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A photograph of a Kandyan chief in Sri Lanka, about 1900, ALB0320123

# South Asian History

A guide to images and objects in the collections  
of Royal Museums Greenwich



South Asia is a huge area, home to many different peoples, cultures, languages and religions. It includes eight separate countries, all with very different histories, landscapes and economies. People with South Asian heritage also live across the globe, including in Britain.

This guide provides an overview of the holdings of Royal Museums Greenwich relating to South Asian history, especially historic images of people.

Part 1 gives a brief overview of relevant collections.

Part 2 is a finding aid that lists relevant objects, linked to our [online catalogue](#).

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A photograph of Indian soldiers playing hockey in New Zealand, 1926, [ALB0083.22](#). A digital version of this object is currently on display in the Pacific Encounters gallery.

# Part 1: Overview of collections

## Introduction

Royal Museums Greenwich holds thousands of South Asian images, including many images of people and places. The collections are very varied: some of the people represented have a close connection to the sea (such as shipbuilders, sailors or people visiting the beach) but others do not (including nannies, cameleers or rulers of landlocked countries).

This guide lists images of people in or linked to areas covered by the present-day states of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Bhutan is also mentioned, although the Museum's holdings relating to the country are very limited.

The guide also covers some South Asian diaspora communities in other parts of the world, past and present, including in Britain, China, Mauritius, South Africa and Trinidad.

It includes images of Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Parsis (Zoroastrians) and Sikhs.

Some of the region's Indigenous Peoples, such as Andamanese people of the Andaman Islands and Vedda of Sri Lanka, appear in the collections.

Please note that South Asian sailors who worked on board British ships (often known as 'lascars') are not covered in full by this guide. A separate guide devoted to these and other Indian Ocean seafarers is in preparation.

The Museum's images are largely historic, so they do not always represent what South Asia is like today.

All entries are listed by their accession number, a unique identification code given to every object in our permanent collection (e.g. [AAA2851](#), [UNI0024](#), [ZBA7719](#)).



A ship's badge from HMS 'Delhi', after 1918, [AAA1755](#)

## Who is represented in the collections of Royal Museums Greenwich and why?

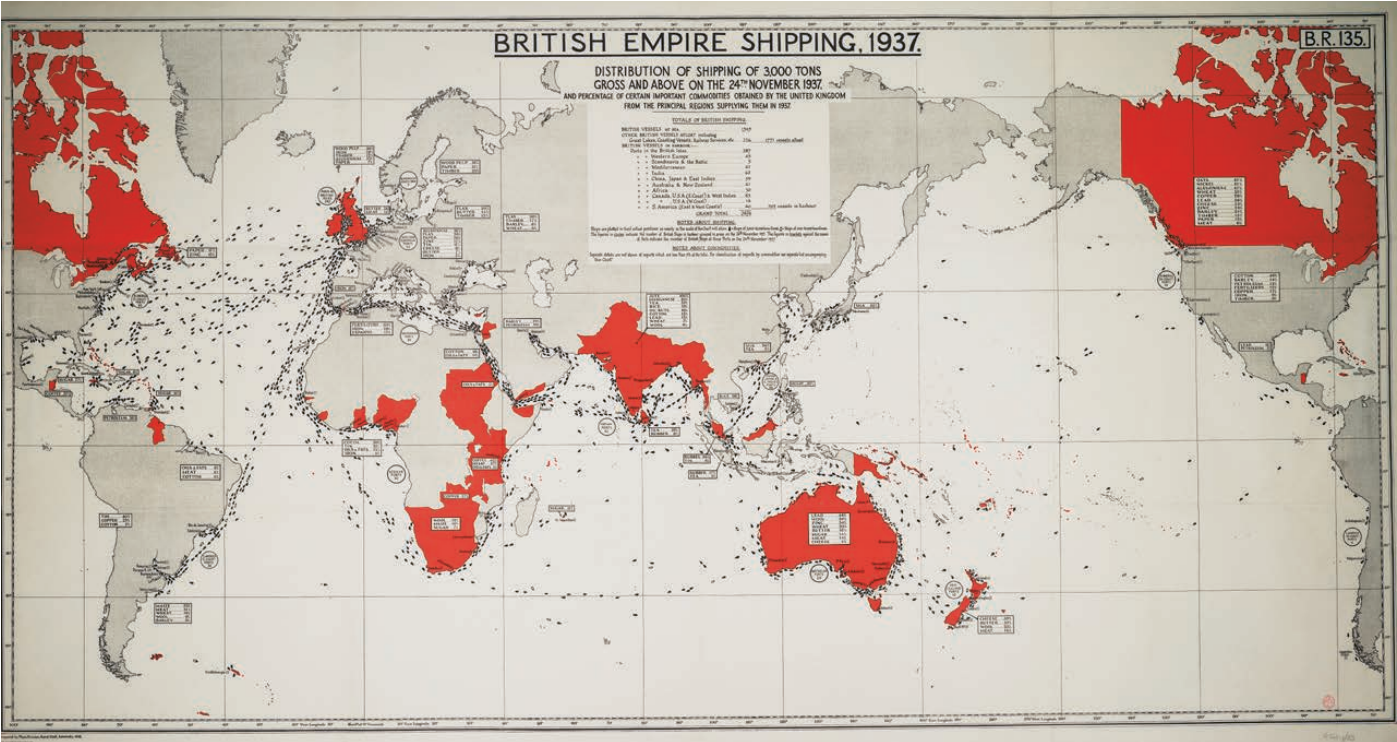
Many different people from across South Asia can be found in the collections of Royal Museums Greenwich. Who is and isn't represented is the result of lots of different factors, which are discussed below.

The National Maritime Museum was founded in 1937 and its collections often reflect the institution's early focus on subjects such as the victories of the Royal Navy, Britain's colonial empire, sea-borne trades dominated by Britain and the voyages of famous British explorers. Sometimes the Museum actively acquired South Asian material because it was closely linked to these subjects. At other times, however, such material was probably acquired because it was part of larger collections.

The majority of the Museum's South Asian holdings date from around 1750 to 1950 (although we also hold some material from the post-war era and more recent times). During this period, Britain gradually colonised large parts of the region. The objects listed in this guide reflect, and are linked to, this complex, uneven and often violent process. Each of the eight countries that comprise South Asia today has a different history and each is represented differently in our collections.

Areas now covered by the states of **Bangladesh, India and Pakistan** were once made up of many separate political units. They became formal parts of Britain's empire and were grouped together as 'British India', appearing as a single territory on maps. The East India Company began this process by establishing coastal trading posts ('factories') during the 1600s. The Mughal Empire ruled large parts of the subcontinent at this time but began to lose power and territory during the 1700s. The Company took advantage of this and, following the Battle of Plassey in 1757, gained control over the important Bengal region. Wars against powerful polities such as the Maratha empire (Maratha Confederacy), the Kingdom of Mysore and the Sikh Empire enabled the British to annex more territory.

The Indian Uprising of 1857, one of many anti-colonial rebellions, resulted in the downfall of the Company and the beginning of the British Raj period. Areas were ruled directly (by the state) or indirectly (by Asian rulers, as in the case of the princely states). An organised independence movement emerged in the late 1800s, making huge advances during the 1920s and 1930s under Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and other leading figures.



A chart depicting shipping lines across the British Empire, including around British India, 1939, [G201:1/29](#)





A Dutch print depicting a street scene in Portuguese Goa, Johannes Doetechum (engraver), 1599, PAI0227

The Partition of India, which resulted in the death of around a million people and the movement of millions more, produced the new, independent states of India and Pakistan in 1947. In 1971 the region known as 'East Pakistan' separated to become Bangladesh. British India had huge economic, cultural, military and maritime significance so, as may be expected, people and places connected to it feature prominently throughout the Museum's collections.

**Sri Lanka**, formerly known as 'Ceylon', had its coastal regions colonised by the Portuguese in the late 1500s and by the Dutch in the 1600s. The British took control of these areas during the French Revolutionary Wars in 1796. They then defeated the independent kingdom of Kandy in the interior of the island in 1815. A successful independence movement resulted in the creation of the Dominion of Ceylon in 1948, later renamed the Republic of Sri Lanka. The island's many tea plantations, its use as a naval base and the fact that Britons considered it to be particularly beautiful explain why it features so prominently in our holdings.

**Afghanistan** never became part of Britain's empire but faced continued attempts to control its foreign affairs, including invasions in 1839 and 1878. Britain only formally recognised Afghan independence after Amanullah Khan, the emir, invaded British India in 1919. The British feared Russian influence in Afghanistan, which lay in a strategically important position. This helps to explain why the country, although landlocked, has some presence in our maritime collections.

**Maldives**, a group of nearly 1,200 islands in the Indian Ocean, became a British 'protectorate' in 1887. The sultan continued to reign but Britain controlled the nation's foreign affairs. The islands were the site of various naval and air bases, including RAF Gan, which continued to operate after independence in 1965. Most of our Maldivian holdings come from sailors, soldiers or officials who spent time on the islands.

**Nepal** avoided colonisation by the British. The mountainous kingdom, which had united in 1768 under Prithvi Narayan Shah, fought a fierce war against the East India Company in the early 1800s. It subsequently entered into a close military relationship with Britain, fighting on the same side in both World Wars and various other conflicts. A small number of Nepalese people are represented in the collections, largely Gurkhas, the country's famous soldiers.

Royal Museums Greenwich also holds material relating to **Myanmar** (formerly Burma), which was at one time administered as part of British India. Some of this material is listed below but, as the country is usually considered part of South-east Asia, fuller listings will be included in future guides.

Britain was not the only nation to colonise South Asia. The Portuguese, Dutch and French also established empires in the region from the 1500s onwards and later, during the Second World War, the Japanese threatened its eastern borders as their empire expanded. These empires are also represented in the Museum's collections.

### Identified people

Many South Asian people are represented in the Museum's holdings. Those we can identify were often wealthy, powerful or famous. A list of their names appears below and they can also be found using the collections list finding aid in Part 2. As research continues, it is likely that more South Asian people will be identified within the Museum's holdings.

These people appear on unique objects of major historical importance (examples include an oil painting and several miniatures) but also in works that can be found in other museums and archives (such as prints) and 'ephemera' (things intended to be used for a short period of time, such as pamphlets and newspaper clippings).

The earliest image of an identified South Asian person discovered in the collections so far features Vimaladharmasūriya I of Kandy, a Sri Lankan king. He appears in several European engravings.



A print depicting Vimaladharmasūriya I of Kandy with Dutch explorer Joris van Spilbergen, Johann Theodor de Bry, 1606, PAG7410

Another early piece is a miniature depicting Ibrahim Khan Fath-i-Jang, *subahdar* (governor) of Bengal under the Mughal Empire, which is pasted inside a volume compiled by Welsh collector Thomas Pennant. A European print depicting the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb also appears in the same volume.

