

CHOWKIDAR

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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 1,600 (1994) 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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A Nice Cup Of Tea

'The Tea Industry was the foundation upon which Sri Lanka's modern economy was built and that industry grew from the first planting of tea by James Taylor in 1867.' Taylor came to Ceylon in 1852 from the little town of St Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire in Scotland, whose population numbered only 2,000 souls, yet at one time there were no fewer than fourteen St Laurencekirk men in Ceylon. After six weeks probation on the Narangeria Estate in Deltota he moved to nearby Loolecondera which was then an undeveloped area that had just been cleared. The young man, only 17 years old, handled most of the work himself, building roads and digging holes for planting. He experimented with growing cinchona, the tree from which quinine is obtained, and his success with it led to the estate owners suggesting he sow tea, as a new crop in 1867. Taylor was described as being 'entirely devoted to his work. Self-advancement has been as nothing in his eyes. He has cared for his work, and for that only.' The first plantings covered 19 acres and the veranda of his bungalow became the 'factory' where leaf was rolled on the tables by hand. Firing was carried out on clay stoves over charcoal fires and with the leaf in wire trays. The teas were sold locally at Rs1.50 per lb and were thought delicious.

By 1872 he had a fully equipped factory with a mechanical roller which he had designed himself. The first Loolecondera tea seems to have reached London a year later, valued at 35s 9d per lb and the local price increased too as improvements in pruning and plucking were made. A disastrous blight had destroyed Ceylon's coffee crop, but curiously Taylor seemed slow to extend his planting of tea at this opportune moment. The estate changed hands several times until it emerged in 1897 as the Anglo-Ceylon & General Estates Co Ltd (a name it retained until 1975 when it was nationalised). Taylor found it hard to adjust to the requirements of his new masters and made many unsuccessful applications for land of his own. By 1892 the relationship was strained. He was asked to take six months sick leave, but protested he was in perfect health and that his employers were simply trying to get rid of him. Ironically he then contracted dysentery and died in his log cabin within two days, on 2 May 1892, still in his fifties.

Tributes poured in and past differences were forgotten. An obituary in the Ceylon Observer said 'The indomitable determination which this fine specimen of a Scottish Colonial displayed in fathering the tea enterprise of this colony calls for something more than an ordinary stone to mark his resting place.' He had been known among his workers as Sami Doral, and they revered him as a god. Twenty-four men carried his coffin to the funeral at Mahiyawa Cemetery, Kandy. Two gangs of twelve men took turns every four miles and managers and labourers walked behind the pall bearers. The funeral procession had start-

ed in the morning and reached the cemetery only at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. His sister purchased a 6 foot by 4 foot plot of land in the Presbyterian Section and the monument subsequently erected there read 'In pious memory of James Taylor of Loolecondra Estate, Ceylon, the Pioneer of the Tea and Cinchone Enterprises on this island who died May 2 1892, aged 57 years. This stone was erected by his sister and many friends in Ceylon'. Photographs show the handsome memorial, with a sculpted cross in good condition, and also, touchingly, the ruins of his log cabin and the pool in which he would take his evening dip. His was a solitary life, but not untypical of the dedicated planters who gave the sub-continent one of its most profitable exports.

Mail Box

Chowkidar's article on British funeral pyres in India (Vol 7 No 2) brought in a letter from Mrs Maureen de Sausmarez, whose father was cremated in Nagpur in 1953. Clarence Reid Hemeon was commissioned in 1916 and joined the ICS six years later with the rank of captain. After a distinguished legal career he was appointed Judge at the High Court, Nagpur. He was only a few months away from retirement when he died suddenly on 18 November 1953. As his widow walked from the hospital an old man stopped her and said touchingly 'Memsahib, now he has gone, who will look after the poor?' Judge Hemeon had left orders for his cremation, which was going to be carried out by sweepers on the banks of the Nag. But some of the Brahmin High Court Judges were so horrified at hearing this that they asked the widow to let them cremate the body according to Hindu custom, even though, of course, it meant breaking their caste. An enormous crowd gathered, the cremation duly took place, and the ashes were transported in a special box to Ireland. Much later it was discovered that the Judge's widow had allowed two Brahmins to scatter a small portion of the ashes onto the waters of the Ganges 'that his spirit may stay with us forever'. The Brahmins had to pay large sums of money for purification after the cremation, but it is a measure of the affection in which they held their fellow Judge.

James Whittaker, whose letter about his great grandfather's cremation led to the original article, has now returned from India 'after the holiday of a lifetime'. He visited the memorial to General Sir James Willcocks, erected by the Maharaja of Bharatpur in the 1920s which stands in a wheat field near the centre of town. 'Built of red sandstone, typical of the area, it has not surprisingly decayed a little. Only the central cross remains, probably because this is not a Christian country. The steps are crumbling badly and the floor inscriptions have all but disappeared. The railings have also gone and grass grows on the top of the memorial.' Even so, it is still recognisable, and Mr. Whittaker's photograph on p60 taken this February is an interesting comparison with that of 1927 (*Chowkidar*, Vol 7 No 2, p36). The burial of the General's ashes took

place at St James's Church (Skinner's Church) Delhi, and he is further commemorated by a handsome plaque near the nave.

More conventional funerals in India are remembered by Mr R Nissen who attended Bishop Cotton School, Simla in the early 1920s. He was also a Rifleman in the Simla Rifles, India Defence Force and this entailed attending sixty parades of an hour each in every year, for which he was paid Re 1 per parade. Attendance at military funerals counted as four parades. Mr Nissen was a member of the Guard of Honour at the funerals of Major General Bridworthy and of Brigadier General Abbott at the newly opened cemetery at Sanjauli in 1921. 'These military funerals were very impressive affairs. The body would lay overnight in Christ Church on the Ridge. Next morning, for the first five hundred yards from the church and the last five hundred from the cemetery the band would play Chopin's 'Funeral March'. We would march at the slow march at the beat of the drum with our rifles reversed under our right arm. The coffin was carried on a mountain artillery gun, followed by an officer carrying the medals and orders of the deceased on a red velvet cushion, followed by the officer's horse led by its 'sayce'. The riding boots would be placed in the stirrups facing in the reverse direction'. Mr Nissen adds that his own distinguished grandfathers General James Devine (1837-1894) and Col GKC Nissen (1837-1887) are buried at Baroda and would like to know what state of repair these graves are in.

The grave of Col Jim Corbett in Kenya was giving cause for concern earlier this year, as we reported. BACSA Council member RB Magor, Chairman of one of India's largest tea companies, offered immediate help 'as reading his books has given me so much pleasure'. Jerry Jaleel from Canada, who first alerted people, has now visited the cemetery at Nyeri and got repair work done. 'With the help of several Africans the Corbett grave was finally restored, the marble head stone was re-erected straight and the frame work was washed to give its true colour.' Jim Corbett rests in good company for Lord Baden Powell's grave is only a few feet away in the Nyeri cemetery. Mr Jaleel has set up the Jim Corbett Foundation to look after the grave on a regular basis and plans to open a modest museum with copies of Corbett's books, letters and photographs. Anecdotes or photographs of Corbett, who died in 1955 will be passed to the Foundation via BACSA.

