



CHOWKIDAR

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Editor: Dr. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

British Association For Cemeteries In South Asia (BACSA)

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Notes on BACSA

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

There is a steadily growing membership of over 1,600 (1995) drawn from a wide circle of interest- Government; Churches; Services; Business; Museums; Historical & Genealogical Societies. More members are needed to support the rapidly expanding activities of the Association - the setting up of local committees in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc., and the building up of a Records archive in the Oriental and India Office Collections in the British Library; and many other projects for the upkeep of historical and architectural monuments.

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



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

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The Kakathope Cemetery of Madurai

The south Indian city of Madurai (Madura of British times), in Tamil Nadu has been continuously occupied since its foundation in the sixth century BC. The British only arrived there in the late 18th century, when it was ceded to the East India Company in 1781. They found it a fortified place surrounded by a moat, and it was just within the boundary of the moat that the Company acquired a piece of land to serve as its cemetery. There are earlier graves here of British officers commanding Madras Native Regiments, which indicates that the Company soldiers were here before the official takeover. One such is to the memory of two captains, Christopher Theophilus Chayneau and Samuel Evans who both died on 18 May 1773. 'Life is uncertain, death very sure/Sins our wounds, but Christ our cure' is engraved on their flat tomb. Other officers lie here too, like Capt. William Chambers who died in August 1804, aged 30, and Capt. Hermen Nail of the 2nd Battalion 23rd Regiment who died a year later, also aged 30.

A survey of this little known cemetery was carried out earlier this year by BACSA members Lynette and Tom Inglis and they have presented their findings in a beautifully produced and illustrated report, from which our information is taken (see page 84). Their interest in this particular cemetery arises from a family connection. By 1840 Madurai's fort had been demolished and its moat filled in by the British Collector, Blackburn. In 1861 a grant of land on the filled-in moat was given to Richard Middlecoat Cuxton, the great grandfather of Lynette Inglis. The nearby cemetery was known locally as Kakathope, meaning 'The Grove of Crows' and the area was once well wooded. Richard Cuxton's estate shared the name with this beautiful cemetery, though he did not own it. The area was noted for its beautiful handloom fabrics, which attracted the Scottish brothers Andrew Craig and Frank Harvey, who set up the A & F Harvey Mills. Another person connected with cotton here was the rich merchant George Frederic Fischer, who became Zamindar of Salem.

The main supporters of the Cemetery were thus the cotton families, A & F Harvey Mills, the South Indian railway and other European and Anglo-Indian families. Funds for the cemetery have dwindled since Independence. The Harvey Mills were taken over, emerging as Madurai Coats, and a small one-off amount from them is carefully invested. The British High Commission sends annually the pitifully small sum of Rs150 (£3) from a tiny endowment held by them. Mr. Placid Fernandez, an officer employed by Madurai Coats does his best to use the meagre funds towards maintenance and repairs.

Many of the tombs photographed for the report are in excellent condition, considering their age, the inscriptions clear and clean. There is a solemn gray slab

to Ensign John Dyce, died 25 November 1785, aged only 26. Apothecary John Minns who died in February 1856 rests beneath a handsome pyramid 'erected by his disconsolate widow as a token of her sincere affection/the sweet remembrance of the just/Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust.' Elizabeth Burby, the 'tenderly beloved and much regretted wife of Mr. Daniel Burby, Conductor of Ordnance' died in July 1807 aged 27 years 'leaving her husband, children and friends inconsolable for her loss'. The Ballard family, who intermarried with the Cuxtons, are commemorated here, including Ethel Smith (nee Ballard) who died just short of her centenary in 1985. There are a cluster of graves of the Munro French family, none of whose four little children, born in the 1870s, lived a full year. Finally, there are the Cuxton graves, including that of Richard Cuxton who died in 1866, aged 15. Arrangements have been made for repairs to this particular grave, and Lynette and Tom Inglis hope that BACSA will take an interest in the whole cemetery and perhaps offer some supplement to its tiny income.

Mail Box

Earlier this year BACSA members John Griffiths and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding. They had been married at St. Mary's Anglican church, Calicut, now part of Kerala. Mrs Griffiths suggested, to celebrate the occasion, that it would be appropriate to provide a meal for poor people in Calicut. The present Collector, John Griffith's successor, and St. Mary's Church, responded enthusiastically to this kind notion and a 'lunch' for five hundred people was arranged through the Social Welfare Department. Children, widows, the mentally retarded and the indigent were all fed, a sterling sum producing a respectable amount of rupees. The Church told the Griffiths that some of its brass plate had been stolen and asked if a donation from the couple could be used to replace it. This was done, and since the Church still had a balance of Rs 1,783, asked if it could refurbish the graveyard wherein lay the tombs of 'eminent British civilians and soldiers', an idea which was readily agreed and acted upon. John Griffiths modestly gives this story as an example of how much can be done in India at relatively little expense and with ready support from local people. The two projects together cost little more than £300, and surely no more charitable way of celebrating a family event can have been devised.

From Gibraltar comes the story of an extraordinary coincidence and a photograph taken in the Labuan cemetery, North Borneo. 'Navy News' had reported the death, in 1963, of Able Seaman Charles Alan Sutherland from *HMS Barrosa* who was killed during a gun battle with pirates off the North Borneo coast. At that time the pirates of the Sulu Sea, south west of the Philippines, carried out frequent raids along the Borneo coasts, looting and killing, and making their get away in the new outboard motorboats. Mr Gerald Savage sub-

sequently produced a photograph he had taken in 1951 of a grave in the Labuan cemetery (see page 85) whose inscription reads 'Sacred to the Memory of Colour Sergeant Adam G. Sutherland of the Royal Marines, late of Her Majesty's Brig *Columbine* who fell mortally wounded in the noble discharge of his duty in an attack on Balanini Pirates in the Cutter of that Vessel on the 30th May 1847'. The coincidence of names is remarkable, but more so is the fact that both men died in the pursuit of pirates, some 120 years apart. The *Columbine* was a sloop built at Portsmouth in 1826, which was later converted to a brig and subsequently became a coal hulk in 1854. The Labuan cemetery which contained other British graves was reasonably well kept when Mr Savage visited it, but one wonders if it still exists today.