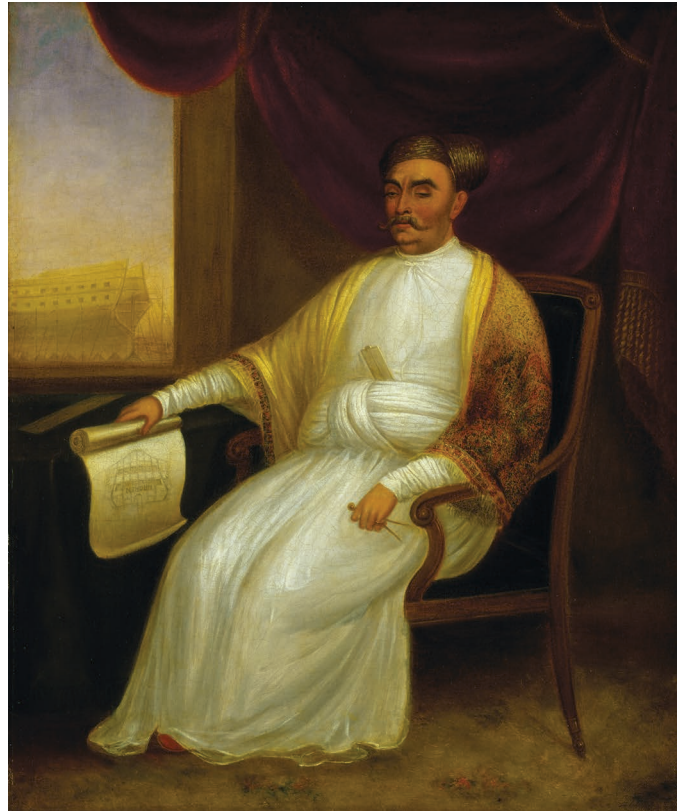


A miniature depicting Ibrahim Khan Fath-i-Jang, 1620s, from P/16/15

Images of identified people made during the East India Company's rule on the Indian subcontinent (1757–1858) include the following:

- rulers who fought against the Company, such as Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Nana Saheb Peshwa II of the Maratha empire
- Parsi shipbuilder Jamsetjee Bomanjee Wadia, who built vessels for the Company





An oil painting depicting Jamsetjee Bomanjee Wadia, J. Dorman, about 1830, [BHC2803](#). This is currently on display in the Traders gallery.

- rulers exiled by the British after rebellions and wars, such as Zeenat Mahal, an aristocrat and wife of the Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II, and Duleep Singh of the Sikh kingdom.



A miniature depicting Zeenat Mahal, about 1840, [ZBA9549](#)

Images of identified people made during the British Raj period on the Indian subcontinent (1858–1947) include the following:

- rulers of several Indian princely states, such as Mahendra Singh of Patiala, Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda and Karni Singh of Bikaner



A photograph of Sayajirao Gaekwad III, who became Maharaja of Baroda aged 12, about 1875, [ALB0022.103](#)

- members of the royal family of Maldives, including Sultan Mohamed Imaduddine VI and Prime Minister Ibrahim Dorhimeyna Kilegefan
- two rulers of Afghanistan: Nasrullah Khan (as crown prince) and Amanullah Khan



A photograph of Mohamed Imaduddine VI, Sultan of the Maldives, and his court on board a ship, 1894, [ALB1783.63](#)

- Indian nationalists, mostly appearing in newspaper clippings. This includes nationalist and thinker Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and nationalist and Axis collaborator during the Second World War Subhas Chandra Bose
- Pakistani politicians, such as Muhammad Zafarullah Khan.



A photograph showing Amanullah Khan with Prince George, Duke of Kent, and other dignitaries visiting HMS 'Nelson' (launched 1925) at Portsmouth, 1928, [ALB0560.9](#). Khan also visited the Royal Observatory in Greenwich during this trip.

The collections also include images showing the region and its peoples from after the 1940s, although holdings for this period are sparse. People depicted include the Indian model-actor Kalpana Iyer, Indian shipping magnate Ravi Tikko and Pakistani general Iqbal Khan.



Key named individuals by century

1600s

- Vimaladharmasūriya I (Kandyan ruler, d.1604)
- Mirza Ibrahim Beg, also known as Ibrahim Fath-i-Jang (governor of Bengal, d.1624)
- Rajasinghe II (Kandyan ruler, 1608–87)
- Aurangzeb (Mughal emperor, 1618–1707)

1700s

- Tipu Sultan (ruler of Mysore, 1751–99)
- Jamsetjee Bomanjee Wadia (Indian shipwright, about 1754–1821)
- Krishnaraja Wodeyar III (ruler of Mysore, about 1794–1821)

1800s

- Swarup Singh (ruler of Udaipur, 1815–61)
- Mirza Fath-ul-Mulk Bahadur (Mughal prince, about 1816–56)
- Jung Bahadur Rana (Nepalese statesman, 1817–77)
- Zeenat Mahal (Mughal aristocrat, 1823–86)
- Nana Saheb Peshwa II (Indian aristocrat and rebellion leader, 1824–after 1857)
- Gulab Singh (ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, 1792–1857)
- Tukoji Rao Holkar II (ruler of Indore, 1835–86)
- Duleep Singh (heir to the Sikh kingdom, 1838–93)
- Mahendra Singh (ruler of Patiala, 1852–76)
- Sayajirao Gaekwad III (ruler of Baroda, 1863–1939)
- Mohamed Imaduddine VI (Maldivian sultan, 1868–1932)
- Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi (Indian nationalist leader, 1869–1948)
- Nasrullah Khan (Afghan ruler, 1874–1920)
- Mandoogey Tuttu Manippulu (Maldivian prince, 1877–1946)
- Jawaharlal Nehru (Indian prime minister, 1889–1964)
- Amanullah Khan (Afghan ruler, 1892–1960)
- Muhammad Zafarullah Khan (Pakistani politician, 1893–1985)
- Subhas Chandra Bose (Indian nationalist and Axis collaborator, 1897–1945)

1900s

- Karni Singh (Indian maharaja, politician and sportsman, 1924–88)
- Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq (Pakistani president 1924–88)
- Iqbal Khan (Pakistani general, 1924–2000)
- Sawar Khan (Pakistani general, 1924–2023)
- Amar Singh (Indian aristocrat, 1925–2007)
- Muhammad Anwar Shamim (Pakistani air officer, 1931–2013)
- Buta Singh (Indian politician, 1934–2021)
- Gurdip Singh Dhillon (mayor of Greenwich, 1939–2009)
- Kalpana Iyer (Indian actress and model, b.1956)
- Ravi Tikkoo (Indian sailor and shipping magnate, b.1932)
- Surinder Kaur Dhillon (mayoress of Greenwich, dates unknown)

Unidentified people

The collections list finding aid (Part 2) also lists many images of unidentified South Asian people.

Images made between 1750 and 1950 are most likely to show people encountered by British sailors, soldiers, officials, merchants and travellers, especially people they employed, recruited, talked about, negotiated with, gave political or military support to, or fought against. Rulers, soldiers and labourers, for example, are much better represented than other groups within South Asian societies.

People in ports, coastal areas, centres of colonial administration and places Europeans often visited are also more likely to be shown.

Men are much better represented than women (and for this reason we have included a 'Curator's highlights' list devoted to South Asian women, see page 44).

The collections include some peoples, such as Tamils, historically living in large numbers across more than one state.

Examples from the East India Company period (1757–1858) and the British Raj (1858–1947) period include:

- people who fought in British armed forces, such as soldiers (see page 46 for another 'Curator's highlights' covering soldiers)
- people employed directly by the British, such as servants



A photograph of the Kandy Esala Perahera, a Sri Lankan festival, about 1900, [ALB0320.124](#)

- people working in industries controlled by the British, such as tea pluckers and indigo dyers.

The collections also include images of people undertaking many other activities, often those that Europeans thought 'typical' of South Asia or otherwise wanted to record, such as:

- people taking part in religious festivals and observances, including Cadavee, the Kandy Esala Perahera and Ramadan (*Ramzan*)
- dancers performing classical Indian dances.



A photograph of people in Mauritius celebrating Cadavee, a Tamil religious festival, 1940s, [ALB0840.71](#)

The Museum's collections also feature representations of South Asian diaspora communities around the world during this period, including:

- indentured labourers or their descendants in Mauritius, South Africa and Trinidad
- policemen in Hong Kong
- 'Afghan' cameleers in Australia (this term could denote people from Afghanistan but was often used indiscriminately)



A photograph of a group of 'Afghan' cameleers presenting a camel to the Duke and Duchess of York in Australia, 1901, [ALB0319.99](#)



- people who provided goods and services to the British, such as grooms (for horses), elephant handlers (often called *mahouts*) and rickshaw operators.

Caste is a form of social hierarchy, discussed in ancient Indian texts, that has been adopted by or imposed upon people, especially Hindus, in various parts of South Asia for centuries. Many different people are pictured in our collections and some names, clothing, occupations, religious practices and other identifiers associated with specific castes are present. Overt references to individual castes are very rare in our holdings (exceptions include, for example, references to Brahmins in [PAD1850](#) and [P/16/15](#)). Observations about caste made by Europeans during the colonial era are often highly problematic and should be handled carefully.

South Asian people have been visiting or settling in Britain for several centuries. This has included royalty, sailors, soldiers, students, economic migrants and refugees. Among these migrations have also been people with South Asian heritage who have come here via other parts of the world, such as East Africa.

People of South Asian heritage living in Britain have contributed to academia, the arts, the armed forces, food, law, medicine, politics, sport and other areas of national life. Famous migrants such as entrepreneur Dean Mahomed and suffragette Sophia Duleep Singh are represented in other collections.

The Museum holds a small number of historic images of South Asian people who visited or lived in Britain, including:

- *ayahs* (nannies) who looked after the children of wealthy Europeans
- soldiers taking part in a military parade in Trafalgar Square.

There are many different South Asian communities and people with South Asian heritage in Britain today. The Royal Borough of Greenwich, for example, has an established Nepalese community living in Woolwich and Plumstead (although, sadly, they are not well represented in our collections).

Some images in the Museum's collections show people with South Asian heritage around the country from the past 50 years. These include:

- a South Asian smith (metalworker) pictured on a break at Chatham Dockyard, 1983



*Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 2017* © Martin Parr/Magnum Photos, ZBA8706

- a family of Sikh beachgoers in Essex in a photograph by Martin Parr, 2017.

As well as real South Asian individuals, some fictional and stylised depictions of people are also present in the collection. They appear, for example, on figureheads, maps, menus and advertisements.

