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CHOWKIDAR

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA (BACSA)

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AIMS OF BACSA
This 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 1,300 drawn from a wide circle of interest - Government; Churches; Services; Business; Museums; Historical and Genealogical Societies. More members are needed to support the rapidly expanding activities of the Association - the setting up of local Branches in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Malaysia etc., the building up of a Records file in the India Office Library & Records; and many other projects for the preservation of historical and architectural monuments.

The annual subscription rate is £2, with an enrolment fee of £8. There are special rates for joint membership (husband and wife), for life membership and for associate membership. Full details obtainable from the Secretary.

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THE BAHRAIN CEMETERY

Good news from the Middle East is something rare in these troubled days, so it is heartening to report a successful operation in the old Christian Cemetery in Zubara Road, Gudaibiya, Bahrain recently. The Royal Society of St. George in Bahrain wanted to undertake a project with English connections and it was suggested that clearing the cemetery might be appropriate. BACSA member Kevin Patience prepared a report on the site, which measures 310' by 80' and is divided into four main sections by pathways. It is surrounded by a high stone wall with access through a pair of black steel doors. The cemetery was established in the early 20th century but the majority of graves, both civilian and military are dated between the late 1940s and the early 1960s. These have headstones of either black granite or white Portland stone, engraved with the Regimental crest for Army personnel, the Albatross for the Royal Air Force and the Fouled Anchor for the Royal Navy.

In a temperature of 100 degrees plus, the Society gathered a working party and succeeded in clearing 2 skipfuls of rubbish and debris. Palm trees, which give the site the welcome appearance of an oasis, have been brought under control and the pathways are being refurbished and water piping laid on again. The next stage is to work on restoring headstones where possible and tidying up individual graves. In the course of the clean-up a stone marker was discovered on which a corroded bronze plaque was mounted. The plaque recorded the death, in a flying accident of Peter Dabney Heinemann, Lieutenant Royal Navy Pilot Officer HMS Emerald, on 21 December 1931. It also commemorated his friend G.L. Brinton, Lieutenant Royal Navy. The cemetery register listed Lieutenants Heinemann and Brinton as being buried in adjacent plots, Nos. 12a and 12b.

Kevin Patience decided to research the deaths of these young friends and found to his surprise that Lieut. Brinton had died in England on 18 August 1931 during a flying accident and was buried in Kidderminster. Lieut. Heinemann's death occurred while giving a demonstration from a Fairy Flycatcher seaplane of machine-gunning targets in the water. Before an audience of sheikhs and local dignitaries on board the HMS Emerald, he made two successful attacks but then failed to pull the aircraft up on a third dive and crashed into the sea. A fellow officer made repeated but unsuccessful efforts to dive into the sunken plane and rescue the young man. He was buried in the Zubara Road Cemetery amidst much ceremony, but the mystery of the extra grave of Lieut. Brinton has not been solved. Kevin Patience has been unable to trace members of either the Heinemann or the Brinton families.

Not all the Bahrain graves are so recent. Christian burials at first took place in the old fort, now the Manama Police headquarters. The first recorded burial is that of British seaman William Walton, who died on 20 March 1872 at the age of 19 after falling from the topmast rigging of the HMS Bullfinch and

fracturing his skull. The wooden marker on his grave was still extant in 1893 but later disappeared. Other early burials include that of Assistant Paymaster Frederick Mangnay James who died on 10 April 1873 and John White Midgley, Assistant Engineer 2nd Class, died 9 June 1895. The present cemetery was opened in 1904 on land granted by the then Emir of Bahrain. The first interments were those of the infant daughters of Samuel Zwemer, an American missionary. Both girls, Ruth aged 4 and Katharina aged 7 went down with dysentery and died within a week of each other. Once the cemetery was established, the earlier graves within the Fort were moved here, providing a continuous record of European and American residents in this distant country.

MAIL BOX

As the Japanese advanced westwards in 1942, employees of the Burma Railway retreated into Assam, from where they hoped to rejoin the war effort. Several routes led from Burma, but the most dangerous of all was that through the Chaukan Pass. Led by Sir John Rowland who was Chief Commissioner of the Burma Railways at the time, a small party attempted the Pass. Among them was Cyril Lambert Kendall, aged thirty-eight. Very sadly, although he reached safety, Kendall succumbed shortly afterwards to cerebral malaria and was buried at the tea estate of Dinjan, Assam. Now, with the help of BACSA member Peter Leggatt, Cyril Kendall's widow Dulcie and son C.M.J. Kendall were able to make a pilgrimage to the grave this spring.

"It took many months to obtain our visas for India and the special permits for Assam" writes Mr. Kendall. Because of a go-slow by Indian Airlines the final 600km of the journey had to be made by car. But a warm welcome awaited them from Mr. Kaka Bahgat, Manager of the Assam Company's estate at Dinjan. In a thoughtful gesture he had organised Christian employees on the estate to say prayers and hymns at the grave side. "We were able to visit the small hospital where my father was taken after crossing the Chaukan Pass in May and June 1942. We met the Doctor now in charge and were shown around this little hospital that originally was run by a tea estate and saw the room in which my father was nursed. The grave is within a walled garden about 15 yards square, lying adjacent to a gravel road and surrounded by tea bushes. We were so pleased to find the Assam Company had taken so much trouble to look after the grave all these years and because they did not have a record of its history we were able to fill in some of the missing information." A photograph of the beautifully tended grave appears on p.133. Quite by chance, at the same time, arrived news that documents belonging to Sir John Rowland have been presented to the BACSA archive by his daughter Miss Denise Rowland of Cape Town. Among them is a diary kept by Sir John during the retreat and Mr. Kendall is now able to complete the story of his father's last journey.

The little island of Penang, lying off the coast of Malaysia, contains one of the oldest Christian cemeteries in the country. The first burial in the Protestant graveyard was that of Captain Aloysius Trapaud in 1788 and the last took place nearly a century ago. Although the cemetery, which stands in the Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah district, is generally deserted, and is unfortunately sometimes a haunt of drug addicts, a recent report noted "better security and increased efforts to maintain the place. The fence had been repainted" and creepers which once grew wild had been cut back. Some tombs have been given new stones to replace those vandalised or stolen over the years, and a wreath showed that the dead had not been forgotten. The cemetery boasts many fine monuments, some like miniature Grecian temples and has been described as "an anthology of the colonial notables of Penang."

Captain Francis Light, the founder of the British settlement, was originally buried here, but his body was later exhumed and sent back to England, though his tomb, a rectangular block of stone with a marble slab and epitaph still stands. A number of high ranking East India Company officers are here, many of whom had served in Bengal, together with British merchants and their families. Three Governors of Penang were interred, John Bannerman, William Petrie and Philip Dundas, and the Reverend R.S. Hutchings, founder of the Penang Free School. Philip Jones, Accountant General of the Supreme Court, who died in May 1880, must have been one of the last to be buried here, joining his thirteen month old daughter, Ethel Mary, who had died three years earlier. Some of the simple casket-like graves were those of army and naval officers like David Horrowar, who died at sea on 7 March 1850 off the north end of Sumatra. His body was kept on board until the vessel arrived shortly afterwards at the island. Interestingly the cemetery also contains the graves of two Chinese people, their inscriptions in Mandarin, possibly converts to Christianity. [Chowkidar is grateful to Mr. M.J. Murphy of Queensland, Australia for bringing this report to our notice and to the New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad for their kind permission to reproduce parts of it.]

