is the Chattri, which marks the cremation place of Hindu and Sikh soldiers who died in

Brighton during the First World War. A photograph shows wounded and sick Indian soldiers in Army cots in the Pavilion itself, dwarfed by Mughal columns and Saracenic arches. One might imagine that the War Office had charitably decided the men would feel more at home in these surroundings, but the true story of how these soldiers found themselves on the Sussex coast is much more interesting. Joyce Collins has written a fascinating 'local history' of the period between December 1914 and January 1916 when wounded Indian troops arrived from the Western Front at Brighton, long known for its salubrious climate. Three military hospitals were quickly established as soon as the numbers of casualties were known. Apart from the Royal Pavilion, there was the old Workhouse (renamed the Kitchener Hospital) and the York Place Schools. The arrival of the first Indian soldiers (100 of them stretcher cases), created so much local interest, especially from 'crowds of women' that wooden screens had to be erected around the Pavilion railings.

Everything was done to make the soldiers feel welcome and, as they recovered, picnics and outings were arranged, including visits to the Theatre and car rides. They were showered with gifts of warm clothing, and visited on several occasions by the Royal Family, Lord Kitchener, and their own officers. Appreciation of the debt Britain owed to her Indian soldiers was deep and genuine, for they had not expected when they joined up, to fight in Europe. Unlike their British comrades they got no home leave. Medical treatment in Brighton was given by British doctors and surgeons, many of whom were from the Indian Medical Service. The clerks were all Indian, as were the cooks, *dhobis* and sweepers. The author has packed a huge amount of interesting, well researched detail into this short book, some from contemporary accounts, but with a useful perspective from current military historians. It is well illustrated with unusual, and sometimes moving, photographs. (RLJ)

1997 Brighton Books, c/o ETP 9 South Road, Brighton BN1 6SB (tel: 01273 542660) £6.50 including postage pp33

Resorts of the Raj: Hill Stations of India

Vikram Bhatt

There are generally reckoned to be about eighty hill stations in India, divided into different groups. Many of course are in the Himalayas, but there is a scattering around Bombay and in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. British officers, says the author, were not posted or sent to destinations in India, but were *stationed* there. British residences were also 'stations', which is how the term arose. It must be baffling for foreigners who will look in vain for railways in the majority of such places, just as one's heart sinks on being told an official is 'out of station'.

Vikram Bhatt is an Indian-born architect at McGill University, Montreal, and it was during a visit to Simla that he conceived the idea of this beautiful book. Specifically he was standing in Christ Church on the Mall, and noted that though repairs were needed, much was still intact. The pews with their brass plaques were dusty, but neatly arranged in the right order: 'row one, His Excellency the Viceroy; row two, the Commander-in-Chief'. It was as if the colonial rulers had never left India, but had just gone down to the plains for the winter months and would return for the summer season at any moment.'

This is the first time that a comprehensive survey has been undertaken of all the Indian hill-stations, though there have been detailed studies of a few, which Bhatt has utilised well. It is particularly interesting to see the stations through the eyes of an architect, although we could have done with more on the different building techniques employed, and the various materials used, not to mention getting them to the sites in the first place. For example, Mussoorie's magnificent Savoy Hotel, the largest hill station hotel in India, was carried up the bridle path from Dehra Dun by 'Mr Buckle's bullock-cart train', three decades before the first combustion engine set wheel there. Building materials, grand pianos, crates of champagne, billiard tables, Edwardian wardrobes - all travelled up, and much is still there, including the sprung floor of the former ballroom, still bouncing agreeably as the bearers pad across it.

The book is magnificently illustrated with colour photographs on nearly every page. The recent interior shots of places like the breakfast room of the Fernhill Palace Hotel, Ooty, and rooms at Chapslee, Simla are particularly interesting, for many written descriptions exist of British domestic life, but comparatively few photographs. One would not envy though, the boys of St Joseph's College, Darjeeling, in their huge, spartan dormitories, their iron bedsteads jammed up against each other. It is easy to see how epidemics ran through establishments like this before the use of antibiotics.