## Thematic searching

Searching the collection using thematic keywords can be useful for your research. The following suggested search terms can be used with this guide or the [online catalogue](#).

### Occupations, ranks, titles and related descriptors:

ascetic, *ayah* (nanny), cameleer, dancer, elephant handler, *fakir* (Muslim ascetic), gardener, general, groom (for horses), mayor/mayoress, labourer and indentured labourer (please note that the derogatory term 'coolie' is often used in historical sources), maharaja/raja, *nawab* (ruler), peon, police officer, prime minister, rickshaw operator/rickshaw puller, *sadhu/saddhu* (Hindu or Jain ascetic), servant, shopkeeper, smith (metalworker), soldier, sultan, *subahdar* (governor), yogi

**Activities:** *attan* (dance), *khattack* (dance), marching, picnicking, washing, worshipping

**Animals:** camel, cobra, elephant, horse, mongoose, peacock, python, roc (mythical bird)

**Events:** coronation, durbar, festival, parade, picnic, procession, show

**Objects:** bow (archery), carriage, comb, flag, hookah, knitting machine, palanquin, rice pounder, rickshaw, statue, sword

**Food, drink and cooking:** chapati, rice, roti, *tava/tawa* (cooking utensil), toddy (palm wine)

**Clothing, jewellery and hair:** bangle, beard, cape, comb, Karakul hat, *kullah* (turban cone), loincloth, medal, nose ring, sari, sarong, shako (military hat), shirt, trainers, tunic, turban, toe ring, uniform

**Buildings and places:** bazaar, beach, bridge, bungalow, cathedral, cave, *chhatra* (stone pavilion), fort, fountain, gardens, *ghat* (steps leading to water), gurdwara (also gurudwara), *kovil* (temple), lake, palace, *maidan* (parade ground/open space), *masjid*, minaret, mosque, shop, stupa, railway station, tank (well/reservoir), tea plantation, temple, tomb, veranda, wharf

**Transport:** elephant, horse, *masula* (surf boat), rickshaw, *shikara* (Kashmiri boat), train

**Sports:** hockey, *neza bazi* (tent pegging)



## Other South Asian history material

The collections list finding aid (Part 2) mainly lists images of people. The following material may also be of interest.

Many identified and unidentified South Asian people are referenced in text but not pictured in the collections. Examples include Tipu Sultan's son Abdul Khaliq (PAJ1853), *ayahs* travelling between Britain and India (e.g. BIS/36/10), the Maharaja of Burdwan (MED0584), indentured labourers (e.g. AAM) and many soldiers (e.g. MED2504).

A small number of South Asian objects are also held in the collections, including a Bhutanese bow (AAA2786), a palm leaf book from Travancore (ZBA5616), a Gurkha *khukuri* (also *kukri*, a type of machete, AAA2813), a *hentakoi* (a type of wooden statue used for ritual purification) from the Nicobar Islands (AAA2828) and a Sri Lankan flag (AAA0458).

Some traditional South Asian watercraft are represented in the collections, such as *masula* (surf boats) once used off Madras [Chennai]. This includes several ship models (e.g. AAE0046, AAE0115, AAE0176).

Examples of various South Asian languages can be found in the collections. These appear on or in objects such as medals, dictionaries, official documents and books. This includes Hindi (e.g. MED2132), Marathi (e.g. PBE3321), Sanskrit (e.g. PBG2634) and Urdu (e.g. PBB2301). Persian, once an official language used by the Mughals and then the British, can also be found in the collections (e.g. MED0014, MED0466, PBD7444). The Museum also has a copy of *Hobson-Jobson* (PBD7443), a widely used colonial phrasebook that drew from many different languages.



A Gurkha khukuri (also kukri), 1800s, AAA2813



A Sri Lankan flag, 1940s/50s, AAA0458



A medal depicting a sepoy with a Persian inscription beneath, about 1811, MED0466. This object is currently on display in the Traders gallery.

**Representations of South Asian landmarks include but are not limited to the following:**

**Places of worship:** Basilica of the Holy Rosary in Bandel (PAF2696), Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Calcutta [Kolkata] (ALB0001.47), Elephanta Caves on Gharapuri Island (e.g. ALB0022.83, PAI1838, PM8076/4), Ellora Caves in the Charanandri Hills (PLL/88/16), the Golden Temple in Amritsar (ALB0001.52), Halasuru Someshwara Temple in Bangalore [Bengaluru] (ALB0496.19), Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque (Red Mosque) in Colombo (ALB1208.59), Kathiresan Temple in Colombo (ALB1214.40), Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad (ALB1783.11), Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque) in Agra (e.g. ALB1094.149), St Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta [Kolkata] (ALB0001.9), Shahani Begum Masjid in Calcutta [Kolkata] (ALB0022.110), Sri Dalada Maligawa (also known as the Temple of the Tooth) in Kandy (ALB0022.97, ALB1214, VHM/16/3), Tipu Sultan Mosque in Calcutta [Kolkata] (ALB0001.21)

**Tombs:** Khusro Bagh in Prayagraj (PAH6031), Mazar-e-Quaid (Jinnah Mausoleum) in Karachi (ALB1788.40), Taj Mahal in Agra (e.g. ALB1094)

**Forts, palaces, monuments and gardens:** Agra Fort (e.g. ALB1094.146), Bab-e-Khyber in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (ALB1488.26), the Burmese Pagoda in Eden Gardens (e.g. ALB0001.15), Charminar and Char Kaman in Hyderabad (ALB1783.12), Dewan Devdi [Diwan Devdi] in Hyderabad (ALB1783.13), Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar (DEN/9/9), Silver Jubilee Clock Tower in Mysore [Mysuru] (ALB0496.18), the Qutb Minar in Delhi [New Delhi] (ALB0001.49), the Victoria Memorial (ALB0477.4)

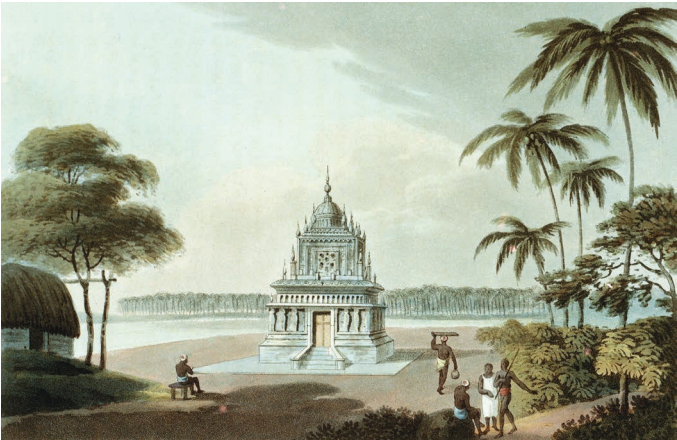
**Natural features:** Adam's Peak in Ratnapura (e.g. ALB0022.96, PAD1871), Ramboda Falls in Pussellawa (ALB988.14), Kanchengjunga in the Himalayas (ALB0367.38)

**Ghats:** Chandpal Ghat (Babughat) (PAI0203) and Old Fort Ghat (PAD0375) in Calcutta [Kolkata], Satti Chaura Ghat ('Massacre Ghat') in Cawnpore [Kanpur] (ALB0001.50)

**Colonial buildings:** Gateway of India (e.g. PM8079/20), Taj Mahal Palace hotel (ALB0114.5) and Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) (ALB0114.6) in Bombay [Mumbai]; Calcutta Medical College (ALB0001.7), General Post Office (ALB0344), Government House (now Raj Bhavan) (ALB0367.14), the Ochterlony Monument (now Shaheed Minar) (ALB0367.37) and Writers' Buildings (PAI0204) in Calcutta [Kolkata]; The Madras Club (ALB1783.5) in Madras [Chennai]; Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School in the Nilgiri Mountains (ALB0496.31); Old Colombo Clock Tower/Lighthouse (e.g. ALB1208.52) in Colombo



A drawing of Khusro Bagh near Allahabad [Prayagraj], Capt. A.G.R. Roberts, 1800s, PAH6031



A print depicting Indian people by a monument ('Brahmin's tomb') near Puducherry, James Wathen (artist); I. Clark (engraver), 1814, PAD1850



A photograph of people at Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Kolkata, late 1800s, ALB0001.47



Places depicted

Below is an alphabetical list of places in South Asia that are depicted in the collections. This includes depictions in photographs, prints, drawings and paintings, and those on maps and charts.

Present-day official names for places have been given, with former or alternative names (including colonial-era names with Anglicised spellings) in square brackets; the latter are sometimes more likely to produce results when searching historic material.

- Abottabad
- Adaman Islands
- Agra
- Amritsar
- Baramulla
- Bandel
- Bengaluru [Bangalore]
- Chandannagar [Chandernagore]
- Chennai [Madras]
- Chattogram [Chittagong]
- Chengalpattu [Chingelput]
- Colachel
- Colombo
- Dhaka [Dacca]
- Diyatalawa
- Diu
- Galle
- Goa
- Hyderabad
- Jaffna
- Kalutara [Caleture]
- Kandy [Candy]
- Kanpur [Cawnpore]
- Karachi
- Cossipore
- Khyber Pakhtunkwa
- Kodungallur [Cranganoor, Cranganore]
- Kolkata [Calcutta]
- Kozhikode [Calicut]
- Lahore
- Lucknow
- Malé
- Manora
- Mumbai [Bombay]
- Mysuru [Mysore]
- Mylapore
- New Delhi [Delhi]
- Nilgiri Mountains
- Peradenya
- Peshawar
- Port Blair
- Prayagraj [Allahabad]



A chart depicting Seringapatam [Srirangapatna], 1792, [GREN71/7](#)

- Puducherry [Pondicherry]
- Rameswaram
- Ranaghat
- Ratnapura
- Risalpur [Risalpore]
- Savandurga [Savendroog]
- Serampore
- Srinagar
- Srirangapatna [Seringapatam]
- Surat
- Thoothukudi [Tuticorin]
- Tirunelveli [Tinnevely]
- Trincomalee
- Varanasi [Benares]
- Veyangoda



A print depicting Sri Lankan people at Kalutara, 1700s, [PAD1870](#)



A print depicting Dacca [Dhaka], early 1800s, [PAD1878](#)



## Part 2: Collections list finding aid

### How should I use this finding aid and why has it been created?

#### Searching collections

Museum collections like ours are big, complex and often difficult to search. Curators and other museum staff spend their time trying to make them accessible to the public. This basic finding aid has been compiled to help you navigate the collections, as we want our South Asian material to be easier to find.

This guide should always be used in addition to our [online catalogue](#) and your own research. The list is updated at regular intervals but it is not intended to be comprehensive.