It is sometimes nice to be proved wrong and the Editor is the first to admit that she too is not infallible. *Chowkidar* Vol 7 No 1 carried an article on the old cantonment cemetery at Mariaon, north of Lucknow, describing it as empty except for two large memorials. Visiting it a few years ago, when the grass and bushes were uncut (the Editor is only five foot tall), it did indeed seem that the pre 1857 tombs had vanished. However, a recent visit after the site had been

tidied up revealed a number of substantial tombs still in situ, battered and stripped of all inscriptions. Accompanied by Mr Ashok Priyadarshi, former District Magistrate of Lucknow, a keen historian, and carrying the old photograph of Mariaon reproduced in *Chowkidar*, I was able to stand exactly where the first photographer had stood. The past and the present slid magically into focus. The next day Mr Priyadarshi kindly sent his photographer to the cemetery and readers will find it fascinating to compare today's view on p61 with that taken 138 years ago. Although a new colony is rapidly growing up around the graveyard walls, it is hoped that the cemetery will remain a tranquil park like the Lucknow Residency.

Mr Ronald McAdam, a new BACSA member, returned recently from a visit to India where he was engaged in some family research relating to his father's Army service there from 1930 to 1934. As a result he visited several graveyards in Delhi, Lucknow and Faizabad, in the UP. At the latter cantonment cemetery he was searching for the graves of six Cameron Highlanders, all friends or colleagues of his late father, who served with the 1st Battalion of that Regiment. He was very saddened to see the state of the cemetery there. 'The entrance and surrounding walls are crumbling fast and in danger of collapsing.' (see p60) Inside, the ground is 'completely overgrown and jungle-like. Many of the graves are inaccessible, and large trees predominate the whole area. It was with the greatest difficulty that I located the six graves of interest to me. The headstones are made of high quality material which is very resilient in the climate, and therefore in remarkably good condition, although some of the black engraving is eroded. A large mature tree grows out through the middle of one of the graves.' Mr McAdam was surprised to learn that while the graves of those who fell during the two World Wars are maintained, beautifully, by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, no provision was made to keep up those of soldiers who died between the Wars. The sad fact is that there is simply no money available, other than that donated as charity, much of it through BACSA. A lump sum allocated by the British Government at Independence for cemetery maintenance was exhausted by 1960. Over two million Britons are estimated to lie buried in the Indian sub-continent, many of whom are now, in truth, known only to God. Mr McAdam hopes to arouse interest in the upkeep of the Faizabad cemetery in particular and to publicise the condition of other forlorn sites.

On a lighter note, there comes a little story which has nothing to do with India at all, but which is too good not to share. *Family Tree Magazine* reported last year that visitors to the Upper Nazareth Cemetery, Jerusalem, were a touch perturbed to hear a telephone apparently ringing from a grave. The mystery was solved when it was realised that a mobile phone had been accidentally dropped into the grave of Rabbi Pinhas Miller during his interment, and the loss was unfortunately not discovered until the grave had been covered in!

Can You Help?

A forgotten pioneer of medical and other inventions in early 19th century India was recently mentioned to the Editor and was swiftly followed by a learned paper on Julius Jeffreys. The author, Dr David Zuck explained that the respirator, used today on life support machines and ventilators, is based on an invention of Jeffreys, who is credited in the Oxford English Dictionary with the first use of the word. Jeffreys was born in September 1800 at Hall Place, Bexley, near London and his father, the Rev Jeffreys served as Chaplain to the East India Company from 1803 to 1810. This was how the initial Indian connection arose. Young Julius studied medicine at Edinburgh and London and became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London in March 1822. He was accepted as assistant surgeon at the Bengal Presidency, which required him to pass an examination in Hindustani. Arriving in Calcutta during a cholera epidemic he was attached to the General Hospital, and at one point had more than 200 patients under his care. He set himself to study the effects of the Indian climate on health, at a time when no concessions were made by Europeans to climatic differences. Troops frequently went down with heat stroke because regiments drilled during the hottest time of the day. There was a mistaken belief that it was dangerous to live at an altitude above 4,000 feet, because of the rarefaction of the atmosphere.

But Jeffreys found that the climate of the hills was excellent, and stayed at Simla, 7,000 feet above sea level, in its earliest days, when only one other English house existed there. He wrote a report advocating the establishment of convalescent stations at places like Simla, which led to a Commission of Enquiry, then action, so one could say that the subsequent development of hill stations stemmed at least indirectly from Jeffreys' report. He served most of his time in Cawnpore and married there in 1826. Three sons and twin daughters were born during the next six years. Arising from his climatic studies, he designed installations and apparatus for cooling dwelling places and barracks. One of these consisted of a series of water-filled pits, over which air was drawn and cooled by evaporation and then pumped into the dwelling by a pendulum action quadrant pump, which he called the Refrigerator, an early use of the word. He studied air flow through the solar topi, insisting that it should not be hermetically sealed to the head, and invented a flounced heat-resisting military costume for the troops, of distinctly unmilitary appearance. He transferred to the civilian establishment about 1830 and interested himself in developing the natural resources of India. He established factories to manufacture pottery, brickwork, saltpetre, soda water and stoneware jars, designed furnaces and kilns and was, not surprisingly, commended for his enterprise by the Governor General Lord William Bentinck. Failing health brought him back to England in 1835, but even on the journey home he invented a method of converting the

rolling and pitching motion of becalmed ships into a useful, slow forward movement.

Jeffreys died at Richmond, Surrey on 13 May 1877. Dr Zuck was able to find his grave in the cemetery there. He describes Jeffreys as embodying 'all the qualities that characterise our ideas of the typical Victorian. He was inventive, enterprising, entrepreneurial and philanthropic: and he had a simple religious faith that was strongly combined with a belief in progress and in the abilities of science to solve all problems - to the extent that the single-minded application of scientific principles, unaccompanied by commonsense, took him into the ridiculous on more than one occasion.' Dr Zuck is now planning further research and would welcome more information about Jeffreys and his descendants, particularly the son who emigrated to New Zealand.

Mrs Jean Ames from Leicester is trying to trace the tomb of her great grandfather, Adolphus Lee Hurley of the Medical Department, Bareilly. His wife's name was Mary, and two children were born of the marriage, a boy (unnamed) and a girl, Clementine Eileen May Hurley, born in 1888 and baptised at the Catholic church there. Family history relates that Adolphus and his wife were 'slaughtered in riots in India', perhaps a local disturbance, and that the two children were placed in orphanages in Agra. A Catholic priest, Dominic Francis Gonzalvez, who entered the Church after being widowed, noticed Clementine in the orphanage and subsequently left the priesthood to marry her in 1909 at Lahore. Clementine's brother returned to England in the 1930s or 40s, so there may be Hurley descendants who are distant cousins of Mrs Ames. Initial searches of the Bareilly cemetery records have not so far uncovered the Hurley great grandparents, killed in a riot, but BACSA members may have other leads.