Last year Henry Scholberg, from Minnesota, America, travelled to Goa and discovered the European Cemetery of Cabo, in the village of Dona Paula, near Panjim. It is, he writes, 'a reminder of an historical quirk almost two centuries old' being the only Protestant cemetery in Catholic Goa. At the end of the 18th century the East India Company feared that an alliance between Tipu Sultan and Napoleon would lead to the French conquest of southern India. Because of the long-standing friendship between Britain and Portugal, the latter allowed a sizeable number of Company troops to garrison at Fort Mormugao, Cabo and at Fort Aguada. Naturally a cemetery was needed, and this seems to have been established about 1802 although the earliest tomb still extant is dated 1808. By the mid 19th century, Cabo cemetery was in disrepair, being used for rice cultivation and the tombstones worn down from the sharpening of villagers' tools on them. At the request of the Archdeacon of Bombay in 1869, the Governor General of Goa got the old entrance gates rebuilt, although the massive teak doors within the inner arch have long since been replaced with iron gates (see page 85) Mr. Scholberg found these gates padlocked and had to climb over them. There is a break in the northeast wall, but in general, the laterite wall about 2 metres high is in good condition.

Among the inscriptions recorded is that to Margaret Reel, wife of John William Reel, Conductor in the Honble Company's Service, who died 19 December 1808, a 'virtuous Wife, and Affectionate Mother and a Faithful & Sincere Friend'. Another 'beloved Wife' was Ada Margaret Socket, born in Tranmere, Cheshire who died on 3 May 1893 'She has gone the grave hath received her/Twas Jesus that called her away/She has gone to the Lord who redeemed her/From night to the splendour of day'. The most recent inscription, on tomb No. 55, is to 'Henry William Mayne, an employee of the Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway for many years who died 10 August 1912.' A lone American lies here too, from Pennsylvania: 'Thomas J.B. Kennedy/born in Pottsville, Pa/U.S.A. November 28 1840/Died in Mormugao/Goa November 10 1901.' (Additional material from an article by Dr PP Shirodkar.)

From Mussoorie comes the welcome news, that a new and costly boundary wall has been erected around the Dehra Dun Cemetery by the German Embassy in Delhi. Why the Germans though, one might ask? BACSA member Ruskin Bond, who sent in this report says it is because they wished to protect the graves of German internees, and so had to protect the entire cemetery thus 'effectively shutting out the ever growing slum on the periphery'. The internees were kept at Premnagar, where the Indian Military Academy is today. The Italian prisoners-of-war were at Clement Town. It was from Premnagar that Heinrich Harrar, the mountaineer, managed to escape to Tibet and wrote his famous book *Seven Years in Tibet*. BACSA's Dehra Dun cemetery book, by Aylmer Jean Galsworthy, published in 1993, lists fourteen German civilians who died between 1943 and 1946 and are buried at Dehra Dun plus a single Italian prisoner-of-war, Lt Col C Romano.

Talking of Mussoorie, we have received a further story of a European funeral pyre there. Margaret Neil remembers as a child, seeing a small chapel in the grounds of Ralston Manor, between Barlowganj and Mussoorie, where she used to stay with her grandparents from time to time. The story was that a Mr & Mrs Smallman had been living in the house at the end of the last century, and Mr Smallman had expressed a wish to be cremated at his death (rather an unreasonable request as there was no crematorium, our correspondent points out). Nevertheless, when he died his widow tried to observe his wishes, and had her servants build a funeral pyre in the garden. The impromptu cremation was 'well underway when someone rode by and looked in to see what was happening. The matter was duly reported to the appropriate authority and later Mrs Smallman built the little chapel on the site of the funeral pyre - as penance or a memorial. Who knows?'

An interesting excerpt in the East India Group newsletter from New Zealand, notes that Sydenham cemetery there contains the remains of two Indians, Wuzerah, who died in 1902, aged 85 and Kulloo, died the same year, aged 76. Both men were natives of India and had been for many years the faithful servants of the late Sir John Cracroft Wilson. They had accompanied their master when he left India in 1854, bringing with him 'an Arab horse, birds, game, plants and seeds'. Wilson, who has been magistrate at Cawnpore and Moradabad then purchased a swampy tract of land at the foot of the Port Hills, and began the hard work of draining the land. He named his property 'Cashmere'. He returned to India the same year as judge at Moradabad and was knighted for his services and bravery during the uprising of 1857. He resigned two years later and returned to his New Zealand home, this time with an even more exotic menagerie including '52 horses, two hares and a Bokhara jackass'. He was naturally known as 'Nabob' Wilson, and for his honesty and straight dealing, although with a reputation for paying low wages. He predeceased his two faithful servants in 1881.

A poignant little tailpiece to our story of Maharaja Dalip (Duleep) Singh's grave at Elveden, Cambridge, has been added by new BACSA member, Mrs AD Hall. During a holiday in Scotland in 1952, she visited, with her husband, an old church at Kenmore, and found the following inscription on a gravestone in the churchyard (a gray granite stone as a coffin):- 'To the memory of the infant son of the Maharaja Duleep Singh/Late Ruler of the Sikh Nation, Punjab, India and The Maharanee, his wife/Born 4th August 1865 Died 5th August 1865' 'Poor family, a son born and dying the next day' comments Mrs. Hall.

Can You Help?

The Chittagong Hill Tracts have recently attracted the attention of a group of academic writers, based variously in Holland, Canada and Germany. The area, which was once part of the independent kingdom of Arakan, was sometimes referred to as India's forgotten frontier before 1947 and today it lies within Bangladesh. It was here that Thomas Lewin took up his post as Superintendent of Police in the 1860s, earning in nine short years the respect of the tribespeople who called him their 'first white friend'. Now BACSA members who may have served in, or visited this remote area, are being asked to contribute to the research project at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Professor Willem van Schendel is particularly interested in old photographs of the area, from the 1860s onwards, which will eventually be published, with the owners' permission, of course. He hopes to illustrate such diverse areas as the geography of the Tracts, its wildlife, agriculture, colonial administration, family life of the tribespeople, religious festivals, buildings etc. Please write to him at The Department of History and Arts, Erasmus University, PO Box 1738, 300 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

A short time ago BACSA member Jane Allen-Melvin acquired a large, family Bible. It had, she tells us, belonged to people with Indian connections, and she believes that direct descendants would be interested to learn of it. The Bible is dated 1800 and was owned by Mrs S Rocke, wife of Richard Rocke. It lists the Rocke family from 1683 (Francis) to 1932 (Walter). The owner was a Miss Pattle before her marriage, possibly a daughter of James Pattle and Mademoiselle de L'Etang. The couple had four sons, all born in Bengal between 1798 and 1803. Details include places of birth, baptismal sponsors, marriages, educations and careers. For example there is Andrew Rocke who 'met his death by the fall of a beam on his head...', Edith Rocke, born in Port Elizabeth 1850 who died in 1923 in Kilburn, and Harold Rocke who travelled from Blomfontein to Pretoria with Lord Roberts. Surnames include Auriole, Becher, Cherry, Cunyngham, Mennell, Mitford and Scott. Mrs. Allen-Melvin will be happy to send details to those with a family connection in exchange for

a stamped addressed envelope and stamps to cover the cost of photocopying (up to five sheets of A4). 5 Lake Lane, Dousland, Yelverton, Devon. PL20 6LZ