The list includes digitised items (viewable immediately via the [online catalogue](#)) as well as items that have not yet been digitised (and which can be viewed in person at the [Caird Library](#) or our other stores). Royal Museums Greenwich is working hard to make these images easier to access.

#### Finding items via accession number

All entries are listed by their accession number, a unique identification code given to every object in our permanent collection. Some accession numbers, such as those for a photograph album or a box of papers, for example, contain many sub-items.

#### Describing people shown in historic material

Identifying and describing people shown in historical material is a very difficult task. The terms below used to describe people are deliberately broad since they are often based on vague, flawed, or, in some cases, completely inaccurate descriptions in the original sources made during the colonial period.

Appropriate language to describe people changes, may differ between different countries or as a result of the different generations of people being described and is often subject to debate. This guide will evolve over time to reflect this.

Please note that original captions sometimes contain outdated, derogatory and racist language that the Museum never uses in its own interpretation. Occasionally, these captions have been included for

the purposes of finding and referencing objects (some images, for example, are difficult to find within an album or scrapbook unless their exact title is known).

This guide highlights the representation of South Asian people and people with South Asian heritage in the collections but there are, of course, many other ways of categorising the people depicted in a Museum's holdings (such as by historical period, occupation, age, sex, faith or rank).



A chart depicting the Bay of Bengal, eastern India and Sri Lanka, 1555, P/36(1-2)



Figurehead of HMS 'Seringapatam' believed to depict Tipu Sultan or one of his attendants, 1819 or later, FHD0102  
This is currently on display in the Traders gallery.



## The Unlocking Collections project

Many of the items listed below were found, catalogued and/or digitised as part of the Unlocking Collections project at Royal Museums Greenwich. The Museum's special team of Collections and Archives Research Volunteers (CARVs) have been helping with this ambitious project since 2017.

Led by the Curator of World History and Cultures, these volunteers explore overlooked, under-catalogued and undigitised areas of the collections. They have trawled through hundreds of thousands of items in the collections, page by page, image by image, to help produce this guide.

The list below includes South Asian images clustered together in single items (such as [ALB1487](#) or [ALB1783](#)) but also images 'cherry-picked' from items largely unrelated to South Asia, such as [ALB0635.116](#) or a single photograph in [WEM/6](#).

This guide will be updated regularly, as Unlocking Collections finds more material relating to South Asia.



Searching through a collection as vast and as complicated as the one at Royal Museums Greenwich has been a challenging but hugely rewarding task. I will always be grateful to our volunteers; projects like this simply wouldn't be possible without their help.

**Dr Aaron Jaffer**  
Curator of World History and Cultures

*A studio photograph of an unnamed South Asian woman thought to be an indentured labourer, 1860s or 1870s, [ALB0029.215](#).*





## Collections list

Items are grouped by type and identifiable by their accession number (a unique code given to every object in our permanent collection). This will help you find them among the millions of objects in the collections.

### Archival material

Archival material held in the collections includes images in journals, diaries, logbooks, scrapbooks, loose papers and 'ephemera' (items not originally intended to last for a long time). Images contained within these items might include sketches, watercolours, illustrations, prints, postcards, menus and newspaper clippings.

In order to view archival material, you will need to register at the [Caird Library](#) and [place an order](#). Some items can be ordered and viewed on the same day, some are stored off-site so will take at least eight days to be delivered and some cannot yet be requested through the catalogue (please contact [Library@rmg.co.uk](mailto:Library@rmg.co.uk) if unable to request an item).

**BUC/2/2** journal including a caricature of Sultan Mohammed Shah (known as Agha Khan III), 1904

**COW/21/1** and **COW/21/2** photograph albums including photographs of South Asian soldiers at Risalpoore [Risalpur], 1947

**CRJ** illustrated journals by Edward Hodges Cree that include images of South Asian people, 1837–49. This includes:

**CRJ/5** journal with a watercolour of a Catholic funeral (original caption: 'Funeral of A poor Roman Catholic Dobie Waller – Camp Followers – Chusan [China]')

**CRJ/11** journal with watercolours of a Sri Lankan street scene (original caption: 'Outside the Gate, Point de Galle, Ceylon'), a Parsi (Zoroastrian) shopkeeper, Bombay [Mumbai] street scenes and a South Asian policeman

**CRJ/13** includes a watercolour of Sri Lankan boatmen

**DEN/9/9** photograph album with a photograph of three people, including a South Asian woman, sat in Shalimar Bagh at Srinagar in Kashmir, 1920s or 1930s

**DRI/3** ephemera including a menu with an illustration of a South Asian *sadhu/saddhu* (ascetic) with a trident, 1940s



A photograph of three people, including a South Asian woman, in Shalimar Bagh at Srinagar in Kashmir, 1920s or 1930s, [DEN/9/9](#)



Photograph of Prince Karni Singh of Bikaner, 1938, [JRR/16](#)

**DCK/33** personal collections including newspaper clippings showing Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi and Kalpana Ayer, 1979

**HEN/15** photograph album including photographs of a Sinhalese man wearing hair combs, bullock cart drivers and street scenes from Sri Lanka, 1880s

**JOD/117** journal featuring Indian and Japanese soldiers in China during the First World War, 1914–15

**JOD/156** journal including a small ink sketch showing *sati* (widow sacrifice), 1780–1819

**JOD/166** journal including an engraving of South Asian men working with elephants, 1880s

**JOD/225/1** diary including a newspaper clipping showing Ravi Tikko, 1970s

**JRR/16** photographs of Karni Singh and Amar Singh of Bikaner, 1938

**MSS/79/161** uncatalogued papers including a booklet with reproductions of photographs showing Sri Lanka, including Sinhalese and Tamil people, about 1920

**MSS/80/124** uncatalogued papers including newspaper clippings showing Subhas Chandra Bose and Gurkhas, 1941

**P/16/15** manuscript volume compiled by Thomas Pennant covering South Asia, including several Mughal miniatures, one depicting Ibrahim Khan Fath-i-Jang, and prints depicting Aurangzeb, yogis and a man with a peacock, 1600s and 1700s

**PEB7804** photographic postcard showing the head and shoulders of a woman, allegedly a Sinhalese *ayah* (nanny), about 1900

**PEB7805** illustrated postcard depicting an *ayah* looking after a European child in a sailor suit, about 1900

**PEB7806** photographic postcard showing an *ayah* stood next to a European child in a pram, about 1900

**PGE/13** scrapbook including engravings of Tipu Sultan and Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, late 1700s

**PLL/88/7** diary including various engravings of Indian people at Aurangabad, Bombay [Mumbai] and Nagpur, 1831

**PLL/88/12** diary including various engravings of Indian people bathing at a *ghat* (steps into water) near Calcutta [Kolkata], 1835



A photograph showing Indian soldiers in China, 1914–15, [JOD/117](#)



A print depicting Tipu Sultan, late 1700s, [PGE/13](#)



**PLL/88/16** diary including an engraving of Indian people at Ellora Caves, 1838

**PTR/13/3** detached pages from *The Illustrated London News* depicting South Asian soldiers fighting in Sudan, 1885

**PTR/23/12** diary (week 27) including a newspaper clipping showing three South Asian women stood on a roof or balcony, 1910s

**PTR/23/16** diary including a newspaper clipping showing Mohandas Karamchand 'Mahatma' Gandhi disembarking from a ship, 1932

**SCL/3** (p. 112) *Vanity Fair* cartoon featuring Mir Turab Ali Khan (Sir Salar Jung I), about 1876

**SMH/4** photograph album including photographs of South Asian soldiers or policemen in Hong Kong, 1900

**VHM/16/3** photograph album including a photograph of Sri Lankan people at Matale and Kandy, and Sri Dalada Maligawa (also known as the Temple of the Tooth), 1880s

**WEM/6** photograph album including a studio photograph of eight South Asian women, possibly indentured labourers, in Trinidad, late 1800s



A photograph of South Asian women, possibly indentured labourers, at a commercial photograph studio in Trinidad, late 1800s, from [WEM/6](#)



Photograph of Prince Amar Singh of Bikaner, 1938, [JRR/16](#)



Right: A photograph of a Vedda man in Sri Lanka, early 1900s, [ALB0320.119](#)



Newspapers, magazines and journals

The collections include newspapers, magazines and journals, such as *The Illustrated London News* and *Trident*. This material, which sometimes contains illustrations, is usually viewable at the [Caird Library](#).

**ILN** *The Illustrated London News* contains many images of South Asian people. This includes:

- 16 February 1856**, illustration depicting Duleep Singh
- 23 February 1856**, illustrations depicting the Santhal Hul (rebellion) of 1855
- 1 August 1857**, illustration depicting Mirza Muhammed Hamid Ali and Mirza Sikander Hashmat
- 12 September 1857**, illustration depicting Mirza Fath-ul-Mulk
- 26 September 1857**, illustration depicting Nana Saheb Peshwa II
- 10 October 1857**, illustrations depicting Gulab Singh and Tukoji Rao Holkar II
- 23 January 1858**, illustration depicting Swarup Singh [also Sarup Singh]
- 10 April 1858**, illustration depicting Jung Bahadur Rana and Gurkhas
- 21 August 1858**, illustration of 'Brahmin' students

**NAAI** *Navy and Army Illustrated* magazine containing many images of Indian soldiers, 1895–1903, 1906 and 1915

**TRIDENT** *Trident* magazine containing images of South Asian people, 1939–57



Illustration of Maharaja Duleep Singh, *The Illustrated London News* 14 February 1846, [ILN](#)

Books

The collections include rare books and other historic publications, some of which contain illustrations, maps and charts. This material is viewable at the [Caird Library](#).

**PBC5703** *An Essay on the Epidemic of Cholera in India* (1831), Reginald Orton, which includes a map of the Indian subcontinent

**PBD7211** *The route of the overland mail to India from Southampton to Calcutta* (1852), Thomas Grieve, which includes engravings depicting people in Calcutta [Kolkata] and Madras [Chennai]

**PBD7458** *A dictionary, English and Hinduwee* [Hindustani] (1833), M.T. Adam

**PBE3321** *A dictionary, Murathee* [Marathi] *and English* (1831), James T. Molesworth

**PBG3410** *Report on the Calcutta Cyclone of the 5th October 1864* (1866), Lieut. Col. J.E. Gastrell and Henry F. Blanford, which includes charts of the Hooghly and Bay of Bengal

**PBG5000** *A historical view of the Hindu astronomy: from the earliest dawn of that science in India to the present time* (1825), John Bentley

**PBH3549** *Curry & rice on forty plates* (1911), George Francklin Atkinson, which includes illustrations of many different Indian people, including a *nawab* (ruler), a jockey, farmers and many servants, including gardeners, cooks, *ayahs* (nannies), beaters (for hunting) and grooms



## Art collections

Artworks listed below include miniatures and oil paintings. Some are currently on display at the Queen's House and the National Maritime Museum; those off display are viewable by appointment at the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre.