Another interesting Catholic (and medical) connection comes from Mrs Patricia Witcher of Gloucester, a descendant of the Pouget family who served in India from 1778 to 1835. Joseph Pouget, born about 1759 entered the Indian Medical Service in 1778 as Assistant Surgeon, was noted as Surgeon at Surat in 1796 and retired to Lympton, Devon, in 1809. Joseph's parents were French, and a note on his career in Crawford's 'Roll of the Indian Medical Service' adds that it was most unusual to appoint a Frenchman to the IMS and unheard of to appoint a Catholic! He aroused much opposition and it may be a memory of this chauvinism that led to his final retirement in Italy, with his second wife Maria Perkin. He died in Florence in 1833. Two sons were born in India, Robert John, at Bombay in 1787 and Peter William at Surat in 1794, but their mother's details are unknown. Both boys remained in India after their father's departure. The youngest, Peter, became a captain in the 10th NI but was cashiered in 1827. Robert served with the Corps of Engineers, Bombay,

and reached the rank of Lt Colonel. He had two children, Catherine and Henry Francis, but again, their mother is unknown. Robert subsequently married Elizabeth Paget of Devon in 1820, and she adopted Catherine as her step-daughter. Many questions are still unanswered about the family tree. It may be that both Joseph Pouget and his son Robert had Indian wives or bibis, whose names are not recorded, but any information would be welcome.

A more recent burial may be easier to find. Bombardier Alfred George Reynolds of the 86/16 Brigade, Royal Regiment of Artillery, died at Mhow on 9 May 1931. His nephew Dilwyn James Reynolds would like to know if a headstone marks the grave, and whether a photograph could be obtained?

'Many years ago' BACSA was able to provide some notes for Peter Rogers, about his father, the late George Denzil Rogers. Now he hopes for information about the burial place of his grandparents, George Joseph Rogers and Catherine Louise Stack Rogers (née Pembroke). Until his retirement in about 1920 George was employed by the Foreign and Political Dept of the Indian Government as Superintendent of the Residency Office, and latterly as Assistant Resident in Srinagar. For some reason, Peter Rogers' father was reluctant to talk about his parents, or his brother Gilbert and sister, Doris (Harrison). A chance encounter after the Second World War, seems to indicate that both George and Catherine may have been still alive in India about 1945. If so, they would both have been in their 80s. Theirs was possibly a 'mixed' marriage, since Catherine's family was Catholic, George's Protestant. Our enquirer believes that the Rogers were of Irish stock, but is still looking for his grandfather's place of birth, and death, and details of his uncle and aunt.

Mrs Angela Middleton is trying to find the grave of Barbara Innes Taylor, who died on 20 December 1836. It is listed in Crofton's *Inscriptions on Tombs or Monuments* (1941), at Jalna Cemetery, Aurangabad District, Hyderabad. Barbara was the wife of Major William Taylor of the 39th Regt Madras NI. Her father was Major General James Innes, who died in September 1818 and is supposed to be buried at St Mary's Cemetery, Madras, although his tomb seems to have vanished by 1905. Any leads would be welcome, as Mrs Middleton intends to visit the area this year.

The Kolar Gold Fields

A query about the Kolar gold mines in Mysore brought in some interesting papers collated by David Barnard, and a letter from Frank Leeson, who visited them in 1948 when they were still operating at full capacity. The mines, sixty miles from Bangalore, though known collectively as Kolar, comprised four separate mines, the Nundydroog, the Ooregum, the Champion Reef and the

Mysore. Gold had been mined in India since prehistoric times and the Roman historian Pliny recorded extensive working in gold and silver in Rajputana and the Deccan. The Mysore mines seem to have been abandoned for centuries, and it was not until 1802 that Lt John Warren of HM 33rd Regiment heard rumours about finds in the area. He was unable to substantiate these stories, and a consortium of Bangalore residents formed in 1860 to prospect, were equally unsuccessful. It was an Irish soldier, Michael Lavelle, settled in Bangalore, who in 1871 persuaded Major General de la Poer Beresford that the site was worth looking at once more. The General formed a syndicate known as the Colar Concessionaries Co Ltd who began prospecting again, and within a decade eleven companies had been floated. The Mining Engineers Messrs John Taylor & Sons of London began a long association with the Field and by 1945 approximately 720 tons of gold had been found.

An account by the late John Hohnen, an Australian appointed as Agent in 1936 has fascinating little insights into life underground. Among his five servants was a 'tea-boy' whose job was to accompany Hohnen on daily visits to the workings, carrying bottles of salt water and changes of clothing. The heat underground was so intense that four hours was considered the maximum that a European could bear. Air conditioning was introduced later, but one wonders how the Indian miners survived. Although they were well looked after, with an on-site hospital, insurance, sick benefits, and allowances, basic wages were between Rs 40 and Rs 80 per month. Miners received a clothing allowance of Rs 6 per annum 'as an inducement to wear clothing while at work and thus avoid many of the trivial cuts and scratches which might result in loss of time'. A sizeable community developed around the mines, with schools for the workers' children, religious buildings, recreation clubs, a maternity hospital and decent housing. Panchayat Courts were set up, based on the traditional village forum to mediate in disputes. Most of the foremen were English 'Tommies' recruited on retirement from the Army, but there was also a handful of Italians (a traditional source of skilled miners), and some Anglo-Indians.

Frank Leeson described his descent into 'the principal mine via a 50-man lift which travelled at 40 mph through 6556 feet - the deepest single elevator journey in the world [1948], ending 3613 feet below sea level. The general appearance and atmosphere...was like a London tube station, the tunnels and halls being well lined and lit, with a telephone exchange and workshops in evidence. Another lift took us down to the 91st level at 8600 feet where the tunnel entered through an air-lock, protected only by steel rail sets. At the end we squeezed into a bucket which took us down a further 200 feet to the bottom of a shaft where the 93rd station was being built. Although the mines are still worked today, the area has become very run down, and the seams of gold are almost exhausted. The adjoining British cemetery, as *Chowkidar* reported earlier, is quite derelict.

Lost At Sea

Mention of the *Colebrooke*, an East Indiaman that sank near Cape Town in 1778 on her way to Bombay, brought, to our great surprise, an eye-witness account from John Stevenage, the great great grandfather of BACSA member Patrick Stevenage. In researching family papers, the Log Book of the *Colebrooke* came to light and it makes 'dramatic reading...the scrappy nature of the entries and the shaky handwriting towards the end enhanced the description of the event.' Patrick Stevenage adds 'My surname would have died out if John had not survived the wreck. Every Stevenage I have discovered, right across the world, is descended from him.' John had enlisted as a Private in the East India Company's Madras Regiment in 1778, aged nineteen. He stood 5 foot 3 inches in height, the minimum requirement at that time. He described himself as a native of Surrey and gave his former occupation as 'glazier'. John was due to sail out on the Indiaman *Stafford*, bound for Madras, but was transferred to the *Colebrooke* because Sir Eyre Coote, the new Commander-in-Chief in India and his party decided to embark on the *Stafford*.

By August 1778 the *Colebrooke* was in False Bay, near the Cape, when she struck rocks and began to ship water. Boats from the accompanying convoy of Indiamen came to her aid and took off some passengers, as the stricken vessel tried to land on a sandy shore. Twenty men were lost (not three, as we thought), but it was still a remarkable rescue effort by the Company ships. John Stevenage eventually reached Madras in December of that year, and appears for the first time in the Company's establishment list on 2 January 1779. (The record shows that he had landed from the *Stafford*!)

