

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA





Nilgiris, Coonoor, Tiger Hill Cemetery



Bangladesh, Dhaka, 'Colombo Sahib's' tomb

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BACSA starts the new decade in good health, both financially and in terms of the work with which we are currently engaged. Our finances are in good shape. The value of our reserves has held up well during the recent uncertainties of Brexit and in the past year we have received, or been promised, some very generous donations from individual members towards particular projects. Our new website (about which you can read more in this Spring Mailing) is nearing completion. The chief executive of Indigo Tree, who has been leading the re-design, will be giving a talk at the AGM in March illustrating the features of the new website. This has been a major investment by BACSA but one which I believe will connect us to a wider audience, boost membership and serve as a platform for further innovative advertisement of our work over this coming decade.

We also continue to be active on the projects front. The restoration of the Hyderabad Residency and its adjacent cemetery is well advanced. We continue to make contributions towards the work to restore the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta. We have recently agreed to support a small restoration project in Pakistan. A major project on which BACSA is taking the lead, is the restoration of the Cemetery of St Mary's on the Island in Chennai. This is an important cemetery containing some fine memorials dating back to the mid-18th century. We have a team in place to carry out the work, and a specification and funds for the First Phase. I am confident that work will begin in 2020. But the entire project will take some years to complete and will require a major fund-raising effort.

BACSA's work is show-cased at our two general meetings: the AGM in March and the GM in October. For those who are able to attend these meetings, it will be obvious that BACSA achieves what it does achieve only through the tremendous efforts of members of the Executive Committee, its sub-committees, and our Area Representatives. All make an invaluable contribution, without which BACSA simply would not function. I feel that some particular "mentions in despatches" are due here. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones has worked tirelessly as Editor of "Chowkidar" for more than 40 years. "Chowkidar" reaches all our members and is, I know, eagerly anticipated and much valued. BACSA would be lost without Rosie's editorial contribution. Next I should mention Richard Bingle and David Blake in organising BACSA's archives at the British Library. The BL has recently introduced restrictions on the material it will continue to hold, for reasons of space. This requires discrimination in what we can add to our archives and a degree of pruning of what is already there. This would be an impossible task without the expertise of Richard and David and the close relations they have with the BL staff. There are the two sub-committees of the Executive Committee. One deals with the website and one with Projects. Rosemary Raza chairs the former and Denise Love the latter. BACSA members largely belong to the pre-internet and "technologically-challenged" generation. So we are fortunate in having Valmay Young on the Website sub-committee, whose grasp of the technical issues is masterful. The Projects sub-committee has embarked on two ambitious enterprises. One is the creation of a set of principles by which BACSA can assess whether a cemetery is deserving of preservation and what priority should be given to it. BACSA is indebted to Dr Sarah Rutherford for her input here. The second is the production of a Conservation Manual outlining best practice in the preservation and restoration of cemeteries. This idea is the brainchild of Rosemary Raza, who has enlisted the help of Dr Neeta Das – an internationally known and well-respected architect based in Calcutta, who has been masterminding the restoration of the Scottish Cemetery in that city. The Manual will be produced in English, Urdu and Hindi and will give guidance to local conservators on the procedures and materials they should use. Valerie Haye holds a number of

portfolios, including Events and Second-Hand Books. But she deserves an especial accolade, along with Rosemary Raza, for having promoted and organised the BACSA Lecture Series, now in its third year and at LSE. The Lectures have advertised BACSA to a wider public and have secured a number of new members. Last, but by no means least, there is BACSA's Hon. Sec., Peter Boon. I have witnessed first-hand not only the huge amount of work he does in preparing Agendas and Minutes for our meetings, but also his input, behind the scenes, on so much of BACSA's inter-action with other bodies and outside contacts. Two recent examples are his successful efforts in securing for BACSA the money in the Delhi High Commission's Cemeteries Endowment Fund, and the information he has had to supply to the Deputy High Commission in Chennai in order to get a dormant bank account holding BACSA funds re-activated. The administration of BACSA would founder without the constant attention given to it by Peter.

