



Discovering Asia

Exhibition Catalogue

1st May to 31st July 2015

Royal Geographical Society of S.A.

Mortlock Wing, State Library of S.A.,

North Terrace Adelaide S.A.

Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm



Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.

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Cover: Chinese Ming dynasty emperor Wan-li on a richly outfitted horse towers over his ministers.

Gold Coin Donation

Catalogue \$5

Discovering Asia

The Discovery of Asia - through 27B.C. - 395A.D. the Romans ruled a vast united empire. The west knew that there lay, many months journey eastwards by caravan route across the mountains and deserts of Central Asia, a land where the Silk People lived, but they did not know that the Silk People inhabited an empire as large and civilized as their own.



'PEUTINGER TABLE'.

Maps of routes for specific purposes — military or trade — were produced by the Romans, and this example is a 19th century print of a map dating back to the first century, revised, corrected and added to for the next 900 years. It has no overall orientation and no consistent scale, resembling in this the 'strip maps' issued for specific journeys by the Royal Automobile Association.

The Roman map with the Society circa AD374, known as the Peutinger Table, depicts 'China' in the last plate, with a made up coastline.

Four centuries after its foundation around 206BC this Chinese empire of the Silk People fell apart. Another century, and the whole northern half of China, including the metropolitan area the very cradle and heart of Chinese civilization, was lost to the barbarian hordes.

Religion too was important in the region. Around 250A.D. Buddhism was introduced into China. By 580A.D. formal relations were underway with the Japanese. In 650A.D. Sa' ibn Abi Waqqā visited China from Mecca and may have set up the Islamic religion.

The Chinese empire was finally restored, and for three centuries. From A.D. 618 to A.D. 907, China was the richest, greatest, and most civilized power in the whole world.

In 785 AD China began a monumental work of cartography and geography, describing many foreign places, including present-day Japan, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, Arabian Peninsula, the Euphrates River, Baghdad of present-day Iraq, and minaret lighthouses in the Persian Gulf.

"China" is not what the Chinese themselves called their country. The Silk People called themselves "men of Han", because their empire was founded by a Prince of Han; and the restored empire of the seventh century was called "T'ang" for a similar reason.

The effects of this refined, cosmopolitan civilization of late T'ang led to the beginnings of printing, that invention which, above all others, even gunpowder (another Chinese invention), brought the modern world to birth. These developments were to reverberate around the world.

Japan, from earliest times, has seemed to most Westerners a remote country inhabited by a range of people who did prefer to keep to themselves. Even in today's shrinking world the enigma, to a considerable extent, remains: a country with a strong martial tradition and yet skilled in the arts of

peace, in production and in trade; an oriental State industrially based on an advanced Western technology; a people at once imitative and highly inventive; a maritime country whose inhabitants identify almost religiously with their land.

Japan became isolated in the ninth century A.D. as she continued to develop the brilliant culture of the Heian period, which, despite its admixture of Chinese elements, could still be called truly Japanese.

In the more modern period, after the early encounters with the West and the diligent adoption of Western techniques, Japan withdrew, on this occasion deliberately, and during the time known as that of the 'Closed Country' developed in her own distinctive way.

Associated with the Emperor of Japan's divinity, Buddhist and the native traditional Shinto elements became intermingled. At the same time, in the country as a whole, the more primitive Shinto religion survived alongside the imported Buddhist forms.

The pattern of Japan's unusual cultural history was set at an early stage. Geographically isolated from the great civilizations, it was not until the sixth century A.D. that Japan encountered, and enthusiastically embraced, Chinese culture and the Buddhist religion.

Between 1420 and 1620 Europeans learned that all seas are one; that seamen, given adequate ships and stores, skill and courage, could in time reach any country in the world which had an ocean coast, and, what was more important, return home. By 1624 the Dutch East India Company had set up an administration in Taiwan (formerly known as Formosa). It was the quest for the spices of the East, worth their weight in gold that encouraged sea travel, and the associated risks.

No other period in the history of the Western world equals this time in significance, in variety and in dramatic interest. Not the least important of its by-products was the demolition of geographical theories that had prevailed in Europe since classical antiquity. Nowhere in the writings of Ptolemy, for example, was there any hint of the immense American continent or the vast Pacific Ocean.

There are very few eyewitness accounts of major voyages, and fewer still written by leaders of expeditions. The reports of Vasco da Gama, of Ferdinand Magellan, of Sebastian del Cano, have disappeared. Columbus's journal survives, but only in an abstract made by another hand; and even so it describes as much what Columbus wished to see as what he actually saw.

Once rulers and financiers understood that more efficient ships, more accurate instruments and better methods of cartography and navigation had made long ocean passages possible, they invested in exploring.

Their object was not discovery for its own sake that was incidental, but the opening of ocean routes to distant India, China and Japan, countries known to exist and believed to be of commercial importance.

The main Asian centres in India, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, China, Laos, Vietnam, Japan, Korea and the Philippines are all linked with Australia, and the rest of the world, though past and present international events of exploration, conflict, education and technology. The record shows that the links between these peoples of the Asian region goes back many millennia, and is not new. Some of these records survived, others didn't. Makassans seeking Trepang (also known as Sea Cucumber or Bêche-de-Mere) have been harvesting and possibly trading with Australians since at least the 1600's. Evidence of northern seas' shells has been found on the Aboriginal trade routes in southern Australia.

Discovering Asia

Many of the Asian countries bordering the Pacific Oceans had a variable history of Chinese administration from time to time.

India, Bangladesh, Myanmar Thailand, Indonesia's Islands and Malaysia evolved through tribal groups to dynastic clusters, each often producing significant architectural and engineering works until western civilisations began the forced exploitation of their resources.

The exploitation was spearheaded by the missionary zeal from Europe. With the best of intentions European missionaries went to China and Japan, generally completely unaware of the existing religious systems already in place, which had assisted Asian countries with their basis of law and order and fair play for centuries.

Today economic links bind Australia and Asia together as never before. Cooperation and exploration that was not achievable by exploration and conquest is now occurring with trade deals and diplomacy.

Through this exhibition find out how some of these discoveries unfolded as the world shrank with increased knowledge in print and diplomatic interaction.

For those who travel to the region today think about how the story unfolded as you see some of the record of *Discovering Asia*.

Dufkyen replica Port Adelaide. These 'jacht' were the ships built in 1595 that sailed for the Far East in 1601.

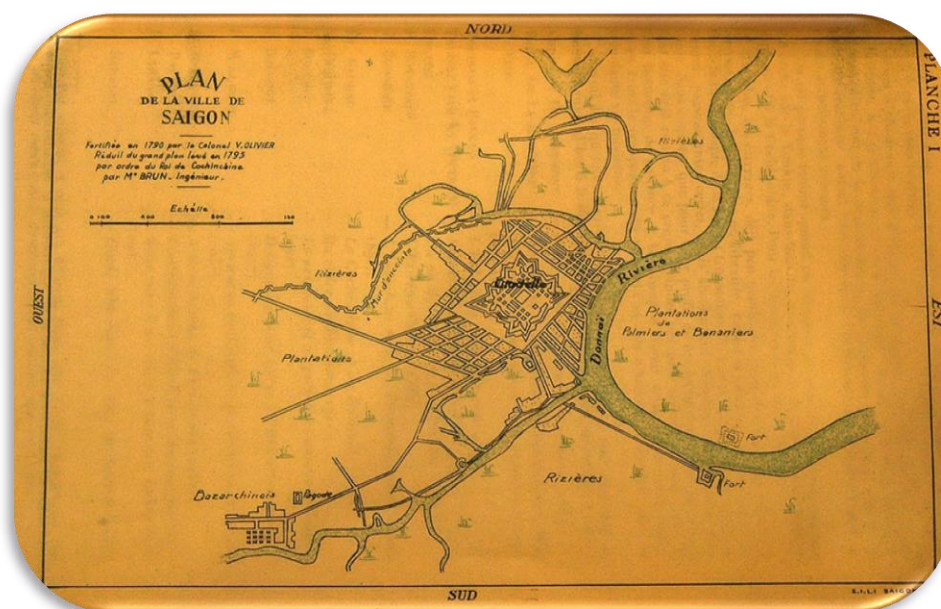


This exhibition has been put together with the Society's Library Volunteers through the Library Committee.

A voyage to Cochin China

Author: [White, John, 1782-1840.](#)
Responsibility: by John White
Place: London
Publisher: Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green
Date Published: 1824 (London : A. & R. Spottiswoode)
Description: xi, 372 (i.e. 370) p. : tables ; 22 cm.
Call Number: rg 959.7 T a
Subject: [Cochin China \(Vietnam\)--Description and travel](#)
Notes: Pages 369-370 numbered 371-372. Includes bibliographical references

Until the 17th century, what is now southern Vietnam was not inhabited by ethnic Vietnamese but by Khmer people. In 1788, Tây Sơn moved north to attack the Trịnh and unite Vietnam. Nguyễn Ánh was keen to strengthen his hold on the key southern city, turning it into his capital, and the base for his preparations for his planned conquest of Tây Sơn and Vietnam. French officers recruited by Pigneau de Behaine, a French priest who became his adviser to Nguyễn Ánh. Pigneau trained Nguyễn Ánh's armed forces and introduced French technological expertise to the war effort. One of Nguyễn Ánh's first actions was to ask the French officers to design and oversee the construction of a modern European-style citadel in Saigon. On 7 October 1819, Lieutenant **John White (1782-1840)**, a member of the East India Marine Society of Salem, Massachusetts, arrived in Saigon in the US Navy brig Franklin. His account of his visit, published in [A Voyage to Cochin China](#) by John White, Lieutenant in the United States Navy (Boston, 1824).