**BHC1084** and **BHC1085** pair of oil paintings depicting Maratha sailors, Thomas Butterworth, 1812

**BHC1933** and **BHC1934** pair of oil paintings depicting people at imagined Dutch settlement in India, Ludolf Backhuysen [also Backhuizen], 1670s

**BHC2803** oil painting depicting Jamsetjee Bomanjee Wadia, J. Dorman, about 1830

**BHC2943** oil painting depicting Captain William Peel during the Indian Uprising of 1857 with Lucknow visible in the background, John Lucas, after 1858

**ZBA9549** miniature depicting Zeenat Mahal, about 1840



*Mahratta [Mahratha] pirates attacking the sloop 'Aurora', of the Bombay Marine, 1812; beginning of the action, Thomas Butterworth, [BHC1084](#)*



*Mahratta [Maratha] pirates attacking the sloop 'Aurora', of the Bombay Marine, 1812; end of the action, Thomas Butterworth, [BHC1085](#)*



*A miniature depicting Zeenat Mahal, about 1840, [ZBA9549](#)*



## Historic photographs

Photographic material held in the collections includes photograph albums, photographic prints and colour transparencies. Most of this material is viewable at the Brass Foundry, our outstation in Woolwich. Please email [plansandphotographs@rmg.co.uk](mailto:plansandphotographs@rmg.co.uk) to make an appointment, quoting the accession number of the item you would like to see.

Please note that photographic material, including photograph albums and loose photographs, can also be found in the 'Archival material' section above. This is usually viewable in the [Caird Library](#).

**ALB0001** photograph album featuring views of Calcutta [Kolkata], Benares [Varanasi], Cawnpore [Kanpur] and Amritsar, about 1876. This includes:

**ALB0001.7** photograph of Calcutta Medical College

**ALB0001.9** photograph of St Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta with palanquin bearers outside

**ALB0001.15** photograph of the Burmese Pagoda at Eden Gardens in Calcutta

**ALB0001.21** photograph of Tipu Sultan Mosque in Calcutta

**ALB0001.47** photograph of people at Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Calcutta

**ALB0001.46** photograph of an Indian shopkeeper with rope and bells

**ALB0001.48** photograph of an Indian family outside a house made of grass or other natural materials

**ALB0001.50** photograph of people at Satti Chaura Ghat (also known as Massacre Ghat) in Cawnpore

**ALB0001.51** photograph of Queen's College in Benares

**ALB0001.52** photograph of the Golden Temple in Amritsar

**ALB0013** photograph album featuring images of India and Sri Lanka, early 1900s. This includes:

**ALB0013.22** photograph of a Bombay [Mumbai] street and rooftops

**ALB0013.23** photograph of Madras [Chennai] harbour

**ALB0013.27** photograph of the Byculla Club in Bombay [Mumbai]

**ALB0013.29** photograph of carts at Colombo in Sri Lanka



A commercial studio photograph of two South Asian women with a hookah, 1860s or 1870s, [ALB0029.219](#)



A photograph of Satinwood Bridge in Sri Lanka, early 1900s, [ALB0320.127](#)

**ALB0022** photograph album featuring images of India and Sri Lanka, 1870s. This includes:

**ALB0022.83** photograph of sculptures in the Elephanta Caves showing the marriage of Parvati and Shiva (Kalyanasundara)

**ALB0022.96** photograph of a river with Adam's Peak (Mount Malaya) in the background

**ALB0022.98** photograph of a Sri Lankan elephant handler with an elephant

**ALB0022.102** photograph of Mahendra Singh of Patiala wearing a ceremonial cape

**ALB0022.103** photograph of Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda

**ALB0022.104** photograph of Mahendra Singh of Patiala with one arm resting on a chair or chaise longue

**ALB0029** photograph album featuring three commercial studio photographs of South Asian people, 1860s or 1870s. This includes:

**ALB0029.213** photograph of a crouching South Asian man, possibly an indentured labourer

**ALB0029.215** photograph of a South Asian woman wearing a nose ring, possibly an indentured labourer

**ALB0029.219** photograph of two South Asian women with a hookah and other props

**ALB0083.22** photograph of Indian soldiers playing hockey in New Zealand, 1926

**ALB0140** photograph album featuring images of Indian soldiers parading through Trafalgar Square, London for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897

**ALB0144.13** photograph of six South Asian men standing next to a corpse on an unlit funeral pyre, 1860s

**ALB0274** photograph album showing the world tour of the Special Services Squadron, featuring images of India and Sri Lanka, 1923–24. This includes:

**ALB0274.82** photograph of Sri Lankan dancers with drummers behind

**ALB0274.83** photograph of a statue of Buddha on an outdoor plinth in Sri Lanka

**ALB0274.85** photograph of Kandy Lake

**ALB0274.87** photograph of a group of Sri Lankan people stood on the seashore at Trincomalee

**ALB0274.89** photograph of a street in Peradeniya



A photograph of Madras High Court, 1890s, [ALB1783.4](#)



A photograph of a temporary decorative arch built for the Duke of Gloucester's visit to Sri Lanka with rickshaw operators and other pedestrians visible, 1942, [ALB1214.37](#)



A photograph of a woman and man harvesting tea on a Sri Lankan tea plantation, 1940s, [ALB1214.42](#)



**ALB0274.90** photograph of a group of Sri Lankan adults and children

**ALB0274.91** photograph of a religious ascetic (labelled an 'Indian fakir') lying on the ground in Kandy

**ALB0274.94** photograph of two Sri Lankan people with a well

**ALB0274.96** photograph of fish sellers at a Trincomalee market

**ALB0274.97** photograph of Sri Lankan palm trees and foliage

**ALB0319.99** photograph of 'Afghan' cameleers with a camel in Australia, 1901

**ALB0320** photograph album featuring images of Sri Lanka and India, early 1900s. This includes:

**ALB0320.118** photograph of three Vedda men

**ALB0320.119** photograph of a Vedda man

**ALB0320.122** photograph of a statue of Buddha, probably at a Sri Lankan temple

**ALB0320.123** uncaptioned photograph of an unidentified Kandyan chief

**ALB0320.124** photograph of the Kandy Esala Perahera festival

**ALB0320.127** photograph of Satinwood Bridge, Mahaweli Ganga river in Sri Lanka

**ALB0323** photograph album featuring images of Sri Lankan people, 1919–20. This includes:

**ALB0323.17** photograph of people on a train and the tracks at Veyangoda railway station

**ALB0323.19** photograph featuring sailors with Sri Lankan rickshaw operators

**ALB0323.20** photograph of a Sri Lankan woman by a lake or river

**ALB0344** photograph album featuring images of Calcutta [Kolkata], 1870s or 1880s

**ALB0359.56** photograph of a British sailor and a Sikh man, probably a soldier or policeman, standing to attention with a Union Flag in the background in Hong Kong, 1945

**ALB0367** photograph album featuring images of India, around 1904. This includes:

**AL0367.10** photograph of people stood in front of the water tank at Kapaleeshwarar Temple in Mylapore



*A photograph of three Vedda men in Sri Lanka, early 1900s, ALB0320.118*



*A photograph of two Maldivian people outside thatched buildings at Malé, 1890s, ALB1783.57*

**ALB0367.11** photograph of Nasrullah Khan at the Maidan in Calcutta [Kolkata]

**ALB0367.12** photograph of Calcutta [Kolkata] from the High Court

**ALB0367.13** photograph of Calcutta [Kolkata] General Post Office

**ALB0367.14** photograph showing Lord Curzon arriving at Government House (now Raj Bhavan) in Calcutta [Kolkata] with Indian soldiers on steps

**ALB0367.15** photograph of people bathing at a ghat on the River Hooghly

**ALB0367.34** photograph of people with local boats on the River Hooghly

**ALB0367.35** photograph of Eden Gardens in Calcutta [Kolkata] featuring the Burmese Pagoda

**ALB0367.36** photograph of the pontoon bridge over the River Hooghly

**ALB0367.37** a view of Calcutta [Kolkata] with the Ochterlony Monument (later Shaheed Minar) visible

**ALB0367.38** photograph of the Taj Mahal

**ALB0367.39** photograph of the Kanchenjunga mountain

**ALB0477.4** photograph of the Victoria Memorial in Calcutta [Kolkata], about 1935

**ALB0484** photograph album including images of South Asian people, probably indentured labourers and/or their descendants, in Trinidad, 1933–34. This includes:

**ALB0484.34** photograph of a South Asian girl washing a younger child

**ALB0484.35** photograph of three South Asian boys outside a thatched building

**ALB0496** photograph album featuring images of south-west India, 1930s. This includes:

**ALB0496.18** photograph of Silver Jubilee Clock Tower in Mysore [Mysuru]

**ALB0496.19** photograph of Halasuru Someshwara Temple in Bangalore [Bengaluru]

**ALB0496.26** photograph of Indian men winnowing

**ALB0496.29** photograph of Indian women pounding rice

**ALB0496.31** photograph of Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School in the Nilgiri Mountains

**ALB0496.32** photograph of an Indian toddy tapper standing in front of a tree



*A photograph of the Char Kaman, Charminar and Gulzar Houz in Hyderabad, 1890s, ALB1783.12*



*A photograph of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, ALB0001.52*



**ALB0496.34** photograph of an Indian toddy tapper climbing a tree

**ALB0496.38** photograph of a temple car (decorated chariot) on an Indian street

**ALB0588** photograph album featuring six images of a landing craft produced for the Royal Pakistan Navy by Fairmile, with Pakistani sailors on board, 1953

**ALB0560.9** photograph showing Amanullah Khan of Afghanistan visiting HMS *Nelson*, 1928

**ALB0604.125** photograph of crew of the Indian vessel *Meenabharati/Meena Bharati* (launched 1965), 1960s

**ALB0635.116** photograph of a South Asian labourer and his family walking under trees in Durban

**ALB0651.21** photograph of a seated Sri Lankan man with a bare chest, about 1900

**ALB0840.71** photograph of people celebrating the Cadavee festival in Mauritius, 1940s

**ALB0846** photograph album featuring images taken at Colombo in Sri Lanka, early 1920s. This includes:

**ALB0846.15** photograph of a forest of palm trees taken at ground level

**ALB0846.16** photograph of two Sri Lankan women sat on low beds similar to charpoys

**ALB0846.17** photograph of a European-style bell tower

**ALB0858** photograph album featuring images of the Andaman Islands, Bombay [Mumbai], Persian Gulf and Sri Lanka, 1910s and 1920s. This includes:

**ALB0858.50** photograph of Rajabai Clock Tower in Bombay [Mumbai] illuminated at night, 1921

**ALB0858.52** photograph of Victoria Terminus [Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus] in Bombay [Mumbai] illuminated at night, 1921

