

## South Asia Archive: Highlight Documents

### Colonialism and the Colonial Experience

- Personal Adventures during the Indian Rebellion in Rohilcund, Futtehghur and Oude. 1859. *Personal account of William Edwards, a member of the Bengal Civil Service, who escaped rebel-held Kanpur (Cawnpur) during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.*
- Selections from the Letters, Despatches and Other State Papers Preserved in the Military Department of the Government of India 1857-58. Government report, 1912. *Reprints of original reports sent in by British military commanders in the course of suppressing the Indian Rebellion of 1857.*
- Native Chiefs and the People during the Sepoy Revolt. A magazine article published in The National Magazine (Volume XV, Issue 4) in 1901 *Provides an account of Indian rulers who opposed the Indian Rebellion and acted on behalf of the British, including the female Begum of Bhopal.*
- The English in India and Other Sketches, 1835. *A collection of short stories set in India, with titles including 'The English in India', 'The Suttee' and 'The half-caste daughter'.*
- A Handbook for Travellers in India, Burma and Ceylon, 1909. *An early 20<sup>th</sup> century travel guide containing 82 maps, and guides to Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Agra, Lucknow, the North-West Frontier, Mysore, and much more.*

### Politics and Independence

- Satyagraha in Champaran, by Rajendra Prasad, published in 1928 *An English translation of the account of the first Satyagraha (non-violence resistance movement) inspired by Gandhi in 1917, written by Rajendra Prasad, a follower of Gandhi who would become India's first President after independence.*
- Young India, 1919-1922. Author: Mahatma Gandhi. Published in Madras, 1922. *A compilation of articles, essays and statements written by Gandhi for the Young India magazine, between 1919 and 1922.*
- Speeches and Writings of Mahatma Gandhi. Published in Madras. *An omnibus edition of Gandhi's writings, including topics such as the South African Indian Question; jail experiences; Non-Cooperation; Bardoli Civil Disobedience; the Great Trial of 1922; Untouchability; and the Hindu-Muslim Question. This item has been incorrectly dated 1917 in SAA – due to events covered in volume, it was published no earlier than 1932.*
- The Partition of Bengal, A Geographical Study with Maps & Diagrams. A book published in 1947 by the Calcutta Geographical Society. *Includes maps illustrating the partition and giving more detail on Bengal, including a map of India superimposed on the USA, and a map showing distribution of population by religion.*

- Indian Independence Act, 1947.  
*A copy of the 1947 act, printed in Bengal.*
- Calcutta Disturbances Commission Report, 1946.  
*Records of proceedings of the Commission of Enquiry into the Calcutta riots of 1946. In the three days of violence between Hindu and Muslim populations, over 4,000 people died.*
- Crisis in Pakistan and India, article in the Modern Review, 1952.  
*Article written by Taraknath Das, an anti-British Bengali revolutionary and internationalist scholar. SAA contains many of his writings on post-independence politics.*
- Jinnah-Gandhi Talks, September 1944.  
*A report on talks held between Gandhi and the founder of Pakistan, Muhammed Ali Jinnah.*

### **Society, women and the caste system**

- Widow-Burning. A Narrative. 1855.  
*The practice of suttee was progressively banned in different Indian provinces throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was banned outright in India in 1861.*
- Suttees. An article in the Asiatic Journal, 1827.  
*An interesting study into contemporary suttee practices, which provides statistical information on recent widow-burnings. It provides shocking details, including that some of the widows being burnt were as young as 9 and 11, and in other cases as old as over 90.*
- Indian Moral Instruction and Caste Problems, book, 1917  
*Book discusses topics including education, religion, morality and moral reformation.*
- Indian Caste Customs, book, 1932.  
*The book covers topics including external control, penalties, marriage and morals, food and drink, and occupations.*
- Mother India, Katherine Mayo, 1927.  
*The original book by Katherine Mayo which caused outrage across India for its attacks on Indian society, religion and culture. SAA also includes a number of published responses to Mother India, including 'Father India' (book), 'In defence of India' (article).*
- The Untouchables on the Move, article in the Asiatic Review, 1944.  
*An article describing in detail the desperate living conditions and treatment of the class of 'Untouchables'.*
- Hinduism and the Untouchables, article in Modern Review, 1936.  
*Article by Bengali historian and archaeologist Ramaprasad Chandra on the 'Untouchables' caste.*
- Crime – Some Social Aspects, article in *The Indian Journal of Social Work*, 1946.  
*An article that considers the role of a number of social phenomena in crime, including the cinema, religion, schools, and alcoholism.*

## Health and welfare

- Famine and Rehabilitation in Bengal, a Plan for Rehabilitation. 1946.  
*The Bengal Famine of 1943, caused largely by British colonial mismanagement, resulted in an estimated 2.1 million deaths. This 1946 report by two anthropology professors from the University of Calcutta makes recommendations for the short, medium and long-term recovery of the region and her people.*
- Conditions of the Country and People of India, Report of the Indian Famine Commission 1881.  
*The Great Famine of 1876 to 1878 which spread over most of India is estimated to have killed ca. 5.5 million people. The scale of the tragedy was caused by a combination of a crop failure, Britain's continued export of huge quantities of grain, and a simultaneous reduction in relief expenditure. The Famine Commission was established in the wake of this tragedy, and this report provides a detailed overview of conditions in India.*
- A statistical and bacteriological analysis of a cholera epidemic in Manipur State, Assam. Article in The Indian Journal of Medical Research, 1936.  
*A scientific account of the spread of a cholera epidemic, and efforts to bring it under control.*
- The Plague and its Prophylactic and Curative Treatment, 1898.  
*A pamphlet provided for public information at a time of plague in India, providing information on the disease and proposed therapeutic remedies*

## Art and culture

- Evolution of Dance in India. An article in the magazine Amrita Bazar Patrika - Annual Puja Number, 1949.  
*A short article on the history of traditional dance in India.*
- The Heritage of India. Pslams of Maratha saints. One Hundred and Eight Hymns translated from the Marathi. 1919.  
*A collection of English translations of Marathi psalms.*
- Wapas, 1943  
*An example of a colourful Bollywood film leaflet.*
- Child Welfare and the Cinema, article in the Modern Review, 1935.  
*An article which considers the physical, moral, mental and psychological influence of the cinema on children.*
- Indian Cricket Almanac  
*SAA includes Almanacs for the seasons 1947-48 through to 1951-52.*
- Collected Poems and Plays of Rabindranath Tagore, 1952.  
*Rabindranath Tagore, the 'Bard of Bengal', was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, which he won in 1913. SAA includes a number of writings by and about him, included a collection of his plays and poems.*