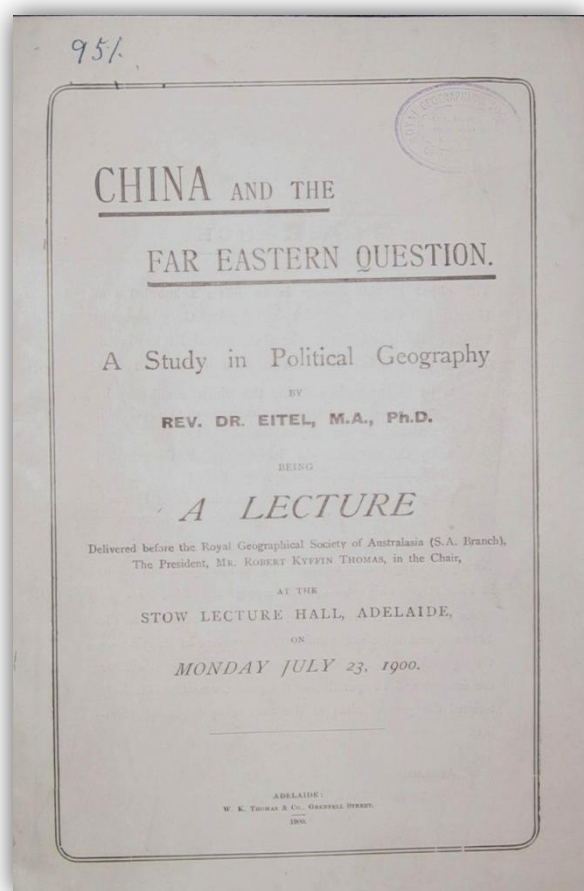


A late 18th century map of Saigon (plan de la ville de Saigon)

Europe in China: the history of Hongkong from the beginning to the year 1882

History of Hongkong

Author: [Eitel, Ernest J. \(Ernest John\), 1839-1908.](#)
Responsibility: by E.J. Eitel
Place: London : Luzac, 1895
Description: vii, 575, xiii p. ; 22 cm.
Call Number: rg 951.2 a
Subject: [Hong Kong \(China\)--History](#)
[Great Britain--Colonies--China--Hong Kong](#)



Ernst Johann Eitel or alternatively **Ernest John Eitel** (13 February 1838-1908) was a German Protestant missionary to China born in Württemberg, Germany.

He served in Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg as pastor. Adopting a Chinese name (Chinese: 歐德理; pinyin: Ōudélǐ), he later came to Lilang, Xin'an district in Canton, China under the Basel Mission. In April 1865 he transferred to the London Missionary Society at Guangzhou to take in charge of the Boluo Mission and the Hakka villages outside Guangzhou. In January 1870 he moved to Hong Kong while still having charge of the Boluo Mission. In 1875 he became Director of Chinese Studies. In April 1879 he resigned from the London Missionary Society.

He then became Inspector of Schools in Hong Kong and later Chinese Secretary to Sir John Pope Hennessy. In 1866 he married Mary Anne Winifred Eaton of the Female Education Society of Adelaide, South Australia. He died in Adelaide in 1908. He was a member of the RGSSA lecturing several times on *Social Life in China*, and published in *The Proceedings* volume 8 1904/5.

'I have lived among the Chinese 35 years. I have, all that time, been engaged in studying the language, the literature and philosophy of ancient and modern China. ...

We Europeans, when we have learned of China all we can learn know after all very little, that is reliable, about the Chinese as a people. ... Their intellectual genius is different from ours; their moral temperament is different; their civilization is different; their social organization is different.

China was securely walled in on all sides by nature: by the Pacific Ocean in the east, by chains of well-nigh impassable mountains in the south and west, and by steppes and deserts in the north, which latter boundary the First Emperor had to supplement. ...'

Chigaku zasshi - [Journal of geography]

Journal of geography <1985->

Corporate Author:	Chigakukai (Japan) Tokyo Chigaku Kyokai
Serial Numbering:	Dai 1-shu, dai 1-kan-
Place:	[Tokyo
Publisher:	Kaigyosha : Urisabakisho, Maruzen Shosha
Date Published:	Meiji 22 i.e. 1889-]
Description:	v. : ill. (some col.) ; 24-26 cm.
Call Number:	S Per 910.5
RGSSA Holdings:	Vol. 14-25 (1902-1913)
Subject:	Geography--Periodicals Japan--Geography--Periodicals
Corporate Ref:	Geological Society of Japan USE Chigakukai (Japan)
Notes:	Title from cover. In Japanese, some abstracts in English Vols. for 1889- issued by: Chigakukai; <1985- > Tokyo Chigaku Kyokai
Format:	Periodical

Yorkgate Library

The **Tokyo Geographical Society** was established in 1879, after the Meiji Restoration, as one of the pioneering modern societies of the sciences. Following the establishment of the European Royal Geographical Societies, successive presidents of the society were appointed from among members of Japan's imperial family. Since the 1970s, presidents have been elected from among member scientists.

The *Journal of Geography (Chigaku Zasshi)* was first published in 1889. Its main editorial scope was geography, which included human science. With advances in the natural and human sciences, particularly after the establishment of plate tectonics in Earth science in the 1960s, geology and geophysics were also included. The society has been flexible to change over time in adopting disciplines required to clarify phenomena related to the Earth. Recently, environmental sciences, which include urban disasters, civilization, infrastructure, eco-system, and saving energy, have been covered in the journal. More recently, with the inclusion of biospheric subjects, we have been offering extensive coverage of sciences that describe phenomena related to the Earth. The journal presents subjects that not only bring together natural and human sciences, but also focuses on the history of the Earth and life both today and in the future. However, the central core of the journal is always based on solid Earth, environmental, and human sciences.

報 刊		八七六 (876)	
動物學雜誌	二一〇一二六	東京動物學會	突 通
地質學雜誌	一五〇一五八	東京地質學會	考古學
理學界	九一二一六	理學界社	國家學會雜誌
早稻田學報	二九一二四二	早稻田大學	越後教育會雜誌
行社記事	三三七一三五二	帝國銀行協會	帝國鐵道協會
海軍部雜誌	二〇九一二八	帝國海軍協會	電氣學會雜誌
活動之日本	二三四	活動之日本社	晉要教育會雜誌
學藝院雜誌	六八六九	學藝院	山岳
大日本農會報	二九八三三五	大日本農會	氣象集
大日本山林會報	二八一二九〇	大日本山林會	氣象要覽
大日本水產會報	二八一二九〇	大日本水產會	中央氣象學
大日本藥學會雜誌	二六二二七二	大日本藥學會	史學雜誌
臺灣協會雜誌	八八一九八	臺灣協會	植物學雜誌
歷史地理	五一一一	歷史地理研究會	信濃博物學雜誌
通商雜誌	二六二七〇	外務省通商局	
農學會報	七〇七三	農學會	
農藝雜誌	九四五一九六九	農藝雜誌社	
建築雜誌	二三二一三三九	帝國教育會	
教育時報	三五〇一三二三	開發社	
工學會雜誌	七八五二七九	工學會	
工業雜誌	三三三三三三三	工業雜誌社	

JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY

(CHIGAKU ZASSHI)

Vol. XVIII. 1906.

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the Relation of Topography and Geology with Earthquakes. By FUSATARO OMORI. <i>Rigakuhakushi</i> .	27.
the River Tym, Saghalien Island. By SHIGETAKA SHIGA.	27.
Notes on Geographical Names in the Hokkaido. By FUSATARO KODAYASHI.	27.
the Names of the Ceylon. By ZENTEN. <i>Angakuhakushi</i> .	27.

**Der Zwölffte Theil der Orientalischen Indien. :
Darinnen etliche neue, gedenckwürdige Schiffarthen
und Reysen, so von unterschiedlichen völkern,
sonderlich den Portugesen, Englischen, und
Holländern, in OstIndien, und deren anstossende
Königreich, vom Jahr 1610. biss vff 1627. verrichtet
worden. Sonderlich aber in das Königreich Indostan,
oder dess grossen Mogols das Königreich China,
Persien, die Bandamischen insuln, und andere
umbligende Länder Petits voyages**

by: [Bry, Johann Theodor de, 1561-1623?](#)
[Fitzer, William, ca.1600-1671.](#)

Uniform Title: India Orientalis Pt.12 German
Place: [Frankfurt]
Publisher: Gedruckt zu Frankfurt am Mäyn, bey Caspar Rötel,
in Verlegung Wilhelm Fizers
Date Published: 1628
Description: [4], 77, [1] p. : ill. ; 33 cm (2)
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 910.8 B915 c

The eastern part of the Eastern India. : Therein some new, noteworthy scientific observations and so on under different leaders, particularly the many Portuguese, English, and Dutch in the East Indies, and their adjoining border Kingdom, from the year 1610 - they have been performed 52 voyages up to 1627. But particularly in the Kingdom of Hindustan, or to the large Mogul Kingdom of China, Persia, the Banda mixing islands, and other countries including small voyages.