**ALB0858.208** photograph of five Andamanese women, including an archer, 1920s

**ALB0858.209** photograph of Andamanese people giving an archery demonstration, 1920s

**ALB0858.212** photograph of an Andamanese bowman, 1920s

**ALB0885** photograph album featuring images of Colombo beaches and streets, 1900s

**ALB0988** photograph album featuring images of Sri Lanka, 1880s. This includes:

**ALB0988.14** photograph of Ramboda Falls

**ALB0988.16** photograph of Sri Lankan people standing in front of a rock archway



*A photograph of the captain and crew of the 'Karimi', anchored at Colombo in Sri Lanka, 1938, [P34317](#)*



*A photograph of Indian soldiers cooking chapatis/roti outside at Assab in Eritrea [then Italian East Africa] during the Second World War, 1941, [ALB1358.18](#)*

**ALB1018** photograph album featuring two group photographs of Indian soldiers at Jhansi, 1901

**ALB1094** photograph album featuring images of Indian architecture plus some poor-quality photographs of paintings of Shah Jehan, Mumtaz-o-Mahal, Akbar I and Mariam-uz-Zamani, 1920. This includes:

**ALB1094.135** photograph of the Taj Mahal complex viewed from the north-east

**ALB1094.138** photograph of the perforated marble screen and sarcophagus in the central chamber of the Taj Mahal

**ALB1094.146** photograph of the walls of Agra Fort

**ALB1094.149** photograph of arches, *chhatri* and domes of the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque) at Agra

**ALB1175.31** photograph of Indian soldiers looking towards the hospital ship HMHS *Llandovery Castle*, 1916–18

**ALB1208** photograph album featuring images of Sri Lanka, 1944–45. This includes:

**ALB1208.52** photograph of Old Colombo Clock Tower/Lighthouse

**ALB1208.59** photograph of the Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque (Red Mosque) in Colombo

**ALB1208.69** photograph of a Sri Lankan man with ceramic pots

**ALB1208.71** photograph of two Sri Lankan women with baskets of produce

**ALB1208.75** photograph of Sri Lankan men giving a snake-charming performance

**ALB1214** photograph album featuring images of Sri Lanka, 1940s. This includes:

**ALB1214.37** photograph of a temporary decorated arch built for the Duke of Gloucester's visit to Sri Lanka with rickshaw operators and other pedestrians visible

**ALB1214.38** photograph of worshippers at Sri Dalada Maligawa (also known as the Temple of the Tooth) in Kandy

**ALB1214.39** photograph of a man looking out to sea at Galle Face in Colombo

**ALB1214.40** photograph of Kathiresan Temple and Sea Street in Colombo

**ALB1214.41** photograph of four people with a Sri Lankan bullock cart

**ALB1214.42** photograph of tea pluckers harvesting tea on a Kandyan plantation



*A photograph of Kathiresan Temple and Sea Street in Colombo, 1940s, [AB1214.40](#)*



*A photograph of a Sri Lankan woman by Kandy Lake, 1940s, [ALB1214.47](#)*



**ALB1214.43** photograph of elephants in a Sri Lankan river

**ALB1214.47** photograph of a Sri Lankan woman by Kandy Lake

**ALB1214.50** photograph of Sri Dalada Maligawa (also known as the Temple of the Tooth) and the surrounding area

**ALB1214.51** uncaptioned photograph of a Sri Lankan elephant handler

**ALB1214.52** photograph of a stupa at a Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, 1930s

**ALB1358** photograph album featuring images of Indian soldiers at Assab in Eritrea [then Italian East Africa], 1941. This includes:

**ALB1358.6** photograph of Indian and British soldiers hoisting a Union Flag

**ALB1358.18** photograph of Indian soldiers cooking chapatis/roti outside

**ALB1393.8** photograph featuring Gurdip Singh and Surinder Kaur Dhillon at the Queen's House, 1990

**ALB1487** and **ALB1488** photograph albums presented to Lady Jane Lewin (Jane Branch-Evans) and Lord Terence Lewin respectively by General Mohammad Iqbal Khan during a diplomatic visit, featuring images of Pakistan, 1982. This includes:

**ALB1487.10** photograph of Lady Lewin looking at a display of Pakistani textiles

**ALB1487.21** photograph of Lord and Lady Lewin at the Pakistani border

**ALB1487.26** photograph of Pakistani men with a decorated horse

**ALB1487.28** photograph of a Pakistani woman showing Lady Lewin textile work

**ALB1488.18** photograph of Lord and Lady Lewin being conducted down a Pakistani street

**ALB1488.19** photograph of Lord Lewin with Mohammed Anwar Shamin

**ALB1488.22** photograph of Lord and Lady Lewin visiting Qissa Kwani Bazaar in Peshawar

**ALB1488.23** photograph of a Pakistani man holding up an ornate teapot and surrounded by metalware

**ALB1488.24** photograph of Lord Lewin addressing Afghan refugees

**ALB1488.26** photograph of a motorcade passing through the Bab-e-Khyber (Khyber Gate)

**ALB1488.29** photograph of Pakistani men performing a *khattack* (dance) outdoors

**ALB1488.30** photograph of Lord Lewin with President Muhammed Zia-ul-Haq

**ALB1488.32** photograph of Lord Lewin and two Pakistani officers saluting the Piffers War Memorial in Abbottabad

**ALB1488.34** photograph of Lord Lewin with General Iqbal Khan at Islamabad Airport

**ALB1488.35** photograph of Lord Lewin with Pakistani soldiers at Islamabad Airport

**ALB1488.36** photograph of Lord Lewin and General Iqbal Khan in a horse-drawn carriage

**ALB1488.38** photograph of Pakistani riders lined up for *neza bazi* (tent pegging)

**ALB1488.40** photograph of Lord Lewin and Pakistani officers saluting Muhammed Ali Jinnah's mausoleum

**ALB1783** photograph album featuring images of Baramulla, Bombay [Mumbai], Calcutta [Kolkata], Kandy, Hyderabad, Srinagar and Malé, 1890s. This includes:

**ALB1783.4** photograph of Madras High Court

**ALB1783.5** photograph of the Madras Club

**ALB1783.11** photograph of the Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad

**ALB1783.12** photograph of the Char Kaman, Charminar and Gulzar Houz in Hyderabad

**ALB1783.13** photograph of Dewan Devdi [Diwan Devdi] (the Salar Jung palace) in Hyderabad

**ALB1783.44** photograph showing sheep grazing at Mattan in Kashmir

**ALB1783.46** photograph of men with boats moored on the Jhelum River at Baramulla in Kashmir

**ALB1783.51** photograph of people on a stone bridge and in a *shikara* (boat) near Dal Lake in Kashmir

**ALB1783.57** photograph of two Maldivian people outside thatched buildings at Malé

**ALB1783.61** photograph of a Maldivian family

**ALB1783.62** photograph of two Maldivian women and a child

**ALB1783.63** photograph of the Maldivian court on board a ship



**P34317** photograph showing the captain and crew of an Indian dhow, 1938

**PCT3231** colour transparency showing a smith (metalworker) of South Asian heritage at Chatham Dockyard, 1983

**ZBA8706** photograph featuring a family of Sikh beachgoers having a picnic, Martin Parr (title: *Clacton-on-Sea, Essex*), 2017

**ZBA8708** photograph showing women marking the Hindu holy month of Shravan, Martin Parr (title: *The Last Day of Shravan, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex*), 2017

**ZBA9978** photograph of a South Asian woman, probably an *ayah* (nanny), with a European boy at St Andrews, around 1900

**ZBB0025** photograph of a South Asian woman with two European children, around 1900

### Prints and drawings

Most of this material is viewable at either the [Caird Library](#) (please see previous section regarding registering) or by appointment at the [Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre](#) in Kidbrooke, depending on the item.

**PAD1841** print depicting Indian people working in boats at Madras [Chennai], Leighton (artist); William Measom (engraver), around 1848

**PAD1848** print depicting a Madras [Chennai] river scene, James Wathen (artist); I. Clark (engraver), 1814

**PAD1849** print depicting Indian people at work by a river near Madras ('Chingleput, Madras') [Chennai], James Wathen (artist); I. Clark (engraver), 1814

**PAD1850** print depicting Indian people by a monument ('Brahmin's tomb') near Puducherry, James Wathen (artist); I. Clark (engraver), 1814

**PAD1856** print depicting Sri Lankan cattle herders and fisherman in Galle, Heine (artist); Brown (artist); T. Sinclair (engraver), 1853

**PAD1862** print depicting Indian people fishing for pearls in Thoothukudi [Tuticorin], artist unknown, 1660s or 1670s

**PAD1865** print depicting Indian people from Kozhikode [Calicut] in an illustration of Vasco da Gama, artist unknown, 1500s

**PAD1866** print depicting Indian people entering rowing boats in Kodungallur [Cranganoor, Cranganore], Johannes Kip, around 1676

**PAD1870** print depicting Sri Lankan people at Caleture [Kalutara], artist unknown, 1672

**PAD1871** print depicting Adam's Peak (Mount Malaya) from the sea, artist unknown, 1714

**PAD1878** print depicting Dhaka, artist unknown, early 1800s

**PAD5085** print depicting Sri Lankan people during occupation of Jaffna, artist unknown, 1655

**PAF1749** watercolour featuring an *ayah* (nanny) and lascars (Indian Ocean seafarers) on board *Garonne*, William Lionel Wyllie, 1893

**PAF2374** drawing of a 'peon' (low-ranking worker) from Bombay [Mumbai], Charles Copland, about 1810

**PAF2694** drawing of Calcutta [Kolkata], J.B. East, 1818

**PAF2695** drawing of Chandannagar, J.B. East, 1818

**PAF2696** drawing of the Basilica of the Holy Rosary in Bandel, J.B. East, 1818



A print depicting South Asian workers bringing boats ashore at Madras [Chennai], J.B. East (artist); C. Hunt (engraver), 1837, PAI0219



A watercolour featuring an ayah (nanny) and lascars (Indian Ocean seafarers) on board 'Garonne', William Lionel Wyllie, 1893, PAF1749



A print depicting Vimaladharmasūriya I of Kandy fighting with Flemish captain Sebald de Weert, Johann Theodor de Bry, 1607, PAG7438