Sylvia Wright from Surrey can trace her family's connection with India back to the 1660s, only sixty years after the foundation of the East India Company. Walter Clavell was sent by the Company to put down a rebellion at Fort St. George, and stayed on to become a nabob. He had been born at Winfrith, Dorset in 1638 and the family still reside at Smedmore, though they are now called Mansel. Walter married twice in India, his first wife, Prudence, died before 1675, the second, Martha Woodruff, whom he married in 1675, died two years later. Both women were buried in Balasore, now in Orissa, and Walter himself was buried there at the end of 1677. His Will is dated 2 August of that year. Two sons from the second marriage survived and were sent back to England after the deaths of their parents. It was Edward, born in 1675 at Cossimbazaar who inherited Smedmore. Mrs Wright is particularly interested in Walter 'as none of the family seems to know anything about him' and would welcome information, although the Clavell graves of Balasore must surely have been lost many years ago.

Jennifer Roberts from Australia is also researching her family history and is keen to learn more of John Thomas Dunlop Cameron, who was born about 1817, in western India. He married twice, firstly to Martha Hyde, in 1840 and secondly to Ann Elizabeth Otto, both marriages taking place in Calcutta. He is recorded as being headmaster of La Martiniere School there in the 1840s. It was John's younger brother Alexander Mackenzie Cameron, born in 1838 who emigrated to Australia, dying at the good age of 88 in Sydney, and he was Jennifer Roberts' great grandfather. She believes he may have been educated at La Martiniere too, and any clues can be passed on to her at 1A Victor Avenue, Panania 2213, New South Wales.

Field Marshal Lord Carver has kindly written to correct an item that appeared in *Chowkidar Vol.7 No.2* about his illustrious ancestor Richard, Marquess Wellesley. He tells us that the Marquess, contrary to our report, married Hyacinthe Rolland in 1794, who had already borne him five children. The second child, Gerald, born in 1790 went to India in 1808 and was assistant to the Resident in Nepal 1814-1818, finishing his service as Resident in Mysore in 1832. Gerald had an Indian mistress by whom he had three daughters, who appear to have been in England with him when he died in 1833 at Flitton, near Ampthill in Bedfordshire. Gerald Wellesley's correspondence from India, together with other family papers was presented by Field Marshal Lord Carver to the Hartley Library at the University of Southampton, where they are available to scholars. Gerald's Will shows that he left annuities to his daughters, of whom we know nothing more, but there is no evidence that they ever called themselves Fitzgerald.

'John Company's song' is the title of a curious little ditty written out in 1909 which BACSA members Mr & Mrs Sewell lent the Editor recently. In misspelt Hindustani it begins 'Dekkhe hoare jahn, jahn Company ne san/Age, age patter kalla, piche to Shaitan/Bungalow mi mi mem pukari, sahibi-ko salaam' some of which makes sense of course, but I would be interested to know if readers have come across the full version. It sounds like a marching song, with later additions.

A new BACSA member Clea Finkle is doing research for a PhD on 'Policing in Colonial Kanpur' (Cawnpore). She would be 'most interested in interviewing, in person, or by post, anyone who served in Cawnpore district before 1947, in an official or unofficial capacity'. Letters will be passed to her via the BACSA Secretary.

The Oxford Connection

The links between the oldest English-speaking University in the world and the sub-continent go back further than most people would imagine, as a handsome booklet produced by the University, entitled 'Oxford and India' reminds us. As early as 1681 Bishop Fell of Oxford had persuaded the East India Company to support four scholars annually at Oxford. They were to study Eastern Languages and Divinity before going to India as chaplains of the Company. The Boden Chair in Sanskrit was endowed by Col Joseph Boden of the East India Company in 1832, an indication of the importance that Oxford placed on the study of India's ancient past at a time when Lord Macaulay was contemptuously asserting that 'a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia.' The first Indian students to take degrees at Oxford came up in 1871 when entry was no longer confined to members of the Church of England. Over the next twenty years some fifty Indians graduated, half of them becoming barristers, while six entered the ICS. Cornelia Sorabji, who became India's first woman lawyer studied at Somerville College after Oxford friends had arranged a scholarship and Benjamin Jowett, Master of Balliol had persuaded the University to allow her to take the Bachelor of Civil Law examination, at that time normally confined to men. Jowett was a particular friend of India, partly through his connection with Courtenay Ilbert and his wife (the subject of BACSA's latest book), and he prompted the University to appoint an instructor in Hindi and a Reader in Indian Law and History.

In 1883 the University, led by Monier-Williams, the great Sanskrit scholar, founded the Indian Institute as a focus for Indian Studies at Oxford. It was intended as a centre for ICS probationers and Indian students, and Monier-Williams made three tours to India to obtain support, money and gifts, from

princely rulers and businessmen. Collections from the Institute are now in the Ashmolean Museum's Department of Eastern Art. Many Indians who came to prominence after Independence had studied at Oxford in the 1920s and 30s, including Indira Gandhi, Krishna Menon, MC Chagla and KM Pannikar. The Oxford University Indian Society, now known as the Majlis, was formed over eighty years ago, to provide cultural entertainment and a chamber for debate. Among Indian visitors to Oxford were Rabindranath Tagore who gave the Hibbert lectures in the 1920s, and Mahatma Gandhi, who stayed with the Master of Balliol during the Round Table Conference in 1931. The Master's daughter, Drusilla Lindsay, recalled that her parents had not been warned about Gandhi's need for goat's milk, 'but Gandhi's detective came to the rescue. "Leave it to me" he said, and went off to find a goat, presumably on Boar's Hill.'

BACSA has its own Oxford story too. Earlier this year a BACSA contact Martin Moir, received a letter from Mr Aziz Luni, Chairman of the Balochistan Development Authority, and a personal friend of his. Mr Luni used to visit the British cemetery near Nari-Gorge Sibi, from his interest in the British period, and was sad to find, this March, that it had been levelled to the ground and cultivated with vegetables. He managed to retrieve one tombstone bearing the following inscription: 'To the dear memory of Henry Hensman Gibbon OBE for many years Fellow and Chaplain of Balliol College Oxford and formerly Lieut. 8th Cavalry, died January 28th 1928 at Sibi, Baluchistan, aged 66 years. "Until the day dawn". Erected by his wife Helen and Phoebe, Aubrey and Andrew'. Mr Luni asked if it would be appropriate to affix this tombstone in the grounds of his country house, unless Balliol were interested in it. The tombstone was very heavy, and took six young men to load it into Mr Luni's jeep. The letter was passed on to BACSA, who contacted the Dean of Balliol and it was agreed that Mr Luni should retain the memorial he had rescued, and to provide a photograph of the inscription for both our records.