Insulae Indiae Orientalis Johann Theodor De Bry

Theodorus de Bry father of **Johann** was trained with his grandfather, Thiry de Bry senior (? - 1528), and his father, Thiry de Bry junior (1495–1590), who were jewellers and engravers, engraving copper plates, required at that time for printing images and drawings as part of books. The de Brys as engravers, book editors and publishers, became famous most notably for their depictions of early European expeditions to the Americas.

Around 1570, **Johann's** father Theodorus de Bry, a Protestant, fled religious persecution south to Strasbourg, along the west bank of the Rhine. In 1577, he moved to Antwerp.

Between 1585 and 1588 he lived in London, where he met the geographer Richard Hakluyt and began to collect stories and illustrations of various European explorations, most notably from Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues.

In 1588, Theodorus and his family moved permanently to Frankfurt-am-Main, where he became a citizen and began to plan his first publications. The most famous one is known as *Les Grands Voyages*, i.e., "The Great Travels", or "The Discovery of America". He also published the largely identical "India Orientalis-series", as well as many other illustrated works on a wide range of subjects. His books were published in Latin, and were also translated into German, English and French. Before his death in 1598, his sons **Johann Theodor De Bry** and Johann Israel De Bry took over the task of completing the "Great Voyages" and began the "Small Voyages", an opus which eventually stretched to 25 volumes published over forty-five years.

An historical and geographical description of Formosa, an island subject to the Emperor of Japan: ... To which is prefix'd, a preface in vindication of himself from the reflections of a Jesuit lately come from China, with an account of what passed between them.

by: [Psalmanazar, George, 1679?-1763.](#)

Responsibility: By George Psalmanaazaar
Edition: 2nd ed., corr., with many large and useful additions, particularly a new Preface clearly answering everything that has been objected against the author and the book.
Place: London
Publisher: Printed for Mat. Wotton, Abel Roper and B. Lintott; Fr. Coggan, G. Strahan and W. Davis
Date Published: 1705
Description: [56], 288, [8] p., plates (some fold.) : map ; 20 cm (8vo)
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 823 P974.2



George Psalmanazar (1679? – 1763)

George Psalmanazar (1679? – 1763) claimed to be the first Formosan (modern day Taiwan) to visit Europe. For some years he convinced many in Britain, but was later revealed to be an impostor. He later became a theological essayist and a friend and acquaintance of Samuel Johnson and other noted figures of 18th-century literary London. He is believed to have been born in southern France, perhaps in Languedoc or Provence, to Catholic parents sometime between 1679 and 1684. His birth name is unknown. According to his posthumously published autobiography, he was educated in a Franciscan school and then a Jesuit academy. In both of these institutions, he claimed to have been celebrated by his teachers for what he called "my uncommon genius for languages." Indeed, by his own account Psalmanazar was something of a child prodigy, since he notes that he attained fluency in Latin by the age of seven or eight.

In order to gain safe and affordable travel in France, Psalmanazar decided to pretend to be an Irish pilgrim on his way to Rome learning English, forging a passport and stealing a pilgrim's cloak and staff from the reliquary of a local church, he set off, but soon found that his disguise was hindered by the fact that many people he met were familiar with Ireland and were able to discern that he was a fraud. Deciding that a more exotic disguise was needed, Psalmanazar drew upon the missionary reports of the Far East he had heard from his Jesuit tutors and decided to impersonate a Japanese convert. At some point he further embellished this new persona by becoming a "Japanese heathen" and exhibiting an array of appropriately bizarre customs such as eating raw meat spiced with cardamom and sleeping while sitting upright in a chair.

Having failed to reach Rome, Psalmanazar travelled through the German principalities between 1700 and 1702, and appeared in the Netherlands around the year 1702.

He claimed to have been abducted from Formosa by malevolent Jesuits and taken to France, where he had steadfastly refused to become Roman Catholic. Psalmanazar soon declared himself to be a reformed heathen who now practiced Anglicanism, and became a favourite of the Bishop of London and other esteemed members of London society.¹ Building upon this growing interest in his life, in 1704 Psalmanazar published this book which was in fact a complete invention on Psalmanazar's part. The "facts" contained in the book were in fact an amalgam of other travel reports. According to Psalmanazar, Formosa was a prosperous country with a capital city called Xternetsa. Men walked naked except for a gold or silver plate to cover their genitals. Their main food was a serpent that they hunted with branches. Formosans were polygamous and husbands had a right to eat their wives for infidelity. They executed murderers by hanging them upside down and shooting them full of arrows. Annually they sacrificed the hearts of 18,000 young boys to gods and priests ate the bodies. They used horses and camels for mass transportation and dwelled underground in circular houses. Psalmanazar was frequently challenged by skeptics in this period, but for the most part he managed to deflect criticism of his core claims.

An account of several late voyages and discoveries ... : to which are added, a large introduction and supplement, containing short abstracts of other voyages into those parts and brief descriptions of them

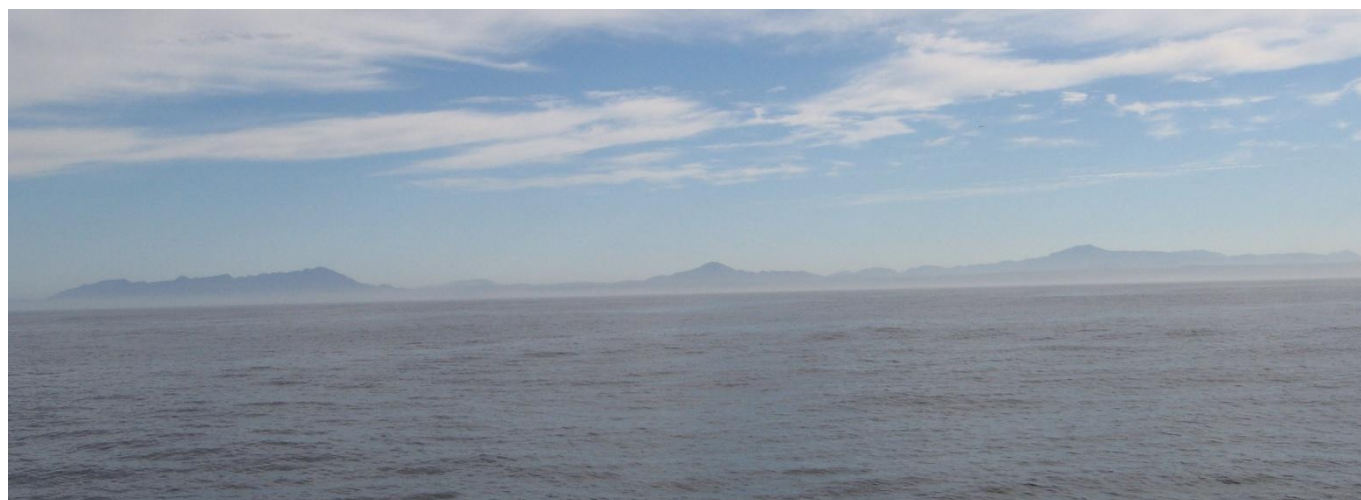
by: [Tasman, Abel Janszoon, 1603?-1659.](#)
[Wood, John, Captain.](#)
[Narbrough, John, Sir, 1640-1688.](#)
[Martens, Friedrich.](#)
[Robinson, Tancred, Sir, d. 1748.](#)

Corporate Author: W. Innys (Bookseller)| D. Brown (Bookseller)| J. Round (Bookseller)| T. Ward (Bookseller)
Place: London
Publisher: Printed for D. Brown ... ; W. Innys ... ; J. Round ...; Ward ...
Date Published: 1711
Description: [2], xvi, xxi-xxix, [7], 191, [1], 223, [1] p., [22] leaves of plates (some folded) : ill., charts, maps ; 20 cm. (8vo)
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 910.41 A172

Abel Janszoon Tasman (1603 – 1659) was a Dutch seafarer, explorer, and merchant, best known for his voyages of 1642 and 1644 in the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC).

He was the first known European explorer to reach the islands of Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) and New Zealand, and to sight the Fiji islands. His navigator François Visscher and his merchant Isaack Gilsemans mapped substantial portions of Australia, New Zealand, and some Pacific Islands.

In 1633 he sailed from Texel to Batavia in the service of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), taking the southern Brouwer Route. Tasman helped to punish the people from Seram Island who had sold spices to others than the Dutch. In August 1637 he was back in Amsterdam, and the following year he signed on for another ten years and took his wife with him to Batavia (now Jakarta). In 1639 he was second-in-command of an exploration expedition in the north Pacific under Matthijs Quast. The fleet included the ships *Engel* and *Gracht* and reached Fort Zeelandia (Dutch Formosa) and Deshima. In August 1642, the Council of the Indies, consisting of Antonie van Diemen, Cornelis van der Lijn, Joan Maetsuycker, Justus Schouten, Salomon Sweers, Cornelis Witsen, and Pieter Boreel in Batavia despatched Tasman and Franchoijs Visscher on a voyage of which one of the objects was to obtain knowledge of "all the totally unknown provinces of Beach". This expedition used two small ships, the *Heemskerck* and the *Zeehaen*



Tasman's probable view of the first sighting of Tasmania 1642

Travels of the Jesuits into various parts of the world: particularly China and the East Indies : ...
Translated from the celebrated lettres edifiantes & curieuses, ecrites des missions etrangeres, par les missionnaires de la Compagnie de Jesus ... To which is now prefixed, an account of the Spanish settlements, in America, with a general index to the whole work. By Mr. Lockman. Second edition, corrected

by: [Lockman, John, 1698-1771.](#)

Corporate Author: Jesuits

Edition: 2nd ed., corr.