BACSA member Malcolm Sutherland has pointed out that the ill-fated ship was in fact named after Sir George, and not Sir Edward, Colebrooke. It was Sir George (1729 - 1809) who was a Director of the East India Company, and probably a member of the syndicate which owned the *Colebrooke*. Sir Edward (1813 - 1890) was his grandson, and also had Indian connections, being born in Calcutta and becoming Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector Allahabad in 1834.

Obituary Zoë Yalland, 1922 - 1994

BACSA members will be saddened to learn of the death of Zoë Yalland in November 1994. She had been an enthusiastic member of the Association since its inception in 1976, drawn in by her brother Theon Wilkinson. Zoë's special interest was in Cawnpore, where she was born and brought up. She wrote and researched the BACSA publication on the Kacheri Cemetery, Cawnpore, and published two extensive histories of the town *Traders and Nabobs* in 1987 and its sequel *Boxwallahs* 1994 (reviewed on p59) She was an internationally

acknowledged expert on Cawnpore and her advice and expertise was sought by everyone interested in the town, and especially in its part in the Mutiny. She was a familiar figure at the BACSA Annual General Meetings in London, with her affectionate greetings of friends, which was also gladly extended to anyone who wanted to tap into her wide knowledge of British India. She gave her time generously, and expected a similar reciprocation from people working in her field. Friends and acquaintances came to respect her phone-calls probing into chance remarks or sentences, which made them go back to examine their sources. It was a useful and rigorous exercise, teaching one not to make sweeping statements without proper documentation, or at least to defend one's views, faced with her gentle, but pertinent questions. When news of Zoë's death reached Cawnpore, her many Indian friends there organised a memorial service, as a tribute to a fine historian, but also to a much loved daughter of Cawnpore. She is deeply missed, and lovingly remembered.

Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

Notice Board

This year sees the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the foundation of La Martinière School at Lucknow, which was established in 1845 from funds bestowed by the Frenchman Major General Claude Martin. The General instructed in his Will that schools should be established at Lyon in France (his birth place), at Calcutta, and at Lucknow where he spent the last 25 years of his life. At a time when the education of girls had hardly been considered, he wanted both boys and girls to be taught, and he also stipulated that children 'of any religion' should be admitted to the schools. The Lucknow College, situated in Martin's great palace-tomb of Constantia, is arranging a splendid programme of events, including an exhibition to be opened by the President of India on 7 September 1995, many sporting events, a seminar, dinner dance, and a Commemoration Service on the date of the Founder's death (13 September). The Hon Sec Mr JS Kaul would like to invite UK Old Martinians to attend, and is also compiling a Directory of Old Boys. The Editor (who is planning to attend) will forward the September programme and details to all Old Martinians on receipt of an SAE to 135 Burntwood Lane, London SW17 OAJ.

'Indian Ink' is the name of a new play at the Aldwych Theatre in London by Tom Stoppard, who, as a child, was educated in Darjeeling during the 1940s. Set in a princely state in Rajputana, 'Indian Ink' stars Felicity Kendall, whose own father Geoffrey, led a group of touring players to India in the 1940s, bringing Shakespeare's plays to schools, under the banner of 'Shakespeareana'. Their adventures were chronicled in the 1970s film 'Shakespearewallah' with Shashi Kapoor, who, in real life, married Felicity's elder sister, Jennifer. Art Malik who played the part of Hari Kumar, in the television series 'Jewel in the

Crown' is the male lead in the London play. Stoppard's drama moves effortlessly between 1930s India and the 1980s, with evocative sets of the 'Club', the dak bungalow, the Raja's veranda and the train to Jamapore. There is a touching scene in a hill station cemetery that had the audience reaching for their handkerchiefs. Recommended for BACSA members within easy reach of London.

Books by BACSA Authors

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

Boxwallahs: The British in Cawnpore 1857-1901 Zoë Yalland

'And here's one of Aunt Emma at Cawnpore in 1880 on a picnic.' How often has the heart sunk as another page of the family album is turned and another sepia figure in Victorian dress presented? Yet if the late Zoë Yalland had been the host, then guests would have sat entranced as she talked them through the photographs. She has unfolded the story of a small town in British India, well illustrated with pictures from many family albums, including her own. How a determined band of British factory managers backed by Indian bankers, transformed the north Indian town of Cawnpore (present day Kanpur), from a place of bitter Mutiny memories into a thriving industrial centre, exporting cotton, woollen and leather goods, is the central theme of this entertaining book.

Aptly, the author chose not to tell her story through statistics, trade figures, or detailed analysis of economic out-turns, but through vignettes of the men and women who worked in Cawnpore during the late 19th century. Present day historians of India concentrate on trends and movements to justify the thesis that Britain's economic strength during the Victorian era sprung from the exploitation of cheap labour in the colonies. This is undeniable, but to judge the men of yesterday only by today's standards is a fruitless exercise. Unless we put them in context (deconstruction, if you like), then we learn nothing from the past. As Yalland skilfully points out, these British entrepreneurs were men with a pragmatic, not an imperial vision. They seized the opportunities of post-Mutiny India, importing new technology from the West to run their woollen and cotton mills and their tanneries. Not least, they gave regular employment to a great number of Indian workmen, whose lot was undoubtedly improved by the vision of these men.