A narrow compound opening off Anna Salai Road in Madras, bears the surprising inscription "J. Fenn & Co. - Undertakers and Sculptors." Although John Fenn, the Englishman who set up the firm in 1854 has long since departed, the story behind the company is an interesting one and was the subject of a recent article in "The Hindu." The land on which the compound stands belonged to the Nawab of Arcot, on a long lease. Fenn constructed five red tiled buildings, including a workshop for carving monuments, stables and a shed for the wooden hearses. After his death, his widow carried on the business for a few years, but she died childless and the Administrator General of Madras stepped in to sell the company. Wembuli Naicker, an associate, who had worked for Fenn as a sculptor, bought the concern and the goodwill in 1892 and made a success of it. His grandson, T.K. Govinda Naicker trained in the school of Arts and Crafts and was able to bring a

high standard of workmanship to the company when the trend among Europeans was for huge carved marble monuments.

Fenn's horse drawn wooden hearses were remounted on car bodies, but have now been replaced by locally made steel coaches. The coffin fittings that used to come from Britain are now copied by local artisans. A Government ban on the importation of Italian marble in 1951 dealt the company a hard blow, for Indian marble does not lend itself well to relief carving. Fenn & Co. have adapted by creating smaller headstones and replacing marble with granite. The present proprietor Mr. G. Lokanathan is now increasingly called upon to supply foundation and inaugural stones. Advertising is scarcely necessary, the company depend on their old established name for orders - the name of John Fenn.

Earlier this year Brigadier James Percival (Defence Advisor to the British High Commission, Delhi) spent a few days in Kasauli as the guest of an Indian friend. Brigadier Percival's Regiment is the 22nd Cheshire and he was anxious to find the grave of a Captain of his Regiment who was buried some fifty years ago. After searching in the cemetery, the grave of Captain Selby Lorimer Cassel Lane of the 1st Battalion was discovered and the inscription told of a tragedy. Captain Lane was killed on 7 June 1935, aged 34, while fighting a forest fire which threatened to destroy Kasauli. The tombstone was erected by his wife Marion and all ranks of the battalion and the residents of Kasauli. Nearby stood another memorial to Captain Richard Laurence Reed, aged 31, of the same battalion, who died on 24 June 1935 of burns received while fighting the same fire. His stone was erected by his father, Percy Davison Reed of Exeter, Devon and again by all ranks of his battalion and the Kasauli residents. Also interred that year and possibly victims of the fire, were two privates of the same Regiment. It is possible that BACSA members who lived in Kasauli during the 30s may recall the tragedy and the actions of the brave officers who saved the town.

As part of Calcutta's tercentenary celebrations INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) is refurbishing the Gwalior monument, one of the city's important landmarks. Erected on the banks of the Hooghly near Prinsep Ghat by Lord Ellenborough in 1847, it stands in memory of the officers and men who fell during the campaign five years earlier. Designed by Colonel H. Goodwyn of the Bengal Engineers, the 58' high monument, in the shape of a large chattri, is brick built, faced with Jaipur marble and surmounted by a metal cupola supported on columns made from captured guns. Many regiments were commemorated on the inscribed sarcophagus within.

The metal dome had attracted thieves but Calcutta police recently made a break through when they discovered some broken plates from the dome, which had been stolen two years ago. The plates, an alloy of copper, tin and zinc have been handed over to INTACH who are working in conjunction with the Archaeological Survey of India to repair the fine memorial.

Furious passions are often aroused among India hands by the use of the term "raj." The word, which simply means "rule," has come to refer specifically to the period when the British were in India. "Raj" now conjures up pictures of elegant sahibs and memsahibs drinking gin under the punkahs, amid cane furniture and potted palms. Indeed, this is exactly the ambience that many Indian restaurants have successfully sought to capture. It is useless to suggest nowadays that there was a Mughal raj, or even a Delhi Sultanate raj. Purists argue that the term only came into use in the last couple of decades, to publicise books and films set in the 1920s and 30s. But the donation to BACSA of a rare set of "Blackwoods Edinburgh Magazines" has disproved this theory. Discussing the adoption of Nana Sahib of Cawnpore by the Peishwa, an article in January 1858 is plainly headed "The Company's Raj" and demonstrates that the term was sufficiently well enough understood even then, not to need further explanation. After the abolition of the Company in 1858 it then became natural to talk of the British raj.

20 May saw the climax of celebrations at St. Paul's Church, Landour, Mussoorie, which is marking its 150th anniversary this year. The handsome church, surrounded by deodar, oak and rhododendron, was erected fourteen years after the first house in Landour. The military cantonment was originally a convalescent area for sick and wounded soldiers, and its church was used mainly by the Army. Since 1947 it has been a civil church, drawing most of its congregation from the neighbouring Woodstock School. Bob and Ellen Alter, two old Mussoorie residents have done much to preserve the church and to ensure that it continues as a place of worship for the Christian community. Among those buried in the old cemetery are Alfred Hindmarsch, one of the few survivors of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava during the Crimean War.

Travellers arriving at Bombay in the days of sea voyages from England, inevitably berthed at Ballard Pier. Even in the early 1960s the gaunt, red stone warehouses were a reminder of the city's seafaring links. "But who," enquires an Australian member, Alfred Cocksedge, "was Ballard, who gave his name to the pier ?" There was a George Ballard in Tinevelly in 1851, and another man of the same name at the Bombay Mint, in the 1870s. Members of the Ballard family settled in Queensland, Australia, but the actual builder of the pier is at present unknown.

Alfred Cocksedge also sent in a brief history of the Whish family and their Indian connections. Claudius Buchanan Whish (C.B.) was born at Meerut on 5th January 1827, the son of Lieut. General Sir William Sampson Whish, Bengal Horse Artillery, known as "Multan Whish." (Sir William had married Mary Hardwicke, sister of Colonel C.G. Dixon, who was the subject of an article in the last Chowkidar.) Young Claudius was sent to school in England at Milford Haven and later to the newly opened Cheltenham College in 1843. But scholastic life did not appeal to him and five years later he was in the Mounted Police of South Australia. He

returned to India where he was commissioned Cornet in the 14th Light Dragoons, then stationed at Meerut, his birth place. From 1852 to 1854 he attended a course in Civil Engineering at Roorkee, and was seconded to Baroda State as Engineer, Roads and Bridges. He was recalled to take up the appointment of Embarkation Officer, Cavalry, with the expeditionary force to Persia, 1856-57 and on its return was immediately ordered on a horse buying trip to New South Wales.