Place: [London]

Publisher: Printed for T. Piety; and sold by all the booksellers of Great Britain, Ireland, and New England

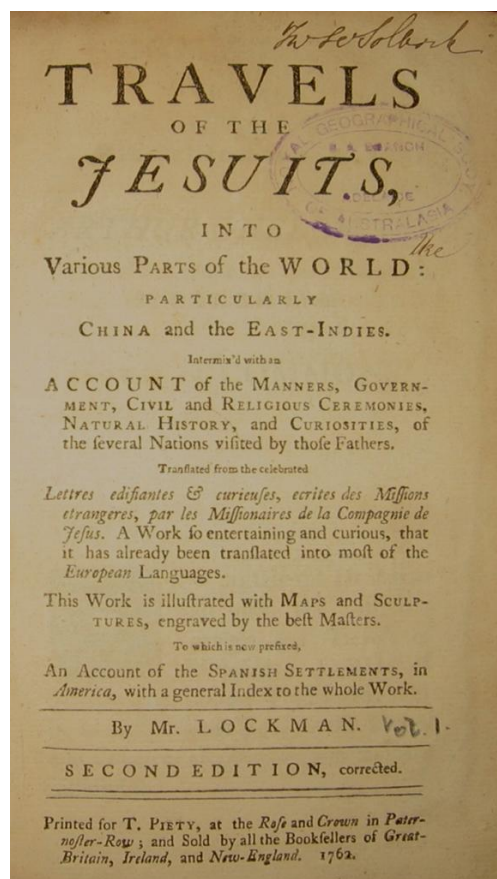
Date Published: 1762

Description: 2 v, plates (fold.) : maps ; 8vo.

Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 266 T779.2

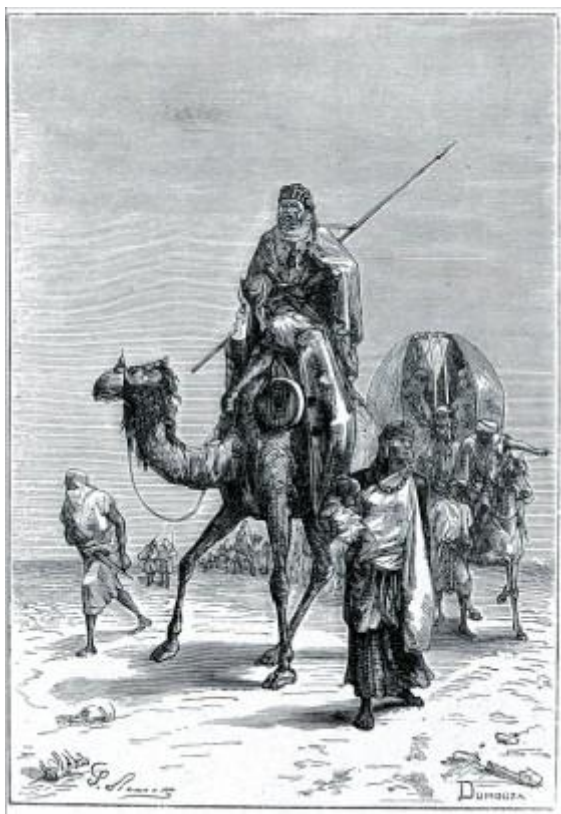
John Lockman 1698-1771 was born in humble circumstances; he was an autodidact scholar who learnt to speak French by frequenting Slaughter's Coffee House, London. He translated many French works, including Voltaire's 'Age of Louis XIV,' and 'Henriade;' Marivaux's 'Pharamond;' He also published, inter alia: 'Rosalinda, a Musical Drama ...' with an inquiry into the history of operas and oratorios, London, 1740. It was set to music by John Christopher Smith, and performed at Hickford's Great Room in Brewer Street, and, 'A History of the Cruel Sufferings of the Protestants and others by Popish Persecutions in various Countries,' London, 1760. Lockman wrote a 'History of Christianity,' and histories of England, Greece, and of Rome, by question and answer, which passed through numerous editions. He was a frequent contributor to the *Gentleman's Magazine*.



**Travels of Rabbi Benjamin, son of Jonah, of Tudela:
through Europe, Asia, and Africa : from the ancient
kingdom of Navarre, to the frontiers of China :
Faithfully translated from the original Hebrew :
and enriched with a dissertation, and notes,
critical, historical, and geographical...**

by: [Benjamin, ben Jonah, of Tudela, 12th cent.](#)
[Gerrans, B.](#)

Responsibility: By the Rev. B. Gerrans
Place: London
Publisher: Printed for the Translator; and sold by Messrs.
Robson; J. Murray; T. Davis; W. Law
Date Published: 1783
Description: 12mo xiii, [1], 171 p. ; 18 cm.
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 910.4 B468



Benjamin of Tudela in the Sahara (Author: Dumouza, 19th-century engraving)

Benjamin of Tudela (Hebrew: בִּנְיָמִין מִטּוּדֵלָה, pronounced [binya' min mitu'dela]; Arabic: **بن يامين**; Tudela, Kingdom of Navarre, 1130 – Castile, 1173) was a medieval Jewish traveler who visited Europe, eastern Asia, and Africa in the 12th century. His vivid descriptions of western Asia preceded those of Marco Polo by a hundred years. With his broad education and vast knowledge of languages, Benjamin of Tudela is a major figure in medieval geography and Jewish history. This book describes the countries he visited, with an emphasis on the Jewish communities, including their total populations and the names of notable community leaders. He also described the customs of the local population, both Jewish and non-Jewish, with an emphasis on urban life. He gave detailed descriptions of sites and landmarks passed along the way, as well as important buildings and marketplaces. He purported to go as far as present day Pakistan and India. Although Benjamin is noted for citing sources and is generally regarded by historians as trustworthy, some of his claims are faulted as relying on earlier writers.

A voyage to Madagascar, and the East Indies

by: [Rochon, Alexis, 1741-1817.](#)
[Trapp, Joseph, 1679-1747.](#)
[Brunel, M.](#)

Responsibility: by the Abbe Rochon ; translated from the French ; illustrated with an accurate map of the island of Madagascar ; to which is added a memoir on the Chinese trade, [by M.Brunel]

Place: London

Publisher: G.G.J. and J. Robinson

Date Published: 1792

Description: xlix, 475 p. : folded map ; 22 cm.

Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 916.9104 R681

First Edition of the English Translation by Joseph Trapp, who has appended a translation (also the first in English) of M.Brunel's memoir on the China trade (pp. 415-75).



Alexis Rochon

Alexis Rochon (1741 -1817) destined for an ecclesiastical career. He was passionate about science and travel, entered at a young age the Naval Academy of Jean-Dominique Cassini (Cassini IV) at the Academy of Sciences in 1767. He was appointed naval astronomer in 1766 on a trip to Africa to determine different longitude points. He discovered in Madagascar rock crystals (having the property of double refraction). He used these crystals in optical instruments. He became assistant engineer at the Academy of Sciences in 1771. He left for Southern Territories with Captain Kerguelen, reporting on this trip the first samples of a new mineral. On his return in 1774, he was appointed curator of the king's Cabinet for Astronomy and Physics. He founded the first Institute of Optics devoted to their technical development. He lost those jobs due to the Revolution and retired to Brest. He was sent to London to assist with the reform of Weights and Measures in 1790. He was appointed director of the observatory of Brest and member of the Legion of Honour. He was elected member of the Experimental Physics Section of the Academy of Sciences in 1795. He built in 1796 a lighthouse at the port of Brest.

Joseph Trapp (1679–1747) was an English clergyman, academic, poet and pamphleteer. He became the first professor of poetry at Oxford, a position which he held from 14 July 1708 to 1718. In January 1711 Sir Constantine Phipps, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, took on Trapp as his chaplain, and Trapp wrote partisan political pieces, incurring scorn from Swift. From 1714 to 1722 he held by the gift of the Earl of Peterborough the rectory of Dauntsey in Wiltshire, and through the interest of William Lancaster he obtained in 1715 the lectureship at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster. The governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital elected Trapp on 20 April 1722 as vicar of the united parishes of Christ Church, Newgate Street, and St. Leonard, Foster Lane. He also held lectureships in several London churches, and became president of Sion College. He died of pleurisy at Harlington on 22 November 1747. He was buried on the north side of the entrance into the chancel, upon the north wall of which is a monument; another, the cost of which was borne by the parishioners, is on the east wall of the chancel of Newgate church.

The work also includes by **M Brunel** a 'Memoir of the Chinese Trade', which details the many products traded between Europe and China in the late eighteenth century.

A complete view of the Chinese empire. Exhibited in a geographical description of that country, a dissertation on its antiquity, and a genuine and copious account of Earl Macartney's embassy from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China

by: [Staunton, George Leonard, Sir, 1737-1801.](#)

Place: London

Publisher: Printed and published by C. Cawthorn,
British Library

Date Published: 1798

Description: 8,lxxii,456,[2]p.,plate : port.,frontis. ; 20 cm.

Call Number: rgsp 915.1043 S798



Sir George Leonard Staunton, 1st Baronet (1737 – 1801) was an employee of the East India Company and a botanist.

He was born in Cargins, Co Galway, Ireland and educated at the Jesuit College, Toulouse, France (obtaining an MD in 1758) and the School of Medicine in Montpellier, France. He was awarded a DCL by Oxford University in 1790.