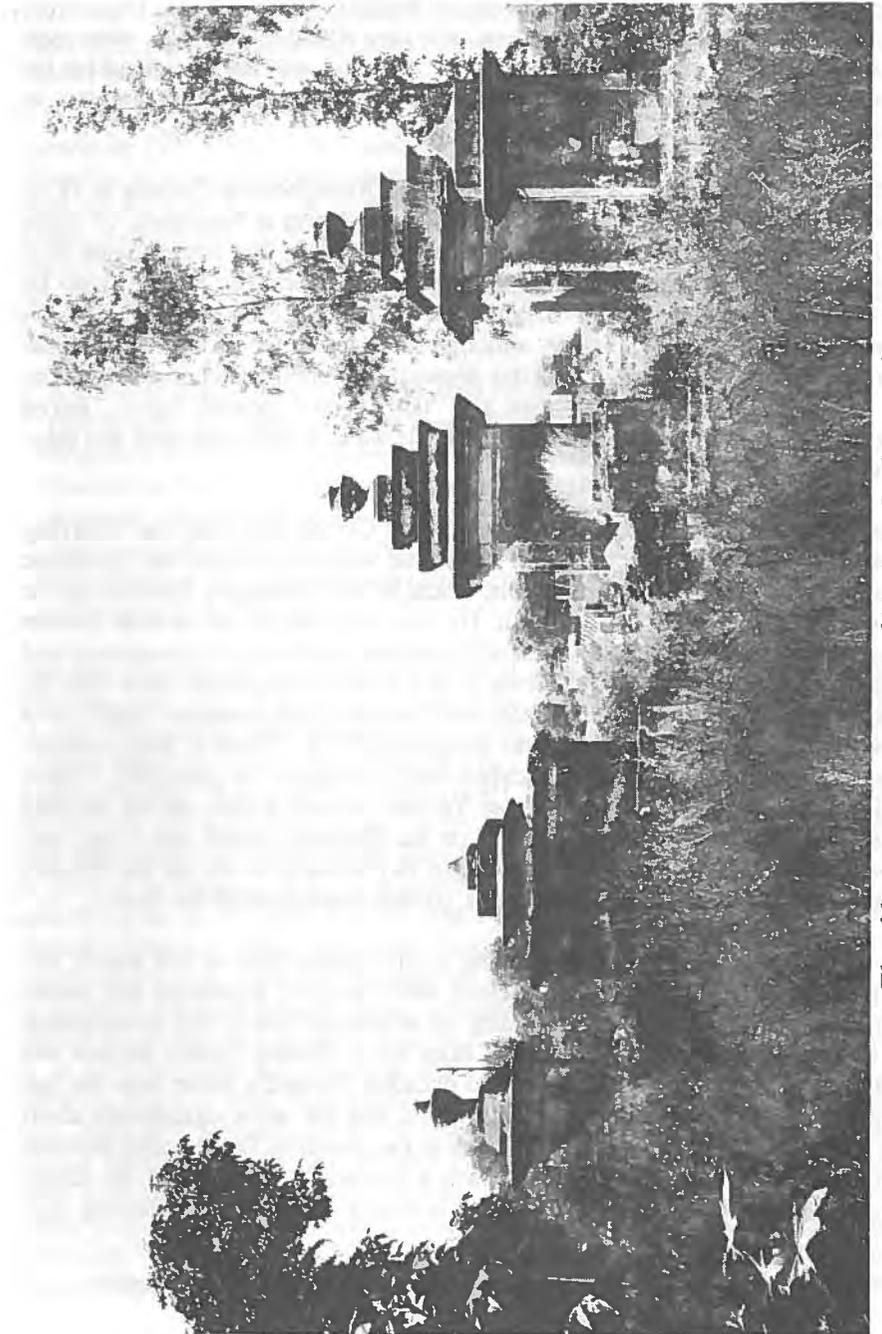
Many came from humble backgrounds in Britain, and few had the education or training considered necessary for captains of industry today. These were not university men sent out to rule India, but engineers, clerks, technicians and



General Sir James Willcocks' memorial today at Bharatpur (see p50)



The lych-gate at the cantonment cemetery, Faizabad (see p52)



The old cantonment cemetery of Mariaon, Lucknow, today

chemists who answered advertisements in their local newspapers. There were men like Alexander McRobert, born in a tiny Aberdeen cottage, who took charge of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills in 1885 and was later knighted for his work in developing the mills into one of the largest manufacturing concerns in India.

Others had long family ties, like Gavin Sibbald Jones, born in Calcutta in 1835, who worked with his brother on the family indigo farm at Fatehgarh, 75 miles north of Cawnpore. In the early days of the Mutiny, the two boys thought they would be safer in the British cantonment at Cawnpore, but arrived there by boat just as the massacre of Britons was taking place on the banks of the Ganges. Jones swam for his life, although wounded in the shoulder by a musket ball. His brother was killed. After desperate adventures and near starvation, he re-joined his fellow countrymen as a 'tall, spectral looking figure... naked except for a piece of cloth wrapped round his waist, much emaciated and dripping with water.'

Jones subsequently worked in the new Elgin Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company (which became the Elgin Mills) and went on to found the Cawnpore Steam Saw Mills, and the Muir Mills, where he was Managing Director on the modest salary of Rs 150 per month. He was only one of the several Britons responsible for the industrialisation of Cawnpore, but his well documented and illustrated life forms a central theme of this book. Photographs show how he matured from a serious young man with mutton chop whiskers (1865) to a grandfather playing with his grand-daughter (1913). (There is also a photograph of the pants in which he escaped from Cawnpore, on page 26!) 'I have talked with his grand daughter' wrote Yalland 'who as a little girl sat on [his] knee and looked with awe at the scar on his shoulder shaped like a star, and learnt it was from the wound sustained that day when he swam for his life during the Great Mutiny'. Real history, this, passed down through the years.

The strength of this book is in bringing to life figures from an old album, letting us share their hopes, fears, illnesses, daily routines, arguments and reconciliations and at the same time building up an unique view of the development of Cawnpore. Much of the material is from letters, diaries, factory records and oral family history, collected over two decades. Yalland's father was the last British Managing Director of the Elgin Mills, and she wrote extensively about the place where she grew up. (This book is the sequel to *Traders and Nabobs*, published in 1987). Cawnpore never was a handsome place; unlike its neighbour Lucknow, but thanks to Yalland it is now a much more interesting one. (RLJ)

1994 Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd. £28.00 plus £3.50 postage, pp504.

Regiments: Regiments and Corps of the British Empire and Commonwealth 1758-1993: A Critical Bibliography of their Published Histories compiled by Roger Perkins

A first 1989 edition (pp 382) of this unique work was reviewed in Spring 1990 *Chowkidar* (Vol 5 No 5). This new edition is compiled on similar principles as the earlier pioneering endeavour, but in many respects, is a very different book. Most errors and omissions in the first edition have been eradicated, and the project restructured, the Canadian, Australian and African sections being considerably improved. It is only possible in this review to illustrate the meticulousness and methodology of some 2,000 bibliographical entries by reproducing just one:

A ROUGH SKETCH OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE IRREGULAR HORSE OF THE BENGAL ARMY with Hints for Improving the Regular and Irregular Cavalry of that Presidency, by an old Cavalry Officer. Anon (Maj Gen Charles M. Carmichael) * E Briere, Paris n.d. (c1854). Seen without covers, details of original binding not known 8.25 X 5.5 viii/74. Fp, no other ills, no maps, no appendices, no Index. * A slim volume, useful mainly as a contemporary account of the formation and equipping of several Bengal Army Regiments of Irregular Horse (and including Skinner's). An extremely rare work.

This new encyclopaedic edition (pp806) will probably be the final one; it may therefore seem like cavilling to allude to the non-inclusion, mentioned in my earlier 1990 review of disbanded regiments like the 42nd Deoli Regt, 43rd Erinpura Regt and 44th Merwara Regt. They served faithfully in 1857 and for seven decades thereafter. For instance Captain O'Moore Creagh, later Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, earned his VC in the second Afghan War with the 44th Merwara Regt. They were disbanded due to no disloyalty on the part of the classes in these regiments, eg, Bhils, Mers, Katats etc, but on account of the post World War run-down of the Indian Army in 1922. In the absence of any traceable regimental histories of these regiments, mention could possibly have been made for posterity of their only extant capsule histories in the splendid Medico-Topographical Accounts published by the Indian Medical Service for regimental medical officers, available in the India Office Library. eg, in 1905 by Major HR Woolbert, IMS, Civil Surgeon, Ajmer and RMO 44th Merwara Regt; in 1907 by Captain BB Paymaster, IMS, RMO 43rd Erinpura Regt. Similarly, for units of the former Madras Army like the 77th and 78th Moplah Rifles (formerly the 17th and 25th Madras Infantry), eliminated a few years after the 1903 reorganisation, the only extant historical account would appear to be the admirable 1904 Recruiting Handbook for regimental recruiting parties on 'Moplahs'. That the valiant Sikh Light Infantry, successors to the famous Sikh Pioneers, finds no mention is, of course, not an omission by the

compiler. but of the regiment, as it does not appear to have produced a regimental history since the regiment was raised in World War Two.