There is also a good selection of 19th century plans, maps and prints, including one of 'The Viceregal Progress in the Himalayas: Lord Elgin on a raft made of inflated buffalo skins crossing the Beas River near Simla', which is beyond the surreal. Chapter headings give an idea of the scope of the book - 'A Home away from Home' 'Salubrious Sanatoria', 'Cultural Antecedents' 'Simla, the Abode of the High and the Mighty' and 'Resorts then and now'. The author has not only spent time in libraries, but has gone up into the hills to talk to the people who live there, and this fascinating book is the result. (RLJ)

1997 Mapin Publishing Pvt.Ltd, Ahmedabad Obtainable from The Antique Collectors' Club, 5 Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1DS £45.00 (Rs 1950 in India)

The Khasis of Megalaya in north eastern India believe that they were driven from their original homeland by a catastrophic flood. They were, before the flood, a literate people, but their sacred scripts were destroyed during the deluge. For generations the survivors were only to communicate by word of mouth, though they retained a dim, folk-memory of the written word. 'Then a strange new shadow appeared...the shadow of a *phareng* - white foreigner - from a land called Wales far to the west. Tucked beneath the stranger's arm, and pressed between two black boards, was a collection of scripts. The book.'

This is the starting point of Nigel Jenkins' journey to Megalaya, from Wales, to investigate 'the biggest overseas venture ever sustained by the Welsh' that turned hundreds of thousands of Khasis into hymn-singing Presbyterians, inaugurated literacy and literature, founded hospitals and schools and transformed their world. It is both a travel book, which can easily stand comparison with those of Byron Rogers, Geoffrey Moorhouse or William Dalrymple, and a biography of Thomas Jones (1810-1849), whose name is revered among the Khasis. It is also a reflection on Wales, the earliest English colony, as the author reminds us, who sent out her missionaries to another colony, with little tangible return at first. The book is not a polemic either for or against proselytising - the author simply, and often hilariously, records what he found. The Khasi friends he made could not believe that Jenkins, a Welshman, was not a Presbyterian, or even, God forbid, a Christian. 'You, a Welshman, are not a Christian? How could it possibly be? A Welshman who doesn't believe in God? Something's gone terribly wrong here.'

But everything is right with this book. Jenkins, with no prior knowledge of India (painfully obvious on his arrival in Calcutta), puts up a proposal to the Welsh Writers' Trust for a ticket to that 'green and mountainous country' with abandoned coalmines and ironworking, where the landscape is dotted with cromlechs and monoliths, where Christianity is stronger than the old faith and where the churches resound with the great Welsh hymns, and whose national anthem is a native version of 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' - the Khasi hills. His proposal is accepted and he sets out, learning as he goes about the Welsh missionaries who worked, and often died there, between 1841 and 1969.

In Calcutta he finds the grave of Thomas Jones, the first of about 200 Welsh missionaries, in the Scottish cemetery, beautifully maintained. Recently the Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Synod erected a new stone of Italian marble which records 'the founding father of the Khasi alphabet and literature and the pioneer of the Welsh Presbyterian mission in Khasi hills'. Thomas's long suffering wife, Anne, who died shortly after childbirth, was buried at Cherrapunji. Her grave seems to have been swept away in the devastating earthquake of 1897, along with the

houses of 21 missionaries, 30 chapels, two hospitals, 250 schools and a Theological College, a measure of how extensively the missionaries had established themselves within half a century. It was an isolated life for the early pioneers. Thomas Jones had to learn the Khasi language entirely without books, and within six months began to use it to preach. His Welsh upbringing had made him a practical man, who was able to introduce helpful innovations to his converts. He persuaded the lime-kiln burners to use charcoal instead of wood. He devised an efficacious alcohol-based antiseptic, (though strong drink was absolutely forbidden by the missionaries). Little wonder that the sesquicentenary of his arrival in India was celebrated by a quarter of a million Khasis, in Shillong, in 1991.

The courage of these 19th century preachers was equally matched by the courage of their first converts, facing family ostracism and sometimes physical incarceration. U Larsing Khongwir, born about 1836 was such a convert, and the first Khasi to visit Wales, where he preached to a spellbound (and uncomprehending) congregation in Khasi. Sadly he died at Caergwrle on 24 August 1863, from pleurisy, and was buried in Chester Public Cemetery to the strains of 'There is a happy land, far, far away...'