He initially practised as a physician in the West Indies but switched to law and was made Attorney-General in Grenada in 1779. In 1784, he accompanied his lifelong friend George, Lord McCartney, whom he first met in the West Indies, to Madras to negotiate peace with Tipu Sultan.

He was elected in 1787 a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1793, he was named Secretary to the British mission to the Chinese Imperial court. This diplomatic and trade mission would be headed by Lord McCartney. Although the McCartney Embassy returned to London without obtaining any concession from China, the mission could have been termed a success because it brought back detailed observations. Staunton was charged with producing the official account of the expedition after their return. This multi-volume work was taken chiefly from the papers of Lord McCartney and from the papers of Sir Erasmus Gower, who was Commander of the expedition. Sir Joseph Banks, the President of the Royal Society, was responsible for selecting and arranging engraving of the illustrations in this official record

He died at his London house, 17 Devonshire Street, on 14 January 1801 and was buried in Westminster Abbey,

An account of an embassy to the court of the Teshoo
Lama, in Tibet, containing a narrative of a journey
through Bootan and part of Tibet
Turner's account of Tibet

by: [Turner, Samuel, 1749-1802.](#)

Responsibility: by Captain Samuel Turner. To which are added, views taken on the spot, by Lieutenant Samuel Davis ; and observations botanical, mineralogical, and medical, by Mr. Robert Saunders

Place: London

Publisher: Printed by W. Bulmer and Co., and sold by Messrs. G. and W. Nicol

Date Published: 1800

Description: xxviii, 473 p., [15] leaves of plates (1 folded) : ill., folded map, plan ; 31 cm. (wove in 4s)

Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 915.15 T952 c

TURNER, SAMUEL (1749?–1802), Asiatic traveller, born in Gloucestershire about 1749, was a kinsman of Warren Hastings. He was given an East India cadetship in 1780, appointed Ensign the same year, Lieutenant on 8 Aug. 1781, Captain on 8 June 1796, and Regimental Captain on 18 March 1799. He was known as the author of the only published account of a journey to Great Tibet written by an Englishman until Bogle and Manning's narratives were printed in 1875.

News having reached Calcutta, in February 1782, of the reincarnation of the Tashi-lhunpo grand lama of Tibet (Bogle and Turner's Teshoo Lama of Teshoo Loomboo) in the person of a child, Warren Hastings proposed the despatch of a mission to Tibet to congratulate the lamaist regency on the event, and strengthen the friendly relations established by George Bogle who had died on 3 April 1781. With the assent of the court of directors, Turner was appointed on 9 Jan 1783 chief of the mission. Leaving Calcutta shortly afterwards he followed the route previously taken by Bogle. Turner reached the summer palace of the Deb Raja of Bhutan early in June 1783 and stayed till 8 Sept. From there he then proceeded, still following Bogle's route, to Tashi-lhunpo, a monastery in the neighbourhood of Shigatze, arriving there on 22 Sept 1783. On 4 Dec. at Ter-pa-ling, he had an audience of the infant Tashi lama, who, he was told, could understand what was said to him.

Teshoo Lama was at this time eighteen months old. Returning to India by the same route, Turner joined the governor-general's camp at Patna in March 1784, and at once proceeded to submit a report of his mission, which was afterwards reprinted in the appendix to his larger work.

Account of a voyage of discovery to the west coast of
Corea and the great Loo-Choo island ...
A vocabulary of the Loo-Choo language

by: [Hall, Basil, 1788-1844.](#)
[Clifford, H. J. \(Herbert John\)](#)

Responsibility: by Captain Basil Hall
Place: London [England]
Publisher: John Murray
Date Published: 1818 (London [England] : T. Davison)
Description: xv, 222, cxxx, [72] p., [15] leaves of plates
(some col., some folded) : ill., maps (some
folded) ; 29 cm.
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 910.45 H174 c
:
Summary/abstract available: see the full
record



*Account of a voyage of discovery to the west coast of Corea and the great Loo-Choo island: A vocabulary
of the Loo-Choo language, Basil Hall 1818*

Basil Hall, 1788-1884, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. He was educated at the Royal High School and joined the Royal Navy in 1802, being commissioned a Lieutenant in 1808, and later rising to the rank of Captain.

Hall commanded many vessels involved in exploration and scientific and diplomatic missions. While serving aboard HMS *Endymion*, Hall witnessed Sir John Moore being carried dying from the Battle of Corunna.

Hall explored Java in 1813 and in 1817 interviewed Napoleon (who had been an acquaintance of his father) on St. Helena.

From the beginning of his naval career he had been encouraged by his father to keep a journal, which later became the source for a series of books and publications describing his travels. These included *Account of a Voyage of Discovery to the West Coast of Corea and the Great Loo-Choo Island in the Japan Sea* (1818), which was one of the first descriptions of Korea by a European.

Lieutenant Herbert John Clifford, was allowed by the Admiralty to accompany Basil Hall on half pay and he compiled a vocabulary of the languages from the trip.

It says in the preface that 'Nothing respecting the west side of Corea (sic) has hitherto been accurately known to Europeans.' The area covered by this publication is the coast between Inch'on and Mokp'o. The volume also contains an account of Captain Broughton's visit with the local people of the area and has a reproduction of an account sent to Chinese Emperor Kang Hi (1654-1722) through the Chinese ambassador during Kan Hi's reign.

On the return journey Captain Hall met Napoleon at St Helena. Napoleon had been at school with Hall's father.

Relazioni della venuta degli ambasciatori Giaponesi a Roma sino alla partiti di Lisbona : ... Raccolte da Guido Gualtieri

by: [Gualtieri, Guido,](#)

Place: Roma

Publisher: per Francesco Zannetti

Date Published: 1586

Description: 8,[4],191,[1]p. ; 16 cm.

Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 325.252094 G912

Record of the Japanese ambassadors in Rome and Lisbon... Recorded by Guido Gualtieri



Rome 1586

Guido Gualtieri wrote and described some of the earliest European accounts from Japanese envoys in 1581. His accounts covered men, women, children, their clothing and customs. This account was based upon interviewing Japanese Ambassadors to Rome. Polish author DOBINSKA Agnieszka writes that in January 1582 inspector Alessandro Valignano with three great Kirishitans from Nagasaki: Sorin Otomo vel Yoshishige Otomo (Christian name: Francisco), Harunobu Arima (Christian name: Protasio) and Sumitada Omura (Christian name: Bartolommeo) started preparation for the mission to be sent to Vatican. In February, 1582 a mission of four young Japanese Christians educated by Jesuits left Nagasaki heading to Vatican.

The purpose of the mission was to show to the Japanese Christians European achievements, let them experience the Christianity in the Christian world, then come back to Japan and change the Japanese image of Christianity. At the same time inspector Valignano from Macao accompanied the group. He wanted to report his activities to the Pope and to the Society of Jesus. Therefore the intention of the mission was multifarious: educational, political, economical and religious. This mission has been named "Tensho Mission" after the name of the era, from 1573 to 1592. All of the four were carefully chosen and prepared for the mission: Mansho Ito, was the grandson of Hyuga Lord, Yoshisuke Ito. He was studying theology in Macao, few years after the mission had been completed he became an ordained priest in 1608; Miguel Chijiwa, cousin of Harunobu Arima who prepared the mission with inspector Alessandro Valignano; Martino Hara, the assistant delegate, was a follower of Omura. In 1614 he was exiled to Macao, joining Julian Nakaura, who was studying theology in Macao. Julian Nakaura was caught in Kokura in 1632 and then sent to prison in Kurusu. He died as a martyr in 1633 in Nishinosaka.

Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën, vervattende een
naaukeurige en uitvoerige verhandeling van
Nederlands mogentheyd in die gewesten :
Benevens eene wydluftige beschryvinge der
Moluccos, Amboina, Banda, Timor, en Solor, Java,
en alle de eylanden onder dezelve
landbestieringen behoorende; het Nederlands
comptoir op Suratte, en de levens der Groote
Mogols ...
Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indien

by: [Valentijn, François, 1666-1727](#)

Responsibility: door François Valentyn ...

Place: Te Dordrecht ; Te Amsterdam

Publisher: By Joannes van Braam : Gerard onder
de Linden

Date Published: 1724-26

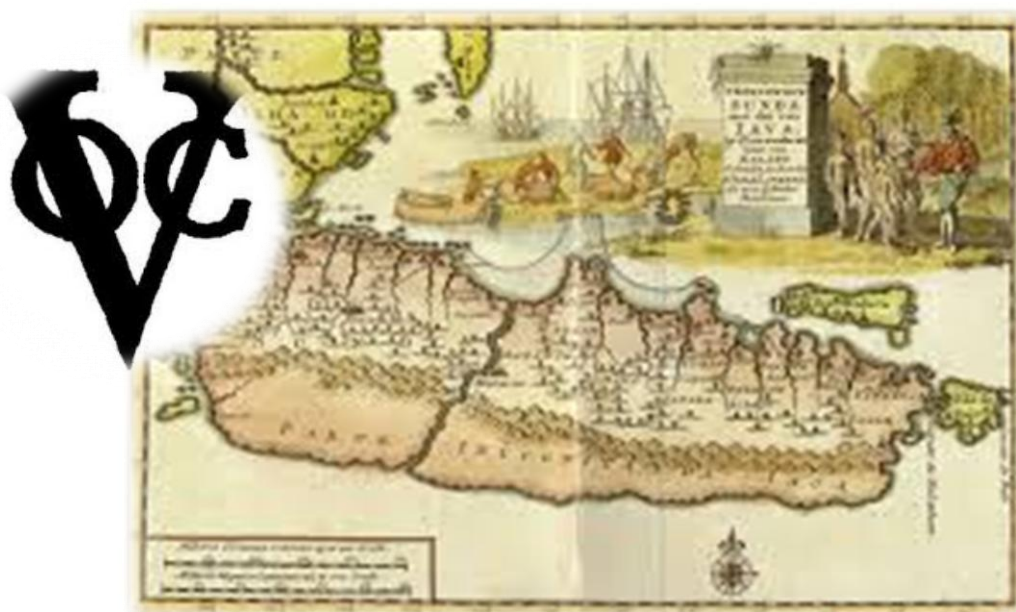
Description: 5 v. in 8 : ill. (some fold.), facsimis.,
folded maps, folded plans, ports. ; 35
cm. (fol.)

