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A MISCELLANY OF ASIATICA



Scottish and South Asian connections in Edinburgh University Library

an exhibition on the occasion of the
16th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies,
Edinburgh, September 2000

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Edinburgh
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
2000

The exhibition has been devised, and the catalogue compiled,
by Peter B. Freshwater

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INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s Edinburgh University Library, then based in Old College, mounted two exhibitions in what we now know as the Playfair Library Hall whose catalogues have become minor classics in the University, in that they have provided introductions and reference-points for access to two areas of the Library's scattered collections on different areas of the world. With considerable assistance from George Shepperson, Lecturer in Imperial and American History (and later William Robertson Professor of Commonwealth and American History) *A miscellany of Americana* (1963) and *A miscellany of Africana* (1966) were mounted on the occasions of important conferences at the University: the first conference of the British Association of American Studies to be held in Scotland in 1962, and the first conference of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom to be held in Scotland in 1966. Similarly in 1975 the Library marked the inaugural conference of the British Association for Canadian Studies with its exhibition *Scotland and Canada*; this catalogue again has provided a useful introduction to the Library's burgeoning Canadian collections. The Library is honoured now to have the opportunity of marking the 16th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, once more the first to be held in Scotland, with *A miscellany of Asiatica*. It is hoped that this exhibition and its catalogue will again serve as an introduction and a reference-point to at least some of the Library's scattered, and often unsuspected, collections on South Asia.

The historical connections between Scotland and South Asia over 400 years are many and firm. They were explored in general in 1986 in two national exhibitions, *The cornchest for Scotland* in the National Library of Scotland, and to a lesser extent in *The enterprising Scot* in the Royal Museum of Scotland; and before that in 1981 by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in *Scottish Empire*. None of those exhibitions did justice to Edinburgh University Library's collections on South Asia. Nor can the limitations of this one, but it does at least indicate the scope and extent of those collections, so that those wishing to explore them further have a starting-point from which to embark on a voyage of exploration of their own.

The Library has acquired books and manuscripts on Asia since its early years. During the C17 it acquired, mostly by gift, a number of significant books of travel and early atlases, including Ogilby's works on Asia, a set of Blaeu's great *Atlas maior*, and collections and individual accounts of voyages of discovery and exploration. During the C18, while the Library enjoyed a period of selective legal deposit, Principal William Robertson ensured that it acquired books on other cultures of the world, and produced his seminal *Historical disquisition concerning the knowledge which the ancients had of India* in 1791. Private collections of printed books and manuscripts with an Asiatic focus were gifted or bequeathed during the C19 and C20 by David and James Anderson, John Baillie of Leys, Robert Binning, Hugh Francis Clarke Cleghorn of Stravithie, David Laing, Dugald and Matthew



William Robertson (author of An historical disquisition concerning the knowledge which the ancients had of India) from the portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn in the University of Edinburgh

Stewart (via the United Services Club), and Arthur Berriedale Keith as well as the owners of other smaller collections of papers and books.

I have approached these connections through some of the people involved, mostly Scots who were born in South Asia or who went there for personal or professional reasons. I have also focused on those connected with the University of Edinburgh. For convenience I have attempted to categorise or classify them (*c'est un bibliothécaire qui parle!*); but most have such wide ranges of skills and achievements as actually to defy classification, and so remain thoroughly independent. Soldiers become academics, and doctors become administrators; and until 1858 most of them were in the service of The Honourable East India Company for at least part of their lives.

This exhibition barely scratches the surface of an enormous subject, and inevitably omits many notable and interesting individuals. It is to be hoped that it may encourage further research based on the Library and Archive resources of the University of Edinburgh.

I am very grateful to many people who have helped in the preparation of the exhibition and the catalogue, especially Jean Archibald, Lynda Arden, Mike Barfoot, Tom Barron, Sheila Cannell, Margaret Dowling, Irene Ferguson, Ian Goddard, Ann Henderson, Jenny McDermott, Charles Melville, Ian Mowat, Richard Ovenden, Arnott Wilson, Ian Wotherspoon, and the staff of the University of Edinburgh Printing Service.

Peter B. Freshwater
Special Collections Department
Edinburgh University Library

THE SCHOLARS, THE EXPLORERS AND THE SCIENTISTS

JOHN OGILBY (1600-1676)
writer, publisher and topographer

A Scot by birth who spent most of his life in London and Dublin, Ogilby produced a series of beautiful atlases and other topographical works on the known world. Illustrated by engravings by Wenceslaus Hollar and others. *Asia, the first part* (1673) covers the Mughal Empire, including the area now known as South Asia; the second part, which had already been published in 1669, covered China and East Asia.

1. **John Ogilby** *Asia, the first part: being an accurate description of Persia, and several provinces thereof, the vast empire of the Great Mogol, and other parts of India ...* London: 1673.

JY 1040

Segum Saheb was the daughter of Shah Jehan.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON (1721-1793)
historian and Principal of the University of Edinburgh

The historian William Robertson, one of the leaders of the Scottish Enlightenment, was Principal of the University of Edinburgh from 1762 until his death in 1792. Born in Borthwick, Midlothian, educated at the local school, Dalkeith Grammar School and the University of Edinburgh, he was licensed to preach at Dalkeith in 1741, but most of his career was academic. His first major publication, *The history of Scotland* (1759) made his name, and was followed by *The history of the reign of Charles V* (1770) and *The history of America* (1777). His *Historical disquisition on India* (1791) was his last publication. The second edition, with his last corrections, was published posthumously in 1794.