The Agra Cemeteries

Two reports of very different cemeteries in Agra have been received recently. The first, by Premola Ghosh, in 'Swagat' the in-flight magazine of Indian Airlines gives a good account of the old Catholic Cemetery near the Civil Courts of Dayalbagh and is beautifully illustrated. The origins of the cemetery are traced to the early 17th century, and the purchase by the Armenian merchant Khoja Mortenepus of 12 acres of land. Many of the Jesuit priests at the Mughal Court lie here, and two Germans, Father Anthony Gabelsperger (died 1741) and Father Andrew Strobl (died 1758) both of whom served as astronomers at the court of Raja Jai Singh of Jaipur, builder of the Jantar Mantar. The cemetery is also famed as the resting place of John Mildenhall, the

English merchant, who through patience and perseverance was able to win trade concessions from the Emperor. He died in 1614. Here too is Walter Reinhard's Muslim inspired tomb erected by his widow Begum Samru. Reinhard's last appointment had been as Governor of the Fort of Agra. A later Governor was John Hessing, who came from Utrecht as a soldier of the Dutch East India Company and who later fought for Scindhia. Hessing's beautiful tomb of red sandstone was carved by an Indian architect called Latif, and echoes, in its decoration, Agra's most famous tombs within the Taj Mahal.

Three smaller and much humbler cemeteries have recently been systematically recorded by BACSA member Robin Volkers, who lives in Agra. They are not well documented, and are known collectively as the Fort Cemeteries, lying outside the Amar Singh gate of the Agra fort, to the south. They are on a low hill, thickly covered with thornscrub, which may mark the site of an earlier fort. The three cemeteries are not adjacent, but near each other, and all seemed to have been established in 1857 'probably in July when the European population finally retired into the Fort'. In each case, very little remains, nearly all the stone monuments having been destroyed, and the stone removed. A number of broken monuments have subsequently been repaired with cement render, a considerable time ago, but one monument seems to have been restored recently, although Mr Volkers cannot learn anything about the history of the site. A further mystery is the presence of two brick-lined rectangular pits 18' X 6' X 1'6" deep. These seem not to have been mass graves, as one might think, but possibly mark the cellars of a building no longer extant. The majority of graves without monuments are represented by rectangles of brick, but there are no inscriptions. and sometimes merely depressions in the ground.

Mr Volkers has prepared a thorough survey of the three sites, which he has simply labelled A, B and C, and numbered the graves accordingly, as A1 to C12. He has been able to supplement what meagre inscriptions remain by referring to the Cantonment Register, which however, he suspects is incomplete, and to Blunt's register. It is difficult and unrewarding to labour over little piles of brick and rubble, but he has conscientiously recorded everything still above ground. Among the tombs he has been able to identify is that of John Mackerness of the East India Company who died of cholera in the Fort of Agra on 21 or 23 July 1857, aged 39. He worked as Assistant Engineer in the Railway Department. Nearby is a sandstone slab to William Christian Watson of the Bengal Civil Service and Magistrate of Aligarh, who also died of cholera in the same month. More often the entry reads simply 'B24 remains of brick and render slab 4' X 3'. No inscription' or 'B19 mound of brick rubble 8' X 4'. There are useful notes for visitors on the necessity for stout footwear and a walking stick, and a warning that B5 has a small snake living under it. Clues on where to find more information on the three cemeteries would be appreciated, so that a more complete picture can be built up.

Notice Board

Town Maps of India wanted. BACSA's Executive Committee are currently compiling the *Handbook Guide to Indian Cemeteries*, news of which was given at the March AGM. The aim is to show precise street locations of cemeteries in the larger towns, in relation to landmarks such as the railway station, post office etc. with notes on how to find them. There will also be a summary of information on the size, date, history and recording of monumental inscriptions in the cemeteries. This information will be kept in loose-leaf form by Provinces and our UK Area Representatives have been making a start by submitting plans of a few major towns showing the location of cemeteries known to them. Members on tour in India can help Area Representatives by verifying and adding to these rough plans. Members in the UK can help by letting the Secretary have any town plans - or copies - from old guide books or travel literature. If they are able to mark on these plans the location of cemeteries known to them personally, that would be a bonus.

Wellesley Tour of South India. A special interest escorted tour in February 1996 covers the battlefields of Ahmednagar and Seringapatam, where Col. Arthur Wellesley fought before leaving for the Peninsular Wars. Also included are local cemeteries designated of interest by BACSA. The tour includes stays at Poona, Mysore, Ootacamund, Cochin and Madras. The Guest Lecturer with the tour is Major Narindar Saroop, CBE and a BACSA Member. A Tour Manager will also accompany the group. Price for 16 days is about £2,108 per person. Contact Anthony Bales, Bales Tours, Bales House, Junction Road, Dorking, Surrey. RH4 3HB for more details.

Military Tours of Asia. Organised by Cox & Kings, who began providing service to the armed forces in 1758. This year's Military Tours are focussed around British activity 50 years ago and earlier. The two week Burma tour, for example, includes a visit to Sittang, where the Sittang bridge was blown up under the orders of Major General Smyth VC, and Yangon Holy Trinity Cathedral where the 'Burma Roll of Honour' is kept, a record of all Allied soldiers who perished in the second World War. Other tours are to Pakistan and the Frontier with lunch in the Khyber Rifles mess; North India, visiting Dehra Dun, Lucknow, Calcutta, Delhi and Agra; and Singapore and Malaya. For more details contact Cox & Kings, 4th Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH, tel: 0171 873 5006.

Books by BACSA Authors

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

A House in Pondicherry Lee Langley

Lee Langley explicitly acknowledges her debt to Marcel Proust on the very first page of her latest novel, *A House in Pondicherry*, where it is listed as the only twentieth century French work in the library of Pondicherry's dilapidated Grand Hotel de France: 'For the owner of the Hotel de France, as for the author of *A la recherche*, the present is less interesting than the past.' This phrase might serve as a motto for the whole novel. Certainly she acknowledges her debt implicitly in her own preoccupation with history, the passage of time, the way the past 'throws out lures' into the present, all of them very Proustian concerns; and in the name she gives to her heroine, Oriane - "Like Proust's duchesse, you know... but of course you do not. People can't read Proust any more." The novel is very much an examination of things that are not or cannot be done any more, and of how this has come about.