It is surprising that Jenkins' book, published three years ago, did not receive much notice outside Wales. The culprit is probably the title. BACSA members excepted of course, the general public does have a problem with foreign words, being just about able to manage Byzantium but sticking on anything more exotic. We are indebted to the Rev Dr Daniel O'Connor, Canon Emeritus of Wakefield Cathedral for bringing this excellent and original book to our notice. (RLJ)

1995 Gomer Press, Llandysul, Dyfed SA44 4BQ, Wales £9.95 pp320

Fate knows no tears

Mary Talbot Cross

The author has chosen India as the backdrop for her first novel, and has filled it with characters from the British expatriate community, largely the Military, and based more or less on the lives of General Malcolm Hassells Nicolson and his wife 'Violet' Nicolson, better known as the romantic poet Laurence Hope. It is perhaps unfortunate that she has chosen the medium of fiction for this gripping story. It reduces Laurence Hope to a bit part in a novel, when her life was clearly one of amazing drama and awakened passion, as her verse clearly shows. Readers of Chowkidar will remember the queries raised over the years concerning this larger than life woman, her poetry, her last days in Madras (at one stage she and her husband stayed at the Connemara Hotel), her suicide and her grave in St Mary's Cemetery.

Laurence Hope's popularity as a poet was staggering, and her books went into many editions both in Britain and the USA. She became even better known after eight of her poems were set to music by Amy Woodford-Finden, including the almost immortal Kashmir Song 'Pale hands I loved beside the Shalimar', which is sung to this day. Mrs Nicolson's pseudonym protected her at first, but the female nature of 'Laurence Hope' was soon seen for what it was. Thomas Hardy had, in this case, some interesting thoughts about lady writers who sheltered behind a male name.

Mrs Cross covers the ground that this curious couple trod in a straightforward and competent manner, but her overuse of endearments and childish nicknames often grate. She has used her research well and the story is well paced, though she has determinedly used most of her considerable findings in a long novel which has had to be physically compressed, and the small typeface is difficult to read without strain. The best sections of this entertaining book are the physical descriptions of places visited by Laurence Hope, which are often vividly portrayed. Her description of England in the early years of this century ring very true. She has not gone 'over the top' as her subject did, so that Laurence Hope comes over as more compassionate than passionate, childishly hostile rather than blazingly sincere and a better companion than lover - which I rather doubt. But this is a useful addition to the understanding of the work and nature of an undervalued poet of the Empire. (JJ)

1996 The Shalimar Press (copies obtainable from Jenny Carter c/o 83 Don Street, Old Aberdeen AB24 1UL, Scotland) £11.95 including postage pp277

Books also received (some of which may be reviewed later)

Lucknow: Memories of a City ed. Violette Graff
1997 Oxford University Press, Delhi Rs475 pp299

The Princes of India in the Endgame of Empire 1917-1947 Ian Copland
1997 Cambridge University Press £35.00 pp302

Moghul Cooking: India's Courtly Cuisine Joyce Westrip
1997 Serif Publishing, 47 Strahan Road, London E3 5DA £11.99 pp236

Viceroy: Curzon to Mountbatten Hugh Tinker
1997 Oxford University Press, Karachi £11.99 (Rs price not given) pp266

The First Indian Author in English: Dean Mahomed (1759-1851) in India, Ireland, and England Michael Fisher 1996 Oxford University Press, Delhi Rs425 pp368

Stop Press

The Friends of Sri Lanka Association will be marking Sri Lanka's 50th anniversary of Independence with an exhibition of 'Antiquarian Prints and Maps of Ceylon'. The 140 exhibits are mainly prior to the mid-19th century. The prints come from the early British period, around 1800 and are by resident British and touring Europeans. The maps date from the time of Ptolemy. The exhibition will be held at the Art Connoisseur Gallery, 95-97 Crawford Street (off Baker Street) London W1H 1AN, between 26 and 30 May 1998 (10.00 am to 5.00 pm). Taken to Sri Lanka last year, this unique collection attracted much interest, in a country which pays much attention to all periods of its recorded history - nearly two and a half millenia. Entry is by purchase of an illustrated catalogue. For further details phone 01892 822987 after 15 March.

*Books from India: where prices are given in rupees, the books can be obtained from Mr Ram Advani, Bookseller, Mayfair Buildings, Hazratganj PO Box 154, Lucknow 226001, Uttar Pradesh, India. Mr Advani will invoice BACSA members in sterling, adding £3 for registered airmail for a slim hardback and £2 for a slim paperback. Sterling cheques should be made payable to Ram Advani. Catalogues and price lists will be sent on request.



Rosemarie and Theon Wilkinson at Knebworth, with John Fasal at the wheel (see story on page 55)



Storm damage after the Calcutta cyclone, 1864