If I have painted so far a rather rosy picture, there are, nevertheless, some clouds on the horizon. It has been a source of concern to the Executive Committee that for the past year we have been unable to find a candidate amongst the membership who is willing to succeed Charles Greig as Treasurer. We are indebted to Charles for his contribution but he is stepping down in March. His intention to do so was announced in the Spring of 2019 but to date we have been unable to appoint a successor. The Chairman, Paul Dean, offered to take on the role temporarily. But the doubling-up of portfolios amongst Executive Committee members is not a solution. Charles Greig has very selflessly agreed to continue in the role for another six months while the search for his successor continues.

BACSA also needs money because the cost of the work we do in South Asia is increasing year-by-year. I remind members that legacies are an efficient way of donating to a charity like ours. Funds are also raised by the recruitment of new members, and by recruitment we may be able to kill two birds with one stone because enlarging the membership may one day help us to fill executive positions when they become vacant. Members who join BACSA in their 30s, 40s and 50s may feel they have time to contribute to our work when they retire or become semi-retired in their 60s and 70s. So, as in previous years, I leave you with an exhortation: if you cannot give your time to BACSA (we are still looking for a Treasurer), please recruit new and younger members!

With all good wishes for 2020.

Mark Havelock-Allan

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2019

Structure, Governance and Management: Established in 1976, BACSA has an Executive Committee (ExCo) that meets five times a year. Its members are the trustees of BACSA supported by the President and Vice-Presidents. ExCo monitors such ongoing risks as may arise. Two general meetings are held each year. BACSA has no paid staff and no office; all work is done by volunteers both in the UK and South Asia. It is governed by its Constitution and Rules. The BACSA Archives are in the British Library and are open to the public. BACSA has a website - www.bacsa.org.uk – and a Facebook page.

Objects and Activities: BACSA is an institution for the recording, preservation and conservation of former European cemeteries and isolated monuments in South Asia prior to 1947. It promotes education in the history of all places associated with European residence in the area from the Red Sea to the China coast – wherever the East India Company set foot.

Public Benefit: BACSA is the only established organisation helping to care for an historic part of the United Kingdom's built heritage in South Asia. It guides the public into researching and increasing its understanding of European lives and deaths in South Asia before 1947 through specialist help from BACSA members and others.

Achievements and performance: Grants totalling £49,573 were made for nine cemetery projects (details are given later in the Projects Report). The Association's work supported by the Deccan Heritage Foundation (DHF) to conserve the graveyard of the former British Residency in Hyderabad was almost complete at the year end. The Delhi Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) began work to conserve the Gateway and certain graves in the Nicholson (Kashmir Gate) Cemetery in Delhi. The Association held a well-attended series of lectures on the theme 'The Raj Re-examined' in association with the South Asia Centre, London School of Economics (LSE). Available as podcasts on BACSA's website, the talks raised the Association's profile and attracted new members. A third series, also in association with the LSE, opened in December 2019. Members visited Kew Gardens' East India Company Herbarium, Library and Economic Botany Collection in May. In October, a party toured the Young Wellington in India Exhibition at Apsley House, London. Sales of second-hand books donated by generous members raised close to £10,900. Dr Llewellyn-Jones continued to edit *Chowkidar* now in its 42nd year. This house journal up to the autumn 2017 edition is available on the internet. A promotional leaflet on touring cemeteries aimed at the travel trade in India and the UK was published in co-operation with Indus Experiences. BACSA received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the corpus of the cemeteries endowment fund previously held by the British High Commission New Delhi. BACSA will employ the interest for the maintenance of European cemeteries and graves in India, in accordance with the fund's original purpose.

Indigo Tree was selected to create a new website. The design has been updated, and several new features added. New members will be able to join on line, and current members renew their subscriptions. There will be a 'members only' section with a shop where bookings may be made for lectures and other events, and BACSA items, such as ties, books and postcards, may be purchased. Chowkidar will be given a more prominent position, with the possibility of searching across the whole range, as well as consulting individual issues. One of the most important features of the new website is the redevelopment of the burials data base, with easier access to data and images. This will be supported by an interactive map, which will enable the user to zoom in and investigate different locations. Current BACSA news will be available in a new blog, while BACSA's entry on Facebook enables a wider audience to be reached. The website has been set

up to make the most of developing technology, enabling us in the future to create greater interactivity and attract new members.

