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NOTES ON BACSA

The Association was formed in 1976 and launched in Spring 1977 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 almost 1,500 (2011) 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 - establishing local contacts in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc., and building up the BACSA Records Archive in the India Office Collections at the British Library together with many other projects for the upkeep of historical and architectural monuments. 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 the condition of a relative's grave. BACSA also publishes Cemetery Records books. Full details on our website: www.bacsa.org.uk

The enrolment fee and subscription rates are obtainable from the Membership Secretary: membership@bacsa.org.uk

Founded by the late Theon Wilkinson, MBE

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THE CHINESE MISSION

Lord Macartney's unsuccessful embassy to China in 1792 is generally reckoned to have been the first diplomatic overture from Britain to the mysterious eastern country. But as BACSA member Martyn Webster tells us, the memory of an earlier expedition was revived by a recent extraordinary find. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Cathcart, who was born in 1759, came from a distinguished Scottish family and by the age of twenty-nine had already served as a Member of Parliament, as Quarter-Master General to the Bengal Army, and had carried out several diplomatic missions in the East Indies. In 1787 he was appointed ambassador by George III and charged with a mission to the Emperor of China. Britain was anxious to formalise its trade relations and to gain an official depot on the mainland 'where Chinese merchants and shipping might resort'.

Cathcart was to receive a salary of £6,000 – an enormous sum for the time, and a measure of the importance of the diplomatic mission. Another £4,000 was spent on suitable presents for the Chinese courtiers including a gold box, which was to carry the British King's letter to the Emperor. Four British officers accompanied the new ambassador together with a Mr Galbert who was 'conversant in the Chinese language'. But even before the *HMS Vestal* set sail for China, Cathcart was a sick man, suffering from consumption. The Secretary of State, Sir Henry Dundas had found it necessary to instruct the ship's captain that in the event of the ambassador's death, the *Vestal* was to return immediately to the first port it could reach in England. Sadly, Dundas's prediction came true and Cathcart died on board ship on 10 June 1788 in the Straits of Banca (today's Bangka). An attempt at recuperation had failed, and it was to Anjer Point in Java that the ship returned. Here Charles Cathcart was buried six days later on 16 June under a wooden headstone, designed by the ship's carpenter, and with a lengthy Latin inscription. (see back cover)

At some point the wooden headstone was replaced by one of slate, probably at the wishes of the family, and the inscription, again in Latin, was slightly amended. It praises the Honorable Charles Cathcart as a man who 'exposed his body, broken under various skies by toil undertaken for the commonwealth (though perchance it might have been healed by rest and leisure) to the dangers and difficulties of an arduous voyage...' A Dutch account of 1871 referred to this memorial when a telegraph cable was being laid from Anjer Point to Sumatra and Cathcart's remains were disturbed 'a considerable distance below the surface.' But there was more to come. In 1883 Krakatoa, some thirty miles away, erupted, destroying everything within a large radius, including the European cemetery which

had grown up around the Cathcart grave at Anjer Point. Some time afterwards Cathcart's slate memorial slab was found in paddy fields, where it had been swept by the lava flow and it was subsequently stored in a shed.

In 1912 Charles Godfrey, a municipal engineer and surveyor in Shanghai, initiated action, with the approval of the Cathcart family, to bring the forgotten memorial to China. By 1914 it was installed in the red brick wall of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, just north of the main entrance. How the memorial subsequently survived the almost total destruction of European graves during China's recent turbulent past is a matter of astonishment. It came to light again only in 2008 during the restoration of the cathedral thanks to the actions of Robert Nield of Hong Kong and Peter Hibbard of Shanghai, both members of the Royal Asiatic Society. It is possible that the memorial had been covered up or bricked over at some point, and that this had saved it. Curiously, the Latin inscription had been already given in full in the BACSA cemetery records book *Java: British & Empire Graves 1743-1975* by Justin Corfield, published in 1999. It had been recorded by a Dutch archivist working for the Government of the Netherlands East Indies. The archivist, Mr van Treslong Prins had discovered a copy of the inscription but believed that the memorial had been lost in the Krakatoa eruption, and was unaware of its subsequent travels. Mr Webster concludes: 'Thus Britain's first ambassador to China has not been forgotten and his journey there has indeed ended on Chinese soil in a great international city where trade and commerce between Britain and China thrives once again.'

MAIL BOX

BACSA member Dr Adam Yamey has sent in an article intriguingly titled 'The Empty Grave' that tells the story of a Jewish cemetery in southern India. 'On one of my frequent visits to Bangalore I was idly flicking through a street atlas of the city when I noticed a small green patch near to the Mysore Road. It was marked 'Jewish Grave Yard'. I knew that there have been large Jewish communities in cities such as Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, and Poona, but I had never associated Bangalore with a Jewish presence of any size. I visited the cemetery the next day. Surrounded by a huge Muslim cemetery on two sides and two roads, the well-maintained burial ground contains just over fifty graves, and the foundations of the hut, which was used to prepare bodies for burial. Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the Maharaja of Mysore, donated the land on which the cemetery is located on the 9 September 1904. On that day, Subedar Samuel Nagavkar died, and his is the earliest death recorded on the stones in the cemetery. 'The majority of those buried in the cemetery were born in India, and represent

the various different types of Jews who lived there. Six of the graves commemorate Jews not born in India, five of them European. When Saida Abrovna Isako, a Russian Jewess, the wife of the proprietor of the Russian Circus, died in 1932, her coffin was brought to the cemetery on a bier drawn by white circus horses.

'Bangalore has been an important military base for several centuries. So, it was not surprising to discover some graves related to warfare. Yusuf Guetta died age 22 years in 1943. His grave records that he was an evacuee from Benghazi, the Libyan town evacuated by the British in April 1941. Yusuf lies next to the grave of Private Morris Minster of the South Wales Borderers Regiment. Morris passed away on the 4 April 1942, aged 24. I looked up Private Minster on the Commonwealth Graves website and was surprised to find that he was recorded as being buried in the War Cemetery, at Madras (now Chennai). Yet, I had seen and taken pictures of his grave in Bangalore.

'I wrote to the Royal Regiment of Wales Museum. Major Martin Everett replied, informing me that Morris, son of Solomon and Annie Minster of Salford, joined up maybe as early as 1931, and died in 1942, but not in action. He told me that at the time of his death there were no Welsh Borderers in India. They had all left for Iraq by November 1941. Morris was probably too ill to travel, and remained in India. Major Everett wrote that he believed that his remains had been moved to Chennai. He added that the Madras War Cemetery was created to receive Second World War graves from many civil and cantonment cemeteries in the south and east of India where their permanent maintenance could not be assured.