We first meet Oriane as the six-year-old daughter of a respectable French family in 1909, witnessing the trial of an Indian 'troublemaker' in British-run Bengal. She is pictured as precociously enquiring, with a romantic imagination. Within pages we meet her again, in 1992, as the sharp-tongued patronne of the Grand Hotel de France, sending English back-packers about their business, scolding her staff, lamenting the widespread ignorance of that French culture she vainly attempts to preserve with her library classics and her record player 'blasting out Debussy.' Set against the perspective of the tumultuous century, what follows is the story of how she has arrived at this point, how her intellectual defences have hardened into defensiveness, how her independent spirit and indifference to solitude have brought about her isolation and loneliness. At times she appears as surprised by her own evolution as the reader, and one of Mrs Langley's strengths in this novel, of which Proust would certainly approve, is her poignant depiction of human surprise at our own aging, and at how the imperceptible passage of time has changed us. There is a finely observed tension between those familiar things which, by their very familiarity, give us not only the illusion of continuity but of time being somehow checked, and the implacable momentum of political change in the larger world: Oriane's parents vainly presenting her with a succession of 'eligible young men' gives us such a notion of comforting regularity that it is with a shock we discover her, thirty-seven years old, unmarried and no longer so young herself, while the cataclysm of the Second World War plays itself out.

Moving fluidly between past and present tense, the novel's style mirrors this very fluidity of time. In some of the earlier chapters, which recount Napoleon's



*The tomb of John Minns,
Assistant Apothecary, died 1856
at Madurai (see page 74)*



The four Munro French graves, 1875-1887, at Madurai (see page 73)

*Colour Sergeant Adam
Sutherland's grave at Labuan,
North Borneo (see page 75)*



Gateway to the Protestant Cemetery, Cabo, Goa (see page 75)

dreams of Indian conquest and the shifts of power between British and French, a certain ironical sententiousness creeps in - 'Things, as they have a way of doing, changed' - a sort of ersatz profundity which claims a weight it hasn't yet earned. But this soon fades as Oriane's story gets underway. And many of the descriptive passages are luxuriantly nostalgic. Most poignant of all are the final chapters, with their admirably unsentimental portrait of the aged Oriane in her old home, the Grand Hotel de France, no longer grand but still very French, living out her time and in doing so *outliving* her time, as we all must - 'outliving her dreams', in the words of the novel. 'And what would she have made of McDonalds and suburban *hypermarches*, EuroDisney and a TV channel devoted to soft and hard porn? *Après tout*, Pondi was what she knew best - was all she knew. Pondi and its past.' (SC)

1995 Heinemann £14.99 pp275

Singapore: The Pregnable Fortress - A Study in Deception, Discord and Desertion Peter Elphick

The author's earlier book (along with Michael Smith), *Odd Man Out - the story of the Singapore traitor*, had portrayed with skill the life and spying activities of Captain Patrick Heenan, 16th Punjab Regiment. In his way, Heenan was actually the Odd Man In the Indian Army of the time. The present book is an even more compelling one with a moral on every page, the title itself encapsulating the ingredients of the recipe for this particular disaster. The word 'if' undoubtedly is the central word in 'life', and manifestly so for those who fought in Malaya and Singapore from 7 December 1941 to 15 February 1942, and then endured three and a half years of brutal Japanese captivity. On 10 September 1940 Prime Minister Churchill had recorded in a Minute, 'The prime defence of Singapore is the Fleet... The probabilities of the Japanese undertaking an attack upon Singapore... are remote... They are not likely to gamble.' Thereupon the author postulates, why, in view of its importance, was there never an inquiry into the loss of Singapore, despite Churchill stating on 23 April 1942, 'I do not at all wonder that requests should be made for an inquiry by a Royal Commission, not only into what took place upon the spot in the agony of Singapore but into all the arrangements which had been made beforehand. I am convinced, however, that this would not be good for our country, and that it would hamper the prosecution of the war. Australian accounts reflect upon the Indian troops. Other credible witnesses disparage the Australians... there is an endless field of recrimination...'

Wavell's 'Report on Operations in Malaya and Singapore' of 1 June 1942 had stated, 'for the fall of Singapore itself, the Australians are held responsible'. Lt Gen AE Percival, GOC Malaya, after his release from captivity and subsequent retirement, published his account in *The War in Malaya* in 1949. Lt Gen Sir

Lewis Heath, GOC 3rd Indian Corps, who died in 1954, was senior to Percival and had more recent battle experience. He was to write to Percival in 1949 itself 'The discerning reader only will appreciate that you yourself or you and Brookham (Brooke-Popham, C-in-C), were so greatly responsible for the hole in which the poor 11th Indian Division was to find itself enmeshed in the first days of hostilities. Hitherto, loyalty to you and the decision to avoid unpleasant disclosures has constrained me from ventilating the errors which led up to the serious and unnecessary mauling which the 11th Division received in the opening days of the campaign.' The official British history, *The War against Japan* by Maj Gen SW Kirby and others was published in 1957. However much important information that the historians had to hand about the Malayan campaign was excluded for political reasons. The official Australian history by Lionel Wigmore *The Japanese Thrust*, was also enjoined to leave much unsaid.

There are some avoidable editing mistakes, eg on page 67 it is stated, 'Ahirs are an ethnic community of Rajasthan, then in northern India, now part of Pakistan.' This is not so, Rajasthan is part of India. Similarly on pages 54 and 64 the Indian nationalist was Rash Behari Bose, not Ghose. As to the German woman living with Lt Zahir-ud-din, 4/19th Hyderabad, the author comments, 'no explanation is given in the official file as to why a German national was living free in Singapore in May 1940'. Actually she was employed by the British. Overall, this painstakingly researched book is compelling in its poignancy, encompassing both bathos and pathos, and is unquestionably an important contribution to the history of the period. The surrender of Singapore was a macabre finale, for, from the point of view of subsequent Japanese accounts, a final British counterattack on 15 February could have eliminated the Japanese lodgement on the island. Possibly, the most objective encapsulation among all those quoted is by Major JC Westall, Royal Marines (a Staff Officer, Naval Intelligence, who had escaped before the surrender, all intelligence officers having been ordered to escape), who has stated, 'with regard to the much discussed Australians, I can only say that on 11 February the waterfront was a mass of demoralised troops looking for any means of leaving the island. I should say that at least 80 per cent of them were Australians, the remainder British and Indian, the latter appearing more lost than broken.' (SLM)

1995 Hodder & Stoughton £20.00 plus postage, pp441

British Drawings in the India Office Library, Vol. III. Patricia Kattenhorn

Twenty-five years after the publication of the two much acclaimed volumes on British Drawings in the India Office Library by Mildred Archer, we are now treated to a third volume in the form of a supplementary catalogue of drawings acquired since 1969, but with much more besides. The first two volumes cov-

ered nearly 11,000 works divided into three sections; drawings by professional, official and amateur artists. The third now adds an incredible 5,500 more, representing over 300 individuals. The large number of artists not previously represented include many soldiers and civil servants, reflecting the wide abilities of these amateur artists; and, unlike the earlier volumes, these are listed in alphabetical sequence along with the professional and official artists, in a simplified format. Where additional works by important artists listed in the first two volumes are included in Kattenhorn's volume, the biographical details are not repeated but cross-referenced. The three volumes are therefore seen at their best as a whole and the 56-page Introduction in Volume I, along with the 20-page Bibliography at the end of Volume II, serve as invaluable base for an understanding of British Indian art.