2. **William Robertson** *An historical disquisition concerning the knowledge which the ancients had of India, and the progress of trade with that country prior to the discovery of the passage to it by the Cape of Good Hope ...* London: 1791.

SD 4754

Robertson's Historical disquisition on India (1791) was inspired by reading James Rennell's Memoir on a map of Hindoostan (1783) – see item 3 – and is still regarded as a seminal work on the historiography of India.

3. **James Rennell** *Memoir on a map of Hindoostan ...* London: Printed for the author, 1788.

BB.1.26

The third edition, greatly enlarged from the first (1783) and second (1785) editions. Rennell (1742-1830) was a geographer and military surveyor in the service of the East India Company.

HUGH CLEGHORN OF STRAVITHIE (1751-1834)
professor, espionage agent, and administrator

From being Professor of Civil and Natural History at the University of St Andrews from 1773 to 1793, the first Hugh Cleghorn was engaged on secret service in India and Ceylon during the early years of the Napoleonic Wars from 1793 to 1797. The outcome was the annexation of Ceylon to the British Empire, and Cleghorn was appointed its first Colonial Secretary from 1798 to 1800. He purchased the estate of Stravithie on his retreat. His grandson Hugh Francis Clarke Cleghorn of Stravithie (1820-1895) (see below) bequeathed 300 books on India and forestry to the Edinburgh University Library.

4. **Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie (1751-1834)** *The Cleghorn papers: a footnote to history; being the diary, 1795-1796, of Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie*; edited by the Rev. William Neil ... London: A. & C. Black, 1927.
R.7/1.42.

DUGALD STEWART (1753-1828)
Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Edinburgh

In 1910 the University Library acquired the libraries of three generations of scholarly Stewarts - Matthew (1715-1785), Professor of Mathematics; Dugald (1753-1828), Professor of Moral Philosophy, and Colonel Matthew (d. 1852) - which had been bequeathed to the United Services Club in London. Known as the Dugald Stewart Collection, the library includes a number of books and pamphlets about the political economy of the East India Company published between the C17 and the C19.

5. **Sir Dudley Digges (1583-1639)** *The defence of trade: in a letter to Sir Thomas Smith, Knight, Governour of the East-India Companie, &c ...* London: 1624.
D.S.h.8/6/3
6. **Twining, Thomas (1776-1861)** *A letter to the chairman of the East India Company on the danger of interfering in the religious opinions of the natives of India and on the views of the British and Foreign Bible Society as directed to India.* London: Printed by Hazard and Carthew and published by J. Ridgway, 1807.
D.S.h.11.10/11

7. **Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834)** *A letter to the Rt. Hon. Lord Grenville: occasioned by some observations of His Lordship on the East India Company's establishment for the education of their civil servants.* London: J. Johnson, 1813.
D.S.h.11.15/7

JOHN BORTHWICK GILCHRIST (1759-1841)
surgeon, oriental scholar and college principal

Born and educated in Edinburgh, Gilchrist went to Calcutta as a surgeon with the East India Company in 1794. He went on to become Principal of the Fort William College, Calcutta and one of the leading oriental scholars of the day, notably in the Hindi language. Poor health necessitated his return to Scotland in 1804, when the University of Edinburgh awarded him the degree of LL.D. A man of fiery temperament and eccentric ways, he established an aviary, open to public view, on the north side of Nicolson Square, and in partnership with James Inglis inaugurated a bank, which came to nothing. He moved to London in 1816 in order to train East India Company servants in Hindustani at the Oriental Institution in Leicester Square, where he was given a professorship; but his methods of teaching and claiming reimbursement set him at odds with the Company, and he retired in 1826. Some years after his death, his trustees established a fund at the University of Edinburgh in 1865 for three Indian scholarships a year, enabling native-born students who passed the competitive examinations at the Presidential Colleges of India, to study medicine, law or literature at Edinburgh.

8. **John Borthwick Gilchrist** *The Hindee story teller, or, Entertaining expositor of the Roman, Persian, and Nagree characters ... in their application to the Hindoostanee language, as a written and literary vehicle.* Calcutta: Hindoostanee Press, 1802-1803.
S.B. .4914386 Gil.
9. **John Borthwick Gilchrist** *A collection of dialogues, English and Hindoostanee, on the most familiar, and useful subjects: calculated to facilitate the colloquial intercourse of Europeans lately arrived in Hindoostan with the natives.* Calcutta: Hindoostanee Press, 1804.
S.B. .491438 Gil.
10. **John Borthwick Gilchrist** *The Hindee-Roman orthoepigraphical ultimatum, or, A systematic discriminative view of oriental and occidental visible sounds ... for the languages of the East, exemplified in the popular story of Sukoontula Natuk.* Calcutta: Hindoostanee Press, 1804.
S.B. .4914386 Gil.

11. **John Borthwick Gilchrist** *The general East India guide and vade mecum; for the public functionary, government officer, private agent, trader or foreign sojourner, in British India, and the adjacent parts of Asia ... being a digest of the work of the late Capt. Williamson ...* London Kingsbury, Parbury, & Allen, 1825.
SC 9294

JOHN BAILLIE OF LEYS (1772-1833)
Professor of Arabic at Fort William College, Calcutta

A native of Inverness, Baillie served in the army of the EIC, rising to the rank of the colonel. He was appointed first Professor of Arabic at Fort William College, Calcutta and assembled a collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts which was presented to the University of Edinburgh by his grandson in 1876 (see page 24 below).