In view of BACSA members' association with the sub-continent, comments in the main are confined to the Indian Army. In the context of South Africa, a book that needs mentioning however is 'The Unknown Force - Black, Indian and Coloured Soldiers through two World Wars' by Ian Gleeson (1994). (This may have been published after 'Regiments' went to press.) To conclude, in its genre, this handsome monumental book makes a truly grand sweep of the uniformed forces in question, enhanced by evocative introductions, and chronologies to the respective parts; it will be of very considerable value to the current reader and researcher. (SLM)

1994 Roger Perkins PO Box 29 Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1XU pp806 £92.50 plus £5.00 postage, pp.806

Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra and Rain in the Mountains both by Ruskin Bond

The first book, published in 1991 (and incorporating earlier stories), led to the Sahitya Akademi Award for English writing in India, presented to the author in 1992. It contains a number of short stories set in Dehra Dun, where the India-born author lives, as well as autobiographical episodes. 'Calypso Christmas' describes his brief, and not very happy stay in England, when Christmas Eve in a bedsitter in Swiss Cottage turned into a happy, West Indian party, led by George, a ticket collector who befriended the young writer. His seemingly effortless style leads the reader through the changing seasons of the Himalayan landscape, introducing local characters, like the old English speaking beggar, relatives, friends and lovers. The boundaries between fact and fiction are deliberately left undefined, as they should be in all good writing. 'A Flight of Pigeons', the long novella, which was filmed as 'Junoon' by Shyam Benegal, is reprinted here, the strangely haunting story of the capture of a young English girl by a Pathan during 1857.

'Rain in the Mountains' is a more personal book, almost at times a diary, when everyday events, seen from the window of his hill-side cottage, lead on to reminiscences, to discourses about the trees and mountains, and of course, to the villagers who pass by. There are poems as well, and a 'thirty minute radio play' whose cast includes 'Miss Mackenzie, an active old lady; Colonel Wilkie, retired from the Indian Army; Anil, an Indian schoolboy, and an old bearer'. With characters like these you cannot fail. Ruskin Bond was recently made an Honorary Member of BACSA in recognition of his writings on Himalayan

cemeteries (among other pieces), and for work in promoting the Landour cemeteries. (RLJ)

Our Trees Still Grow In Dehra 1991 Penguin India Rs 95 pp164 (paperback)
Rain in the Mountains 1993 Viking India Rs 250 pp251 (hardback)
Both books obtainable from Ram Advani Bookseller (see inside back cover)

Architecture in Victorian and Edwardian India ed. Christopher London

This is the first ever volume by Marg Publications devoted to the subject of architecture in Victorian and Edwardian India. Compiled under the guest-editorship of Dr Christopher London, it contains nine fascinating articles (including three by BACSA members) on, or relating to, the subject. Its arresting dust jacket showing an Indo-Saracenic detail of Madras University prepares the reader for an architectural feast. There are however surprises in store. Although the general focus throughout the volume is on Indo-Saracenic buildings, a great variety of other distinctive styles of architecture are also discussed. By way of an introduction, the first article gives an account of the formative years, between 1856 and 1900, of the Sir J.J. School of Art in Bombay, providing an enlightening background to the subject. It deals with the various personalities including Joseph Crowe, Lockwood Kipling and John Griffiths, whose thinking shaped and influenced the school's syllabus and attitudes towards both artists and artisans. The volume ends appropriately with an article on the public commemorative statues, including both Indian and British celebrities, reminding the reader that public sculptures are very much an integral part of an architectural or environmental setting.

The remaining seven articles contain an equally interesting array of topics: two are devoted to the Indo-Saracenic buildings, firstly on those in Madras, and secondly in other places that include, in addition to Madras, Allahabad, Baroda, Trivandrum, Hyderabad and Calcutta. The authors have also carefully analysed the specific characteristics of the style in terms of regional preferences. The result is that Indo-Saracenic structures in Baroda or Hyderabad, for example, look very different from counter-parts in Madras or Calcutta. Another article highlights the late Mughal structures which are not normally associated with Victorian or Edwardian architecture in India, but which are contemporary with it. Several residential and religious buildings erected in Oudh, Murshidabad and Rampur have been selected for discussion: the examples include Zafar Mahal constructed by the last Mughal ruler, Bahadur Shah, the Mosque of Hamid Ali Khan, Delhi, the Kaisarbagh, Lucknow, the Neo-classical Hazarduari Palace at Murshidabad and in complete contrast, the Durbar Hall at Rampur which was built only in 1904. A revealing article is devoted to Lucknow, including an account of the reasons for the redevelopments after 1857 which explains much about the city's layout today. Victorian Cawnpore is

the subject of another article which provides a deep insight into both the well-known and the minor buildings of the period, reflecting the author's close personal involvement with the city. Another article is devoted to the various houses of Rabindranath Tagore, at Jorasanko in north Calcutta, at Shelidah and Shahzadpur (now in Bangladesh), and lastly those at Shantiniketan. It also reveals much about the poet's personal feelings concerning buildings and the environment in general. The architects, George Wittet and John Begg, who had such an impact on the growth of Edwardian Bombay, form the subjects of another article. It is refreshing to read about this later period as opposed to the earlier decades, which were dominated largely by the work of FW Stevens, who was responsible, among other buildings, for the noted Victoria Terminus. The author stresses, for example, the fine spatial qualities of the General Post Office, an architectural triumph which is often overlooked, partly by being in close proximity to Stevens' grand creation.

The volume is richly illustrated with many unique photographs, which include interiors and details providing an additional dimension. It is to be hoped that this inspired publication will be followed by more volumes, devoted specifically to the subject of Victorian and Edwardian India, and become part of a series by Marg Publications. (PR)

1994 Marg Publications, Tata Ltd. 18, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HS (Tel: 071 235 8281) £35.00 plus postage, pp148

Souvenirs of a Competition Wallah: Letters and Sketches from India 1932-1947 Denis Hayes Crofton

The author, initially of the Bihar cadre of the ICS, and after 1947 of the Home Civil Service, has recorded the main events of his life in India, mostly by quoting from some of the letters written to his wife and parents. Validly the author recalls, 'a letter quoted verbatim and in its proper context is the voice of the person you then were, uttering what your thoughts then were untrammelled by hindsight'. Moreover, for much of his life he has been a sketcher, and painter in watercolours, and such sketches and beautifully-colourful paintings that have been reproduced, vividly help to recall the Indian scene.