Kattenhorn's volume on its own, however, has many unique features, for example in extending the Prinsep contribution from two to five members of the same family, and D'Oyly from one to six, a social web is woven around their works apart from the artistry. The index too can be seen as responding to the needs and interests of a public wider than the academic institutions, with the inclusion of subjects such as churches, cemeteries (BACSA to note!), conveyances, houses, interiors, mosques, temples, occupations, trees and plants, villages, and so on, which will appeal especially to authors, researchers and collectors in the British-Indian field. We must be grateful to Patricia Kattenhorn and her colleagues in the Prints and Drawings department, past and present, for their work over the years which has culminated in the addition of yet another rich layer of readily available information, not to mention the bonus at the end of the volume of 64 full-page illustrations as a representative selection of the works included. From 'Soldiers, Java, 1669' to Robert Home at Seringapatam and James Wales at Bombay in the 1790s. Then there are illustrations by Samuel Davis, Thomas Prinsep, Sir Charles D'Oyly, Edward Lear, John Gantz to name a few; leading to 20th century paintings by Percy Brown and finally a portrait of the great Rabindranath Tagore painted by Anne Maher in 1932, in all a splendid collection. (TCW)

1995 The British Library, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG £60.00 plus postage, 385 pages + 64 illustrations

Harrow-on-the-Hooghly: The New School, Calcutta and Darjeeling, 1940-1944 John Lethbridge

John Lethbridge's fascinating account of the famous New School, established in Calcutta and Darjeeling from 1940-44, and exclusively in Darjeeling from 1942, will please old students and general readers alike. 'Harrow-on-the-Hooghly', as it was dubbed (sadly the author does not tell us who coined this amusingly apt sobriquet), was an enormous success under the headship of

Harold Loukes. When I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr Loukes a short time before his untimely death in 1980, I asked him if he could liken his New School to any school in England, and he replied that he felt Bedales would be the nearest equivalent. I have racked my brains for an alternative title for the New School, but cannot find any alliterative B-word for 'Bedales-on-the-.....'

John Lethbridge cites the school's *raison d'être* as follows: 'By the end of July 1940 it was clear that over 200 British children would soon be arriving in and around Bengal, and there would be something like another 60 who were too young to have been sent home. All would need to be educated. The existing English-speaking schools, several of which, like St. Paul's in Darjeeling, were of a high standard, could not absorb many. In any event a lot of parents would not even consider them mainly because they did not wish their offspring to acquire the local singsong "chi-chi" accent which in those days would have been a significant disadvantage both socially and in a career. A new school would have to be founded.' So, with the assistance of Dr WA (later Sir Walter) Jenkins, the Director of Public Instruction, a General Committee was formed of parents and other interested parties, to consider the establishment of a new school for children whose education in Britain had been interrupted because of the war. The co-educational New School, for pupils aged from 5 to 17, opened in a handsome mansion in Alipore Road, Calcutta, in November 1940 and in Darjeeling in May 1941, with pupils going down to Calcutta in the 'cold weather' and continuing their schooling in Alipore Road. Eventually, however, the Alipore Road school was closed and the New School functioned exclusively in Darjeeling until 1944. With fees much higher than those charged by the old-established schools in Darjeeling, 'Harrow-on-the-Hooghly' became the choice of parents in the higher echelons of commerce, the services and Government departments, including tea planters and tea merchants.

John Lethbridge concludes his account of the New School with details of the successes of illustrious ex-students, listing a Professor of Urology, a High Commissioner, an Ambassador, a BBC Correspondent, Scottish and Olympic Hockey Internationals and the Dean of a famous Medical School. It's always difficult to assess whether illustrious ex-students in later life achieved their success because of, or in spite of, their early schooling. But most schools reel off the names of their famous sons and daughters with understandable pride. (My old Darjeeling school is no exception. We at Mount Hermon are delighted to boast that Tom Stoppard spent his early years there during the war, and drop his name with a resounding thud at every opportunity!) 'Most importantly the New School was a happy school and this must have contributed to the formation of balanced personalities. The verdict seems to be that their achievements

might possibly have been greater but their happiness probably less.' Highly recommended. (HIC)

1994 The Old Bakery, Thames Street, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3QQ £11.50 including postage, pp179

Chinthe Tales ed. Jimmy Midwood

A history of the Burmah Oil Company by TAB Corley was published in 1983. It has much to interest the student of Imperial mercantile politics at the turn of the century and thereafter but, like all official histories, it leaves the reader with absolutely no idea of what the actual workaday life of its employees was like. Now comes *Chinthe Tales* which fills the gap very nicely. The editor, Jimmy Midwood, has brought together a number of reminiscences of life with BOC at work and leisure, from the point of view of its employees and their families. The span is great, from the 1920s to the 1970s in time, from Pakistan to Peru in place. Quite fittingly, the oilfields of Burma predominate ('Yenan pre-war' and 'Chauk in the 1960s' are typical entries), from tough yet idyllic days pioneering on the edge of the jungle, when 'our drinking water arrived at the old wooden bungalows by bullock cart and the only form of refrigeration was with an ice ball', to the period of redevelopment after the ravages of war, when politicians and pipelines had to be handled with equal care.

Outside Burma, Digboi in Assam seems to have been a particular favourite. Childhood memories are stirred and the camaraderie of community life in a remote station is recalled with much affection. 'Mercifully' writes on old hand, 'the place remains off the tourist map and has not suffered the consequences of tourist economics.' Altogether, this is a colourful mosaic of fireside yarns and the warmth of the telling is itself testimony to the benevolence of BOC as an employer. One is filled with envy. There are evocative sketches plus recipes, including those two quintessential Burmese dishes, Khaukswe and Moh-Hin Gah. (JW)

1994 Obtainable from Miss Patricia Manning, Burmah Castrol House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN3 1RE £6.30 including postage, pp165

Readers interested in visiting Burma should take note of a new and most authoritative guide-book compiled and published by one of our members. It contains details on places notoriously difficult to reach without his first-hand advice, with many illustrations - some in colour - and maps, and practical information on visas, medicines, accommodation and reading matter. The author is to be congratulated on the comprehensiveness and attractiveness of this publication.