12. **John Baillie** *Sixty tables elucidatory of the first part of a course of lectures on the grammar of the Arabic language, delivered in the College of Fort William ...* Calcutta: 1801.
T*17.40

THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY, 1ST BARON MACAULAY
(1800-1859)
politician and author

Born in Leicestershire and educated at the University of Cambridge, Macaulay entered Parliament in 1830 as MP for Calne. He supported the bill in 1833 for renewing the East India Company's charter. His political horizon was extended the following year when he was appointed the legal member of the Supreme Council in India; he spent the next four years in Madras and Calcutta, resigning his post in 1838. On his return to Britain he was elected MP for Edinburgh (and later Rector of the University of Glasgow), retaining his seat in Parliament until his death. During these years he maintained his interest in India, and wrote his extensive essays on Robert Clive and Warren Hastings.

13. **Thomas Babington Macaulay** ['Warren Hastings.']. *Edinburgh review*, 74 (149), October 1841 - January 1842, 160-255.
Per. .0 Edi
The pretext for this formidable essay, which he later included in his Critical and historical essays (1843), was the need to review G. R. Gleig's Memoirs of the life of Warren Hastings 3 vols (London: 1841). In fact, 'we are inclined to think that we shall best meet the wishes of our readers, if, instead of minutely examining this, we attempt to give, in a way necessarily hasty and imperfect, our own view of

the life and character of Mr Hastings ... He had great qualities, and he rendered great services to the State ... We believe that, if he were now living, he would have sufficient judgment and sufficient greatness of mind to wish to be shown as he was' (p. 160).

JOHN MUIR (1810-1882)
orientalist and Sanskrit scholar

The elder son of a Glasgow magistrate, and educated at the University of Glasgow and the Imperial Service College at Haileybury, Muir entered the service of the EIC in 1829 and was sent to Fort William College, Calcutta. He later moved to Allahabad and Benares. He left India in 1853 and settled in Edinburgh, where he originated the Association for the Better Endowment of Edinburgh University, founding the Chair of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in 1862 and, with his brother William who later became Principal of the University, the Shaw Fellowship in Moral Philosophy. The Muir Institute for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies is named after him. The University of Oxford awarded him the honorary degree of DCL in 1855. *Original Sanskrit texts* is his greatest published work.

14. **John Muir** *Original Sanskrit texts on the origin and history of the people of India, their religion and institutions; collected, translated, and illustrated.* 2nd edition. 5 volumes London: Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate, 1868-1870.
Ct.12.47-51
Author's presentation set to the University Library. First edition published 1858-1870.

HUGH FRANCIS CLARKE CLEGHORN OF STRAVITHIE
(1820-1895)
botanist and administrator

Grandson of the first Hugh Cleghorn of Stravithie (see page 8), Hugh Francis Clarke Cleghorn graduated MD from Edinburgh in 1841 with a dissertation *On the reparation of wounds and regeneration of lost parts*. In 1895 about 300 items on forestry, land use and botany, in particular relating to India, were presented from his library to the University Library. The collection consists of largely nineteenth century publications. All items are catalogued in the Library's pre-1985 main catalogue. The collection is also of bibliographical interest, for the numbers of Indian imprints that it contains. Shelf-lists of the collection (Att. 64-67; Xf.1-2) show its extent. Six items displayed illustrate the varied interest of the collection.

15. **John Fleming** *A catalogue of Indian medicinal plants & drugs with their names in the Hindustani and Sanscrit languages.* [Calcutta: 1810.]
Att. 65.2.4
Author's presentation copy to a Dr Barry. It also bears the bookplate of the Vepery Mission Library, and has been damaged. The marginal annotations appear to be the author himself or by Dr Barry.
16. **Francis Hamilton** *Genealogies of the Hindus, extracted from their sacred writings; with an introduction and alphabetical index.* Edinburgh: the Author, 1819.
Att. 64.5.28
Presentation copy by the author who was also known as Francis Buchanan (see page 16).
17. **Lewis Weston Dillwyn** *A review of the references to the Hortus malabaricus of Henry Van Rheedee Van Draakenstein.* Swansea: Printed at the Cambrian-Office, by Murray and Rees, 1839.
Att. 65.5.10
Presented to Cleghorn in Madras by 'W. P.' Bound at the American Mission Press Bindery, Madras. Also displayed is one volume of the Library's fine set of Hendrik van Rheedee van Draakestein's Hortus indicus malabaricus (12 volumes, Amsterdam: 1678-1703).
18. **Edward Frederic Kelaart (1819-1860)** *Prodromus faunæ zeylanicæ: being contributions to the zoology of Ceylon.* Colombo: printed for the Author by John Hieler at the Observer Press, 1852.
Att. 65.5.21
This copy was bound at the American Mission Press Bindery, Madras.
19. **George Carnac Barnes** *Report on the settlement in the district of Kangra in the Trans-Sutlej States.* Lahore: re-printed at the Hope Press, by J. F. Williams, 1862.
Att. 67.5.22
Cleghorn's library includes many survey reports on districts of India, often printed locally and, as here, illustrated with maps, frequently coloured by hand.
20. **Berthold Ribbentrop** *Hints on arboriculture in the Panjab: intended for the use of district and forest officers.* Lahore: Printed at the Central Jail Press, 1873.
Att. 64.5.38
Line drawings have been reproduced separately and pasted into gaps left in the printed text. The margin note on page 58, and the show-through from a similar note on page 57, demonstrates the pressure needed on the press to obtain a legible impression.

SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD (1834-1917)
medical scholar and administrator

Born in Bombay and an Edinburgh medical graduate (MD 1854), Birdwood held professorships of anatomy and physiology and of botany and *materia medica* at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, and was appointed Registrar of the University of Bombay when it was founded. Birdwood also became curator of the government museum in Bombay, and was one of the founders of the Victoria Botanical Gardens and the Victoria and Albert Museum in Bombay. After his retirement to England in 1902 he devoted himself to the study of Sanskrit and of Indian art and philology, and to the Tory party; he is credited with popularising the association of primroses with Lord Beaconsfield's memory. Birdwood presented to the University of Edinburgh a bas-relief statuette by Thomas Woolner of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney, 'The Peabody of the East', which may be seen in Old College (see item 43).

21. **Sir George Birdwood** *Report on the Government Central Museum, and on the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Western India for 1863, with appendices; being the history of the establishment of the Victoria and Albert Museum and of the Victoria Gardens, Bombay.* Bombay: Printed for Government at the Education Society's Press, Byculla, 1864. (*Selections from the records of the Bombay Government, new series no. LXXXIII.*)
Att. 65.5.29
The 'List of Subscribers to "The Victoria Museum and Gardens"' includes Cowasjee Jehangeer, Esq. (see also page 20), Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Baronet, and members of other Parsee families.

ARTHUR BERRIEDALE KEITH (1879-1944)
Sanskrit scholar and constitutional lawyer

EARLY INDIAN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The very first Edinburgh students from India were ex-patriate British physicians and surgeons in the service of the East India Company (see page 22). They studied at Edinburgh in the early years of the C19, graduating in 1808 and 1812. By the early 1870s native Indian students were matriculating at the University of Edinburgh. The three here are among the earliest yet identified. All of them came from Dacca in Bengal. Copies of their first matriculation records are displayed. Two of them went on to hold chairs in Indian universities.

AGHORNATH CHATTOPADYAYA

BSc (Physics) 1875, DSc (Chemistry) 1876

Aghornath Chattopadhyay (as he spelled his own name) first matriculated in 1871 in the Faculty of Arts at the age of 20, having already spent over three years at the University of Calcutta. He was awarded the Hope Prize in Chemistry in 1875, the year in which he graduated BSc in Physics. He completed his DSc in Chemistry a year later, and eventually was appointed to the Chair of Chemistry at the University of Hyderabad.

NANDA KUMAR RAY

MB ChM 1878

Nanda Kumar Ray first matriculated in 1873 at the age of 22, having spent four years reading Arts at the University of Calcutta. He graduated MB ChM in 1878, after which he appears to have returned to practise in Calcutta.

PRASANNA KUMAR RAY

DSc 1876

Prasanna Kumar Ray had already received his BSc from the University of London before coming to Edinburgh at the age of 25. He first matriculated in 1875, graduating DSc in mental philosophy in 1876. He went on to become Professor of Logic and Philosophy in Dacca College.

22. Copies of the first matriculation records of Aghornath Chattopadhyaya (1871), Nanda Kumar Ray (1873) and Prasanna Kumar Ray (1875)

The younger son of an Edinburgh lawyer and brother of the administrator in Burma Sir William John Keith, Arthur Berriedale Keith was educated at the Royal High School and the University of Edinburgh before going on to study at Balliol College, Oxford. He was called to the English bar and served in the Colonial Office for fourteen years before being appointed to the Regius Chair of Sanskrit at the University of Edinburgh in 1914, making great contributions to Vedic and classical Sanskrit scholarship. In 1927 he was appointed additionally as Lecturer on the Constitution of the British Empire. After his death his sister gifted to the University Library his books and papers on Sanskrit and the history and law of India and the Empire. The collection is rich in Indian imprints and association copies, including authors' presentation copies to Keith, and copies of works which he endorsed by preface as well those he wrote and to which he contributed.

23. **Arthur Anthony Macdonnell and Arthur Berriedale Keith** *Vedic index of names and subjects*. 2 vols London: John Murray, 1912. (Indian Texts Series).
Keith Coll. A.49
24. **A. Berriedale Keith** *A history of Sanskrit literature*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1928.
Keith Coll. A. 71
W. J. Keith's copy '(from A. B. K.)'.
25. **G. Sapre** *The growth of the Indian constitution and administration*. Sangli: the author, 1924.
Keith Coll. M.5
Presentation copy from the author 'To Professor Berriedale [sic] Keith ... for favour of opinion'.
26. **Akshaya K. Ghose** *Public administration in India: historical, structural and functional*. Calcutta: The University of Calcutta, 1930.
Keith Coll. M.5
27. **V. Punniyah** *The constitutional history of India*. Allahabad: The Indian Press, 1938.
Keith Coll. M.3
28. **M. Ramaswamy** *The law of the Indian constitution ...*; with a foreword by A. Berriedale Keith. London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1938.
Keith Coll. M.7

THE SAILORS AND THE SOLDIERS

ROBERT KNOX (1640?-1720) *seaman*

Knox was captain of the EIC's frigate *Ann* which put into Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) for a refit after a storm. After an initially friendly reception from the King, Knox, his father, and fourteen other members of the ship's company were imprisoned for nineteen years.

29. **Robert Knox** *An historical relation of the island of Ceylon in the East-Indies: together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there, and of the author's miraculous escape ...* London: 1681.

Q*18.46

Knox' book was the first to be written about Ceylon in English, and is still held to be a seminal work.

FRANCIS BUCHANAN (later HAMILTON) (1762-1829) *naval surgeon and natural philosopher*

Buchanan graduated from Edinburgh MD in 1783, and spent ten years as a naval surgeon before being appointed to the Bengal medical service, retiring to Edinburgh in 1816. He adopted the name Hamilton as an additional surname as a condition of inheritance. Like many surgeons of the day he was also a natural philosopher (or naturalist) and published a number books and papers on Indian botanical and zoological topics. The Library has a number of his MS papers as well as copies of his books, some of which came with the Hugh Francis Clarke Cleghorn Bequest (see page 12).

