Please note, this guide has not been updated since it was published. We therefore recommend that you also check the Archives catalogue (http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk) and Print catalogue (http://discovered.ed.ac.uk) in addition to using this guide.

Rare books, manuscripts and archives are held at the Centre for Research Collections within the Main Library, University of Edinburgh.

Please see our webpages for more information: www.ed.ac.uk/is/crc
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
A MISCELLANY OF ASIATICA

Scottish and South Asian connections
from books and manuscripts in
Edinburgh University Library

an exhibition on the occasion of the
16th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies
Edinburgh, September 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 cornethest for Scotland in the National Library of Scotland, and to a lesser extent in The enterprizing 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
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 OGLIBY (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 Mogul, and other parts of India... London: 1673.
JY 1040
Segun Sihieb 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 A 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. Remell (1742-1830) was a geographer and military surveyor in the service of the East India Company.

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

From being Professor of Civil and Natural History at the University of St Andrews from 1775 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 retirement. His grandson Hugh Francis Clarke Cleghorn of Stravithie (1820-1895) (see below) bequeathed 300 books on India and forestry to the Edinburgh University Library.

R.771.42.

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.

D.S.h.876/3

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

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 LLD. A man of fiery temperament and eccentric ways, he established an avairy, 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 Hindostane language, as a written and literary vehicle. Calcutta: Hindoostane Press, 1802-1803.
S.B.4914386 Gil.

S.B.491438 Gil.

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.


Per. .0 Edi
The preface 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.

Author's presentation set to the University Library. First edition published 1838-1870.

HUGH FRANCIS CLARKE CLEGHORN OF STRAVITHE (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 preparation 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.


*Att. 64.5.28*

Presentation copy by the author who was also known as Francis Buchanan (see page 16).


*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 Rheede van Draakenstein's *Hortus indicus malabaricus* (12 volumes, Amsterdam: 1678-1703).


*Att. 65.5.21*

This copy was bound at the American Mission Press Bindery, Madras.


*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.


*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.

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**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).


*Att. 65.5.29*

The 'List of Subscribers to "The Victoria Museum and Gardens"' includes Cowasjee Jehangir, Esq. (see also page 20), Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Baronet, and members of other Parsee families.
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 CHATTOPADHYAYA
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)

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

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.

Keith Coll. A.49

Keith Coll. A.71
W. J. Keith’s copy ‘(from A. B. K.).

Keith Coll. M.5
Presentation copy from the author ‘To Professor Berriedale [sic] Keith ... for favour of opinion’.

Keith Coll. M.5

27. V. Punniah The constitutional history of India. Allahabad: The Indian Press, 1938.
Keith Coll. M.3

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.
Q18.46

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.

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 Seriṅgapatam

With Colonel Arthur Wellesley (later to become the Duke of Wellington), Colonel David Baird led the forces that took Seriṅgapatam 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 Seriṅgapatam, 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.

355(42073)092 Bai Hoo


Or MS 148

A finely written and bound copy of the Quran from the Library of Tipu Sahib, Sultan of Mysore (1163-1214 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 Bailie 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 BURNS (1805-1841) soldier and political officer

A native of Montrose, Alexander Burns 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 Burns, Physician-General at Bombay, was advocating medical training for Indians as early as 1840.

38. Sir Alexander Burns 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, Tartsary, 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 Trading to Africa 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.


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
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

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

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 its 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

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.

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: Shamscrit, Bengalee, Hindoostane ... Bengal: Printed at the Mission Press, 1806.
D.S.h.10.15/8
From the Dugald Stewart Collection.

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.

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.

Att.83.7.16/7

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.

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 near Trantin in Haddingtonshire (now East Lothian).

57. TUZUK-I TUMURI
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 Tamberlane, 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 FURUZ-SHAKI.
Or. MS 204

59. A'IN-I AKBARI
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
Or. MS 224
An abridged official manual of the Indian Empire, containing an account of the allowances of officials of various grades, names of Fasti 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 JAHAANGIRI
Fols 162
Or. MS 80

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

The third son of David Munro 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-Baqiyyah 'an al-Qur'an 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. TASA'WIR
Or. MS 374
Fols 32
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'īqi). 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 Babur, '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 Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal at Agra: Muhammadan walls or sultans, including Khwajah Qutb al-Din Bakhtiyar Kaki, who died in A. H. 613 (A. D. 1253); and Hindu deities, including Kanyakai and Rambhandarji, and beggars or ascetics. The pictures include portrayals of elephants, including an elephant fight, hunting scenes, the Creation of the World, and ladies with their attendants.

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 Edinburgensis sive Catalogus Librorum quos Guillelmos Drummondos ab Hawthorniden 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
Or. MS 176
Fols 190
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'īq, 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
Or. MS 347
Fols 117
A copy of the Gulistan of Shaykh Sa'di Shirazi, written in clear Nasta'īq, 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 Mughil Beg by Shakh Ilahi-Baksh of 'Azimabad (Patna) in A. H. 1237 (A. D. 1821).
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Rozina Visram  

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