1995 (2nd edition) *Guide to Burma* Nicholas Greenwood

Brandt Publications, 41 Nortoft Road, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 0LA pp289

The Barrack-Room Ballads of Rudyard Kipling Centenary edition edited by John Whitehead

This is a truly splendid edition of the Barrack-Room Ballads, approximately one hundred years after they commenced appearing. The first collation appeared in 1892, and the second in 1896. The introduction is evocative, and the notes quite definitive, both by John Whitehead. As is known Joseph Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay in 1865, where his father, at the time, was a professor in the Sir J.J. School of Art, which still exists, his mother's elder sister being married to the painter Edward Burne-Jones. The second Christian name, Rudyard, was chosen after a lake in Staffordshire, where his parents had first been introduced at a picnic. Sent to Britain in his seventh year, after a happy childhood, by the time he returned, aged seventeen, his father was Curator of the Lahore Museum and Principal of the School of Art there. When Kipling returned, he first became a journalist of the Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, and then on The Pioneer of Allahabad and Lucknow, thus becoming well acquainted with northern India. In 1890 the first Ballad that appeared was the haunting 'Danny Deever', written when Kipling was twenty-four, describing the ceremonial hanging of a private soldier who had shot a sleeping comrade.

TS Eliot had described this Ballad as 'a poem which is technically (as well as in content) remarkable'. What comes out in these Ballads is Kipling's message that 'the backbone of the Army is the non-commissioned man', the officers coming across as ineffective. Kipling himself had never heard a shot fired in anger, though soldiers and soldiering provided him with inexhaustible materials. Nonetheless death is never remote as the numerous cemeteries in India bear witness. As Kipling records 'We have got to die somewhere, some way, some 'ow/We might as well begin to do it now.' It will always be a matter for some regret that Kipling did not portray Indian troops as well in some of his memorable ballads, often composed with the inspiration 'If you've 'eard the East a-callin', you won't never 'eed naught else', vividly describing temples, peacocks, parrots, monkeys, roadside trees, kites wheeling overhead and brain-fever birds. As Whitehead correctly points out, 'Gunga Din', the bhisti in a British unit, was based on a real bhisti called Juma who was with The Guides on the Delhi Ridge in 1857, as narrated by GF Younghusband.) This centenary edition is verily an inspired publication, revivifying the potent magic of these Ballads. (SLM)

1995 Hearthstone Publications, The Coach House, Munslow, Shropshire £9.50 plus postage pp167

Historic Lucknow Sidney Hay

BACSA members are, of course, well-known for their longevity, but this is the first occasion on which a book published 55 years ago, by an author who subsequently joined BACSA, has been reviewed in this section. *Historic Lucknow* was written by Sidney Hay (now Ralli), when she worked for The Pioneer in Lucknow, and has been out of print for many years. Last year it was reprinted in India, exactly as it appeared in 1939 (though without the author's knowledge). It is one of the seminal books on the old Nawabi city, always quoted in guide books, for it contains all that one needs to know about the buildings and the personalities that made up this unique and fascinating place. Its descriptions of palaces, Muslim shrines and East India Company buildings were written from personal observation, which makes it particularly valuable and although the author does not state so, she must have spent many hours talking to people for whom the uprising of 1857 was only a generation away. Recent work on Lucknow has been able to confirm many of her theories. For example, on page 103, she writes that 'Tradition hints at a large tank lying between the Greater and Lesser Chutter [Manzil] though there is no evidence to prove that'. Photographs found in the 1970s at the India Office Library actually show the great tank in front of the Farhad Baksh, thus confirming the value of a strong oral tradition. Her description of the European Lat-Kalan-ki-Lat cemetery in Aminabad shows that by 1939 many of 'the pretentious monuments' had already been stripped of their leaden inscriptions, a most useful record now that the entire cemetery has been squatted. (RLJ)

1994 Asian Educational Services, New Delhi Rs 295, pp228

Anglo Indians: Books and Articles WW Payne

By the closing years of the British raj, the Anglo-Indian [descendants of European fathers and Indian mothers] population of India was some 200,000. Though miniscule in comparison to India's millions, there were more Anglo-Indians in India than there were British. Today, although there still remains a substantial population in India, the diaspora which took place at the time of India's Independence has spread the 'family' of Anglo-Indians to Britain, Canada and Australia. Payne's work will be of interest to the widespread Anglo-Indian community as one of the first efforts to collate a comprehensive index of printed materials relating to its early and contemporary history. It has practical sections which list the addresses of Anglo-Indian associations internationally as well as the titles of past and present Anglo-Indian periodicals.

The greater part of the index, however, will be of value to the general student of Anglo-Indian history - a neglected aspect of the study of the British in India. Payne lists a wide range of books on Anglo-Indian culture and history, in many

of which Anglo-Indian content is marginal, but which includes the principal current printed sources of Anglo-Indian historical record. A summary of unpublished PhD dissertations and a comprehensive list of articles, contemporary and historic, will be of further value to the specialist. The author, who was born in Calcutta, qualified as a chartered accountant, and now lives and works in California, concludes the index with a selection of Anglo-Indian articles and invites further contributions to the index.

1995 Withbert Payne, 1011 Seneca Court, Walnut Creek, California 94598, USA. No price given. pp80 plus appendices

Books by Non-Members (that will interest readers)

[These should be ordered direct and not via BACSA]