30. **Francis Buchanan** *Journal of a residence in the Burman Empire.* 2 vols 1795.
Dc.1.73-74

31. **Francis Buchanan** Letter to Professor Robert Jameson, asking him to inspect a box of Indian drugs (N.d.)
Ja 9

Jameson was Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh from 1804 to 1854, and one of the leading names in the field in his day. He built up the natural history collections in the University Museum and the University Library

32. **Francis Buchanan** Botanical notes and papers, 1798-1801
Dc.1.14

33. **Francis Buchanan** *Enumeratio plantarum quas in adeundo civitatem Barmanorum regiam et dehinc redeundo anno 1795 observavit F. B.*
Dc.1.11

THOMAS GRAHAM RN (17 -1822) AND MARIA GRAHAM (1785-1842) *naval officer and his wife*

Thomas Graham RN married Maria Dundas, daughter of Rear-Admiral George Dundas, in India in 1809, but little is known of him or why he was in India. He died in 1822, and Maria later married the painter Sir Augustus Wall Callcott, with whom she travelled extensively in, and wrote about, Brazil, Chile and Italy.

34. **Maria Graham** *Journal of a residence in India.* Edinburgh: George Ramsay and Co., 1812.

S.B. .91(54031) Cal.

Mrs Graham's account of her residence in India with her husband Thomas Graham RN was the first to be published by a Western woman. Many were to follow her.

SIR DAVID BAIRD (1757-1829) *soldier and joint commander at Seringapatam*

With Colonel Arthur Wellesley (later to become the Duke of Wellington), Colonel David Baird led the forces that took Seringapatam in 1799, and discovered the body of Tipu Sultan inside the gate to the inner fort. He was disappointed that Wellesley, and not he, was made Commander of Seringapatam, and felt that his role in the campaign was under-recognised (though not by Wellesley, who made him an unauthorised gift of the state sword of Tipu Sultan). His widow commissioned the vast painting which now hangs in the National Gallery of Scotland and which formed the focus of a commemorative exhibition in 1999.

35. [Theodore Hook] *The life of General the Right Honourable Sir David Baird, Bart.* 2 volumes London: Richard Bentley, 1832.
.355(42073)092 Bai Hoo

36. **Quran.** *Al-Quran al-Karim.* [Probably C10 AH]
Or MS 148

A finely written and bound copy of the Quran from the Library of Tipu Sahib, Sultan of Mysore (1165-1214 AH, 1749-1799 AD) who was killed in the battle to

defend his city of Seringapatam against the combined forces of the EIC and their Mahratta allies. It was presented by the Directors of the Company to the University in 1805. It is probably one of the copies of Quran's listed by Charles Stewart in A descriptive catalogue of the Oriental library of the late Tippoo Sultan of Mysore (item 39).

37. **Charles Stewart (1764-1837)** *A descriptive catalogue of the Oriental library of the late Tippoo Sultan of Mysore...* Cambridge: 1809.

*M 18.4

An Irishman, Stewart joined the EIC army in 1764, leaving it with the rank of major in 1808. He was a junior colleague of Professor John Baillie of Leys (see items 12 and 61) at Fort William College, Calcutta, where Stewart was appointed Assistant professor of Persian in 1800 when the College opened. In 1806 he returned to England on his appointment as Professor of Arabic, Persian and Hindustani at the Imperial Service College at Haileybury. The catalogue is open at the list of manuscripts of the Quran in Tipu's library. The one presented to Edinburgh University Library (item 36) may be one of them.

SIR ALEXANDER BURNES (1805-1841)
soldier and political officer

A native of Montrose, Alexander Burnes was an officer in the Bombay Native Infantry and one of the early players in the Great Game, the campaign on the North West Frontier to keep first the French, and then the Russians, out of British India. His proficiency in local languages and ability to wear native clothes made him an important political agent. He was appointed a political officer to the occupying army in Kabul under Mountstuart Elphinstone (see page 19), and was murdered in 1841 shortly before the army's disastrous attempt at withdrawal and massacre in the mountains. His brother James Burnes, Physician-General at Bombay, was advocating medical training for Indians as early as 1840.

38. **Sir Alexander Burnes** *Travels into Bokhara; containing the narrative of a voyage on the Indus from the sea to Lahore, with presents from the King of Great Britain: and an account of a journey from India to Cabool, Tartary, and Persia. Performed by order of the Supreme Government of India, in the years 1831, 32, and 33.* 2nd edition. London: John Murray, 1835.

D.S.c.9.27(1-3)

From the Dugald Stewart Collection.

**THE TRADERS, THE ADMINISTRATORS AND
THE NABOBS**

DAVID GREGORY (1661-1708)

*astronomer, Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh
and Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford*

Brother of the James Gregory, the first Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh, Gregory responded to the 1695 *Act for a Company of Scotland Tradeing to Affrica and the Indies* and the earlier *Act for Encouraging of Foreign Trade* (1693) with a proposal that Scotland should educate and train its own navigators and writers (i.e. managers) from among its potential able seamen. Gregory had in mind an East India Company of Scotland. In fact, The Company of Scotland launched the ill-fated Darien Scheme in Panama in 1697. Three years later, both the Scheme and the Company had collapsed.

39. **David Gregory** A proposal for a Navigation and Writing School by the E. India Company of Scotland. Oxford, 10 April 1696.

Dc.1.61 751-754

Gregory's MS proposal suggests that the school be located in rooms in, and rented for the purpose from, Harriot's Hospital (now George Heriot's School), and that seven boys a year be educated in 'the arts of fair writing, drawing, arithmetick and the mathematica' and be examined before an appointed Committee by the Professor of Mathematics at the College (now the University) of Edinburgh.