**PAF2697** drawing of a house on the River Hooghly, J.B. East, 1818

**PAF2698** drawing depicting a 'Hindoo [Hindu] Family Mansion' at Ranaghat, J.B. East, 1819

**PAF2699** drawing depicting a 'Hindoo [Hindu] Family Mansion' at Ranaghat, J.B. East, 1819

**PAF2700** drawing of an indigo factory and river in Bengal, J.B. East, 1819

**PAF2707** drawing of a ruined palace on the River Hooghly, J.B. East, 1819

**PAF2708** drawing of a bungalow, J.B. East, about 1819

**PAF2709** drawing of a European-style classic building in Bengal ('Barrypore House'), J.B. East, 1818

**PAF2710** drawing of a European-style classic building in Bengal, J.B. East, 1818

**PAF2711** drawing of fields and buildings in Bengal, J.B. East, 1820

**PAG7410** print depicting Vimaladharmasūriya I of Kandy with Dutch explorer Joris van Spilbergen, Johann Theodor de Bry, 1606

**PAG7438** print depicting Vimaladharmasūriya I of Kandy, Johann Theodor de Bry, 1607

**PAG7881** print of a city plan, depicting Sri Lankan people in Kandy, Johann Theodor de Bry, 1606

**PAG9155** print depicting soldiers, including sepoys, at Canton, Day & Son (engraver), 1847

**PAH2684** print depicting Indian people in Surat, artist unknown, around 1660

**PAH6013** watercolour depicting the road between Mussoorie and Shimla, Matilda Rose Herschel, 1877

**PAI0192** print depicting Calcutta [Kolkata], Daniel Havell (engraver) and Henry Salt (artist), 1809

**PAI0195** print depicting Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly, about 1848

**PAI0196** print depicting the watergate at Fort William in Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly, about 1848

**PAI0197** print depicting Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly, about 1848

**PAI0198** print depicting a bridge at Alipore, Charles D'Oyly, about 1848

**PAI0199** print depicting Garden Reach in Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly, 1846

**PAI0200** print depicting people at Custom House Wharf in Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly, 1800s



A drawing of a 'peon' from Bombay [Mumbai], Charles Copland, about 1810, [PAF2374](#)



A watercolour depicting the road between Mussoorie and Shimla, Matilda Rose Herschel, 1877, [PAH6013](#)

**PAG9155** print featuring South Asian soldiers in Canton, Day & Son (engraver), 1847

**PAH6031** drawing of Khusro Bagh near Allahabad [Prayagraj], Capt. A.G.R. Roberts, 1800s

**PAH6158** print depicting Indian people in a view of Tirunelveli [Tinnevely], Thomas Daniell; Letitia Byrne; Thomas Palser, 1809

**PAH8401** *View of Cokrahutter, Bengal*, about 1780

**PAF2709** drawing of a classical building with gardens, J.B. East, 1810 (original caption: 'Barrypore House (N. Front)')

**PAF2710** drawing of a classical building with gardens, J.B. East, 1810 (original caption: 'Barrypore House (S. Side)')

**PAH3236** drawing depicting Cossipore and watercolour depicting two Indian men in white robes, 1830s

**PAI0191** print depicting Indian men carrying a palanquin and watering soil by the River Hooghly, Capt. Dominick Sarsfield Greene, 1850s

**PAI0192** print depicting Indian people at work in Calcutta [Kolkata], Henry Salt (artist); Daniel Havell (engraver), 1809

**PAI0194** print depicting Indian people carrying palanquins and holding parasols at the Esplanade in Calcutta [Kolkata], Thomas Daniell (artist, engraver); William Daniell (engraver), 1797

**PAI0200** print depicting a crowd of Indian people by a Calcutta [Kolkata] wharf, Charles D'Oyly (artist); Dickinson & Co (engraver), 1848

**PAI0227** print depicting a street scene in Portuguese Goa, Johannes Doetechum [also Joannes van Doetecum the Elder] (engraver), 1599

**PAI0204** print depicting Writers' Buildings in Calcutta [Kolkata]

**PAI0238** print depicting soldiers, including a sepoy, at Canton [Guangzhou], Day & Son (engraver), about 1841

**PAI0219** and **PAI0220** prints depicting South Asian workers assisting passengers in and out of boats, Madras [Chennai], J.B. East (artist); C. Hunt (engraver), 1837

**PAI4974** print featuring an Indian woman, Henry Singleton; Charles Knight, 1794

**PAI8099** print depicting Gerald Hulst kneeling before Rajasingh II, Philip Baldaeus, 1650s

**PAI8576** print depicting Bombay [Mumbai] Harbour in the monsoon, Edward Goodall (engraver), 1846

**ZBA9714** print depicting Calcutta [Kolkata] from the Orphan House Garden, William Baillie, 1791



A print depicting Calcutta [Kolkata], Henry Salt (artist); Daniel Havell (engraver), 1809, [PAI0192](#)



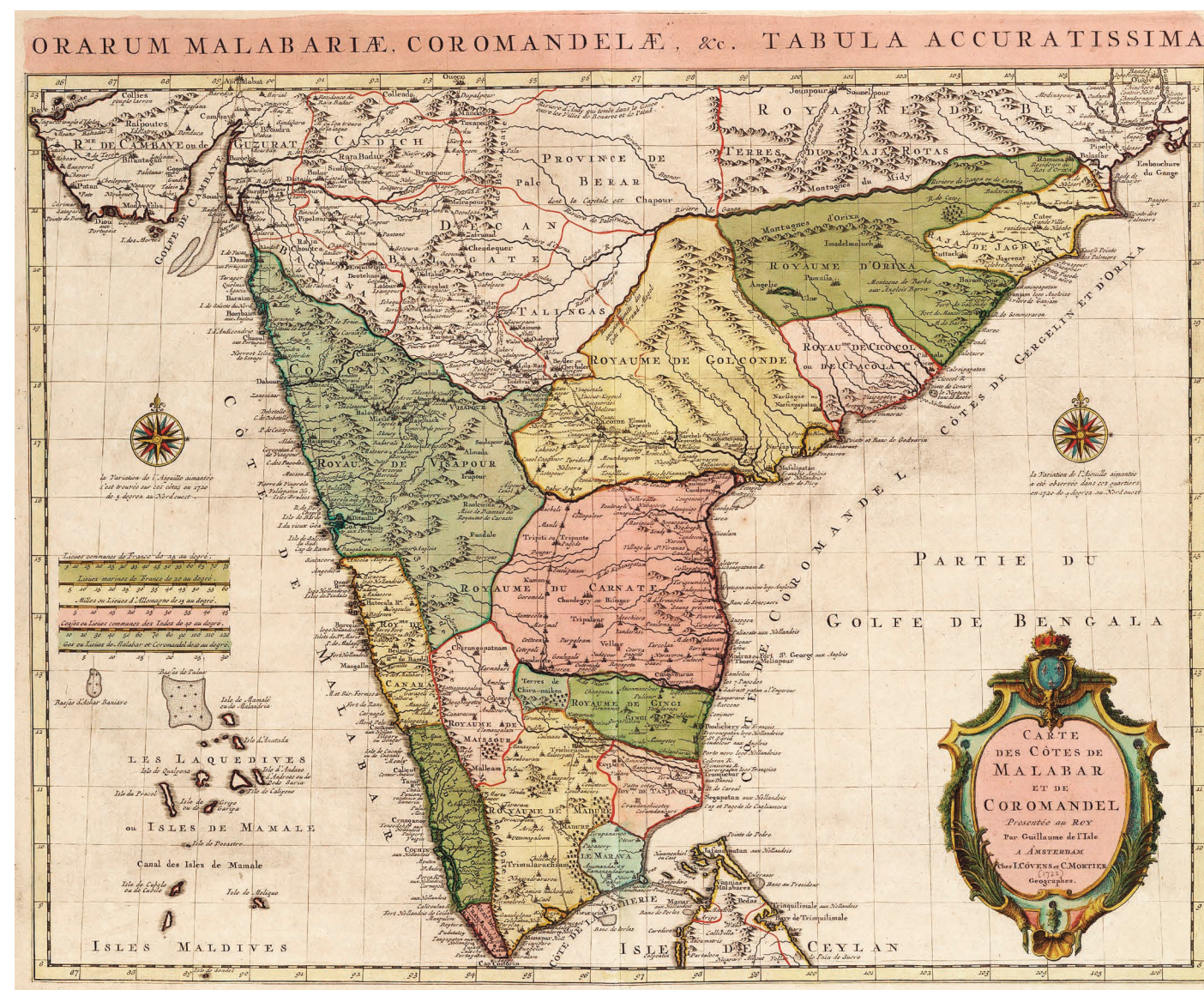
A print depicting people at Custom House Wharf in Calcutta [Kolkata], Charles D'Oyly (artist); Dickinson & Co (engraver), 1848, [PAI0200](#)





For the collection, this is a wonderful window looking back through time and across borders. As the light floods in, the opportunities shine out, connecting the diverse perspectives of our modern audiences with fascinating people and places of the past.

**Paddy Rodgers**  
CEO of Royal Museums Greenwich



A French map showing part of the Indian subcontinent, about 1772, [G250:2/7](#)

## Maps and charts

The Maps and Charts collection is made up of loose or individual items, the former focusing on cartographic features of the land, and the latter on hydrographic features of the ocean (see research guide P1: Charts and maps). In addition, the Atlas collection comprises bound volumes of both maps and charts (see research guide P2: Atlases, pilot books and sailing directions).

These collections depict parts of South Asia, especially coastlines, islands and harbours. Some also have stylised images of people around their borders and in cartouches (decorative features).

Items can be browsed in our online catalogue. Atlases can be ordered to view at the Caird Library via the online catalogue if the reader has first registered with the Library's online system Aeon.

Maps and charts cannot be requested via the online catalogue. Instead, readers should contact [library@rmg.co.uk](mailto:library@rmg.co.uk), who will confirm whether the object can be viewed at either the Caird Library or the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre. Additionally, certain items are retrievable from the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre for viewing at the Caird Library. In such cases, at least 10 days' notice is required for retrieval.

For items viewable only at the Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre, an appointment must be arranged with the Collections Storage and Access Team at [collectionaccess@rmg.co.uk](mailto:collectionaccess@rmg.co.uk). A few weeks' notice is recommended for viewing such items.