Begam Samru: Zeb-ul-Nissa, Begam Samru of Sardhana ed. Nicholas Shreeve

This is a curious little book, both in its subject and in its presentation. The Begam was the Indian wife of Walter Reinhard (Samru), a European mercenary fighting for various princes in 18th century India. She outlived him by nearly sixty years, converted to his Catholic faith and took the name Joanna. In the jagir of Sardhana, just north of Meerut, she built a handsome church, described by her as 'the finest, without exception, in India' and was buried there in 1836. A decade earlier, her Head Secretary, Lala Gokul Chand, had written, in Court Persian, an epic poem in rhyming couplets, the usual form of tribute at that time. The manuscript (in the India Office Library) has been translated, annotated, and put into English verse by the editor and two Persian colleagues. The difficulties faced can be appreciated by anyone with a knowledge of Persian poetry. The nastaliq script, in which it was penned, was alternatively 'stretched' or 'squeezed' to fit the page, a device known as patterned composition, and the diacritical marks leave something to be desired. The finished work is not great poetry, but does, I suspect, very accurately reflect the original, with its generalised, adulatory statements, its disregard for strict facts, and its delightful metaphors. It is often impossible to reproduce in English the puns and wordplay favoured by Persian or Urdu poets. An episode entitled 'About the greatness of the English' is typically fulsome (and accurate!): 'In military matters they do well/In discipline and battle they excel/ And when it comes to festive celebration/They take their drink with little moderation/ In justice swift, in judgement sound/ So clever they cannot be downed.' The editor's detailed notes carry the story along well, and he is to be congratulated for making this

obscure poem available to a wider audience. There are two very handsome coloured reproductions of the Begam and her husband as well. (RLJ)

1995 Bookwright, Crossbush Bindery, Convent of the Poor Clares, Crossbush, nr. Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9PJ £12.00 including postage (cheques to N.G. Shreeve) pp110

Memories of Cyril Jones: People, Society and Railways in Hyderabad ed. Omar Khalidi

The railway to which Cyril Jones devoted his working life was the Nizam's State Railway in the princely state of Hyderabad. The first section of line, between Wadi and Secunderabad, which opened in 1874, was a joint effort between the Nizam (who paid for it), and the Government of India, who constructed it. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Company was set up a decade later (with only one Indian Director to nine Englishmen) and was pledged, among other things 'to carry mail-bags for the postal department'; 'to run at least one train both ways except when there is an accident or natural calamity' and 'to carry troops of both H.H. the Nizam and the Government of India'. Cyril Jones was offered the post of Assistant Engineer three years after his graduation from the Central Technical College, London (later Imperial College) at a modest salary of between Rs 350 - 500 per month. With no Indian background at all, Jones was attracted to an open air life and planned to move on after gaining wider engineering experience there. In fact his varied jobs, including bridge construction, dealing with flood damage, designing fish-plates, and many others, kept him in India until retirement. His family life was happy, his wife Kathleen adapting well (after a bumpy start) to the increasing social round as Jones progressed to Chief Engineer. He died a centenarian, as recently as 1981, and his memoirs have been nicely compiled by his grandson David Lloyd Jones, with an introduction and bibliography by the editor. (RLJ)

1991 Manohar Publications Rs 125 plus postage, pp95

The Royal Palaces of India George Michell & Antonio Martinelli

'Palace: the house of a king or queen.... from the Roman Emperors' residence on the Palatine Hill' says Chambers Dictionary, rather prosaically. But in fact this was how Indian palaces were seen until recently, as housing for Rajas, Nawabs and Begams, admittedly very grand housing indeed in some cases, depending on the status of the inhabitant, but still as a residence. This book brings together for the first time new research on the multi-functional palaces of Hindu and Muslim India, demonstrating by maps and illustrations, how these buildings fulfilled a number of roles and how they are not comparable with the Western idea of a 'king's house'. Indian palaces had to be many

things- they had to be defensive forts, with sloping sides and huge walls, like Tughluqabad and the Rajput forts. They had to provide a focus for courtly activity, where the ruler was seen in the darbar, like Vijayanagara. They had to act as a place where the prince was seen to observe the rituals of his religion, like Chittor Fort, and to celebrate an enemy's defeat (the Tower of Victory in the same Fort). They were to encompass pleasure pavilions, huge zenanas for the harem, workshops for court artisans, mosques or temples, treasuries, judicial courts, gardens, centres of local governments, in fact miniature towns within walls.

As British influence spread, and even the most autonomous of native states accepted Residents, and later, members of the Indian Political Service, the concept of an Indian palace was bound to change. Defence became less important, walls were demolished or fell into ruin, and pleasure, pomp and luxury became the new criteria. Western fashions in architecture, which had influenced some rulers as early as the 1780s (notably in Awadh), led to a number of Gothic and Indo-Saracenic palaces in the 19th century. The last flowering before Independence was the unique Art Deco palace of Morvi, begun in 1931, with its cocktail bar, circular marble fountain and swimming pool. This book is highly recommended, not only for its scholarly analysis of palace culture, its sensible, guidebook style descriptions, but for its splendid photographs, surely some of the best architectural pictures ever taken in India, which alone make the book worth its fairly modest price for such an excellent production. (RLJ)

1994 Thames & Hudson £29.95 pp232

Dr. Graham of Kalimpong James Minto

Dr. Graham's Homes were founded in 1900. It was the beginning of a dream for a far-sighted Church of Scotland missionary who was appalled at the plight of the Anglo-Indian children he found in his parish. His aim was to give them a home, health, security and an education which they, in turn, could take back to their communities, spreading their knowledge and training. In the years since 1947 the Homes have adapted to different needs, including giving safe haven to Tibetan children when the Chinese invaded their country. There are now fee paying students whose funds help to maintain the 19 cottages and 500 acres which make up this community. This book is a reprint of the 1974 edition, by a former Principal of the Homes, but is well worth reading for its portrait of the inspired founder, John Anderson Graham. There is a short foreword to the present edition by the singer Cliff Richard, one of whose relatives worked at the Homes for a time.

1995 Obtainable from The Secretary Miss V. Cassie, 21 Balmoral Place, Edinburgh EH3 5JA. £5.99 including postage, pp204

A Pathan Company HM Close

Michael Close went to India in 1937 to teach at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. In 1940 he was commissioned into the 1st Battalion Rajputana Rifles and served with them at Karen and in the Western Desert and was awarded the MC. A year later he was seconded to the Bhopal Infantry which was stationed in the Canal zone. Subsequently he served with the Regiment in Khartoum, Cyprus and on the Aegean Island. During that period Michael Close commanded the Pathan Company. He does not tell us what the composition of the Company was but it did include Afridis. This book will be of interest to all who served in the Middle East and to all who have commanded Pathans with all their amusing ways. After the war Michael Close returned to India, settling in Peshawar where he taught at the Islamia College and subsequently at Edwardes College. He is now retired and lives in Peshawar. (CF, courtesy Indian Army Association)

1994 National Book Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan Rs300 pp318

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

A new bookseller and BACSA member, specialising in India and the Orient, is Mr Hugh Ashley Rayner, who issues new catalogues every two months. The current catalogue lists a good selection at very reasonable prices, and includes sections on Nepal and the Himalayas, Tibet and Central Asia, and the Middle East. Contact him on 01225 840891 or 01225 463552. After 31 October you can write to him at 4 Malvern Buildings, Bath BA1 6XJ