'I can report that Morris Minster's grave is certainly being well maintained. When I enquired about the whereabouts of his body, a member of the Moses family, the last Bangalore born Jew still residing in the city, told me that a few years ago it had been disinterred and transferred to Chennai, as suggested by Martin Everett. My mind was set at rest.'

Last September Patricia Ellis contacted BACSA to ask about the grave and cenotaph of her great great great grandfather, Colonel Charles Parker of the Bengal Artillery who died at Simla on 27 April 1837. Colonel Parker was buried in the old Mall Cemetery, in Chota Simla, which was established in 1828, a few years after the first British settlers moved in. The Colonel's life was an adventurous one, epitomising the period when the East India Company was rapidly expanding its territories by conquest and trade. Born in 1773 at Salford Priors in Warwickshire Charles was educated at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich as a commissioned officer and he

arrived in India at the age of nineteen. He was initially stationed at Dum Dum, Calcutta with the Bengal Foot Artillery, rising to the rank of Captain in 1812. That same year his twin children, a boy and a girl, were baptised, although we do not know who his wife was. Charles was next posted to Bencoolen in Sumatra, where the East India Company had a trading post. Life at Fort Marlborough, Bencoolen, was hard, with few of the comforts found in India at the time. He must have been relieved to be posted next to Agra, followed by postings at Karnal, north of Delhi, at Mhow and Cawnpore. After thirty years service, he was entitled to almost two years' leave, which he took in Australia and the island of Tasmania, then called Van Diemen's Land. On his return he was again posted to Agra and later appointed brigadier at Shekhawat in Rajputana. But by February of 1836 Charles was on sick leave in Simla, where he had earlier commanded the Convalescent Depot. We do not know what illness or injury he was suffering from, and it was obviously not that incapacitating because he was out on a shooting expedition in the Simla hills when he contracted a fever which was the immediate cause of his death.

Colonel Parker's grave has disappeared from the Mall cemetery, as have most others (see the next story), but a handsome monument was erected at the instigation of Colonel Tapp, the Political Agent at Subathu, on what was then a remote spur below the Pioneer Lines, and is now home to St Bede's College. Mrs Ellis takes up the story: 'Our taxi edged carefully down the narrow, twisting, precipitous, pine-clad track. We were expecting damage, vandalism, anything but the beautiful, peaceful clearing that suddenly emerged. The cenotaph, proudly catching the dappled sunlight, is almost undamaged, the 173 year old inscription clear and easy to read. [TO] THE MEMORY OF COL. CHA'S PARKER BENGAL ART'Y Who died at Simla, 27th April 1837 Aetat.54. This monument has been erected by his brother Officers. In token of their regard and esteem for a warm friend and an ornament to their profession.' (see page 108) Mrs Ellis adds that to find this family memorial in such good condition in such a remote and beautiful setting was an unbelievably moving experience and the family would like to thank whoever ensures its maintenance and care. BACSA cannot claim responsibility here, and neither it seems can the Archaeological Survey of India, for it is not among their listed monuments in Simla. Perhaps St Bede's College, which was originally founded as an orphanage for the children of British soldiers in 1864, keep a friendly eye on the monument.

Sadly, this care does not extend to the cemeteries of Simla. Last year Mike Macnamara who was working in Delhi took a few days off to visit the hill station. Mr Macnamara was researching the history of Sir Malcolm Hailey,

Governor of the Punjab in the 1920s. He found a tragic family story. Lord Hailey's teenage daughter, Gemma, had died in 1922 in Simla of a burst appendix. It was a blow from which her parents did not recover. When Gemma's mother, Alexandra Hailey, died in 1939, her ashes were placed in her daughter's Simla grave. The Hailey's only other child, Alan, died as a pilot in the Middle East during the Second World War. 'I developed an empathy for them,' wrote Mr Macnamara 'especially given their sacrifice for British India and the Empire on so many levels including the personal. I therefore determined that the main object of my visit to Simla would be to visit Lady and Gemma Haileys grave.

'I started at the tourist office to ask where the cemetery was. They didn't have a clue and nor were they interested in helping me. I discovered through enquiries and using various guidebooks, pamphlets etc. that in fact there were three cemeteries. The oldest and smallest, dating back to the early 1800s, found very close to the centre of Simla just off the Mall. I imagine as Simla expanded another site had to be found. The second dating from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s is down in a valley, within ahalf an hour's walk of the Mall. The third, where Gemma and her mother rest, is on a hilltop, surrounded by deodars some 20 minutes drive from Simla. The oldest cemetery is small and almost unidentifiable as such except for broken marble lying in the undergrowth. The second, which is quite large, has been cut in two by a road and is completely overgrown and inaccessible except at the edge of the road. The third is not much better but is more accessible. All three cemeteries have been vandalised and badly damaged.

'I was very surprised to see the state of disrepair. Surely the Indian authorities see the potential for tourism? But what upset me most, and continues to, is the fact that the British Government has abandoned this population which held British India together. What would/do they think of their abandonment? Apart from the personal and emotional level it reflects so badly on British prestige. This was the summer capital. While all three cemeteries are in a poor state of repair I think it would be possible, with money, to tidy them up and present them, at the very least, as important historical sites. With a bit of research one could guarantee to identify some historically important people. The number of women, children and families point at one level to the degree of commitment shown by the British. A positive outcome from my Simla visit was that I was able to pay my respects to Gemma and Lady Hailey finding their grave which, to the best of my ability with available resources, I tidied up.' BACSA made grants to Simla in 1985 and 1998, but at present is unable to establish a local contact there. Suggestions would be welcomed.

A favourite excuse in the old days for not handing in one's homework was that the family dog had eaten it. New BACSA member Mr Sinclair-Jones went one better recently in Aligarh. 'The resident cemetery goat stole and chewed my copy of the Tourist & Travellers report' he told us, so he had to type his own version and send it in to us. Mr Sinclair-Jones was in Aligarh to look for traces of his illustrious ancestors, the Derridon family, and in particular, Major Louis Derridon; his son of the same name; and his grandson Alexander. The Major was one of those adventurous Europeans who stepped in to fill the gap between the old Mughal Emperors and the East India Company in the late eighteenth century. This they did by working as mercenaries for various local rulers, including the powerful Mahratta chief Mahadji Scindia and his successor Daulat Rao Scindia. Although the Derridon family, of French origin, later moved to Agra, the first members were closely associated with Aligarh.