The Executive Committee decided not to pursue a search for another library to receive BACSA's documents.

Plans: Consider introducing a category of corporate membership. Continue to support work at Calcutta's South Park Street Cemetery and the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust's restoration of the Scottish Cemetery Calcutta. Maintain cooperation with the Families in British India Society. Publish a conservation manual to support those managing projects and raise the standard of conservation. Upload to the website the Jhansi Cantonment Cemetery's 2,900 burial records edited and digitized by a BACSA member. Place on the website the chapter *The Last Stayers-on* in Hugh Purcell's *After the Raj* that encapsulates BACSA founder Theon Wilkinson's work to set up the association.

Financial Review: Despite the uncertainties across the world and particularly in the UK, BACSA's finances held up well although one income stream dropped significantly during the year - donations received totalled £17,986 compared to £65,094 in 2018. Subscriptions were down slightly at £6,166 against £7,378 in 2018. Dividends from BACSA's investments dropped a little to £8,886 compared to £9,213 a year earlier. The latter is a reflection of the market. Just in one of BACSA's income streams did we see a significant improvement – second-hand books and publications sales totalled £10,916 in 2019 against £6,441 in 2018. We received just over £19,000 from the British High Commission New Delhi Cemeteries Endowment Fund which will be invested to produce an income for maintenance grants.

At the end of 2019, BACSA's current account at Lloyds Bank had a credit of £73,819 but this figure included the £19,000 from the cemeteries' endowment fund and a cheque to the LSE for £855 that had not been presented. There were therefore just under £54,000 of net funds available. During 2019 BACSA made nine grants for cemetery projects totalling £49,573 - significantly more than in the previous year when 11 grants totalling £37,462 were made.

Based on provisional figures for the year, expenditure exceeded income by about £15,000 and clearly if BACSA is to continue making grants at the 2019 level income from all sources needs to increase.

The accounts for the year to 31 December 2019 are published later in this report.

Delhi, St John's
Church: William
Fraser's tomb



PROJECTS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH ASIA 2019

Area Representative's name in brackets

BURMA (Adam Foucar)

Burma continued to be a challenging area in which to manage projects, due to the lack of available on-site supervision, the difficulty of engaging local community sponsors and the security situation in some areas. However, the parish priest of St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moulmein, recently updated an existing project to improve public access and maintenance through extending the surfacing of paths. The revised proposal was under consideration.

INDIA

Delhi, St James Church, William Fraser's Tomb (William Crawley)

The conservation of the tomb was completed.

Delhi, Nicholson Cemetery (William Crawley)

The Delhi Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was restoring the entrance gate and a group of gravestones around and including that of the Schwaiger family, dealers in antiquities, at year's end. With our encouragement INTACH and the Delhi Cemeteries Committee are discussing future work at this cemetery.

Rajasthan, Jaipur (Valerie Robinson)

A member visited the Old Residency Cemetery and found it in a very overgrown and untidy state. There are no local groups interested in cemetery conservation in this state.

Tamil Nadu, Madras, St. Mary's Cemetery on the Island (William Pettigrew)

A large site best undertaken as a series of smaller projects aimed at restoring a garden cemetery of amenity value to the community. To this end we propose engaging with interested individuals and communities in Chennai. The first phase agreed with the local cemetery committee includes repair of the entrance, repair and conservation of 14 graves and clearance of the pathways to them. The means of transmitting funds to a reliable intermediary in Chennai has yet to be resolved.

Tamil Nadu, Coonoor, Tiger Hill Cemetery (Phillida Purvis)

A grant of £13,000 was agreed for the repair of the boundary walls and work was to start in January 2020.

Tamil Nadu, Kotagiri, European Cemetery (Phillida Purvis)

A small grant was agreed for repair of boundary walls and it was hoped that work would start in 2020.

Telangana, Hyderabad Residency Cemetery (Tom Inglis)

BACSA and the Deccan Heritage Foundation in December were about to complete the third and final phase of this prestige project encompassing the conservation of all 45 graves in the cemetery. The cost to BACSA was just under £27,000 provided by generous donors. It is understood that the conservation of the Residency itself and its garden will be finished in 2020. Together with the cemetery they will be a significant addition to Hyderabad's built heritage.