He married Annie Dow Ker in Bombay on 16 September 1858, and this already well travelled man then went to Ireland with the 14th Light Dragoons. Resigning his commission in 1861 Cornelius took up yet another career, enrolling at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. He then emigrated to Brisbane, with his two English born daughters, but a farming venture there did not prosper and he had to take a job as Government surveyor of roads. Captain Whish became a JP, a member of the Upper House of the State Parliament, a lay reader, churchwarden, member of Synod and of the Diocesan Council. Despite continuing financial difficulties, he built the family home on Eildon Hill in Brisbane's northern suburb of Windsor and there four more children were born to the couple. In 1889 Cornelius applied for nine month's leave to return to Britain. He was refused full pay for the whole period, but was lent sufficient money by a close friend and bank manager, Mr. Archer. The Whishes embarked on RMS "Quetta" bound for London, leaving their children behind. At 9.15 pm on Friday 28 February 1890 the "Quetta" struck a rock off the north eastern tip of Australia and sank within minutes. Of the 291 people on board, 133 died and among them were Cornelius and his wife. Their bodies were not recovered. A Quetta Memorial Church was built on nearby Thursday Island, where their names are among those recorded and a second memorial to the couple is a wall plaque in St. Andrew's Church, Lutwyche, Brisbane, where Cornelius was a lay reader for many years.

MORE ON THE DURRANI-WARBURTONS

One of the rewarding things about genealogy is the way pieces of information come together to fit like a jigsaw. The last Chowkidar carried the story of the Durrani-Warburtons, an Anglo-Afghan family based in Kasauli. We traced descendants of the original marriage between Captain Robert Warburton and Shah Jahan Begum, an Afghan princess which took place in Kabul in the 1840s. Now Mrs. J.D. Raw from South Africa has been able to complete the picture. An old friend of hers, Sylvia Richardson (née Martineau) from Kenya, is the great grand daughter of Captain Robert Warburton. The Captain had two sons, Paul and Robert, and it is through Paul, ("Button Sahib" of the Punjab Police) who himself married an Afghan woman, that Mrs. Richardson is descended.

Mrs. Raw has personal memories of Miss Durrani-Warburton (Sylvia Richardson's aunt). As a child, Mrs. Raw had to visit Kasauli daily for anti-rabies injections, after a dog bite. Two large injections in the stomach for a fortnight were no fun for a small girl, she writes. "However, we were taken to tea with a lovely person, a Miss Warburton who lived in great style and liked wearing native dress. Her cook used to make the most marvellous sweets and I was given one after each injection. I think we must have stayed there as well for part of the time, as I can remember pink cream at breakfast to go with the porridge."

Sylvia Richardson was herself the subject of a BBC TV documentary three years ago. Called "My African Farm" it portrayed life on the Kilimathego farm at Kiganjo which she bought with her second husband Col. Derek Richardson after the second World War. (Her first husband, with whom she lived in Kenya during the 1930s, was Commander Temple). "I loved the film for its complete honesty and naturalness" recalls Mrs. Raw. "It went down very well in Kenya too with her servants and the farm labour." Several BACSA members, including the Editor, recall the film vividly and the portrait it drew of the indomitable old lady (now nearly 80) with her flashing dark eyes and autocratic manner. Interestingly enough, Mrs. Richardson herself was nicknamed "the Afghan princess," acknowledgement of a fascinating piece of history.

CAN YOU HELP?

"For a number of years", writes BACSA member A.R. Allen, "I have been trying to identify the British or Anglo-Indian men who fought on the side of the mutineers in the Indian Mutiny. Chowkidar readers who possess letters and documents of the period may have information on this subject." In the immediate aftermath of the 1857 revolt the idea that any Briton might be fighting against his fellow countrymen was unthinkable. Britons fought together and they died together. A few Europeans who were caught up in the events became honorary Britons for the duration. Thousands of Indians and Anglo-Indians remained loyal to the East India Company. But gradually, as official reports were collated and memoirs written, rumours of a few "white" mutineers began to filter through.

The Editor has long been interested in the Rotton family of Lucknow, whose founder member, William Richard Rotton had originally been in the Mahratta Service. One of his sons, Felix, then aged about sixty, fought with the rebels for three months during 1857 and three of Felix's sons, James, John and Joseph, were killed fighting against the British. Excuses were made - the boys had an Indian mother (or mothers), Felix was "supposed to be a Muslim" but the fact remains that the family were hostile to the British. An intriguing aside in their indictment mentions some

other "renegade Christians who were living in Lucknow and were seen in European costume during the siege."

BACSA member P.J.O. Taylor has come across evidence of defection, too, in the story of "Mees Dolly," a European woman who was hanged at Meerut for "egging on the mutineers." Widow of a British sergeant, Mees Dolly seems to have drifted into the life of a brothel keeper in Meerut's Sudder Bazaar, and is believed to have taunted Indian soldiers frequenting her establishment, into a premature uprising at the beginning of May 1857. More examples obviously exist of both men and women who chose to support the Indian cause. Some were Anglo Indians, whose divided loyalties were quite understandable, especially in view of British behaviour towards them. Others were Britons who had served native rulers all their lives, receiving, in some cases, more generous terms than the Company could offer. A distinct element of snobbishness prevailed among Company officials towards working class Britons in India, traders, mercenaries and such like. The struggles of 1857 may not have seemed so clear cut as they did from Victorian England. Whether much documentation remains, however, is problematic, when it was heresy to suggest otherwise.

Christopher Hawes of SOAS is preparing a thesis on the development of the Eurasian (Anglo Indian) community in early British India, up to about 1835. Although several authors have written extensively about Anglo Indian life this century, little serious research seems to have been done on this earlier period. Of course, the great names stand out - the military families of Skinners, Gardners, Hearseys etc. and the talented poet, de Rozario. But what of the others, who led quieter lives, before the advent of the railways and the telegraphs provided many of them with a living ? Ideas and information please to Mr. Hawes at Warren Lodge, Clevehurst Close, Stoke Poges, Bucks. SL2 4EP.

An "animal" query has come from Peter Collingwood, MBE, which, we must confess, has absolutely nothing to do with cemeteries, but which may prove of interest to readers. Mr. Collingwood is a world authority on folk weaving and is researching a textile technique used in the making of camel girths in Rajasthan and Gujerat. There appears to be little historical record before 1950 so any photographs, drawings or better still, actual examples would be most welcome. Letters please to: Old School, Nayland, Colchester. CO6 4JH.

BACSA member L.E. Edwards tells us of his family's long connection with India and poses a question. His great grandfather was Troop Sergeant Major John William Hanson who was born in Tournai, Flanders, in 1794. He joined the 25th Light Dragoons in 1810 and served all over India, including Bangalore, Vellore, Arcot and Barrackpore, returning to Chatham, England on 25 October 1819 on the "Mangley." Eleven years later he was back in India, this time with his wife Louisa Hanson (née Graham) and their three children, Mary Anne Jane, Sarah Louisa (Mr. Edwards' paternal grandmother) and Henry Frederik. As the family was proceeding up country to

Cawnpore, the fourth child was born in January 1831 and given the resounding name of John Ganges Hanson, to mark the river on which they were travelling. Cawnpore was reached in April but only a year later Troop Sergeant Hanson died in hospital on 17 July, either at Meerut or Landour. So far his descendants have failed to locate the cantonment cemetery where he must have been buried. And what of John Ganges Hanson ? He died at Yokohama (Kanagawa), Japan on 24 November 1866, one of that country's early European visitors.