Call Number: Rare Book Room RGS 959.8 V155 d
(rgsp)

François Valentijn (17 April 1666 – 1727) was a Dutch minister, naturalist and author whose *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën* ("Old and New East-India") describes the history of the Dutch East India Company and the countries of the Far East.

Valentijn lived in the East Indies 16 years. Valentijn probably had access to the V.O.C.'s archive of maps and geographic trade secrets, which they had always guarded jealously.

While Valentijn's maps and diagrams were prized possessions, his scholarship, judging by 21st-century standards was unscrupulous. Valentijn's use of the products of other scientists' and writers' intellectual labour, passing it off as his own, reveals a penchant for self-aggrandisement. He is nevertheless an important figure and, given his writing style, diction and aptitude for narrative, one of the greatest Dutch prose writers of the time



Early map of Java and Dutch East Indies logo

A chronological history of the discoveries in the South Sea or Pacific Ocean

by: [Burney, James, 1750-1821.](#)

Responsibility: by James Burney

Place: London

Publisher: Printed by Luke Hansard ... and sold by G. and W. Nicol ... [etc]

Date Published: 1803-1817

Description: 5 v. : ill., maps (some folded), charts ; 30 cm.

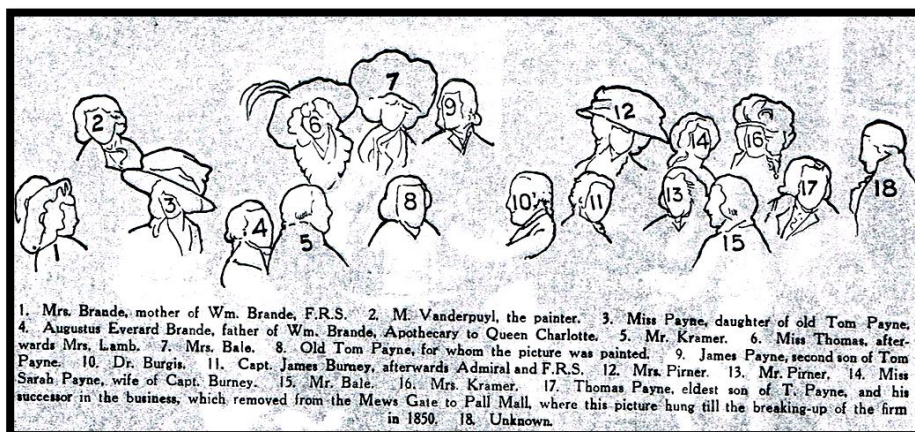
Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 910.9 B965 b

James Burney (1750 – 1821) was an English rear-admiral, who accompanied Captain Cook on his last two voyages. Burney's father obtained him a berth as a midshipman on Cook's *Resolution*, which sailed for the South Seas in June 1772. Back in England in 1774, he acted as interpreter for Omai, the first Tahitian to visit Britain. He witnessed Cook's killing in Hawaii in 1779. He was elected a member of the Royal Society in 1809.

He was a capable surveyor and geographer. In 1776-77 he assisted to survey the coast of China as well as the Japanese Islands and visited Macao for supplies.

In July 1821, aged 71, Burney F.R.S. was promoted to rear-admiral on the retired list after a personal intervention by the Duke of Clarence (later William IV), admiral of the fleet. He died on 17 November 1821.



TOM PAYNE AND HIS FRIENDS. By Van der Puy (see page 189)

By permission of Messrs. T. Agnew and Sons

Captain Burnley 7th seated from left

Memorials of the Empire of Japon in the XVI and XVII centuries

by: [Rundall, Thomas](#)

Responsibility: edited, with notes, by Thomas Rundall
Corporate Author: Hakluyt Society
Place: London
Publisher: Hakluyt Society
Date Published: 1850.
Series: Works issued by the Hakluyt Society ; [no.8]
Description: xxxviii, 186 p., [6] leaves of plates (3 folded) : 5 facsims., 1 map ; 23 cm.
Call Number: rg 952 b
:
Contents listed: see the full record

Founded in 1846, the Hakluyt Society seeks to advance knowledge and education by the publication of scholarly editions of primary records of voyages, travels and other geographical material.

The Hakluyt Society is named after Richard Hakluyt (1552-1616), collector and editor of narratives of voyages and travels and other documents relating to English interests overseas, his most celebrated work being *The Principal Navigations, Voyages and Discoveries of the English Nation*. His name was almost certainly pronounced **hak'loowt**, the family having come from the forest of Clwyd in the historic county of Radnor.



Thomas Rundall (aka Samuri William).

In 1611 an astonishing letter arrived at the East India Trading Company in London after a tortuous seven-year journey. Englishman William Adams was one of only twenty-four survivors of a fleet of ships bound for Asia, and he had washed up in the forbidden land of Japan. The traders were even more amazed to learn that, rather than be horrified by this strange country, Adams had fallen in love with the barbaric splendour of Japan - and decided to settle. He had forged a close friendship with the ruthless Shogun, taken a Japanese wife and sired a new, mixed-race family. Adams' letter fired up the London merchants to plan a new expedition to the Far East, with designs to trade with the Japanese and use Adams' contacts there to forge new commercial links.

Later Rundall collaborated on six 17th century (1611-1617) letters written by **William Adams**, an Englishman living in Japan at the time, employed by the Shogun. An account from an agent of the East India Company is also published. The letters generally relate to foreign trade with Japan. The last four letters are from Adams and specifically concern trade with Japan by the British (East India Company). William Adams was instrumental in obtaining trading concessions from the Shogun for the British East India Company. The book has extensive notes which describe Japan in the 16th and 17th century.

Temples and elephants : the narrative of a journey of exploration through upper Siam and Lao

by: [Bock, Carl, 1849-1932.](#)

Uniform Title: Templer og elefanter. English
Responsibility: by Carl Bock
Place: London
Publisher: S. Low
Date Published: 1884
Description: xvi, 438 p., 7 leaves of plates : ill. (some col.), folded map ; 23 cm.
Call Number: rg 959.3 T b



Carl Bock 1849-1932

Carl Alfred Bock (1849-1932) was born in 1849 in Copenhagen as the son of a well-to-do merchant family. In 1875 he had decided to pursue a career in natural history. In early August 1878, on his first collecting trip for the Zoological Society in London, he found himself on board of a Dutch steamer bound from Batavia for Padang, together with 700 European mercenaries hired to fight in the Aceh War and a number of convicts. He collected specimens at Paio; at Ayer Angat, near Muara Labu; and at Lolo and Ayer Mancur. On his return to Batavia he was commissioned to explore the interior of south-eastern Borneo and the Dayak. In 1881 he went on a journey into northern Siam and the semi-autonomous Lao states.

A visit to the Philippine Islands

by: [Bowring, John, Sir, 1792-1872.](#)

Responsibility: by Sir John Bowring
Place: London
Publisher: Smith, Elder & Co.
Date Published: 1859
Description: vi, 434 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.
Call Number: rg 991.4 T a



John Bowring

John Bowring (1792-1872) was born in Exeter, into a wool merchant's family from an old Unitarian family. He was a diligent student of literature and foreign languages, especially those of Eastern Europe. Bowring ranked with Giuseppe Caspar Mezzofanti and Hans Conon von der Gabelentz among the world's greatest hyper polyglots – his talent enabling him at last to say that he knew 200 languages, and could speak 100. His chief literary work was the translation of the folk-songs of most European nations, although he also wrote original poems and hymns, as well as works on political and economic subjects. The first fruits of his study of foreign literature newly founded *Westminster Review*, of which he was appointed editor in 1825. He was MP for Bolton for several years.

On 13 April 1854, Bowring was sent to Hong Kong as governor.

During his governorship, a dispute broke out with the Chinese and the irritation caused by his "spirited" or high-handed policy led to the Second Opium War (1856–1860). At the same time, he allowed the Chinese citizens in Hong Kong to serve as jurors in trials and become lawyers. Finally, Bowring is credited with establishing Hong Kong's first commercial public water supply system and establishing the Hong Kong buildings ordinance, ensuring the safer design of all future construction projects in the colony.

He had developed the eastern Wan Chai at a river mouth near Happy Valley and Victoria Harbour. He elongated the river as a canal and the area was named Bowring City (Bowrington).

In 1855 he visited Siam, and negotiated with King Mongkut a treaty of commerce, now commonly referred as the Bowring Treaty. Bowring retired in March 1859 and received a pension for his duties.