The book encompasses his initiation into the ICS after Oxford; his marriage, and sub-divisional and settlement training, mainly at Muzaffarpur; sub-divisional officer at Giridih (now a district) and Dalbhum; a spell in the Bihar Secretariat, and then a deputation to the Government of India at Delhi/Simla; District Magistrate Shahabad (now the districts of Rohtas and Bhojpur) after the August 1942 disturbances, and Secretary after this to five distinguished Governors of Bihar - Sir Maurice Hallett, Sir Francis Mudie, Sir Thomas Rutherford, Sir Hugh Dow and Mr Jairam Das Daulat Ram. Amidst the

accounts of travelling in these districts by bicycle, on horseback and in his private car (there were no staff cars or official jeeps then), there are humorous anecdotes, for example at Jamshedpur (where most of Tata's officials were Americans or Europeans, although the staff were being Indianised): 'I recall one of the Indian officers who had been educated in England and joined up in the Middlesex Regt in the First World War. When the Sergeant Major, who was taking his particulars, asked what his religion was, he replied "Parsee", to which the Sergeant Major replied, "Either you're RC or C of E, but you can't be Parsee."' Though the author does not name this Tata official, it is undoubtedly KAD Naoroji, the grandson of Sir Dadabhai Naoroji, MP. This book strikes many evocative chords of recognition of a now bygone era. (SLM)

1994 Volturna Press, available from the author at 26 Vauxhall Gardens, Tunbridge Kent TN11 OLZ £12. 50 post free, pp233

Kent House Colombo: Letters from a Wren, 1944-1945 Jean Chitty

This is an unpretentious little paperback with a certain charm that will appeal to the general reader and social historians of the second World War. The author worked for naval intelligence at Stanmore (an out-station of the Bletchley Park headquarters) and subsequently in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was not allowed, under Ministry of Defence regulations, to reveal anything of the important duties carried out, but still managed to write home regularly lively, chatty letters to her parents. If pressed on what she was actually doing, the author claimed it was 'clerical work'. Disarmingly, she kept up a lively round of social events and chatter, despite being laid low with dengue fever in November 1944. 'The naval sisters are so nice, the VADs are haywire but quite good at the job and the ayahs never stop giggling, whether they have just been cursed into heaps or not. So the atmosphere is marvellous', she recorded from her hospital bed. A light, but enjoyable, relaxing read, and nicely illustrated too. (RLJ)

1994 Belhaven, 8 King's Saltern Road, Lymington, Hants SO41 3QF £7.99 plus postage, pp189

The Ilberts In India 1882-1886: an Imperial Miniature Mary Bennett

This is the twenty-fifth book in the BACSA series about Europeans in South Asia, of obvious interest to members, but with a wider public in mind too. Based on a number of family letters, it tells the story of the author's grandfather, Sir Courtenay Ilbert, who spent four years as Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council. The episode of the 'Ilbert Bill' created a political furore at the time and remains a landmark in the history of British India. It covers as well the Russian war scare over the Afghan frontiers, the acquisition of Upper Burma and the birth of the Indian National Congress; but primarily paints an

unusually vivid picture of daily life in a warm-hearted and intelligent liberal family, set against the shifting background of late Victorian imperial politics. The author had a distinguished career herself, serving for ten years in the Colonial Office after the second World War, and returning to Oxford as Principal of St Hilda's in 1965.

1995 BACSA £9.00 plus £1 postage, pp204 (paperback)

Books by Non-Members (that will interest readers)

[These should be ordered direct and not via BACSA]

Childhood in India: Tales from Sholapur George Roche, ed. Richard Terrell

Children of the Raj have written extensively about their early lives, usually through a haze of nostalgia, for indeed it was a golden period when the *baba log* were surrounded in India by loving ayahs and servants, to whom they were often closer than their parents. Quite rightly, they saw India as their real home and found visits to England depressing and cold, in many ways. 'It was strange' wrote Roche of London in 1919, 'never to see a brown face when one went out. Even stranger to ride in a hansom cab, with a white driver sitting at the back, instead of in a *tonga* with an Indian driver sitting in front.' The disdainful shop assistants at Harrods, he noticed with childish candour, were very different from the pretty Eurasian girls at Whiteway & Laidlaw's, Bombay, who fussed around the little boy and his brother Paul 'and told us in their soft voices how well each garment would suit us'. Grandparents in London had to give the children English lessons, for they spoke Urdu better than their mother tongue. Baby Paul, seeing dishes at table being offered to George, and anxious not to be left out, would pipe up 'Hum bhi' (me too!) and Humbi became his nickname well into adult life.

This entertaining book is told from a child's point of view, without the irritating device of hindsight (the 'little did we know then' syndrome). Quite horrifying events like the accidental deaths of two pet dogs under a train at Poona are described in matter of fact language, with other, happier memories like learning to ride and swim, and visits to the bazaar. There were summer holidays in Mussoorie, where the youngsters, fascinated by their father's big 'Indian' motorcycle, with its wickerwork sidecar, rashly attempted to drive it, and were very soundly walloped for their pains. The arrival of their little sister, Sylvia, 'uprooted from the home of our grandparents... and set down in a completely strange environment... must have been a very disturbing experience for a child of three', notes the author sympathetically, as the little girl expressed her bewilderment by refusing to eat at first.

The end came suddenly, and tragically, with the death of the writer's adored mother, Roberta, who caught smallpox in 1927. She is buried at Poona, in the Faith Sulpice [St Sepulchre] cemetery, and the editor, Richard Terrell, was able through BACSA and local contacts, to trace her grave. Still in excellent condition after 64 years, it bears the inscription 'Thou ornamentedst her / Making her reverently amiable'. George was sent to boarding school in England, which he found too painful to record, and later pursued a successful career in the colonial service, mainly in Africa. His memoirs have been well edited and annotated by BACSA member Richard Terrell, though it would have been nice to know where Sholapur actually is (present day southern Maharashtra). Another well-presented edition from The Radcliffe Press, who specialise in colonial books. (RLJ)

1994 The Radcliffe Press, 45 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2HY
£19.95, plus postage, pp136

Exploring Indian Railways Bill Aitken

It is often useful to turn first to the back pages of a new book. Not to peek at the ending, but to check the index and the bibliography. Bill Aitken has provided 17 pages of double-columned index and five pages of bibliography. This is a fair warning that *Exploring Indian Railways* contains too much that is irrelevant to the main subject. The author loves the Indian railways and is full of praise for the professionalism and the dedication of the staff who operate and manage this vast undertaking. He has an obvious preference for the metre gauge and the narrow gauge branch lines where steam engines linger, long after they have earned their rightful place in a Railway Museum.

This is a book for the railway enthusiast. It is all there: 38 types of locomotives, redesigned rolling stock, varying track gauges, the complexity of operations, the ingenuity of engineers, the stupidity, the corruption, the political interference. In spite of overcrowding and hordes of ticketless travellers, the daily services carry millions of passengers, their livestock and their belongings, upon slow but safe journeys, across the length and breadth of the country. And this is only part of the service which is soundly based on a freight system which operates extensively and without a great deal of competition from road transport.