Gyanesh Kudaisya of Churchill College, Cambridge is researching on criminal justice in the Upper Provinces during the 1930s and 40s and has some queries about archival material collected. BACSA members who served in the Indian Police Service or who worked in the capacity of a judge or magistrate there may be able to help. Offers, in the first instance please, to our Secretary.

KAISER-I-HIND

Letters are still being received about the award of Kaiser-i-Hind medals to people who served in India before 1947. Mrs. Frances Stewart Robertson of London tells us she got hers for help she was able to give her husband A.W. Robertson, DFC, OBE, CIE of the Indian Police Force. He had been seconded to the Political Department to act as Chief Minister of Bundi State, Rajputana, and remained there for nine years. "I was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind towards the end of the war" writes Mrs. Stewart Robinson "when such awards were usually sent by post instead of being personally awarded by the Viceroy. It was pinned on to me by the Agent to the Governor General of Rajputana at the time. In a Hindu State there was quite a lot of work; i.e. in the Zenana and Womens' Hospital and so on, that a man could not do."

So many BACSA members have told us that they (or members of their family) received the award, that we have decided to attempt a complete list. Please let us know the name of the recipient, when the Kaiser-i-Hind was awarded, and most importantly, for what services it was given. Letters to BACSA Secretary Theon Wilkinson.

EVENTS AND NOTICES

The Zamana Gallery at 1 Cromwell Gardens, London SW7 is currently showing a fascinating exhibition called "Tigers round the Throne," about the life of Tipu Sultan, ruler of Mysore (1750-1790). Although everyone is familiar with the famous, and much loved "Tipu Tiger", few probably realise the extent of the animal's influence at the rich Court of Seringapatam. The tiger motif, often stylised as "bubris" (stripes) appeared on everything, flags, furniture, uniforms, guns, swords, tents, armour, jewels, even buildings. Islamic calligraphers ingeniously drew a tiger

mask from words to adorn Tipu's standards. Two small gold tiger heads studded with rubies, emeralds and diamonds are illustrated in the accompanying catalogue, all that is left of the eight that adorned Tipu's throne, broken up by the looters who ransacked the palace on his death. It is fascinating to trace the provenance of articles lent to the exhibition, telling us as they do of the division of spoils in the hectic days that followed Tipu's death nearly two hundred years ago. Even more fascinating to imagine that there may be more unrecognised treasures still in private hands.

The Exhibition organised by BACSA member Anne Buddle continues to 14 October 1990.

The Spring Chowkidar carried an appeal for artefacts for a forthcoming exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, entitled "The Raj: India and the British, 1600-1947." There was a good response from members and the Exhibition, which opens on 19 October 1990 and runs until 17 March 1991 promises to be one of the largest and most spectacular ever organised by the Gallery. Portraits, engravings and photographs will illustrate the symbiotic relationship of the two countries, and an evaluation of Indian perceptions of the British promise an intriguing view. BACSA is hoping to arrange a special visit, details of which will be announced.

22 November 1990 sees the opening of the Nehru Hall at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. It is appropriate that India's first Prime Minister should be thus commemorated during the centenary year of his birth, and appropriate too that the V & A (custodians of a matchless collection of Indian artefacts) should seek to display some of them in a specially designed gallery. India's courtly traditions will be the theme, together with the way in which European colonial rule impinged on them. Old favourites will be on show - the jade wine cups of the Mughal Emperors, Ranjit Singh's golden throne, the Hamza Nama and the Akbar Nama folios and that much travelled tiger of Tipu's. Although aimed primarily at school children and their teachers, adults too will appreciate the chance to see more of the Museum's rich store of Indiana.

"The Great Mutiny: India 1857" is the name of a "special interest" tour which is being organised for February 1991. Led by BACSA member P.J.O. Taylor, (late of the Mahratta Light Infantry) tourists will arrive in Delhi on 8 February and will visit Agra, Gwalior, Jhansi, Kanpur (Cawnpore), Lucknow and Patna, returning from Delhi on 23 February. Although French travel agencies have been running tours to India for a couple of years, following in the footsteps of French adventurers, this is the first time a British tour has been arranged of sites which figured prominently in the great up-rising of 1857. The itinerary looks mouth-watering - in Kanpur, for example, lucky visitors will see the Memorial Church, the Sati Chaura Ghat, scene of the British massacre, Sir Hugh Wheeler's entrenchment, Nana Rao Gardens, the

Kacheri Cemetery and Nana Sahib's Memorial. Peter Taylor has recently had a fascinating series of articles published in The Statesman on the events of 1857 and has just returned from a recce of sites in northern India. The tour is being arranged through Pettitts India, Lonsdale House, 7-9 Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1NU tel: (0892) 515966, the cost is £1,525 per person and places are still available.

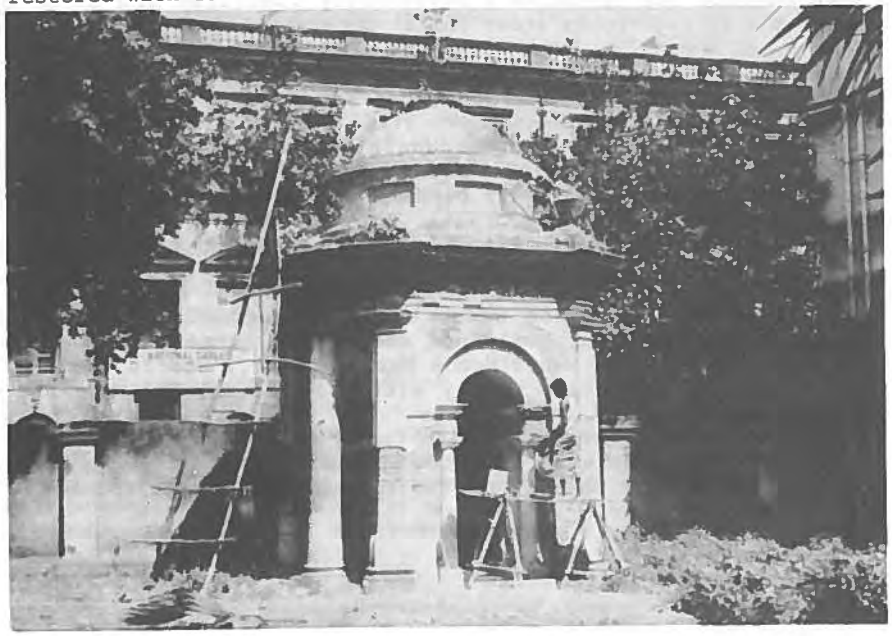
A successful BACSA tour of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, took place in May. Formerly housing the old India Office and Colonial Office, this Grade 1 listed building has undergone an extensive programme of refurbishment and is now restored to its former glory. Jennifer Fox, who took part in the May tour, subsequently visited the Library of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at Cornwall House, Stamford Street, SE1 9NS (tel: 071 217 3000). She found her visit rewarding and located a collection of East India Company letters between 1600-1617. Some books include material from 1527. While most of the books are duplicated in the India Office Library and Records, the F & C Library is worth bearing in mind for specific and detailed research. Phone first for opening times.