West Bengal, Calcutta, Lower Circular Road Cemetery

The Christian Burial Board conserved six tombs with a grant of £2,000. The graves include those of William Blaquier, founder of Calcutta's police detective branch, and William Fergusson, formerly of the EIC. The Board is considering further 'heritage tomb' improvements at this cemetery.

West Bengal, Calcutta, South Park Street Cemetery (APHCI Jennifer Garwood)

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Cemeteries in India (APHCI) lost its financial support for maintaining the cemetery from a local company and appealed to BACSA for an increase in its annual grant.

Annual maintenance grants. The East India Charitable Trust (EICT) Kolkata made grants to cemeteries in Agra, Calcutta, Dehradun, Kotah and Meerut. BACSA made a grant to the cantonment cemetery in Jhansi.

Plans

Delhi, Badli-ki-serai (William Crawley)

BACSA is participating in discussions with local interested contacts about conservation of the Gordon Highlanders Memorial and surrounding area at this site.

Karnataka, Bangalore: Hosur Road Nos 1 & 2 Cemeteries (David Barnabas). Place the photographs of the graves and MIs on the website.

Telangana, Hyderabad, St. George's Cemetery (Tom Inglis). Consider a proposal by the Deccan Heritage Foundation for restoration of the cemetery.

PAKISTAN (Rosemary Raza)

Faisalabad, Gora Qabristan (Christian Cemetery)

£1,000 were granted to conserve and preserve four British graves and their headstones, as well as renovating the lychgate. We asked for photographs of the work done on the lychgate but have received none. We will follow this up in 2020.

Multan

A local Christian group asked for help in conserving the cemetery near the international airport, which has several impressive graves and monuments. We proposed renovating two monuments and two graves on a trial basis and asked for specific preparatory work. There has been no response so far.

Lahore, Dharampura (Mian Mir) Cemetery

In January a member visited the cemetery custodian, Mr Suleman Sardar, and confirmed that boundary wall repairs were complete.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES: Mr Philip Peter D'Cruz was appointed area representative for Poona. Mr David Mahoney relinquished responsibility for Meerut, Dehra Dun and the Uttarakhand hill stations. Mrs Valerie Robinson intends to give up her responsibility for Rajasthan. The Executive Committee is grateful for the support of our volunteer area representatives.

CONSERVATION MANUAL: Although we had hoped that this would be drafted jointly by our expert conservation contacts in India and Pakistan, this has not proved possible because of pressure of work for our contact in Pakistan. The draft should be finalised in early 2020 and published.

PROJECTS SUBCOMMITTEE: This was established to provide a forum for area representatives and others to discuss issues relating to project proposals and their implementation. One of its main concerns has been establishing a policy to prioritise cemeteries and monuments by ranking them in terms of historic, architectural and landscape importance. The Subcommittee also monitored the drafting of a conservation manual.



Telangana, Hyderabad, the Residency Cemetery
The Rumbold graves before and after conservation

BACSA Events in 2019

BACSA members enjoyed a private visit on 29 October to Apsley House, No. 1 London, to view the Young Wellington exhibition, illustrating the early career in India of the first Duke of Wellington. As a young officer, Arthur Wellesley fought in India while his older brother, Lord Mornington, was Governor General.

Over refreshments in the main hall, the current Duke welcomed our group to his home, and provided a personal insight into the family's connections with India. This was an interesting introduction to the exhibition, which featured paintings, sketches, books and objects, most not publicly displayed before. We then enjoyed a tour of the house conducted by its curator, Josephine Oxley, who focused on items of Indian interest, including paintings, and outstanding table services. Marcus Cribb, a military expert, also described the achievements of the Duke in India and elsewhere.