THE HON. MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE (1779-1859)
diplomat in Afghanistan and Governor of Bombay

The scion of a Stirlingshire aristocratic family Elphinstone was British Ambassador in Kabul from 1808 to 1810. He returned to Kabul in command of a body of occupying Anglo-Indian troops for a brief abortive attempt to bring Afghanistan under British rule from 1838 to 1842. On the western side of the North West Frontier, Afghanistan was the threatened gateway for first France and later Russia into India, and became the focus of the Great Game to keep them out. Afghanistan and the Frontier achieved a romantic as well as a strategic significance for 150 years.

40. **Mountstuart Elphinstone** *An account of the kingdom of Caubul ...* London: 1815.

Q*19.16

41. **Mountstuart Elphinstone** *Report on the territories conquered from the Paishwa; submitted to the Supreme Government of British India.* Calcutta: Printed atn the Government Gazette Press, by A. G. Balfour, 1821.

Dh.7.46

Elphinstone's own copy with extensive MS additions and alterations, mainly in the hand of a secretary, but some possibly autograph. From the Library at Carberry Tower, the Elphinstone family house near Edinburgh

42. **The Bombay University calendar, 1863-64.** Bombay: Thacker, Vining & Co., 1863.

Cal. Sect.

Elphinstone College, University of Bombay, was founded in 1827 as the most appropriate way in which to testify to 'the affectionate and respectful sentiments of the inhabitants of Bombay to the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, on his resignation of the Government of Bombay. A later gift of Rs 100,000 by Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney, JP (1812-1878) contributed towards suitable college buildings, to be called the 'Cowasjee Jehangir Buildings'. A bas-relief statuette of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney, known as 'The Peabody of the East', by Thomas Woolner, was gifted to the University of Edinburgh by Sir George Birdwood (MD Edinburgh 1854), and may be seen on the Ground Floor of Old College in South Bridge and on page 29 of this catalogue.

43. Photographs of the bas-relief of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney, known as 'The Peabody of the East', by Thomas Woolner, on the Ground Floor of Old College in South Bridge.

THE SCOTTISH NABOB

44. **Jack Truman, pseud.** [Letter.] *The Lounger*, no. XLIV, 3 December 1785, 173-176.

JY 634

Henry Mackenzie, celebrated author of The Man of Feeling (1771), was editor and largely the author of The Lounger, to which he contributed a number of essays in the form of pseudonymous letters. Several, of which this is one, were on the theme of nabobs, British merchants or administrators in India who retired home with their fortunes to live lives of luxury. The best-known nabobs in literature include the eponymous Sir Matthew Mite in Samuel Foote's The Nabob (1772), Sir Oliver Surface in Sheridan's The School for Scandal (1777) and Jos Sedley in Thackeray's Vanity Fair (1848).

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

The Honourable East India Company, also known as 'John Company', was founded in 1600 to compete with the Dutch East India Company for the Asian spice trade. After an unpropitious beginning, its trading monopoly grew to the extent that it found itself the ruler of what is now called South Asia, in which role it acted on behalf of the British Crown. Its trading monopoly was discontinued in 1833, but its governing role maintained until 1858 when, in the wake of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, the Crown assumed direct governance of India. Many Scots found fame and fortune, and many lost their lives, in the service of the EIC, and created connections between South Asia and Scotland which have enriched scholarship, the arts, and the understanding of peoples on both sides.

45. **The Bengal or East-India calendar, for the year MDCCXCVI: including a list of the Hon. and United East-India Company's civil and military servants on the Bengal establishment, &c. ... ; corrected at the East-India House, to December 1, 1795.** London: Printed for John Stockdale, 1796.

S.B. .9(42073)04/4/5

46. **Robert Renny** *A demonstration of the necessity and advantages of a free trade to the East Indies : and of a termination to the present monopoly of the East-India Company ...* 2nd edition. London: Printed for and sold by C. Chapple, 1807.

D.S.h.11.8/8

From the Dugald Stuart Collection

47. **Douglas James William Kinnaird (1788-1830)** *Remarks on the volume of Hyderabad papers: printed for the use of the East India Proprietors.* London: Printed for J. M. Richardson, and J. Ridgway, 1825.

D.S.h.9.14/1

From the Dugald Stuart Collection. 'The following remarks are the result of an attentive examination of the volume of papers printed by the East India Company, entitled Papers relating to the Pecuniary Transactions of Messrs. W. Palmer and Co. with the Government of his Highness the Nizam.' p. 1.

THE MISSIONARIES, THE DOCTORS AND

THE TEACHERS

Especially after the Crown had assumed direct rule over India in 1858, generations of Scottish and other missionaries, doctors and teachers spent their lives in South Asia. Eventually the traffic became two-way. For much of the C19 and the early C20 Scotland, and especially Edinburgh, was the Mecca for the medical education of the Dominions and the British Empire in general. Most of the University Library's collections on foreign missions are held in New College Library.

48. **George Chapman (1723-1806)** *Tracts on East India affairs : viz. Collegium Bengalese, a Latin poem, with an English translation and a dissertation on the best means of civilizing the subjects of the British Empire in India, and of diffusing the light of the Christian religion throughout the eastern world.* Edinburgh: Printed and sold for the author by John Moir ... sold also by Mr. Creech ... by Messrs. Cadell & Davies, and Mr. Johnson, London.

D.S.h.10.15/10

From the Dugald Stewart Collection.