One gratifying result of the last decade's fascination with India is the number of books now being published about the sub-continent and the revival of interest in earlier material. Two small businesses that deal in English language books about India, by mail order, have sprung up during the last year. BACSA member John Jealous has produced a beautifully annotated and printed catalogue called "Books about India" obtainable from him at 14-18 York Road, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4SL (tel: 0937 66453). Susan Gole, who has spent thirty years in India and whose special interest is Indian cartography, has set up Jaya Books at 240B Kentish Town Road, London NW5 1DD (tel: 071 267 4346). Her first catalogue is extremely wide-ranging, dealing with recently published books in India, which she can obtain direct from publishers there. This means purchasers do not have to go to the trouble of obtaining bank drafts, or wondering if their orders have reached India. There are special terms for libraries and regular customers, too.

"Picture Past" is a one woman business specialising in old postcards of churches, buildings and street scenes, run by Mrs Yvonne Coldron of 47 Manor House Park, Codsall, Staffs WV8 1ES. At the moment she deals mainly with U.K. cards, but hopes to extend her range to cover India. If you have a particular building in mind, perhaps one with family connections, or a church where ancestors were buried, then send an SAE for her lists. (Overseas enquirers should send two International Reply coupons.)

[Above] St. John's Church, Calcutta, undergoing cleaning to mark the city's tercentenary on 24 August 1990.

[Below] Begum Johnson's tomb, St. John's Church, Calcutta is being restored with funds from BACSA.



[Above] The newly restored gate-house and wall of the Cantonment Cemetery, Rangoon, Burma. BACSA provided funds for the work.

[Below] Cyril Kendall's widow, Dulcie, at the tomb on the Assam Company's tea Estate, Dinjan, earlier this year. (See p.122)

THE RAJ TREASURE HUNT

For six weeks during the summer, people could be seen walking through London cemeteries clutching sheets of paper with puzzled expressions on their faces. It was all part of the great Raj Treasure Hunt, organised to celebrate the tercentenary of Calcutta and to raise funds for more restoration work there. Seven fiendish clues devised by Cynthia Langdon Davies had to be cracked to provide the correct answers. Most were to be found in inscriptions on tombstones, which meant visiting different cemeteries in the metropolis. The Hunt received a gratifying amount of publicity - it was the first story in the Evening Standard 'diary' column and Theon Wilkinson was invited to speak about it on BBC Radio 2.

130 people sent for entry forms, paying a £5 fee, and of these, only 30 returned completed forms. There were nine completely correct entries at the time of the draw on 31 August, all of which won prizes and four consolation gifts were awarded to those with just one incorrect word. The final draw was made by Aurelius Khan, President of APHCI (Association for the Preservation of Historical Cemeteries in India) who was in London visiting his daughters. The ceremony, which was kindly hosted by Rosemarie and Theon Wilkinson at their home, was attended by local BACSA members and the chairman, Michael Stokes.

The first prize winner was Guy Cresswell from Middlesex who receives a painting presented by Giles Eyre, a discount on a holiday for two (Cox & Kings), 4 bottles Bollinger champagne (Barclays Bank) and 2 kilos Darjeeling (Lawrie Plantations). A special mention goes to Marjorie Swanson, who covered the cemeteries in her wheelchair, escorted by her husband Ian and won third prize. Appropriately, this is dinner and wine for two at the Mountbatten Hotel, two bottles of champagne (from Andrew Brock) and a kilo of Darjeeling (Lawrie Plantations). A list of prizewinners and the prizes very generously donated by friends of BACSA, together with the answers to clues will be sent on receipt of a SAE to Theon Wilkinson. The Treasure Hunt raised over £600 for APHCI, Calcutta, with no off-setting administration costs, thanks to the sponsorship by George Williamson (Tea).

BOOKS BY BACSA AUTHORS

Lawrence of Lucknow - a biography John Lawrence

Sir Henry Lawrence was killed by an artillery shell at Lucknow during the 1857 up-rising. In this affectionate, but always objective, biography of his great grand-father, Sir John Lawrence evocatively portrays not only a courageous Bengal Army Officer (the First Burmese War and the First Afghan War) and percipient administrator (particularly in the Punjab), but also intermeshes

vignettes of the India that he loved, numerous sketches and anecdotes as to the group of administrators known as "Henry Lawrence's Young Men" (Herbert Edwardes, James Abbott, Arthur Cocks and John Nicholson, to name a few). Of Henry Lawrence's relationship with the latter, Hesketh Pearson was later to write "No leader in history has deserved or inspired the love and admiration of so many remarkable men."

The sons of a military officer who had seen service in India, Henry Lawrence and his brothers all served the East India Company, four, including Henry, became Generals, and John, the only civilian, Governor General and Viceroy in succession to Lord Canning. The author dispassionately analyses the differences in the Punjab Board of Administration between Henry and John Lawrence, and impartially sometimes comes down on the side of his great great-uncle John, rather than on the side of his great grandfather Henry. In an irony of fate, the Directors of the East India Company in London on 22 July 1857, before the news of his death had reached them, had unanimously proposed to appoint Sir Henry Lawrence "provisionally to succeed to the office of Governor General upon the death, resignation or coming away of Viscount Canning, pending the arrival of a successor from England." Unlike many of his contemporaries, he had an empathy with Indians, and had enlightened views on justice for them. As Sir John Keyes stated in an obituary "It was not so much what he did as what he was."

Had Sir Henry Lawrence been in Lahore in 1848 (he was on sick leave in Britain due to prolonged ill health), there would not have been a Second Sikh War and had he been appointed Chief Commissioner of Oudh much earlier than March 1857 in preference to Coverley Jackson, there would have been no great mutiny in Oudh. The author postulates, "Although many unwise things had been done in Oudh, these could all have been put right with a little more time. It was the disastrous, and largely accidental outbreak at Meerut, and the still more disastrous failure to pursue the mutineers [to Delhi], which made the Indian Mutiny inevitable."

Henry Lawrence was assisted in his work by his remarkable wife, Honoria, whose death from natural causes preceded his. They were a remarkable literary team, contributing in 1841 the prescient "Anticipatory chapters of Indian History" to the Delhi Gazette, and several incisive, clairvoyant articles to the Calcutta Review including some on the state of the Bengal Army and the need for its urgent reform. Henry Lawrence is thus remembered as one of the most valiant and discriminating writers on Indian affairs among the Britons of his day, evidencing both sensibility and sensitivity. He proved that it was possible to write on prevailing Indian conditions with lucidity, percipience and total integrity. Suffice it to recall only one of his warnings over more than decade, his 1856 letter to Lord Stanley, "We act contrary to commonsense and in neglect of the lessons of history, in considering that the present system can end in anything but a convulsion. We are lucky in its having lasted so long..."

Characteristically, his mind always turned to the future, not for him the nostalgia of the past. He ever cherished the notion of improvement in the condition of Indians, and his career exemplified that belief.

Henry and Honoria Lawrence were responsible for founding the splendid Lawrence Schools in the Simla Hills and in the Nilgiris which still exist today, in addition to one at Mount Abu, a decision to close which was taken by the Trust shortly after World War II because of the lack of sufficient prescribed pupils in the region. (The one at Ghora Gali, near Murree, was founded in his memory after his death.)