A plain narrative of the reduction of Manila and the Philippine Islands

by: [Draper, William, Sir, 1721-1787.](#)
[Cornish, Samuel, Sir, d.1770.](#)

Place: [London?
Date Published: 1764?]
Description: [2],30p. ; 18 cm.
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 959.902 D766



*Sir William Draper British administrator of Manilla in the Philippines,
(and who formulated the LBW Cricket rule!)*

Sir William Draper KCB (1721 – 1787), was a British military officer who conquered Manila in 1762.

Draper was educated at Eton, to which he won a scholarship in 1733, and King's College, Cambridge.

In 1744, during the War of Austrian succession he became an Ensign in Lord Henry Beauclerk's regiment, adjutant in the 1st Foot Guards in 1746, and a lieutenant and captain in 1749. He rose to the rank of colonel.

Draper had his greatest triumph when he led together with Vice-Admiral Samuel Cornish an expedition against Manila, capturing the city on 6 October 1762. The British occupation lasted until 1764, after which it was returned to Spain. During the capture Draper had signed an agreement known as the Manila Ransom by which the Spanish would pay the British a large amount of money. A large amount of plunder had also been taken, as Manila served as a trading base. News of Manila's fall arrived too late to affect the Treaty of Paris.

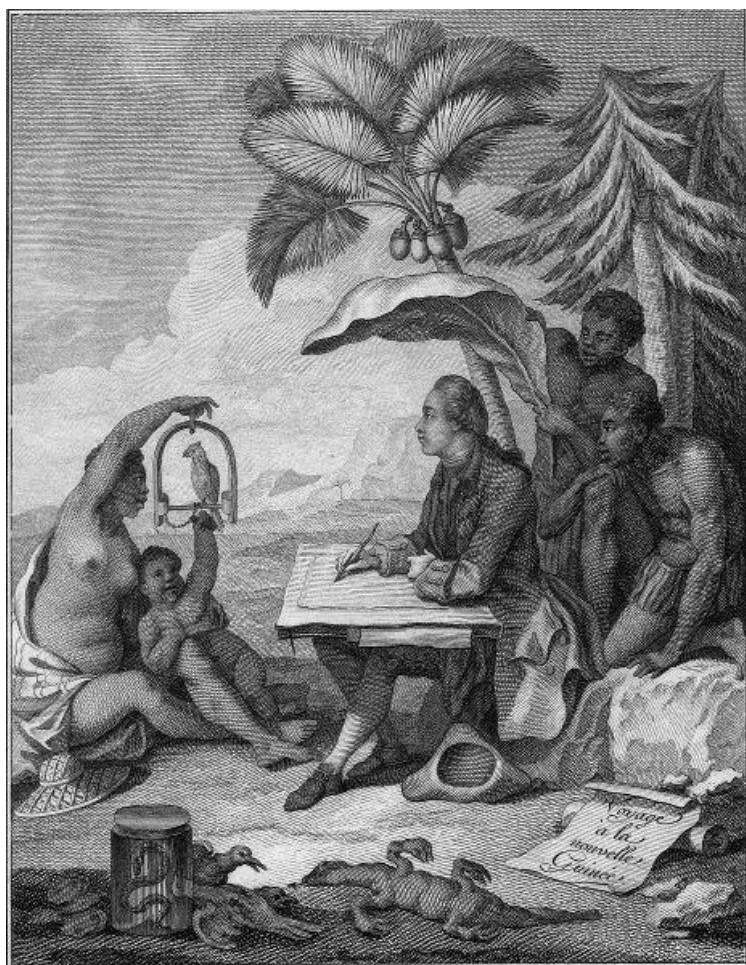
Draper was also involved in 1774 with a key meeting that agreed an early set of cricket rules including the leg before wicket rule.

Sir Samuel Cornish, 1st Baronet (c. 1715 – 1770) was a British naval commander who fought in the Seven Years' War and conquered Manila on 6 October 1762. Cornish joined the Navy in 1728, and having been promoted to lieutenant in 1739, he served at Cartagena in 1741. In 1742 he became flag captain of HMS *Namur* under Vice-Admiral Thomas Mathews and served with him in the Mediterranean. He was given command of HMS *Guernsey* later that year and commissioned HMS *Stirling Castle* in 1755. In 1758 he transferred to HMS *Union*.

An account of a voyage to the Spice-Islands, and New Guinea

by: [Sonnerat, Pierre, 1748-1814](#)

Uniform Title: Voyage à la Nouvelle Guinée. English
Responsibility: By M. P. Sonnerat, ... with notes
Place: [Bury St. Edmund's] ; Paris
Publisher: Printed M. DCC, LXXV. Bury St. Edmund's : Re printed and sold by W. Green, also by B. White, T. Cadell, T. Payne, J. Dodsley and S. Crowder, London, ; also by T- & J. Merrill, Cambridge. X. May,
Date Published: 1781
Description: (2), 150, xlv p. ; 16 cm (8vo)
Provenance: York Gate Library
Call Number: rgsp 915.985 S699



Pierre Sonnerat in Asia

Pierre Sonnerat (18 August 1748 – 1814) was a French naturalist and explorer.

Sonnerat was the nephew of the botanist Pierre Poivre. He made several voyages to southeast Asia, visiting the Philippines and Moluccas between 1769 and 1772, and India and China from 1774 to 1781. He was the first person to give a scientific description of the south Chinese fruit tree *lychee*. He is the person who misinterpreted the call of a helpful Malagasy guide who had spotted a lemur and shouted "indri!" ("Look!" in Malagasy). Sonnerat took this to be the animal's name, and it is still known as an *Indri* (*Indri indri*) today (the actual Malagasy name is *babakoto*). The birds *Dacelo novaeguineae* and *Pygoscelis papua*, neither of which is found in New Guinea (Papua), were also misnamed due to Sonnerat.

His books included *Voyage à la Nouvelle-Guinée* (1776) and *Voyage aux Indes orientales et à la Chine, fait depuis 1774 jusqu'à 1781* (1782). The standard botanical author abbreviation **Sonn** is applied to plants he described. His name is used in the specific name of the Grey Jungle fowl (*Gallus sonneratii*).

Pierre Sonnerat spoke out against the prevalent racism in the European circles of his time. During his visits to Asia he marvelled at the rich culture of the Indians. In one of his books Sonnerat writes "*Ancient India gave to the world its religions and philosophies: Egypt and Greece owe India their wisdom and it is known that Pythagoras went to India to study under Brahmins, who were the most enlightened of human beings.*"

A voyage round the world : performed in the years 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, by the Boussole and Astrolabe, under the command of J.F.G. de La Perouse
Charts and plates to La Perouse's voyage

by: [La Pérouse, Jean-François de Galaup, comte de, 1741-1788](#) [Milet-Mureau, L. A. \(Louis Antoine\), 1756-1825](#)

Uniform Title: Voyage de Lapérouse autour du monde.
English

Responsibility: published by order of the National Assembly, under the superintendence of L.A. Milet-Mureau

Place: London

Publisher: Printed by A. Hamilton, for G.G. and J. Robinson ... [etc]

Date Published: 1799

Description: 2 v. ; 31 cm. (4to) + 1 atlas (69 leaves of plates (some folded) : ill., maps ; 48 cm. (fol.))

Provenance: York Gate Library

Call Number: rgsp 910.41 L311 c | rgsp 910.41 L311 d (Atlas)

: Biographical/historical information available: see the full record



La Perouse discussed his plans with Louis XVI and his Minister of the Marine, the Marquis de Castries 1785

Jean-François de Galaup La Pérouse (1741 - 1788) was born near Albi, France. He studied in a Jesuit college and entered the naval college in Brest when he was fifteen. In 1757 he was posted to the *Célèbre* and participated in a supply expedition to the fort of Louisbourg in New France. Lapérouse also took part in a second supply expedition in 1758 to Louisbourg. He participated in a 1762 attempt by the French to gain control of Newfoundland, escaping with the fleet when the British arrived in force to drive them out. Lapérouse fought against the Royal Navy off the American coast. In August 1782 he made his name by capturing two English forts (Prince of Wales Fort and York Fort) on the coast of Hudson Bay, but allowed the survivors, including Governor Samuel Hearne of Prince of Wales Fort, to sail off to England in exchange for a promise to release French prisoners held in England.

Lapérouse was appointed in 1785 by Louis XVI and his Minister of the Marine, the Marquis de Castries, to lead an expedition around the world. The expedition's aims were to complete the Pacific discoveries of James Cook (whom Lapérouse greatly admired), correct and complete maps of the area, establish trade contacts, open new maritime routes and enrich French science and scientific collections. His ships were the *Astrolabe* (under Fleuriot de Langle) and the *Boussole*, both 500 tons.

Copying the work methods of Cook's scientists, the scientists on this voyage would base their calculations of longitude on precision watches and the distance between the moon and the sun followed by theodolite triangulations or bearings taken from the ship, the same as those taken by Cook to produce his maps of the Pacific islands. As regards geography, Lapérouse decisively showed the rigour and safety of the methods proven by Cook.

He visited Chile, Hawaii, Alaska, California, Macau, Philippines, Korea, Japan, Russia, the South Pacific and Australia.

Lapérouse wrote that he expected to be back in France by June 1789, however neither he, nor any of his men, were seen again.

In 1826 evidence of ship wrecks was identified at Santa Cruz, Vanikoro, and confirmed as the two ships in 2008.