It is here that a large red house, built in the Muslim style, still stands. Today it is the Tibbia Medical College, an annexe of Aligarh Muslim University, but it was originally the home of General Pierre Cuillier Perron, who was commanding part of Scindia's army. The handsome building was first known as Sahib Bagh, literally 'the sahib's garden'. In 1803 when Perron surrendered to the British, he gave this house to his brother-in-law, Major Louis Derridon. Opposite the house is the old cemetery, opened in the same year, 1803, so it may well have been part of the Frenchman's garden. Mr Sinclair-Jones reported that the cemetery today is enclosed by sound walls, with substantial memorials, but as much of the rendering of the tombs has gone, thus leaving the brickwork exposed, they are at risk. The general appearance is overgrown and because the cemetery is now in a built up area it is used by the local population for washing clothes, among other things. The burial place of Major Derridon's son, also named Louis, or Lewis, was found and this is the earliest tomb surviving, although the original stone has been replaced fairly recently, along with those of two other Derridon graves.

However, Mr Sinclair-Jones failed to find a memorial to his great great grandfather, Alexander (son of Louis Derridon junior), who was killed, together with his wife and three of his six children during the mutiny of 1857. The family was extremely unlucky, because the majority of Europeans in Aligarh had managed to escape and flee to the Fort at Agra where they remained safe. But by great good fortune the remaining three Derridon children were saved by the family's Indian servants, and it is from one of these survivors, Emilia, that our correspondent is descended. It was hoped to find at least a memorial to Alexander Derridon, his wife and the three children cruelly slaughtered, but so far this has eluded Mr Sinclair-Jones. There may be something to mark these five deaths, or possibly a memorial in a French church in the family's home town or village.

Incidentally Mr Sinclair-Jones's journey from Delhi to Aligarh, a distance of 90 miles, took him a tedious five-hour journey by bus. 'Some sections of the road are in a dreadful state and traffic through the towns is reduced to the speed of the bullock carts.' Your editor had a similar experience when travelling recently from Delhi to Bulandshahr, a journey of some forty miles, rather less than the run between London and Oxford. It took a good three hours along an apology for a road, after leaving the national highway. The message is that it is always going to take twice as long as you think to get anywhere in India, although there will always be something diverting to look at as you amble along.

The Rajpura cemetery lies off the Grand Trunk Road in north Delhi, to the west of the famous Ridge. It was opened in the early 1830s to accommodate the increasing numbers of Europeans who came to Delhi after its capture by the British at the beginning of the century. It became known as the Military Cemetery after the officers and men buried there who died on the Ridge during the siege of Delhi in 1857. For years the cemetery slumbered on peacefully, being officially closed for burials in 1910, although an adjoining cemetery remained open. Sadly this historic site was effectively encroached in the 1980s and virtually all that remains of it today is the gothic gateway and a small memorial plaque. New BACSA member Mr Richard Riddle has sent us a photograph of a charming painting he bought some years ago at auction of the 'Old Cantonment cemetery at Rajpore, Delhi, called The Mutiny Cemetery'. (see page 108) The gifted amateur artist was William Berkeley-Henderson, and the picture was painted in 1944. It shows a pleasant, typically nineteenth century, cemetery with a variety of interesting tombs, interspersed with mature trees. The painting is all the more valuable because no photographs seem to exist of the graveyard before its destruction. It is known both as Rajpur and Rajpura, after the small village that originally existed here, although the latter name is more commonly used today.

CAN YOU HELP?

In 2005 Mr JR Byju was out walking in the Nandi Hills near Bangalore when he stumbled on a lone grave in the middle of a grove of eucalyptus trees. It is a difficult spot to reach, he tells us, and the hill-top seems to have been an out-post of some kind. The inscription stone, which appears to lie flat on the ground, is in remarkably good condition and reads: 'Sacred to the memory of Sophia Garrett the beloved wife of John Garrett Esq., D.P.I. died at Nundy Droog April 10 1867, aged 57 years. Them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.' Mr Byju emphasizes that the grave does not lie within a cemetery and this is confirmed in the 1906 record of *European Tombs and Monuments in Mysore*, which can only provide the

information that D.P.I. stands for 'Director of Public Instruction', an administrative post in education. If it were not for the biblical reference one might imagine that Sophia Garrett was a freethinker whose grieving husband simply chose a beautiful place for her burial. It's certainly a mystery, and clearly the stone is in its original setting. Perhaps readers could suggest a solution to the problem that has puzzled Mr Byju for several years, and he adds that he has been unsuccessful in finding any information about the dead woman.

As a centenarian Mrs Gwyneth Cartwright must be one of BACSA's oldest members and has a tragic story to tell about her parents' deaths. Both Herschel Christian and his wife Queenie died in a drowning accident as they attempted to rescue a young woman in difficulties in a rapidly flowing river. Herschel Christian was a judge and *diwan* (minister) to the Raja of Gangpur. At the time of their deaths the couple were living in Sundargarh, capital of the princely state of Gangpur in Orissa. Both were great friends of the Raja and Rani and this friendship may be a clue to the whereabouts of the double grave. (see page 109) Peter Cartwright, Mrs Cartwright's eldest son, remembers seeing the graves as a young boy. 'They are definitely in Sundargarh' he writes 'two graves.....surrounded by a gravel border and a waist-high wall with an entrance gate. Definitely not part of a cemetery but by itself in an open space, a maidan and kept in good condition.' That of course was many years ago, and the memory of the exact location has since been lost. BACSA has no record of any cemeteries in Sundargarh, and is hampered by having no local contacts in Orissa either. Jill Reeve-Johnson, Mrs Cartwright's daughter, who contacted us on her mother's behalf, thinks the graves may lie in the garden of the Christian's house, or even in the Raja's palace gardens. A new palace, the Kishore Mahal, was constructed in Sundargarh in 1903, and is still standing, so this might be the place to look. A search on Google Earth website has proved inconclusive, so it probably needs a visitor on foot to investigate. In particular, it would be useful to establish the exact date of the deaths. Jill Reeve-Johnson says the tragedy happened on 18 April (1935) but the India Office Library records show that Herschel Christian was buried on 31 July 1935, while his wife's burial is not recorded. The biblical phrase 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' or a similar wording is thought to be inscribed on the graves. Any suggestions, or better still, a recent photograph of the graves, if they still exist, would be warmly welcomed by the family.