Bill Aitken armed himself with a 'Letter of Authority' from the Railway Board which opened most Station, Workshop, Engine Shed and Railway Office doors, but could not quite disarm the lingering suspicion that his camera might record proof of inefficiency or malpractice. However it did enable him to secure some excellent photographs to illustrate this book. Sadly lacking is a map of the railway system where new lines and changes in place names make it hard for the

reader to follow the author as he hops around without an apparent plan, from Delhi to Bombay, to Calcutta, to Assam and even to Cape Comorin, now renamed Kanya Kumari. (PS)

1994 OUP Delhi Rs.350 pp279 (Obtainable from Ram Advani, Bookseller, Mayfair Building, Hazratganj PO Box No. 154, Lucknow 226001, India, by sending a sterling cheque for £10 for despatch by registered air-mail)

No Elephants for the Maharaja Louise Ouwerkerk

Do not be deceived by the title. A jolly romp through the annals of the Raj in the company of Princes and Proconsuls this book is not. Edited by Dr Dick Kooiman and based on an unpublished manuscript completed in 1974, it is now sub-titled *Social and Political Change in the Princely State of Travancore (1921-1947)*, a touch less catchy one must admit and somewhat of a turn-off. In truth it might well be named "The Life and Times of Sir CP" referring to Sir CP Ramaswami Aiyer KCIE KCSI &c &c a Tamil Brahmin of infinite resource and sagacity (pace Kipling), *quondam* Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and India's representative at the League of Nations who was appointed in 1936 to be Dewan of Travancore. In the Florentine arena of State and Palace politics in the quarter century leading up to Independence, the Junior Maharani and her son the Maharaja, together with their Dewan Sir CP, widely regarded as the Machiavellian puppet-master, confronted the growing pressures arising from the demand for responsible government, the rise of both the National and State Congress movements and communal tensions between the caste Hindu Nambudri and Nayar communities, the Ezhava under-class, the Muslims and the Syrian Christians.

Louise Ouwerkerk, born in London of Dutch parents in 1904 graduated from Cambridge in 1925 with a degree in Economics. In 1929 she had secured an appointment in the Maharaja's Women's College in Trivandrum, capital of Travancore, where she progressed in time to become Acting Principal and then in 1937 Professor of History and Economics in the newly established University of Travancore, while maintaining her position in the Women's College. In these circumstances she was well placed to observe, record and to a degree participate in the march towards political emancipation. Throughout her time in Trivandrum Miss Ouwerkerk was closely involved in the politics of education and with such organisations as the International Fellowship and the Travancore State Congress. She saw much of the Dewan who impressed her greatly, though from time to time she crossed swords with him, to such effect that her eventual dismissal from the State service in 1939 was more than likely at his instigation. It is also quite possible that her subsequent dismissal in 1940 from the post of Principal of the Government Women's College in Bangalore and internment under the Defence of India Rules on undisclosed charges for a

year were as a result of malicious representations by the Travancore Government.

In later years she found time to review her notes and in 1974 to complete a manuscript which was to lie neglected for nearly fifteen years until, after her death in 1989, it came to the attention of Dr Kooiman, who tidied up some of the text and layout and arranged publication. It makes a good and informative, though not too easy read, especially for anyone with an interest in the machinations attending the socio-political development of Travancore State and the subsequent transition, with Cochin, into Kerala. Oh yes, the Elephants. When the young Maharaja went walkabout on certain religious occasions he was accompanied by a pageant of elephants. Fifty years on the pageant is reduced to an ancient Rolls Royce. Sic transit. (PdeJ)

1994 Manohar Publishers, New Delhi. Available in the UK from Jaya Books, 14 Oakford Road, London NW5 1AH £17.50 plus postage, pp318

An Enchanted Journey: the Letters of the Philadelphia Wife of a British Officer of the Indian Army Alan Jones

The author during World War Two had served in the 19th King George V's Own Lancers. At a dinner party in Philadelphia, he learned that a fellow guest was the niece of a lady of Philadelphia, who, in 1908, married Lt Col Offley Bohun Stovin Fairless Shore, then posted in Canada. He belonged to the 18th Prince of Wales' Own Tiwana Lancers, which had subsequently been merged in the 19th Lancers. Jones was asked if he would like to look at a box of some thousand letters 'which have been in storage for years, unlooked at.' This book is the result.

The box contained the unsorted letters of Caroline Perry Sinnickson, born 27 August 1870, and written, after her marriage, to members of her family in Philadelphia from Ottawa, India, California and London. They end in 1922, when after being widowed in that year, she settled in England. She passed away in 1956 in a 'grace and favour' apartment at Hampton Court. She was a compulsive letter writer. Her running commentary on the prominent figures and events of the period are shrewd, often witty and always straightforward. The letters are a love story. In a late and childless marriage their mutual devotion never faltered. The book's title comes from one of these letters in 1917 from London, when her husband, now a Brigadier General, had proceeded on an attachment to the Russian Army at Tbilisi (then Tiflis) in Georgia. 'Perhaps', she wrote, 'it is because I have lived for years, as though I pursued an enchanted journey with him'. Their 'enchanted journey' encompasses many years of travel, including seven years residence in India, as well as the health and financial anxieties of the later years of their lives. Throughout there flows

her love and admiration for her husband, and evidence of his for her. A splendidly produced enchanting cameo of the period, which lives up to the title of the book, with biographical notes on all the identifiable persons appearing in the letters. The Foreword is by Lord Weatherill, who also served in the 19th Lancers in World War Two. (SLM)

1994 The Pentland Press Ltd. 1 Hutton Close, South Church, Bishop Auckland, Durham. £18.50 plus postage, pp447

More Books

For family researchers with computers the Society of Genealogists publishes a quarterly magazine called 'Computers in Genealogy' and a beginners handbook (£4.50) which details software programs available. Contact The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA (Tel: 0171 251 8799)

To be reviewed in the next *Chowkidar* is BACSA member Lee Langley's new novel *A House in Pondicherry* to be published in July 1995 which promises to be another good read from the prizewinning author.



Back cover: Advertisement for the Elgin Mills Co. from Thacker's Directory, 1907 (see p59)

Books From India

Chowkidar readers will have noticed that an increasing number of books reviewed are printed in India at very reasonable prices. This reflects the enormous steps that Indian publishers and printers have made in the production of high quality books over the last decade. Good Indian books can equal anything produced in Europe or the Far East, with excellent colour reproductions. The problem has been to obtain books, without an excessive mark-up, so the Editor was pleased to find a bookseller in India who can help. Anyone who has visited Lucknow during the last forty years will also have visited the bookshop of Ram Advani on Hazratganj, for the two are synonymous. Here the reader finds not only one of the best bookshops in northern India, but also meets a man who truly loves books, who loves people, and who generously shares his many contacts with visitors. His son, the author Rukun Advani, wrote recently that 'I was spoilt by my father's bookshop into believing that this ought to be the culture of book-buying anywhere. It was a realm of unreal, antiquated pleasure.'

Ram Advani began his career as a bookseller in Rawalpindi in 1944, following family tradition. His maternal grandfather ran a well-known chain of bookshops called J. Ray & Sons in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar and Murree. During Partition the family lost practically everything and had to start from scratch in Lucknow in 1948. His prompt and courteous service has made his establishment something of a rarity in India. He stocks most BACSA books and has agreed to supply BACSA members with any recent book published in India at the rupee price, with a small charge for despatch by registered air or sea mail. Readers can send a sterling cheque made payable to Ram Advani, adding £3 for registered airmail for a slim hard back and £2 for a slim paperback. Alternatively readers may order a book which will subsequently be invoiced. Catalogues and price lists will be sent on request. The address is: Ram Advani, Bookseller, Mayfair Building, Hazratganj PO Box 154, Lucknow 226001, Uttar Pradesh, India.