The book concludes "It only remains to say that Indians, who are the most faithful of all mankind to someone they have loved, and whose faithfulness continues from generation to generation, still put fresh flowers on the grave of Henry Lawrence." (The grave has been recently restored by the Archaeological Survey of India.) To sum up, this is a gem of a book, about a giant of a man, who bestrode the Indian scene in his day as a soldier-statesman, as had Sir Thomas Munro before him. On a different plane, as their times and milieus were different, one could also say that Henry Lawrence and Abraham Lincoln had much in common in their lives. (SLM)

Hodder & Stoughton London 1990 £20.00 + postage pp 275

Envoy of the Raj - the Life and Career of Sir Clarmont Skrine 1888-1948 Indian Political Service John Stewart

Clarmont Skrine, a product of Winchester and New College, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1902, and spent the next 35 years of his life in and around India. The writer of his absorbing biography is a cousin who has made extensive use of letters and diaries which Skrine kept on every aspect of his official and personal life.

After four years as a district officer, Skrine exchanged into the Indian Political Service, a small elite cadre (of whom the reviewer was one) answerable to the Viceroy. Its responsibilities were twofold - on the "political" side, it handled the relations of the paramount powers with the princely rulers of the Indian States and on the "foreign" side conducted the external affairs of India with its neighbouring countries. Skrine spent the first twenty years of his political life mainly in Baluchistan, but there were interludes - a short stint in south Persia and a longer posting to Kashgar in Chinese Sinkiang. Here, in what he describes as "this delightful Arcadia" he acted as British Consul General for two years. He became the acknowledged specialist on these regions, both on the Indian frontiers and beyond, in lesser known territory. Little escaped his observant eye, and his colourful reports of foreign potentates and strange doings of

their officials were clearly read with great interest in New Delhi.

Having enhanced his reputation in one aspect of a Political Officer's duties, Skrine became Resident of the Madras States in 1936. Although now hundreds of miles from the Muslim northern frontier regions whose languages and customs he had so assiduously studied and absorbed, he had no difficulty in coping with the Hindu maharajas and the intricate politics of Southern India. But after little more than two years he assumed the appointment of Resident for the Punjab States at Lahore where he had served earlier as Secretary. He visited the friendly hill rajas in the Himalayan foothills, many of whom were already known to him. Then suddenly the blow fell. After two years in Lahore Skrine was sent for by the head of the Service and told that the Viceroy had decided that he was not to be confirmed in his appointment. This was a bombshell and when he was offered a second grade post, he declined it. Disappointed, he tried to return to Baluchistan, but this also fell through. Thereafter he was never to serve in India again. Instead he accepted the offer of Consulate General in Meshed, a key post in Persia under war time conditions, which he filled with distinction for a final four years, ending up as an additional counsellor in the British Embassy in Teheran, with a Knighthood.

Skrine records that, despite repeated enquiries from friendly senior officers, he never really discovered the reasons for his discomforture in Lahore and the loss of the Resident's post. It seems that he may have fallen foul of the hierarchy with whom he did not always see eye to eye. But he makes no bones of the fact that, as early as 1933, he had formed an enduring liaison with a married woman who had sometimes accompanied him and his wife on their travels. Somehow they seem to have "managed à trois!"

This is a well written and carefully researched book, deserving a wide readership. Unfortunately, though it provides a fascinating review of the ramifications of British rule on India's northern frontiers, it is excessively and minutely detailed, which may not commend it to the general reader. (JRC)

Porpoise Books, 68 Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PZ 1989 £20.55 incl. P&P pp240

Under The Old School Topee Hazel Innes Craig

The latest book to be published by BACSA is the story of the British schools which grew up in India in the latter half of the 19th century, first in the plains and later in the hills, to provide an English public school style education for children from very mixed backgrounds of race, religion and economic circumstance, from all corners of the sub-continent. The account is enlivened with many reminiscences of erstwhile pupils and teachers, collected diligently over a period of eight years by the

author who herself was at a co-educational school in Darjeeling while her twin brother was at the neighbouring boys' school. These educational establishments with their strong English public school ethos were a notable feature of "Anglo Indian" life in pre-Independence India and surprisingly continue largely unchanged to this day; a significant legacy.

BACSA 1990 £9.75 incl. P & P from BACSA Secretary pp 198

Himalayan Enchantment Frank Kingdon-Ward ed. John Whitehead

The author, Kingdon-Ward, was the last great plant hunter and undertook 25 major expeditions in the Himalayas, collecting and numbering more than 23,000 plants. English gardens are still enriched by poppies, lilies, primulas, rhododendrons and many other plants that he introduced. He was also one of the greatest of the Himalayan explorers, filling in many blank spaces on the map where Assam, Burma, China and Tibet meet. This anthology of his best writing balances his botanical activities with those in the geographical terrain where he worked and the various inhabitants - Abors, Kachins, Lutzus, Nungs and others - in whose life he took such an affectionate interest.

1990 Serindia Publications £16.95 + postage pp 288

Letters from East and West Katharine Lethbridge

Those who enjoyed the author's autobiography Forthrights and Meanders (reviewed Chowkidar Vol.5 No. 3) will certainly relish this latest book, which tells her parents' story, through letters and journals. Her father, Herbert Maynard, went to India in 1886 for a year, and stayed there for forty. He was a civil servant and magistrate, moving around north India from Lahore, Simla and Hissar to the princely state of Mandi. At the end of his long career he became Vice Chancellor of Lahore University and a member of the Executive Council of the Punjab. Much of the interest in this book comes from the calm, unprejudiced observations of India and Indians, many of whom he genuinely numbered among his friends. Other acquaintances included the Kipling family and Sir Aurel Stein. He remained apart from the grosser manifestations of jingoism, though he felt there were many unsung heroes (and heroines) among Britons serving in India. On his retirement in 1926 he joined the Labour Party in England and became something of an expert on Russia, which he had visited from India.

The second half of the book consists of letters to and from his American wife, Alfreda, whom he met, romantically, while on holiday in Egypt. Her family, who had settled in Virginia in the 1630s put up a stiff resistance at first to her marrying "a foreigner" who worked in an outlandish part of the world. But the marriage was a happy one. Observations by an American woman on

the Raj are rare and there is a nice little scene where she puts Lady Curzon (also American) in her place as a "nouveau arriviste". An out of the ordinary look at a familiar subject, this book is warmly recommended. (RLJ)

1990 Merlin Books Ltd., 40 East Street, Braunton, North Devon EX33 2EA £7.95 + postage pp 173

Hartly House, Calcutta Anon. Introduction and Notes by Monica Clough

First published in 1789, this fictional account of life in Calcutta from 1784 to 1786, has long been out of print. It consists of letters from Sophia Goldborne, a young English woman who goes to India as companion for her father, to Arabella, a girl friend at home. This useful device enables the author to describe scenes and events in a natural manner, without bothering too much about plot. The main interest for today's reader lies in the rational observation of 18th century life enjoyed by both Indians and Britons, written when the "Age of Reason" was still at its zenith, and before Victorian prejudice made such objective descriptions unthinkable. It was a time when Sophia could conduct a platonic affair with a young Brahmin who was freely entertained at Hartly House where she resided. The work of early Orientalists like William Jones had awoken curiosity and respect for Indians, and their history, culture and beliefs. The sympathetic Warren Hastings was concluding his term of office and left Calcutta to the genuine regret of Britons and Indians alike.