A query by Meryl Hirons in the Autumn 2010 *Chowkidar* was partially answered by Major Everett, Curator of the Royal Regiment of Wales Museum. What seemed at first like a hopeless search for information on Corporal Charles Birch, a great great grandfather, was given fresh impetus

when Major Everett reported that his discharge papers have survived and are on microfilm at the National Archives in Kew. He also gave an alternative spelling for Walajabad, a name that had been wrongly recorded in the 1861 census. Wallaghabad, Fort St. George in Madras is where the 69th Regiment of Foot was stationed in 1824, when Charles Birch's son William, was born.

Queries of all kinds come in to BACSA, but one of the strangest ever was received from Colin Fenn, of the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, in London. Mr Fenn had discovered that a sophisticated French-made crematorium was installed in Calcutta in 1903, and because West Norwood purchased a similar crematorium a few years later, he wondered if by any chance, Calcutta's early model still survived. Mr Fenn was promptly put in touch with Mr Ranajoy Bose, Secretary of the Christian Burial Board, Calcutta, and an enthusiastic email correspondence followed, complete with photographs of railway tracks, trolleys, furnaces and doors. (The metre-gauge tracks were to ensure a smooth ride into the channels inside the furnace.) The first crematorium (known in the trade as a cremator), in Britain was installed at Woking cemetery in 1885, based on an Italian model. But the French Toisol Fradet et Cie design, used in Calcutta and West Norwood, was considered superior, because it worked on town gas. By chance the Calcutta Burial Board, with whom BACSA has close links, was planning to re-activate its old crematorium, which had been functional until 1978, when erratic gas supplies forced its closure. Now that a more consistent supply of underground gas is available, the Burial Board is hoping to restart its crematorium, which is behind the Lower Circular Road cemetery. Copies of the original plans from West Norwood were sent to the Calcutta Board, which plans to restore and use its heritage structure again. Many technical details were discussed, including the fact that the Calcutta version produced a considerably higher amount of gas per cremation (4,500 cubic feet) compared to that of West Norwood (between 1,500 to 2,000). However, if the Kolkata Municipal Corporation gives the go-ahead, modifications for better energy management will be put in place.

The Scotsman Alexander Dow is a rather shadowy figure in the history of eighteenth century India, an ironic position for a man who was himself an historian of India. BACSA member Anne Buddle tells us that Alexander was born at Glascorrie, near Caurie in Perthshire in 1736. As a youth he joined John Nisbet of Gunsgreen, who was known as a 'merchant and smuggler' but by 1757 Dow was on his way to Bencoolen. There is a suggestion that he might have had to leave Scotland after a fatal duel. The talented young man soon found himself acting as Secretary to the Governor of Bencoolen and by 1760 he was in Calcutta, where he joined the East

India Company's army as an ensign, rising to become a captain five years later. However, Dow's main claim to fame was as an historian. Returning to England he published the *History of Hindustan* translated from the Persian work by Firishtah, a Delhi-based author. This quickly became a very popular book and was re-translated and published in German in 1773. Meanwhile Dow had produced another book, the Persian stories of Inayat-Allah Kamboh, which was subsequently translated into French, and published in Amsterdam. In addition Dow wrote two plays, *Zingis*, produced in 1769 and *Sethona*, in 1774. Returning twice more to India, he died at Bhagalpur on 31 July 1779. His Indian ventures were clearly lucrative, for he was able to loan John Nisbet, his former employer, the sum of £1,500 in 1777. And on his death, Dow left the whole of his fortune, £10,000, to Nisbet, to the dismay of Dow's relatives.

So we have a picture of the man, but without knowing much about him. Did he read Persian well enough to make his own translations from the manuscripts of Firishtah and Inayat-Allah, or did he employ a translator? How did he make his fortune, for certainly few historians ever get rich from their writings. Was he involved in smuggling goods from India to Scotland, with John Nisbet's help? And finally, what was he doing in Bhagalpur, when he died? This last question is perhaps the easiest to answer, for Bhagalpur was on the established river route down to Calcutta, and thence home by ship. But again, characteristically, no information seems available about his tomb. It is not listed in the authoritative *Bengal Obituary*, nor mentioned in Theon Wilkinson's book *Two Monsoons*. Bhagalpur today is a rough and ready town in Bihar, so BACSA wouldn't necessarily encourage people to go there in search of the tomb, but would nevertheless be interested to hear if it still exists.

WILLIAM BAILLIE

On the 13th November 1782 Colonel William Baillie of the Madras Army died at Seringapatam. He had been a prisoner of Tipu Sultan following his defeat at the battle of Pollilur on 10th September 1780, imprisoned in an underground dungeon, fettered with irons and denied medical attention. In 1816 his nephew Lieutenant Colonel John Baillie of the Bengal Establishment and Resident at Lucknow, erected a memorial to his uncle at Seringapatam. This memorial has now been restored by Ravi Rao, a well-known Mysore restoration architect with funds provided by the Tritton, Baillie and de Meuron families and BACSA. On the same day of the same month 228 years later, the BACSA President Alan Tritton (an indirect descendant through his mother's Baillie family), together with his daughter and her husband, rededicated the restored memorial at Seringapatam and

prayers were recited for the repose of the soul of Colonel William Baillie. The inscription on the memorial reads as follows:

'To the Memory of Colonel William Baillie, who, with a detachment of troops under his command, after a most noble and most gallant resistance to a superior force on the plains of Perambaukan, was ultimately compelled to surrender to the united armies of Hyder Ali and Tipoo Sultan on the 10th day of September 1780 and died in the fortress of Seringapatam on the 13th day of November 1782. This monument was erected by his nephew Lieut-Colonel John Baillie on the Establishment of Bengal and Resident at Lucknow 1816.' (see page 109)

THE CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

Many people are familiar with the story of how today's Indian Army began with a handful of sepoys hired to guard the East India Company's factories, and grew to become one of the world's largest armies. Less well known is the story of the Crown Representative Forces, which were established by the British Government in India in July 1939. Anticipating trouble, the Forces were set up to provide support to the rulers of various princely States, to enforce surveillance over German and Italian prisoners-of-war interned by the British, and to counter the menace of dacoits. It was also of course to provide protection for British residents in the different States. After Independence it was renamed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and is now reputedly the largest paramilitary force in operation, assisting the United Nations and playing a crucial role in keeping law and order, particularly during election time in India. But of special interest to BACSA is the Force's headquarters at Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh. Here a number of fine old buildings in the former British cantonment have been re-utilised by the Force, which has made a point of recognizing and restoring these heritage structures.