49. *Proposals for a subscription for translating the Holy Scriptures into the following Oriental languages: Shanscrit, Bengalee, Hindoostanee ...* Bengal: Printed at the Mission Press, 1806.

D.S.h.10.15/8

From the Dugald Stewart Collection.

50. **C Rainy** *An soisgeul ann an India; Eadar-theangaichte gu Gàilig leis an Urr. J.G. MacNeill.* Paisley: J. agus R. Parlane, 1888.

S.B..26652(54) Rai.

A Gaelic translation of Rainy's account of his visit to Free Church of Scotland missions in India.

EARLY MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM INDIA

Native-born students from South Asia did not attend the University of Edinburgh until the late 1860s or the early 1870s (see item 22), but the first students to describe themselves coming from India or East India were surgeons or physicians or, more probably, assistant surgeons or physicians in the service of the East India Company, in first two decades of the C19.

51. **Thomas Taylor.** *Disputatio medica inauguralis de rubeola vulgari.* Edinburgi: excudebat Robertus Allan, 1808.

Att.82.7.9/10

Taylor was the first Edinburgh graduand to describe himself as 'Indus' (i.e. Indian). He dedicated his thesis to the Very Reverend Dr George Millar.

52. **William Bruce.** *Disputatio medica inauguralis de phthisi pulmonali.* Edinburgi: excudebant Adamus Neill & Socii, 1812.

Att.83.7.16/7

53. **James Mouat.** *Disputatio inauguralis quaedam inflammatione complectens.* Edinburgi: excudebant Abernethy & Walker, 1812.

Att.83.7.14/9

Bruce and Mouat were the first two graduands to describe themselves as 'Ex India Orientali' (i.e. from East India, as distinct from 'ex India Occidentali' or from the West Indies). Bruce dedicates his thesis to his father, Patrick Bruce, military governor at Madras, and to the Edinburgh-born surgeon and orientalist John Borthwick Gilchrist (1759-1851) - see page 9.

JOHN McCOSH (1805-1885) army surgeon and poet

The younger son of an Ayrshire farmer, John McCosh studied at the Universities of Glasgow (1827-1830) and of Edinburgh from which he graduated MD in 1841 with a dissertation *On the prospects and practice of a Bengal medical officer* (which appears not to have survived). After his years at Glasgow he became a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and was appointed assistant surgeon in Bengal, serving on the South-West Frontier in 1832. By the time he had graduated at Edinburgh he had already published *The loss of the Lady Munro* (1835) and *Topography of Assam* (1837). He saw service in the Second Sikh War in 1848, and in Burma in 1852. He retired in 1856.

54. **John McCosh** *Topography of Assam ...* Calcutta: 1837.

S.B. .91(5416)04/1

This copy, presented to the Library by the author, includes his own plates, printed separately and mounted on blank leaves in the text.

55. **John McCosh** *Advice to officers in India.* London: Wm H. Allen, 1856.

F*14.20

Second edition. Author's presentation copy to Edinburgh University Library, with his own occasional annotations.

56. **John McCosh** *Medical advice to the Indian stranger.* London: 1841

H*30.68

THE COLLECTORS OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS

DAVID AND JAMES ANDERSON (fl. 1770-1804) *political officers and administrators*

The brothers David and James Anderson, natives of Perth, were political officers of the East India Company, and valued associates of Warren Hastings. David was a particularly skilled diplomat, while James was a translator and interpreter. Both were scholars of the Persian language, and assembled significant collections of Persian and Arabic manuscripts, totalling 167, which they presented to Edinburgh University Library early in the C19. It is an interesting coincidence that, from 1800 to 1804 David Anderson and his family – Warren Hastings was godfather to one of his children – occupied the house at no 34 George Square which was part of the site now occupied by the Main University Library. He purchased a small estate at St Germain's near Tranent in Haddingtonshire (now East Lothian).

57. *TUZUK-I TUMURI* Fols 74 Or. MS 196

A Persian version of the institutes, political and military, forming the last part of the autobiographical memoirs of the great conqueror Timur, or Tamberlaine, A. H. 736-807 (A. D. 1336-1405). Copied during the Governorship of Prince Muhammad Mu'izz al-Din, A. H. 1118 (A. D. 1707) at Multan, by Mulla Khan Muhammad b. Shaikh Fath Muhammad Ansari.

58. *TA'RIKH-I FIRUZ-SHAKI* Fols 199 Or. MS 204

A history of the life and reign of Firuz-Shah, Sultan of Delhi, A.H.752-790 (A.D. 1351-1388). Qiem III, xiv: peace concluded with the Jam of Tattah (fol. 101b), gives an example of a peace treaty between Muslim rulers. Copied A. H. 1074 (A. D. 1663).

59. *A'IN-I AKBARI* Fols 249 Or. MS 208

A good copy, containing numerous tables, of the A-in or Institutes of the Emperor Akbar the Great. It contains a minute description and record of Akbar's government in all its departments, revenues, statistics, languages, sciences, religions, laws, physical character, climate, etc. Copied A. H. 1197 (A. D. 1782).

60. *DASTUR AL-'AMAL-I BADSHAHI* Fols 16 Or. MS 224

An abridged official manual of the Indian Empire, containing an account of the allowances of officials of various grades, names of Fasli months, revenues and area of the Empire, distances from Shahjahanabad (Delhi), and the divisions and revenues of individual provinces. Not dated.

JOHN BAILLIE OF LEYS (1772-1833) *Professor of Arabic at Fort William College, Calcutta*

A native of Inverness, Baillie served in the army of the East India Company, rising to the rank of colonel. He was appointed as the first Professor of Arabic at Fort William College, Calcutta and assembled a collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts which was presented to the University of Edinburgh by his grandson, John B. Baillie, in 1876. He is also said to have presented to the University 'one of the first serious collections of Indian paintings to be seen in Edinburgh'.