Descriptions of real places and events are accurately observed. Sophia finds a "melancholy entertainment" in visiting South Park Street Cemetery, with "its air of neatness, that proof of unabating attention...Obelisks, pagodas, etc. are erected at great expense; and the whole spot is surrounded by as well-turned a walk as those you traverse in Kensington Gardens, ornamented with a double row of aromatic trees...I quitted them with unspeakable reluctance." It is curious, as the Introduction points out, that in spite of much circumstantial evidence, it has proved impossible to identify the anonymous author. It is not even known whether it was a woman, or a man masquerading as a female author. My money is on William Hickey, writing a clever parody, but others may disagree. (RLJ)

1989 Pluto Press, London £7.95 + postage pp 302

BOOKS BY NON-MEMBERS (that will interest readers)

Burma Post Richard Baker

This is an account of the author's brief spell in the East during the second World War. It concentrates on the technical problems associated with delivering mail to the troops in Burma. Richard Baker, a young civil servant at the outbreak of war, was sent out East towards the end of 1944 to act as DADAPS - Deputy Assistant Director, Army Postal Services - with 4 Corps, a part of the 14th Army (this being a story of military administration, there is an abundance of initials and acronyms for the reader to tackle). Imphal - Tamu - Meiktila - Pegu - Rangoon: in the last phase of the Burma campaign troop movements were swift and unpredictable. Baker had his work cut out to keep as near to the front as possible while at the same time ensuring an efficient chain of distribution from base in Calcutta. Much of the book is therefore devoted to the complex to-ing and fro-ing of units of the 14th Army and the administrative problems these produced for Baker. He was never directly involved in action against the enemy but there were occasions, and especially near Meiktila, when he came face to face with the stark aftermath of battle, what Slim called "the general beastliness of war."

The book may not appeal strongly to the general reader. The descriptions of landscape and their local populations are cursory and there is a dearth of personal anecdotes and character sketches. But in the select circle of Burma campaigners and historians it will surely serve as a very worthwhile testimony to the hard work and enterprise which the "Q" and Supply sides of the army had to maintain in this most difficult of campaigns. It concludes with some interesting comments on management, arising from the author's musings on his Eastern experiences. Organising airborne dak-wallahs in Burma did not bear much resemblance to the mundane duties of the British Post Office, where he spent a successful career, but Richard Baker's Burma days taught him a lifelong lesson: that men can, when they really have to, put aside their differences and achieve fantastic feats of cooperation. (JW)

Churchman Publishing Ltd., 117 Broomfield Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SF 1989 £4.95 +postage pp 150

Armies of the Raj - From the Great Indian Mutiny to Independence: 1858-1947 Byron Farwell

This book, published in Britain on 22 February 1990, is presented as the first "to give a complete account of all military forces in India during the last ninety years of the British Raj." It was originally published in 1989 in the USA. All the above facets, among several others, are already covered in the late Sir Penderel Moon's classic magnum opus, "The British Conquest and Dominion of India" published in June 1989. It would appear that Farwell's book had gone to press in the USA, before Moon's book was released in Britain.

As encapsulated British Indian Military history from 1858 to 1947, of what was described as "the Army in India" (British, Indian, States Forces, Frontier Militias, Auxiliary Force etc.) it, substance-wise, cannot claim a permanent niche in the bibliography of the "Army in India" as do MacMunn's "Armies of India" (1911) and "Martial Races of India (1932), Donovan's "India's Army" (1920) Philip Mason's "A Matter of Honour" (1974) and Chenevix Trench's "The Indian Army" (1988). All these authors had served in India for some decades and their accounts are based on personal experience. In the present case, the author is an American with no major experience in India per se. Understandably for one there is the language problem. It is "kurta", not "kirta". The area known as the Rann of Kutch is here referred to as the "Ram of Kutch." A rickshaw at Simla is captioned as a tonga. Sequentially also there are several other avoidable gaffes. In a review one can only encompass a few. The introduction states that "successive waves of invaders have swept into it [India] usually from the north east." Presumably this should be "north west." Though seemingly arch, it is not correct to say that, after the Mutiny, "the despised urban upper class Bengali, generally regarded as being too clever by half, who had mutinied, were no longer recruited" and that "many believed...the half educated urbanised Bengali Brahmin, considered too clever by half, had been overly represented and enormously pampered." It was said "Bengal was a low lying country inhabited by low lying people." Bengalis as such, whether urbanised or not, generally had not been recruited ab initio into the Bengal Army. Recruitment was largely of men from Awadh, of Poorbeahs, Rohillas, and others from further north west, who offered themselves in Bengal for service in the Bengal Army. They were not "men of the eastern provinces of Bengal." In addition, Subhas Chandra Bose was not a Brahmin, though a Bengali.

In describing the operations in Mesopotamia in World War I, it is stated that "the plan was nearly spoilt when deserters, a Punjabi Havildar and some of his men, revealed Townshend's intentions to the Turkish Commander," followed by, "no British or Gurkha troops deserted, but a number of Indians did." In both cases it would have been preferable to clarify that these deserters were almost certainly Muslims, responding to the Turkish appeal to Muslim troops of the Indian Army not to fight against the forces of the

Caliph of Islam (the Sultan of Turkey). In addition it is factually incorrect to say that "Although there were only nine Muslims to every twenty four Hindus in India they formed 65% of the troops who fought in North Africa, Italy, Malaya and Burma." This is a misconceived percentage used earlier to Roosevelt by Churchill. The true figure was nearer 35%. The final chapter concludes with an inaccurate statement in the footnote that Gandhi was killed in Calcutta. This book is undoubtedly an easy, and in some ways, an entertaining read, depending on one's point of view. (SLM)

Viking 1990 £16.95 + postage pp 399

Time Stops at Shamli Ruskin Bond

Bond's latest book of short stories continues the themes started in "The Night Train at Deoli" reviewed in Chowkidar Vol. 5 No. 3. The tales are set in the heartland of India, in villages and small towns, in country trains that puff slowly across the unchanging, dusty landscape, carrying ordinary people going about their ordinary lives. He is, perhaps, the first Indian novelist writing in English to pay such loving, detailed attention to these people and places. There are none of the dramatic sweeps and intrigues that attract English writers to the supposed exoticism of India. "Small town India - that's my India, being a small town boy myself" he writes. This is what gives his work so much strength and depth. We know that he is not merely a traveller, but someone who has had time to sit quietly in a roadside tea-house, a cheap cinema, an old bungalow, observing the passing scene with a sympathetic, yet sharp eye. There is less autobiographical content in this volume, apart from two stories about his gentle, patient father, who had started life as a tea planter but became a teacher in a country school. Bond has that rare gift of recall of the child's world, the acceptance of the bizarre, irrational behaviour of adults, school-boy rivalries, the appreciation of flowers and animals, which are often left behind as one grows up. Not only can he enter at will the lost world of childhood, he makes a very good attempt at being a bird, too! "A Crow for all Seasons" is an hilarious story of avian triumph over the fat Junior Sahib who has the effrontery to take a shot at the narrator. There is such richness in Bond's characters, such pleasure in reading his prose, one can only hope the next book is already with his publishers. (RLJ)

Penguin India 1989 £3.99 + postage pp 180

Calcutta City of Palaces J. P. Losty

Published to accompany the recent British Library exhibition marking Calcutta's tercentenary, Jerry Losty's book is the first illustrated account of its topography. Working solely from prints, engravings and paintings, he examines the city from its inception to 1858, the latter date conveniently coinciding with the advent of photography and the end of Company rule. The first drawings of Calcutta do not appear until the 1740s, so the actual period covered is relatively short. This, however, gives the author the chance to examine minutely the buildings of the European quarter, the "white town" that originally huddled around the first Fort William. As the political situation stabilised in the Presidency, buildings struck out from the congested area near Dalhousie Tank, along the road to Chowringhee, which indeed did look, by 1858, like a road of palaces.