Chief among them is the Ochterlony House, built in 1822 as the British Residency by Sir David Ochterlony, the 'white Mughal' par excellence, with his thirteen 'wives'. The splendid house, not dissimilar to the Residency at Hyderabad, is now the Officers' Mess for the Force. It is said that so great was the respect for this redoubtable American-born soldier, that his house was not only left untouched during the 1857 uprising, but that long after his death in 1825 local Bhil tribespeople would bring garlands to the house to honour his memory. Ochterlony also constructed a small fort at Neemuch, surrounded by a moat, with a drawbridge entrance and within it is the grave of Lieutenant Richard RW Brett, of the Bombay

(continued on page 110)



above: Colonel Charles Parker's memorial, Simla (see page 100)

below: Rajpura cemetery Delhi, in 1944 (see page 103)



above: double grave at Sundargarh, Orissa (see page 104)

below: the restored Baillie memorial at Seringapatam (see page 106)



(continued from page 107)

Light Cavalry who died of wounds on 22 November 1857 when the fort was besieged. Other buildings now used by the Force include the imposing Victoria Barracks, the Quarter Guard (built in 1878), the little Anglican church and the plunge bath, constructed for the use of British officers during the tormenting summer heat. The old cemetery contains many interesting tombs, reckoned at over eighty in number and impressive by their sheer scale. Here lie the daughter-in-law (Sarah) and grandson (Robert Shaw) of Robert Burns, the poet, who both died in 1821, the year that the cemetery was opened. Indeed, they may have been its earliest inhabitants. Roderick Peregrine Ochterlony, a natural son of Sir David followed the Burns to the cemetery the next year and there was a steady stream of burials thereafter. Lady Olive Crofton recorded many of the inscriptions in the *Indian Monumental* series published in 1934, although it is unclear how much might remain today. BACSA is indebted to Mr Jasbir Singh Gill, Director of the CRPF at its Gurgaon Camp, for bringing this cemetery and the cantonment's fine old buildings to our notice.

NOTICES

From the Membership Secretary, Christopher Carnaghan, 42 Rectory Lane, King's Langley WD4 8EY, or membership@bacsa.org.uk or (01923) 267 458

Subscriptions: These are due on 1st January each year from those members living in the UK who are not Life members. If you do not pay by Standing Order please be sure to send me a cheque for £7.50, payable to BACSA, for your 2011 subscription. If you do not we will regretfully remove you from the mailing list. If you are uncertain of your membership status and payment record please contact me. (NB If you live outside the UK you are automatically a Life member.)

UK Addresses: Our new printers, who use 'carrier sheets' rather than address labels, have dispatched this mailing. To benefit from Royal Mail's bulk mailing rate - which saves us at least 10% - we need your 'post town' as well as your postcode. Please advise me if either is missing from your carrier sheet, or of any errors; if you don't know your post town please ask at your post office or consult Wikipedia online. **Overseas Addresses:** Please check your address on the carrier sheet and advise me of any changes needed.

E-mail addresses: If you have an e-mail address and are happy to hear occasionally from BACSA by this means please send it to me at membership@bacsa.org.uk. (However we have no plans to send our regular mailings electronically).

'The Devil's Wind' a film about the Indian Mutiny and a present day search for the graves of ancestors killed during the conflict, was shown at BACSA's Autumn meeting in 2010 and was much appreciated. The film's director, BACSA member Philip Geddes, has generously made available a master copy of the film. This has now been transferred to DVD and a limited number of copies are available to members only, for private viewing, with all profits going to BACSA. They will be on sale at the forthcoming AGM for £10 each, together with handsome silk ties with the BACSA logo, BACSA postcards, second-hand books and ephemera with an Oriental flavour.

Orders for the DVDs and the ties (also £10 each) may be sent by post to Miss Caroline Whitehead, 21 Pentlow Street, London SW15 1LX. Please make cheques payable to BACSA.

BACSA BOOKS written by BACSA members

Scottish Orientalists and India: The Muir Brothers, Religion, Education and Empire
Avril Powell

Members attracted by three evocative words – Scottish Orientalists and India – may wonder whether the sub-title suggests too daunting a read. This is emphatically not the case. The book does cover all these themes and the bibliography is impressive, from Carlyle, Gladstone and Max Müller to *Modern Asian Studies*. The book also 'breaks new ground.' Its structure is biographical – not of an individual, but of a family of scholars, the Muirs of Kilmarnock. It brings recognition of John and William's achievements as two of Britain's most significant orientalist scholars, but also recognises contemporary *munshis*, pandits, Hindu and Muslim scholars, hitherto left in the shadows.

The Muir story begins, not in 'imperial metropolis' of London, but in newly industrialised Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, and the book ends in Scotland too. The Scottish beginnings of the four Muir brothers were conventional and sound. Their grandfather, a respected and influential citizen, also sat on the progressive committee which established Kilmarnock's first 'Sabbath School' for 'children of both sexes.' Advantageous marriages linked the Muirs to the Macfies, Shaws, Wemyss and Fairlies, including the highly successful William in Bengal – 'no English House in India has such extensive concerns as Mr. Fairlies.' To this, add a strong evangelical spirit at home; university education at Edinburgh and Glasgow College, and being 'parcelled off with little choice in the matter' to Haileybury. It was here that John (1810-1882) and

William (1819-1905), engaged their interests in oriental languages, the lifelong passions for Sanskrit and Arabic studies so ably illustrated here.

John joined the Bengal service in 1827, as Magistrate-Collector, Special Commissioner for Land enquiries and, from 1842-1843, Principal of Sanskrit College, Benares. He retired home to Edinburgh in 1853. The middle brothers, James William and Mungo Fairlie Muir, were dead within a few years of reaching India. The youngest, William, joined the service in 1837, and enjoyed a far higher public profile, rising steadily from Assistant to Commissioner, Allahabad division to Intelligence Officer, Agra Fort in 1857 and finally, Lieutenant Governor, North West Provinces from 1868-1874. The heart of the book focuses on the 'after-office pursuits' of these two scholar administrators: - 'Religion: Evangelicals in North-West India'; 'Education: Engagement with Pandits, 'Ulama and their Pupils'; and 'The Making of Orientalist Scholars.' A chapter is devoted to the brothers' best-known publications: John's *Original Sanskrit Texts on the Origin and Progress of the Religion and Institutions of India* (1858, with subsequent volumes) and William's *The Life of Mahomet and the History of Islam, to the Era of the Hegira with Introductory Chapters on the Original Sources*, published 1858-1861, both ostensibly written for an Indian readership. 'OST' quickly went to a second edition, but most commentators considered it mainly as an authoritative 'source' book. William's *Life* attracted more lively comment: praise for his profound knowledge of Arabic sources; challenges on his conjectural methodology, and evangelical convictions. It provoked even stronger objections in some Muslim circles.