61. *IQBAL-NAMA-I JAHANGIRI* Fols 162 Or. MS 80

A history of the life and reign of the Emperor Jahangir (d. A. D. 1627). Copied at Shahjahanabad (Delhi) in A. H. 1189 (A. D. 1775).

ROBERT BLAIR MUNRO BINNING (1814-1891) *administrator, linguist and traveller*

The third son of David Monro of Softlaw (who by deed of entail assumed the surname and arms of Binning), by his second wife Isabella Blair, Binning enjoyed a career as an administrator in the East India Company Service in Madras. He was an enthusiastic linguist in Arabic, Persian and Hindi, in the pursuance of which he collected historic manuscripts and other examples of the use of these languages, and published A grammar, with a selection of dialogues and familiar phrases, and a short vocabulary in modern Arabic; edited by Fletcher Hayes, in 1849. He travelled in the Cape of Good Hope and in Syria, the Holy Land, Arabia and Egypt in 1845-1847, but had to quit his post for health reasons in 1850. For the next two years he travelled again, in Ceylon and Persia, which he described in his published Journal of two years' travel in Persia, Ceylon, etc., (2 volumes, London, 1857). Robert Binning assembled a collection of about 140 Oriental manuscripts, which he presented to two Edinburgh institutions in 1877. Of these MSS, one is now among the Library's rarest and most valuable, the exquisitely illustrated MS Or 161, Al-Asar al-Baqiyah 'an al-Qurun al-Khaliyah (The chronology of ancient nations and their history) by Abu al-Raihan al-Biruni (AH 707, AD 1307), which may be consulted only by special

request. Binning originally presented part of his collection to New College, Edinburgh where they were catalogued by Robert Bertram Serjeant. They were transferred to the Main Library, where they rejoined the other part of the collection, after the Library of New College, which had become the Faculty of Divinity in the University in 1929, became part of Edinburgh University Library in 1962. Binning bequeathed to New College Library (where they are still held) a selection of language notebooks, the four-volume journal of his 1845-1847 travels in Africa and the Middle East, and a volume of original botanical watercolours of plants in Malacca from his library.

62. **TASAWIR** Fols 32
Or. MS 374

A collection of 32 paintings by Indian and Persian artists, in a gold-tooled red morocco folder. The pictures are carefully executed, and seven include good examples of calligraphy (one is by Fa'iqq). All but two are by Indian artists, and have been pasted on gold-sprinkled paper. The **portraits** include those of Mughal Emperors and Princes, such as Babar, 'Alamgir, and Mirza Jawan-Bakht who died in Rangoon in exile with his father Bahadur-Shah II, A. H. 1302 (A. D. 1884); the Empress Mumtaz-Mahal, the favourite wife for whom Shahjahan built the Taj Mahal at Agra; Muhammadan walis or saints, including Khwajah Qutb al-Din Bakhtiyar Kaki, who died in A. H. 613 (A. D. 1235); and Hindu deities, including Kanyyaji and Ramchandarji, and baigiris or ascetics. The **pictures** include portrayals of elephants, including an elephant fight, hunting scenes, the Creation of the World, and ladies with their attendants.

63. **Robert B. M. Binning** *A journal of two years' travel in Persia, Ceylon, etc.*
London: Wm. H. Allen, 1857.
Bf.2.10

DAVID LAING (1793-1878)
antiquary and Librarian of the Signet Library

The bequest to Edinburgh University Library of David Laing's vast collection of manuscripts has been described as 'the most important manuscripts donation in the Library's history'. Born in Edinburgh, Laing studied at the University of Edinburgh before joining his father as a bookseller. His life and career repeatedly touched the University Library. While still a young man he achieved a reputation for a 'truly wonderful degree of skill and knowledge in all departments of bibliography' with his reprint in 1815 of *Auctarium Bibliothecae Edinburgensae sive Catalogus Librorum quos Guilielmus Drummondus ab Hawthornden Bibliothecae D.D.Q. (1627)*, the Library's catalogue of the first collection of books gifted by Drummond of Hawthornden. An antiquary, editor of older texts and an inveterate collector of books and manuscripts, he was appointed Librarian of the Signet Library in 1837, holding

the post until his death in 1878. His direct benefactions to the Library began and continued through his life. David Laing died unmarried, bequeathing his collection of manuscripts, including ten oriental MSS, to the University Library. His collection of printed books was sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge over thirty-one days in 1879 and 1880, and realised £16,137.

64. **INJIL-I MUQADDAS** Fols 190
Or. MS 176

An old MS of the Persian translation of the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Gold and colour-lined round the pages; written in good Nasta'liq, on thick paper; the chapters and verses are all marked in red; bound in plain leather; copied at Akbarabad (Agra) in A.H. 854 (A.D. 1450). It is stated on the flyleaf that this translation differs from that inserted in Walton's Polyglot, but that it is very similar to the one published by Whelock, A.D. 1657.

65. **GULISTAN** Fols 117
Or. MS 347

A copy of the Gulistan of Shaikh Sa'di Shirazi, written in clear Nasta'liq, with headings in red; bound in stamped deerskin; coloured lines round the pages. It is stated in the colophon that it was transcribed for Mirza Mighul Beg by Shakh Ilahi-Baksh of 'Azimabad (Patna) in A. H. 1237 (A. D. 1821).

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Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney 'The Peabody of the East'
from the bas-relief by Thomas Woolner
presented to the University of Edinburgh by Sir George Birdwood

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