Rosemary Raza



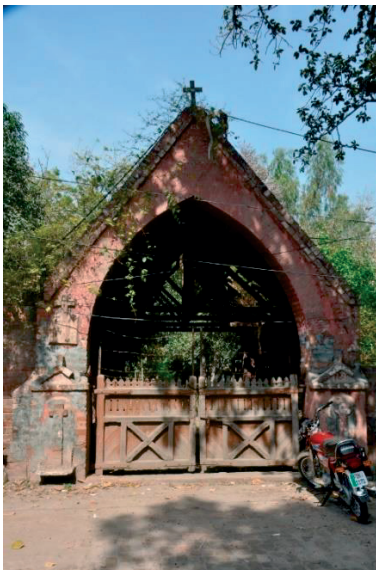
Visit to Apsley House

Visit to the Herbarium at Kew on 21st May

Built in 1877, the Herbarium is separate from Kew Gardens and is not open to the general public. BACSA members were privileged to have a private visit. We saw plant material from all over the world, and correspondence about their plant collecting experiences from such famous names as Banks, Hooker and Marian North. Writing home to his mother from Darjeeling in May 1849, Joseph Hooker complained bitterly about the leeches during an expedition to Sikkim. When the East India Company Museum closed, the Herbarium was transferred to Kew and there was much of interest to our group, particularly from Calcutta Botanical Gardens.

Our thanks are due to the staff at Kew who went to considerable trouble to exhibit items from the Indian subcontinent they knew we would wish to see.

Valerie Robinson



Faisalabad, Gora Qabristan



Calcutta, Lower Circular Road Cemetery: Anna Catherine Peachey wife of Thomas Peachey. 1862

DONATIONS IN 2019

BACSA receives generous donations every year, both financial and in kind. The majority are from members, but non-members also contribute. We receive reports and photographs of cemeteries visited, and donations for help in locating a relative's grave. Each issue of *Chowkidar* carries reviews of books, some of whose authors or publishers have donated amounts to BACSA for every copy of their book sold. Some donations are in kind, where people have given their time to do a task for the Association, for example reviewing a book for *Chowkidar*. Although not all donors can be listed, every donation is received with gratitude to further BACSA's work. Among the donors in 2019 were:

Financial

JP Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust
The Estate of the late Mrs Ann Dargie
Mrs Jean Withinshaw

Mr Alan Tritton
Bihar & Orissa Reunion
The M StJ Way Charitable Trust

Second-hand books

Sir Colin & Lady Imray
Ms Mandi Abrahams
Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones
Mr Martin Moir
Mrs Catherine Sears
Ms Gillian Tindall

Mr Andrew Whitehead
Mr Jerry Losty
The late Mr M London
Mrs Valerie Robinson
Mr Martin Smith

Cemetery visit reports and photographs

Mr C Williams	Calcutta, Simla & Amritsar	Mr M Kellett	Macau
Dr R Raza	Bhuj & Ahmedabad	Ms M A Prior	Jaipur
Dr I Radford	Delhi, Allahabad & Simla	Sir Mark Havelock-Allan	Madras
Dr R Llewellyn-Jones	Delhi and Lahore	Mr C Greig	Delhi
Mr J Mostyn	Ranikhet	Mrs A Norman	Neemuch
Dr S Ashmore	Bangalore	Ms V Young	Jhansi

Donations in kind

Mr M Smith	Editing the Jhansi cemetery record book	Mr Y Zargar	Leaflet on graves and monuments tourism in India
Mr S McClarence	Article on European cemeteries in India	Mr H Purcell	An extract from <i>After the Raj</i> to be placed on the BACSA website
Ms Mary Ann Prior	For her talk at the General Meeting in October	Mr John Randall	
Dr Sarah Rutherford	Advice on heritage value assessment of historic cemeteries	Book reviewers for Chowkidar	

Statement of Financial Activities Year to 31 December 2019

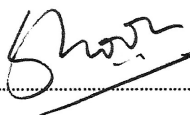
	Note	Year Ended 31/12/19 Total Funds £	Year Ended 31/12/18 Total Funds £
Incoming resources			
From Voluntary Sources			
Subscriptions		6,167	7,378
Donations and legacies	5	35,541	64,922
Net Sales of donated second-hand books		9,232	5,976
Tax claims – Gift Aid		1,524	2,358
Bank Compensation		-	269
From Assets			
Dividends on investments less brokers' fees	6	9,566	8,995
From Charitable Activity			
Net sales of publications		238	465
Meetings and Events		5,658	3,919
Total Incoming Resources		67,926	94,282
Expenditure			
Charitable Activity			
Cemetery works in South Asia	7	48,082	37,462
Record books and <i>Chowkidar</i>		3,288	3,100
Website and advertising		-	94
Website Depreciation		2,495	-
Administration Costs			
Printing, stationery and postage to members		3,542	2,116
insurance		448	448
Subscriptions		224	218
Miscellaneous administration costs		-	850
Governance Costs			
Independent Examiner's fee		500	500
Meetings		6,186	4,098
Total Resources Expended		64,765	48,886
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources		3,161	45,396
Other Recognised Gains & Losses			
Realised gains/(losses) on investment assets		-	(205)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets		43,339	(16,180)
Net Movement in Funds		46,500	29,011
Total funds brought forward		327,573	298,562
Total Funds Carried Forward		374,073	327,573