The brothers' knowledge was extensive. William not only collected manuscripts himself but borrowed further manuscripts from private individuals. He was also keen to recover and return manuscripts taken as booty in 1857. Both brothers aspired to making the ancient classical languages widely accessible in translation. John criticized the 'armchair orientalist' who pronounced without ever having visited India. William, so familiar with the original texts, scorned inadequate and meaningless translations. What could an Indian boy make of Plutarch's *Life of Cicero* in an Urdu translation from Dryden's 17th century English version, he demanded. The efficient structure of the book and the author's style help the non-expert reader to understand these contemporary debates, the searching for explanations and 'origins', and the wider debates on language and race. Mention of Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1857) is a reminder of the truly 'ground breaking' nature of these discourses. The 'Conclusion' at the end of each chapter is helpful, as are the forward pointers in the text. Concise and relevant footnotes appear after each Chapter, and will encourage further reading. The maps, family tree and diagrams are efficient

too, and photographs celebrate the 'Gothic' or 'Mughal' architecture of the colleges. Another biography, of the judicial officer and scholar, Saiyid Ahmad Khan, presents a 'ground breaking' view of Empire, the book's third theme. Here is 'loyalty against the odds' at Bijnor in 1857; outrage at William's damaging representation of Mahomet in the *Life*; his own response *Essays on the Life of Mohammed*; the searing comment (1869) 'I am reading William Muir's book, but it has "burned" my heart'; and the increasingly fierce 'Contestation' of William's views, which merit their own chapter. There is also William's experience, holed up in Agra fort in 1857: 'All my MSS and books of reference have been placed in security from the ravages of our mutineer army.' To the end of his days, William refused to accept the idea of a pre-meditated 'conspiracy' among the civilian population of northern India. And John? He 'had remained cocooned among family and books in his comfortable Edinburgh retirement, deploring 'these shocking mutinies.'

After India, John continued research, and campaigned for reforms in Scottish higher education and Scottish candidacy for the new Indian Civil Service. William served on numerous philanthropic boards; became President of the RAS (1884), and Principal of Edinburgh University (1885-1903). This 'Retrospective' chapter is followed by an 'Afterword' which rehearses issues of Scottishness and identity, and brings the brothers' academic legacies right up to 'post Saidian' date. The 'Edinburgh postscript' brings two final tributes: the 'Muir Institute', established in Edinburgh in the 1960s for the Study of Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit, and Edinburgh's flourishing Centre for South Asian Studies which dates 'the beginning of the modern academic study in Edinburgh of South Asia...to the influence of two early East India Company officials, John and William Muir.' Highly recommended. (AB)

2010 Boydell Press ISBN 9781843835790 £65.00 pp336

Graveyards in Ceylon, Kandy Region

ed. Eileen Hewson

This substantial booklet contains a collection of approximately 750 memorials and approximately 761 names from the burial plot register for the civil cemetery at Mahayaya, which opened when the old Garrison cemetery at Kandy was closed. It has been compiled from previous surveys and written sources, as well as personal observation. It is the fourth volume in the *Graveyards in Ceylon* series by the author. The Kandy War Cemetery and the outlying districts of Gampola and Kurunegala are also included in the present volume. Although several tombstones have been lost since an earlier survey was made around 1910, many others, not

previously recorded, are noted here. The inscriptions and records give an indication of the area's chequered past with many Cingalese names of Portuguese origin, Dutch burger names, and those of British settlers who were principally soldiers or planters. Although the kingdom of Kandy remained independent throughout the rule of the Portuguese and Dutch it eventually succumbed to the British in the early nineteenth century when it became a garrison town. During the Second World War, its status recovered when it was designated the headquarters of South Asia Command for the Allied Forces.

2010 Kabristan Archives, 19 Foxleigh Grove, Wem SY4 5BS, UK. ISBN 978-1-906276-34-8 £10.50 plus postage (UK £1.00, Europe £2.00, overseas airmail £4.00) pp128

Garden Graves & Isolated Cemeteries in North Bihar Vincent Davies

This is a re-print of the 1990 booklet by the late Vincent Davies, father of the present BACSA Chairman, Sir Michael Davies. The author was a member of the Indian Civil Service (ICS) and spent much of his working life in Bihar and Orissa. His numerous tours undertaken during the course of his duty sparked an interest in the remains of British and other burials in the gardens of the indigo and sugar plantations. The reasons why garden burials were chosen over burials in consecrated ground are discussed in a short introduction. Even by the beginning of the twentieth century, these isolated graves and cemeteries were fast disappearing, so that in many cases, this written record is all we have of these enterprising Europeans in a remote part of India. (RLJ)

2011 BACSA. ISBN 978 0 907799 87 0. £6.00 plus £1.25 postage pp44

Burial Register of St Paul's Cathedral, Ranchi, Bihar Vincent Davies.

This re-print is a simple list of burials from 1869 to 1944, giving the name, age, occupation, date of burial and cause of death of the deceased. The varied types of profession give a useful picture of how Britons were employed in and around Ranchi. A number were tea planters, but there were also soldiers, bandsmen, school inspectors, foresters, police, teachers, indigo planters and others. Edward Francis Clark, who died in 1901 at the early age of 28 was an 'emigration agent' in charge of recruiting Indian labour for places like Mauritius and the West Indies. The last entry is for Arthur Tosco Peppé, Agent for the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur. (RLJ)

2011 BACSA. ISBN 978 0 907799 88 7. £2.50 plus £1.25 postage pp24

Women of Anglo-India

ed. Margaret Deefholts

Anglo-Indian women have not, in the past, had a good reputation, certainly in print. The fictional character of Victoria Jones, the flighty mixed-race heroine of the book *Bhowani Junction*, by John Masters is particularly disliked among the anglo-indian community. So it is refreshing to find stories about, and by, the more typical anglo-indian woman in this new book. Many redoubtable grandmothers and aunts are lovingly recalled by a younger generation. They were the guardians of family legends and histories, in some cases going back as far as the Mutiny of 1857. They had held their families together through hard times, often bringing up children single-handed when they were left widowed at an early age. Many came from the railway colonies, with their own social networks of support. But these were to vanish at Independence, together with the railway jobs that had been reserved for anglo-indian men.