Salt's views in India, Ceylon, Abyssinia. &c

Author:	Salt, Henry, 1780-1827.
Place:	London
Publisher:	W. Miller
Date Published:	1809
Description:	[24] leaves of plates : col. ill. ; 74 cm.
Provenance:	York Gate Library
Location:	Cabinet 2 Shelf 3
Call Number:	rgsp 915.4 S276 d



India, Ceylon and Abyssinia

Henry Salt, (1780-1827) the son of a physician, was born in Lichfield on 14 June 1780. He trained as a portrait painter, first in Lichfield and then in London under Joseph Farington and John Hoppner. In 1802 he was appointed secretary and draughtsman to George Annesley, Viscount Valentia. They started on an eastern tour, travelling on the East India Company's extra (chartered) ship *Minerva* to India via the Cape Colony. Salt explored the Red Sea area, and in 1805 visited the Ethiopian highlands. He returned to England on 26 October 1806. Salt's paintings from the trip were used to Valentia's *Voyages and Travels to India*, published in 1809. The originals of all the drawings were kept by Valentia, as also the copper plates after Salt's death. Salt returned to Ethiopia in 1809 on a government mission to explore trade and diplomatic links with the Tigrayan warlord Ras Wolde Selassie. On his return he published *A voyage to Abyssinia, and travels into the interior of that country, executed under the orders of the British government in the years 1809 & 1810*, and a collection of drawings entitled *Twenty-four Views Taken in St Helena, The Cape, India, Ceylon, Abyssinia and Egypt*.

In 1815 Salt was appointed British consul-general in Cairo

He devoted himself to the task of assembling a collection of antiquities

Salt was able to build up his important collection in just two years. This was sold to the British Museum for the sum of two thousand pounds, and was then followed by another, more important, collection, accumulated between 1819 and 1824, comprising no fewer than 4,014 objects. After being rejected by the British Museum because it was considered too expensive, this second collection was sold to Charles X of France for ten thousand pounds, and helped to enlarge the impressive collections of the Louvre.

Salt also managed to assemble a third collection, containing 1,083 objects. It was sold by auction, largely to the British Museum, in 1835

An account of an embassy to the Kingdom of Ava in the year 1795.

Author: [Symes, Michael, 1753?-1809.](#)
[Bell, Henry Glassford, 1803-1874.](#)

Responsibility: by Lieut.-Colonel Michael Symes. To which is now added, a narrative of the late military and political operations in the Burmese Empire. With some account of the present condition of the country, its manners, customs, and inhabitants.
[By H.G. Bell] ...

Place: Edinburgh

Publisher: Printed for Constable and Co

Date 1827
Published:

Description: 2 v. : front. (fold. map) ; 16 cm.

Call Number: rg 959.2 T a

Subject: [British--Burma;-Description and travel](#)

Notes: The added t.p. is engraved. The narrative by H.G. Bell has separate t.p. and paging.

".....The laws of the Birmans; like their religion, are Hindoo; in fact, there is no separating their laws from their religion. Divine authority revealed to Menu the sacred principles in a hundred thousand alocas, or verses. Menu promulgated the code. Numerous commentaries on Menu were composed by the Munis, or old philosophers, whose treatises constitute the Derama Sastra, or body of law.

The Birmana [Burmese] generally call their code Derma Sath, or Sastra; it is one among the many commentaries on Menu. I was fortunate as to procure a translation of the most remarkable passages, which were rendered into Latin by Padre Vincentius Sangermano, and, to my great surprise, I found it to correspond closely with a Persian version of the Arracan code, which is now in my possession. ..."

[Symes further adds the Arracan [Arakan] code was originally from Ceylon now Sri Lanka]

Michael Symes (1753 -1809) was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He entered the East India Company Army in 1780, as a cadet in the Bengal Army. On furlough in 1786 as a lieutenant, he re-enlisted in 1787. He went to India again in the following year, with the newly raised 76th Regiment of Foot. He served as aide-de-camp to Thomas Musgrave, 7th Baronet at Madras in 1791, became captain in 1793 and lieutenant-colonel in 1800. In 1795 Symes was sent by Sir John Shore, the Governor-General of India, on a mission to Burma. He obtained from King Bodawpaya, then known to the British as King or Emperor of Ava, a royal order permitting a British agent to reside at Rangoon to protect the interests of British subjects. Francis Buchanan-Hamilton accompanied him, as botanist. When Hiram Cox went as agent, however, he found the situation other than he had understood, and there were recriminations against Symes.

Symes was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1800. In 1802, when his regiment was at Kanpur, Symes was sent by Richard Wellesley, 1st Marquess Wellesley on a second mission to Ava. On this occasion it was to protest against the demand made by the Burmese governor of Arakan for the surrender of fugitives, who had sought refuge in the British district of Chittagong. In the capital, he obtained a verbal assurance that the demand should be withdrawn. On the journey back to Calcutta, where he arrived in February 1803, he was affronted by the Burmese governor of Rangoon. Symes was sent in 1808 to Spain. During Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna, he suffered from the hardships of the campaign, and died on the way home, on board the transport *Mary*, on 22 January 1809. He is buried in St. Margaret's Church Rochester

Henry Glassford Bell (1803 – 1874), was a Scottish lawyer, poet and historian who assisted authors to publish works.

Travels in South-Eastern Asia : embracing Hindustan, Malaya, Siam, and China : with notices of numerous stations and a full account of the Burman empire
Missionary travels

Author: [Malcolm, Howard, 1799-1879.](#)

Responsibility: Howard Malcom

Place: London

Publisher: Charles Tilt

Date Published: 1839

Description: 2 v. : ill. ; 20 cm.

Call Number: rg 950 T a



Burma 1800s

Howard Malcom (1799 – 1879) was an American educator and Baptist minister. He attended *Dickinson College* and *Princeton Theological Seminary*. He wrote several accounts of Christian missions in *Burma* and was pastor of churches in Hudson, New York, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Due to loss of his voice he was required to give up preaching.

He became President at Georgetown in Kentucky until he resigned in 1850, and of the University at Lewisburg in Pennsylvania (later, *Bucknell University*).

Howard writes in these volumes about sharing a coastal trading boat with scorpions and centipedes as he travels from country to country in the S.E. Asian region, dodging reefs and shoals.

He travelled to Calcutta and Madras, (Hindustan), Singapore, (Malay Peninsula), Canton (China) Burma (Myanmar) and Bangkok (Thailand).

He observed the religious and social customs, commerce and engineering works, commenting upon them throughout the two volumes.

Photographs

RGSSA-P 4. Views and costumes of Japan

Box contains an album of 101 photographs c. 1877-1885, either taken by Baron Von Stillfried or from Beato negatives bought by the Baron. There are possibly some photos in the collection from other sources such as Farsari. Handwritten index sheets are included. Also in the box is a photocopied 1996 article on 19th Century Japanese tourist photographs and a photocopied biography of Von Stillfried. [box inscription: Japan – views and costumes].

Internationally this album is very rare.

Japanese photos/Baron von Stillfried: 1839- 1911) After leaving behind his European military career, von Stillfried moved to Yokohama, Japan, where he opened a photographic studio. He formed a partnership with Hermann Andersen and they bought up the stock and studio of Felice Beato. (Beato was an Italian photographer, who was famous for his photography of Oriental locations and people at a time when the western population was largely unfamiliar with these subjects. He also worked as a war photographer. He particularly excelled at landscape and street photography, portraiture and hand-tinting for colour photos. It is very likely he trained Stillfried in the craft.) Stillfried and Andersen carried on the tradition established by Beato but their partnership broke up in 1885 and Stillfried left Japan.



Baron von Stillfried: 1839- 1911, Japanese ladies.

RGSSA-P 37 Tibet. Younghusband Expedition, 1903-04

RGSSA-P 37/1: Album contains 27 b&w photos taken by Francis Younghusband in 1903-04 and developed from original “lost” plates lent to the Society by R.D. Farquharson. Includes handwritten index sheets, a reprint of article from RGSSA proceedings by Farquharson and some correspondence.



PATOLA LHASA.

*In 1928 in London, amateur photographer (and then Society member) Reg Farquharson obtained a number of undeveloped rolls of film. The films were developed and Reg Farquharson discovered, much to his surprise, a remarkable set of 27 photographs which he believed were from the highly controversial 1903-4 British Expeditionary Mission to Tibet, led by Lieutenant Colonel **Sir Francis Edward Younghusband**, KCSI, KCIE (1863 – 1942). Younghusband was a British Army officer, explorer, and spiritual writer. He is remembered for his travels in the Far East and Central Asia; especially the 1903 - 1904 British expedition to Tibet, which he led in 1903 under orders from Lord Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and viceroy of India. Younghusband was head of the Tibet Frontier Commission jointly with John Claude White, the Political Officer for Sikkim, led the British expedition to Tibet, whose putative aim was to settle disputes over the Sikkim-Tibet border; the expedition controversially became (by exceeding instructions from London) a de facto invasion of Tibet. About one hundred miles inside Tibet, on the way to Gyantse, thence to the capital of Lhasa, a confrontation outside the hamlet of Guru led to a victory by the expedition over 600-700 Tibetan militia, largely monks.¹*

He is also remembered for his writings on Asia and foreign policy. Younghusband held positions including British commissioner to Tibet and President of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

RGSSA-P 37/2;3;4:

Album contains b&w copies of 27 photographs taken in Tibet by Colonel Francis Younghusband in 1904. Also includes copies of documentation re provenance of these photos.