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019	2018
		£	£
Investment Assets			
Tangible Assets	3	4,999	7,494
Investment at market value	4	292,860	249,521
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank account		78,294	72,638
Current Liabilities			
Accruals		(800)	(800)
Conditional legacies and payments	8	(1,280)	(1,280)
		(2,080)	(2,080)
Net Current Assets		76,214	70,558
Net Assets		<u>374,073</u>	<u>327,573</u>
Charity Funds			
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		374,073	327,573
Total Funds		<u>374,073</u>	<u>327,573</u>

The Financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8/2/2020 and signed on their behalf by:



Hon Secretary



Hon Treasurer

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CEMETERIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Paintbrushes in India: the Artistic Legacy of Emily Eden
and Constance Villiers Stuart

Summary of an illustrated talk by Mary Ann Prior, BACSA General Meeting,
17th October 2019

The talk examined the lives and artworks of two British women, Emily Eden (1797 – 1869) and Constance Villiers Stuart (1877 – 1966) who engaged with India at different times, one in the mid-19th-century and the other in the early part of the 20th-century. They each used their period of residence in India to record their impressions in watercolours and written descriptions, which were subsequently published for avid audiences back in Britain. The talk, lavishly illustrated with Emily's portraits, landscapes and architectural studies and Constance's photographs and watercolours of Mughal gardens, focused on what united the women and what set them apart.

Emily and Constance had in common a great love of watercolour painting, an enjoyment of gardens and gardening and a flair for writing. Other than these shared passions and an expatriate experience of India, they were quite unlike. Their backgrounds were very different and they inhabited India 70 years apart from one another: Emily for six years from 1836 – 1842 and Constance for 2 ½ years from 1911 – 1913. During the last two-thirds of the 19th-century India itself, and Britain's complex relationship with it, underwent huge changes which affected each woman's personal experience of the country. They straddled an arc of British involvement in India, Emily ascending the curve during an era of expansion under the East India Company pre-mutiny, and Constance experiencing the height of British power under crown rule but also the time when cracks in British authority were beginning to show.

Emily resisted India at first, whereas Constance embraced it wholeheartedly but, for both of them, it proved to be a turning point. Both women were liberated and incentivised by their time abroad; their experience acted as a springboard and gave them a public platform from which to operate. Emily published 'Portraits of the Princes and People of India' (1843), two novels with Indian themes 'The Semi-Attached Couple' 1860 and 'The Semi-Detached House' 1859. Then, in 1866 'Up the Country: Letters Written to her Sister from the Upper Provinces of India'. Posthumously, 'Letters from India' in two volumes came out in 1872. Finally, her great-niece, Violet Dickinson edited 'Miss Eden's Letters' (published 1919). Constance Villiers Stuart wrote 'Gardens of the Great Mughals' in 1913 which led to a lifetime of journalism covering gardens and architecture for 'Country Life' magazine.

By looking at these two artist-writers side-by-side, the talk revealed how their output was affected by the rapid progress made across society in the 70 years between their trips. Faster travel, improved communications, the rise of photography and illustrated magazines had a huge impact on the art they produced, and how it was received. The speaker emphasised Emily Eden and Constance Villiers Stuart's contribution to the visual culture and historiography of the British in India from a female perspective.

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Notes to Members

- Members' postal and email addresses will not be given out. If wishing to contact a fellow member, please send the letter or the email c/o the Honorary Secretary who will forward it. It is at the member's discretion whether to reply or not.
- When writing to the Honorary Secretary and expecting a reply, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

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