Families and single women had to take the painful decision to leave the land of their birth and emigrate to the unknown, or to stay behind in a rapidly changing country. There were also cultural, as well as physical barriers to be crossed, as one contributor, Dorothy McMenamin, points out. The anglo-indian community was outside both the traditional Hindu and Muslim norms, living a 'western' lifestyle, in an eastern country. But arriving in England, in the 1950s, was not the homecoming that many had anticipated. For the first time women had to do their own housework, cooking, washing and child-rearing without the help of friendly servants. When they looked for work their accents and skin colour marked them out as different, although their superior education often got them jobs in the civil service or teaching profession. Some of the short chapters here are social observations, others are fictional, or loosely based on fact, like the moving story by BACSA member Geraldine Charles of the discovery of an Indian ancestor.

The publishing company CTR, was set up in 2001 by BACSA member Blair Williams specifically to record the memories of the anglo-indian community, now dispersed through Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA and Britain. This is the sixth book in the series. A diminishing number of anglo-indians still remain in India, some unfortunately in poor circumstances, and proceeds from these books go to provide education for the children and small pensions for the elders. (RLJ)

2010 CTR Inc Publishing USA. Obtainable from Mrs J. Chambers, 16 Mortimer Road, Botley, Hants SO30 2EN. ISBN 978-0-9754639-5-6 £14.00 including postage pp232

Military memoirs can be a difficult read for the civilian. There is no guarantee that a good soldier will produce good writing so this book came as a pleasant surprise. It is a gripping story, even for those with but a shaky idea of the essential role the Indian Army played in Burma during the Second World War. Penny Kocher is the author's daughter and explains in an Editor's Note how her father, who died in 1993, spent a retirement year writing about his life as an officer with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Jat Regiment. This book is a well-edited version of a much longer manuscript, now lodged with the National Army Museum in London. John Hislop entered Sandhurst in 1932 as a 'gentleman cadet' and because he came from humble background, was charged the lowest fee of £15 per term. The Indian Army was a popular choice for young officers because promotion was quicker than in the British Army. His first posting was to the Khyber Pass 'a most exciting and dangerous place' he tells us with the relish of a young man.

Hislop found many misconceptions about the Indian Army that were current at the time, some of which have been perpetuated and not helped by the 'Carry On' film. There was an unstated feeling that the Indian Army was somehow second best, and that Indians soldiers were shabbily treated by their British officers. In fact there seems to have been more camaraderie and respect between the officers and men of the various Indian Army regiments than there was between the British themselves. A poor Commanding Officer could ruin a regiment, and Hislop notes at least one, who did not stir out of Headquarters for weeks during a holding operation against the Japanese in Burma in 1944. Conditions in the Arakan were dreadful. Ration supplies were so poor that the men had to survive on tinned beetroot and chapattis for days. Heat exhaustion and sunstroke felled officers and men attempting to wade through waist-high streams in what seemed like a meaningless pattern of advance and retreat. 'At times I think it was only pride that kept me going,' the author admits. His honesty and frankness make this one of the most readable and revealing accounts of the campaign in Burma. After deciding to leave the Indian Army in 1947, and not wishing to join the British Army, Hislop trained to become a chartered accountant. He faced opposition and ridicule from the profession, based on prejudice against Indian Army officers, but the same tenacity that kept him going during the war ensured his success in his post-war career. A highly recommended book, with photographs and sketch maps. (RLJ)

2010 Newhaven Publishing, 26 First Avenue, Newhaven, East Sussex BN9 9HT. IBS 978-0-9565815-0-1 £25.00 plus £3.00 postage & packing. pp276

Mapping the Himalayas: Michael Ward and the Pundit Legacy

Richard Sale

Big Dogs of Tibet and the Himalayas: a Personal Journey

Don Messerschmidt

Two books by non-BACSA members of potential interest to readers of *Chowkidar*, their common link being the Himalayas. *Mapping the Himalayas* is based on an unpublished manuscript put together by the distinguished mountaineer and doctor Michael Ward, perhaps best remembered for his role in the several Everest expeditions in the 1950s. Ward was fascinated by the exploits of the so-called Pundits, the hillmen recruited and trained by the Survey of India in the nineteenth century to trespass in disguise into Tibet, Nepal and elsewhere along the frontier. In some instances Ward was able to follow their tracks and even extend their survey work in remote corners such as Bhutan, and where he could not follow he gathered as much information as he could about their exploits. He hoped to publish his account but before he could complete his work he suffered a near fatal car-crash, from which he never fully recovered, leading to his death in 2005. It was left to a family friend and admirer, Richard Sale, to bring his project to fruition together with the addition of a couple of chapters based on Ward's diaries from his 1951 Everest reconnaissance and his later travels in Bhutan in the 1960s.

It has to be said that Ward's account of the Pundits and the early trespassers into the Himalayas falls short of other accounts published before and after his death both in scope and style. The real merit of this labour of love lies in the additional chapters added by Sale and the accompanying illustrations—and by a quite extraordinary bonus in the form of facsimiles of no less than 44 maps, collected by Sale and added to the book in the form of a map volume. The first 24 come from the records of the Survey of India and include many of the maps that resulted from the explorations of the Pundits, starting with Pundit Nain Singh's first epic journey across Tibet made in 1865-7. Others are drawn from various Survey reports or from the annals of the Royal Geographical Society. The most recent is a map of Dr Ward's travels in Bhutan in 1964-65. These maps provide a rare feast to the eye of every armchair traveller and are a reminder of the extraordinary achievements of the Survey of India in the days of the Raj. They transform an otherwise worthy exercise into a collector's item.

Don Messerschmidt's *Big Dogs of Tibet and the Himalayas* is equally eccentric in its scope but a real delight to read—and not just by dog lovers or Himalayas travellers. The big dogs of his title are chiefly Tibetan mastiffs, a breed which I first encountered as giant cuddly creatures at the home of the head of the British Council in Kathmandu in 1966. A year later, however, I was attacked by a pack of these great brutes while trekking high in the Khumbu valley and there I saw the other side of their nature—and why they had been bred, which was to serve as guard dogs to yak and sheep herders. By coincidence Don Messerschmidt was also living in Nepal at that same time as a member of the Peace Corps, although we never met. Messerschmidt subsequently returned to Nepal as an anthropologist and more recently as a writer. Naturally, he acquired his own Tibetan mastiff, which went by the name of Saipal Baron of Emodus, known more familiarly as 'Kalu', who went on to collect a great many accolades at dog shows as an international champion. But this is much more than a book about a rare breed by a dog lover for other dog-lovers. It is also a work of exhaustive scholarship, full of bizarre and often extremely funny tales culled from a wealth of sources, assembled by a gifted writer who knows his dogs as well as he knows his mountains. (CA)

Mapping the Himalayas 2009 Carreg Ltd, 18 Parsons Croft, Hildersley, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5BN. ISBN 978-0-9538631-8-1 pp196 plus 40 facsimile maps £225.00 **Big Dogs of Tibet** 2010 Orchid Press ISBN 978-974-524-130-5 £19.19 pp227

The Happy Valley – A History and Tour of the Hong Kong Cemetery
Ken Nicolson

Renowned for its racetrack where, it is said, more money is gambled in an afternoon than the whole of the flat racing season in England, Happy Valley is also the home of several cemeteries, which record diversity, dignity, disaster and death. Of those of the Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Parsee and Protestant community, the largest is the latter, formerly known as the Colonial Cemetery which climbs up the western hillside of the Valley. Replacing Hong Kong's first cemetery in Wanchai, the Colonial Cemetery was established in 1846, just 5 years after this 'Barren rock, with n'er a house on it' was taken over by Britain to facilitate trade with the Celestial Empire. It demonstrates the colourful history of the Territory, again part of China.