**G250:2/2(1)** chart depicting the northern Indian Ocean, HM Admiralty, about 1740

**G250:2/7** map showing part of the Indian subcontinent, Guillaume de L'Isle, about 1772

**G250:7/4** chart depicting the Indian Ocean, including part of the Maldives, Jacques-Raymond Grenier (surveyor), W.H (engraver), 1811

**G254:6/16** plan of Diu Island, John McCluer, 1788

**G254:6/17** charts depicting Rajapura [Rajpara] and 'Nowa Bunder' [Nava Bandar] in Gujarat, Archibald Blair and Alexander Dalrymple, 1795

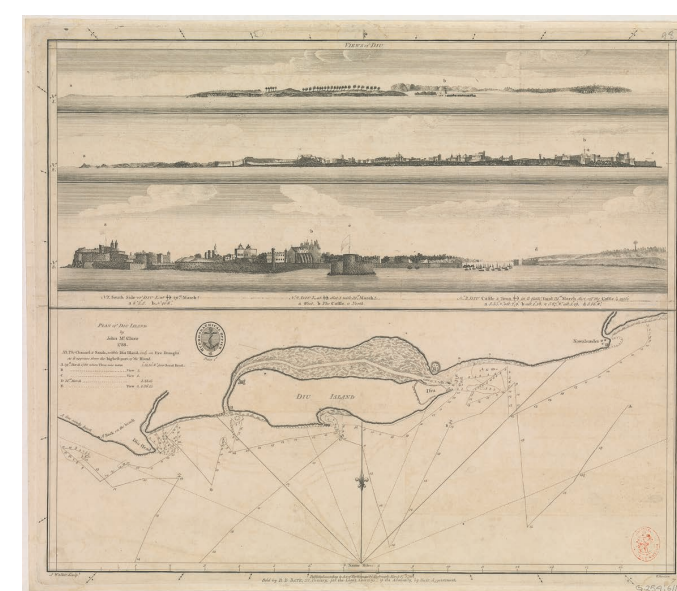
**G255:1/1** chart depicting Bengal and the Ganges river delta, John Thornton, 1685

**G255:4/23** chart depicting proposed harbour works in Bengal, Benjamin Lacam, about 1777

**GREN71/3(1)** chart depicting part of the Indian subcontinent, Major James Rennell, 1792



A chart depicting Sri Lanka, Johannes van Keulen II, 1682, [PBD8037\(139\)](#)



A plan of Diu Island, John McCluer, 1788, [G254:6/16](#)



**GREN71/5** chart of Seringapatam [Srirangapatna], Alexander Dalrymple, 1791

**GREN71/7** chart depicting Seringapatam [Srirangapatna], 1792

**P/36(1-2)** chart depicting the Bay of Bengal, eastern India and Sri Lanka, Angelo de Conte Freducci, 1555

**PBD8037(139)** chart depicting Sri Lanka, Johannes van Keulen II, 1682

**ZBA8728** map depicting part of India and Sri Lanka, Djordje Balmazovic, 2010s

### Other objects

Other objects in the collection include depictions of South Asian people or have links to South Asia. This includes ship models, figureheads and medals. If not on display, these are often viewable by appointment at the [Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre](#) in Kidbrooke.

**AAE0115** model boat with figures depicting a South Asian boatman and two passengers, before 1929

**AAE0176** model of an Indian *masula* (surf boat), 1800s

**FHD0102** Figurehead of HMS *Seringapatam* associated with Tipu Sultan, depicting him or an Indian attendant bearer, 1819 or later

**MED0014** East India Company medal depicting a sepoy, about 1811

**MED0466** East India Company medal depicting a sepoy, early 1800s

**MED0049** medal depicting Sikh soldiers surrendering to Walter Raleigh Gilbert, 1849

**ZBA4599** and **ZBA4600** HMS *Sepoy* tompions each in the shape of a South Asian soldier, about 1918

**ZBA5616** palm leaf book from Travancore, 1800s

**ZBA5636** missionary collecting box featuring a stylised Indian girl with other children with Jesus, 1800s

**ZBA7578** A figurehead depicting Lalla Rookh, a fictional Mughal princess, about 1853



A model boat with figures depicting a South Asian boatman and two passengers, before 1929, [AAE0115](#)



A model of an Indian masula (surf boat), 1800s, [AAE0176](#)



## Curator's highlights: South Asian women

Royal Museums Greenwich holds a varied collection of images featuring South Asian women, as well as young women and girls.

A small number of identified South Asian women appear in our holdings, often public figures who were wealthy, powerful or famous. Most South Asian women represented, however, are unidentified, meaning their names and histories have not been recorded.

Europeans who owned cameras often took photographs of women at work in South Asian cities, towns and villages during the colonial era. Such women made good subjects because they performed physically demanding, complicated or messy work that was often unique to the region. They also tended to be more visible than many women deemed to be of 'high' social status within Asian societies, who were less likely to appear in public due to ideas about respectability and modesty.

Professional photographers, both Asian and European, also produced pictures showing, or claiming to show, female workers. Their studios in busy commercial centres such as Bombay [Mumbai] and Colombo produced carefully arranged portraits or scenes, often using props and artificial backdrops. Travellers collected these images, showing people they had never met in person, to paste into their albums as souvenirs. Some studios also produced sexualised images of South Asian women, aimed at European men and catering to their ideas of the 'exotic'.

A small number of more recent images in the collection show women of South Asian heritage living in Britain. This includes Surinder Kaur Dhillon, then mayoress of Greenwich, at an event in 1990 and Hindu women visiting a beach in Essex in 2017.

Below is a selection of images demonstrating the range of the collection, chosen by the Curator of World History and Cultures. All images also appear on the main collections list finding aid.

**ALB0323.20** photograph of a Sri Lankan woman by a lake or river, about 1920

**ALB0484.34** photograph of a South Asian girl, probably the child or descendant of an indentured labourer, washing a younger boy outdoors in Trinidad, 1930s

**ALB0496.29** photograph of Indian women resting while pounding rice, about 1930



A photograph of a Maldivian family, 1890s, [ALB1783.61](#)



*The Last Day of Shravan, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 2017* © Martin Parr/Magnum Photos, [ZBA8708](#). Shravan/Sawan is the fifth month of the Hindu calendar, falling during July–August. It is considered especially sacred, and typically involves fasting and water-based worship.

**ALB0635.116** photograph of a South Asian family, including a woman, at Durban, early 1900s

**ALB0846.16** photograph of two South Asian women sat on low beds, possibly in Colombo, 1920s

**ALB1208.71** photograph of two Sri Lankan women with baskets of produce, 1944–45

**ALB1214.42** photograph of two tea pluckers, including a woman, harvesting tea on a plantation in Sri Lanka, 1930s

**ALB1214.47** photograph of a Sri Lankan woman by Kandy Lake, 1920s

**ALB1393.8** photograph featuring Greenwich mayoress Surinder Kaur Dhillon in the Queen's House, 1990

**ALB1783.62** photograph of two Maldivian women and a child, 1894

**CRJ/11** illustrated journal including watercolours of Indian women at Madras [Chennai], 1840s

**PTR/23/12** diary (week 27) including a newspaper clipping showing three South Asian women stood on a roof or balcony, 1910s

**WEM/6** photograph album including a studio photograph of South Asian women, possibly indentured labourers, in Trinidad, about 1890

**ZBA5636** missionary collecting box featuring a stylised Indian girl with other children with Jesus, 1800s

**ZBA7578** A figurehead depicting Lalla Rookh, a fictional Mughal princess, about 1853

**ZBA8706** Martin Parr photograph featuring a family of Sikh beachgoers having a picnic (title: *Clacton-on-Sea, Essex*), 2017

**ZBA8708** Martin Parr photograph showing women marking the Hindu holy month of Shravan (title: *The Last Day of Shravan, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex*), 2017

**ZBA9549** miniature depicting Zeenat Mahal, about 1840



A figurehead depicting Lalla Rookh, a fictional Mughal princess, about 1853, [ZBA7578](#)



## Curator's highlights: South Asian soldiers and policemen

The British recruited tens of thousands of soldiers from South Asia, rising to millions during the two World Wars. They were deployed both within the region and beyond, such as in Egypt and China. South Asian soldiers were awarded many medals, including the Victoria Cross (Britain's most prestigious military decoration).

South Asian soldiers enlisted in British armies for a variety of complex reasons. These included escaping impoverishment, securing pensions and earning social status. Some came from families or communities with a history of military service in the armies of Asian rulers. The British also took advantage of divisions within societies and between different regions, recruiting from certain groups and deploying them against others.

Soldiers were one of the groups that British people wrote about, sketched and photographed the most. A small but very varied group of South Asian soldiers and policemen is therefore represented in the collections. This includes images depicting sepoys of the East India Company's armies, Sikh soldiers from Punjab and Gurkhas from Nepal. Larger collections of similar material are held by institutions such as the [Imperial War Museums](#), the [National Army Museum](#) and the [British Library](#).

Conflicts covered include the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793–1815), the Indian Uprising (1857–58), the Mahdist War (1881–99), the First World War (1914–18) and the Second World War (1939–45). Other images relate to the suppression of revolts, ceremonial duties and military parades, such as at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (1897).

The British also employed South Asian men to serve in formal and informal police forces, some of whom are represented in the collections. This includes, for example, Indian policemen in Hong Kong.

Below is a selection of images demonstrating the range of the collection, chosen by the Curator of World History and Cultures. All images also appear on the main collections list finding aid.

**ALB0359.56** photograph of a British sailor and a Sikh man, probably a soldier or policeman, standing to attention with a Union Flag in the background in Hong Kong, 1945

**ALB0367.14** photograph showing Lord Curzon arriving at Government House (now Raj Bhavan) in Calcutta [Kolkata] with Indian soldiers on steps, 1904



A photograph of an Indian soldier at the Siege of Tsingtao [Qingdao] in China during the First World War, from the diary of G. Gipps of HMS 'Triumph', 1914–15, [JOD/117](#)

**ALB1018.35** photograph of Indian soldiers and British officers entitled 'European and Native Officers of the Jhansi Civil Police, 1901'

**ALB1175.31** photograph of Indian soldiers looking towards HMHS *Llandoverly Castle*, 1916–18

**ALB1358.6** photograph of Indian and British soldiers raising a Union Flag at Assab in Eritrea [then Italian East Africa] during the Second World War, 1941

**JOD/117** journal featuring Indian and Japanese soldiers in China during the First World War, 1914–15

**MED0014** medal featuring a stylised depiction of a sepoy, about 1811

**MED0466** medal featuring a stylised depiction of a sepoy, about 1811

**PAI0238** print depicting soldiers, including a sepoy, at Canton [Guangzhou], Day & Son (engraver), about 1841

**PAG9155** print depicting South Asian soldiers in Canton [Guangzhou], 1847

**PTR/13/3** detached pages from *The Illustrated London News* showing South Asian soldiers fighting in Sudan, 1885

**ZBA4599** and **ZBA4600** HMS *Sepoy* tompion in the shape of a South Asian soldier, about 1918



A print depicting soldiers, including a sepoy, at Canton [Guangzhou], Day & Son (engraver), about 1841, [PAI0238](#)



A photograph of Indian and British soldiers raising a Union Flag at Assab in Eritrea [then Italian East Africa] during the Second World War, 1941, [ALB1358.6](#)





## Other guides

Other aspects of the collections, including Black British history and Japanese history, will be made accessible in other guides currently under preparation.

## Image credits

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*A photograph of the Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad, [ALB1783.11](#)*



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