This is an absorbing book for those who love to trace the rise and fall of buildings, the laying out of new streets, the changing names and the expansion of a great city. Contemporary accounts supply the few deficiencies that the many illustrations cannot provide. There is, however, virtually no analysis of why Britons chose to build what they did or how this particular style of colonial architecture evolved. There is also, disappointingly, no epilogue on what remains today of 19th century Calcutta, so the reader is brought up short after a rather breathless gallop through the old streets.

Nevertheless, it is an invaluable book, especially for travellers who are not frightened by horror stories from disgruntled newspaper correspondents sent out to "do" Calcutta this year. Losty could have drawn more conclusions from his profusion of illustrations. Anyone who knows the verdant area round Raj Bhavan (Government House) today, will be struck by the complete absence of greenery from all early illustrations. Plain grassed lawns simply ran down to the walls, allowing the curious to poke their noses through the railings. It is only by inference, one learns that such spectators were considered less of a danger than enveloping trees, which were thought for years to harbour fevers and general unhealthiness. BACSA members will find the Daniell etching of the newly built St. John's Church (1788) of particular interest, especially the decaying mausolea around it, each domed temple sprouting hair-like bushes. This was Calcutta's first graveyard, full by 1767, all of whose tombs (save three) were demolished as dangerous structures in 1802. Surviving inscriptions were set into the cemetery walls and along the paths where they remain today. In short, a useful book for Calcutta's early days, though the story remains, at present, incomplete. (RLJ)

1990 Published in the UK by the British Library, London, in India by Arnold Publishers, New Delhi. Cloth bound £20.00, paperback £12.95 + postage pp 136

In the Shade of the Mango Tree Nan Warry

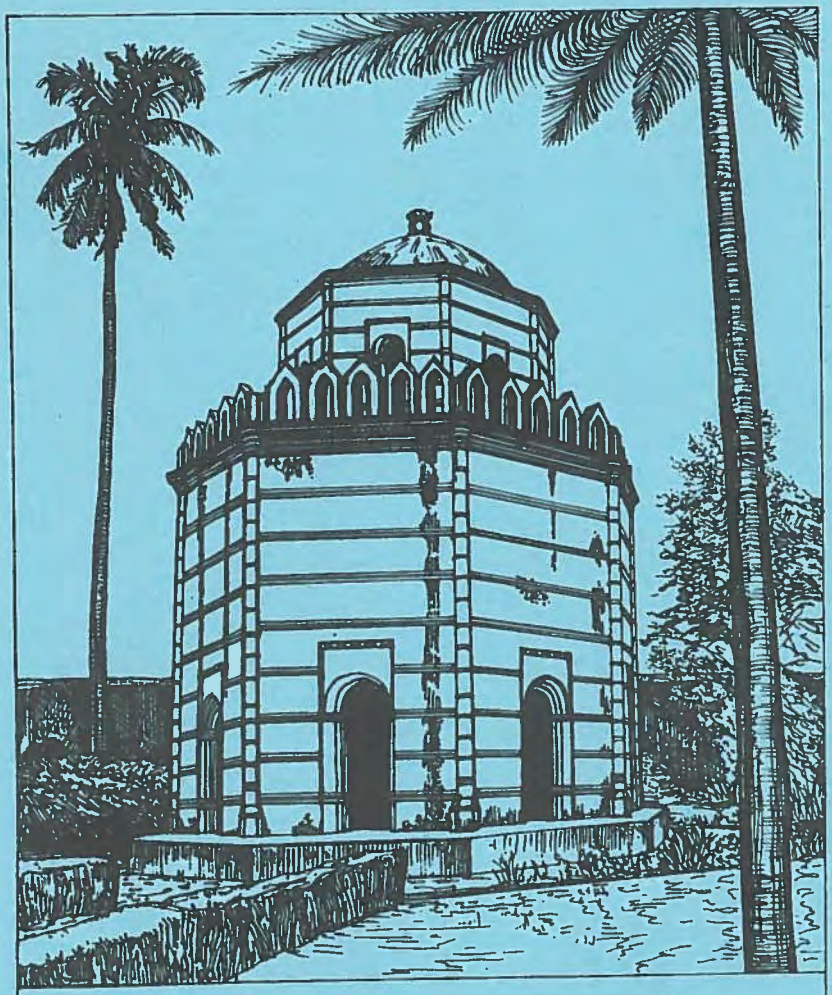
Few authors can boast that "among my wedding presents were a gold tea-service from the Maharajah of Bikaner, and a crested and gold-fitted dressing-case from His Highness of Jodhpur" but this is what happened to Nan Warry on her marriage to Edward, a young serving officer in pre-Independence India. Unfortunately the gifts had to be returned, because her father's official position as Inspector General of the UP would not allow her to accept them. Thus romance and reality are mingled in these engaging reminiscences of a happy childhood spent among a large family who passed the summers in Mussoorie with their Irish grandparents. One of the duties that her father, Durham Ashdown had to perform, was to escort the young Prince of Wales through the Rajputana States during his visit in 1921. His warm welcome here contrasted with the almost silent streets of Calcutta and Allahabad, a presage of troubles to come. But this book dwells mainly on the pleasures of India and her legends, which are interwoven into the text. Although life led by Britons in India at the time was undoubtedly privileged, it was also well earned and often dangerous, with tales of sudden death and illness. A great number of animals get shot and speared to death too, during hunting parties, which strike the modern reader as archaic as many of the scenes described. But this is a piece of history and should be read as such, presenting a delightfully nostalgic view of a vanished world. (RLJ)

1990 Square One Publications, Saga House, Sansomme Place, Worcester WR1 1UA £12.25 incl P & P pp 208

The Wild Sweet Witch Philip Mason

This is a paperback reprint of the novel first published in 1947. Set in Garhwal, where the author was a District Commissioner for three happy years, it is the fictional story of three generations of an Indian family, the old patriarch Kalyanu, his son and grandson. It is the latter, Jodh Singh who is the first family member to be educated beyond school. The new ideas he is exposed to irrevocably change his outlook towards his friends, his village, his British masters and his old way of life. He is however, unable to resolve his inner conflicts and the story ends in tragedy. As readable now as when it was first published.

Penguin India 1988 £3.50 +postage pp 244



CHARNOCK'S MAUSOLEUM