This charming informative and helpful book, designed to be a guide on a visit, examines the concept of cemeteries as gardens, with comparisons to Père Lachaise in Paris and the Glasgow Necropolis. The developers of

Hong Kong's version however would have had little time for such niceties as people in the nearby settlements in the Valley, the most sizeable piece of flat land available in the 1840s, were dying at an alarming rate of malaria, dysentery and cholera – the 26th Foot lost half its men in this way during their tour of duty on the China Coast.

Amongst those who succumbed to tigers, typhoid and typhoons, the author has included only a few potted biographies of some of the more prominent of the over 8,000 burials. However, Dr Solomon Bard has written on military graves, and BACSA members will have to wait only a short while for the publication of a full record of the surviving inscriptions, partly sponsored by your Association. Of interest to us is the early internment of Eldred Pottinger, awarded a CB for services in the 'Great Game' in Afghanistan, who died in November 1843 whilst visiting his uncle Sir Henry, Hong Kong's first Governor. Although his grave survives, many of the early burials were disinterred for the construction of the road tunnel to Aberdeen – with the intention that remains would be placed in an ossuary in the cemetery but, when excavated, many graves were empty of remains.

Although not designed as a garden, nature has created on the terraces an attractive and peaceful retreat from the hectic modern Hong Kong, with interesting burial architecture and horticulture examined by the author, and a visit preferably by tram, is a must for any tourist with more time available than the obligatory three days of intensive shopping. Sadly, the author reports some neglect, which seems to be as a result of poor administration rather than a shortage of Government funds – certainly the results of painting in the incised inscriptions by workmen with limited English could have been avoided. It is hoped that the 24 acre cemetery, which would have a value for development of over a billion million pounds, will continue to provide a place of rest for the dead, and the living. A recommended, worthwhile, and for the reviewer a sentimental, example of how cemeteries should be embraced. (DWM)

2010 Hong Kong University Press, (available through Waterstones) ISBN 978-988-8028-10-8 £18.95. pp136

The Lion's Firanghis: Europeans at the Court of Lahore Bobby Singh Bansal

This book is an extraordinary tour-de-force by a previously unknown writer. Bobby Singh decided to find out what happened to the descendants of those Europeans who worked for Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Lion of the Punjab, and its last independent ruler before British annexation in 1849.

Taking a year's leave from his job as a businessman, he travelled throughout Europe, then India and Pakistan, tracking down the children of these almost mythical figures including General Allard, Dr Johann Honigberger, Lord William Osborne, General Avitabile, Victor Jacquemont and General Ventura. The Maharaja's rich court offered opportunities to foreign soldiers, diplomats, botanists, traders and artists, among others. Some returned to Europe, laden with spoils from the Sikh kingdom, although a common pattern emerges of family disputes that soon whittled away fortunes made in Lahore. Unfortunate men like the Spanish soldier Hurbon de Alcantara who spoke fluent Punjabi, were deported by the British on the collapse of the kingdom and lie today in unknown graves. Auguste Theodor Schoefft, the Hungarian artist whose brilliant paintings capture the final flourish of Ranjit Singh's kingdom is buried, rather prosaically, in a Fulham cemetery, although his grave no longer exists, having been bombed during the Second World War. Beautifully illustrated, and with family trees, *The Lion's Faranghis* is a quite unique book about a fascinating and previously little-known subject. (RLJ)

2010 Coronet House Publishing Ltd. London. ISBN 978-0-9561270-1-3
£26.00 pp172

A Ladakhi Diary

Mollie Molesworth

A simple inscription in Peshawar Cemetery, Pakistan, reads 'In ever loving memory of Mollie Rosalie Iliff who died 12 October 1935. Wife of Dr A. Iliff, CMS [Colonial Medical Service]. The cause of death was abdominal injuries and Mollie Iliff (neè Molesworth) was twenty-seven years old when she died in a car accident on her honeymoon. Born in Bangalore, and brought up in southern India, Mollie went to England around 1913 and studied at the Wimbledon School of Art. She was then awarded a scholarship by the Royal College of Art, but chose to return to India and in 1929 set out with her Uncle Frank Molesworth, to explore Ladakh, a region normally closed to foreigners. Her diary and sketch book have now been published in facsimile and show what a rare talent this young woman possessed. Working in watercolours and ink Mollie captured the bizarre and sometimes frightening scenes around her – the masked lamas and their dances, Ladakhi women in horned head-dresses riding on yaks, and fortresses rearing up out of the mountains. A world now completely vanished was captured by a gifted English artist, with a quite original style, and this handsome book is an additional memorial to that in the Peshawar cemetery. (RLJ)

2010 Totramundas Press ISBN 978-1-906393-24-3 £26.00 pp93

Notes to Members

When writing to the Secretary and expecting a reply, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

If wishing to contact a fellow-member whose address is not known to you, send the letter c/o Honorary Secretary who will forward it unopened.

If planning any survey of cemetery MIs, either in this country or overseas, please check with the Projects Officer or the Honorary Secretary to find out if it has already been recorded. This is not to discourage the reporting of the occasional MI notice, which is always worth doing, but to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

***Books from India:** where prices are given in rupees, these books can be obtained from Mr Ram Advani, Bookseller, Mayfair Buildings, Hazratganj PO Box 154, Lucknow 226001, UP, India. Mr Advani will invoice BACSA members in sterling, adding £4.00 for registered airmail for a slim hardback, and £3.00 for a slim paperback. Sterling cheques should be made payable to Ram Advani. Catalogues and price lists will be sent on request. Email: radvanilko@gmail.com

The Editor's email address is: rosieljai@clara.co.uk



Tomb of Colonel Cathcart on the Foot of Ayer.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Parker's original grave at Anjer Point, Java (see page 97)