

India During The Raj: Parts 1 to 3

Eyewitness Accounts



“The European Manuscripts of the Oriental and India Office Collections at the British Library are probably the world’s largest collection of private papers relating to India and South Asia. They comprise about three hundred collections of British statesmen, soldiers, administrators, scholars, missionaries, businessmen and others, and some three thousand deposits.”

David M Blake

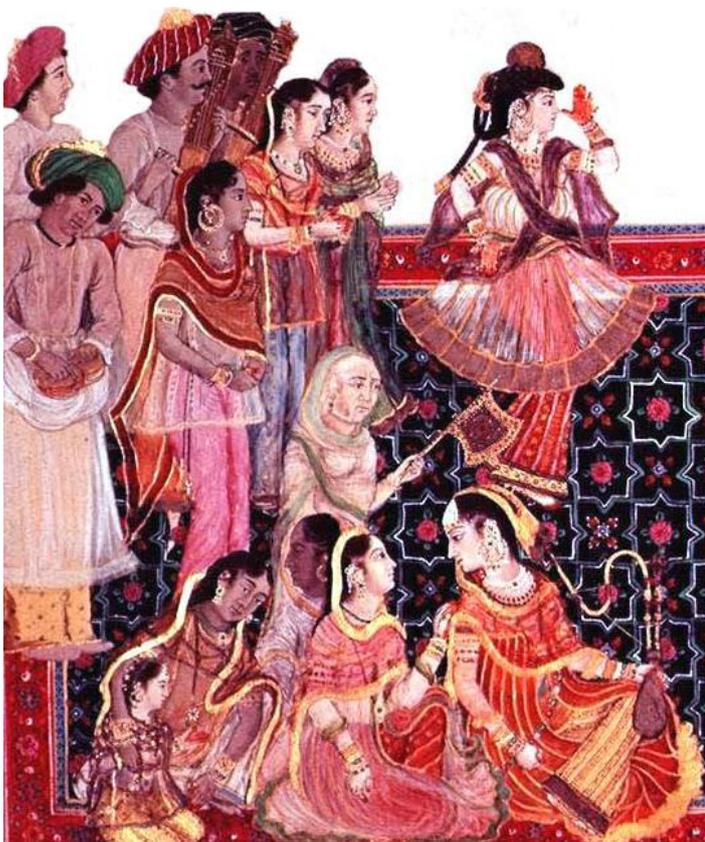
Consultant Editor, The British Library

Diaries and related records held by the European Manuscripts Section in the Oriental and India Office Collections at the British Library, London.

Part 1: Diaries and related records describing life in India, c.1750–1842

Part 2: Diaries and related records describing life in India, c.1819–1859

Part 3: Diaries and related records describing life in India, c.1861–1891



- A description by H A K Wright of his first years in India as a coffee planter
- An account of the siege of Kohima, Assam, 1879 by Mrs Cawley, wife of George John Cawley, District Superintendent of Police
- Letters from Lillian Lawrence to her parents describing her experiences in the Punjab, Simla, Calcutta and Kashmir, after her arrival in India in March, 1885.
- Journals of Rev William Carey, a medical missionary for the Baptist Missionary Society, covering his daily activities, his work, his health and journeys in the Indian countryside around Delhi
- C B Clarke's work for the Bengal Education Service with details of his Inspection visits to schools in Assam, 1866-1887
- Colonel Richard Strachey's journal regarding irrigation and other engineering works in Sind, 1866-1871
- Accounts of Middleton Rayne, Chief Engineer for the Indus Valley State Railway, from the Public Works Department, 1876-1879 and observations of his wife Annie Rayne

Part 3 makes available a further 80 diaries. They cover a period of increasing political and social change in the second half of the nineteenth century. Political awareness was steadily growing and Indian leaders were emerging at both national and provincial levels. A wide range of regional and municipal grievances filled the newspapers and posed a direct challenge to the government. Accounts by those involved in missionary work, education and public works, along with diaries of members of the Indian Civil Service, provide an insight into the decades following the Indian Mutiny. Good examples are:

- Diaries of Sir Frederick William Richards Fryer describing life in the Punjab and Burma, 1865-1880
- Descriptions of the daily life and missionary activities of Sarah Ann Fitzgibbon, 1864-1876
- A journal of one year as a schoolmistress in Calcutta by Annette Beveridge

These records add to material already released. Diaries in **Part 1** feature early expeditions and missions, social life in Calcutta and Madras after 1770, significant voyages and journeys as well as a fascination with the Indian landscape. The uprising of 1857 is a key topic for the material in **Part 2**. Included are observations by a surgeon's wife, Katherine Bartrum, and her escape from Calcutta, Hannah Ellerton's description of her social life and the running of schools in Calcutta, 1843-1856, Maria Adelaide Cust's accounts of the Punjab, 1859-1860, and diverse accounts of the Punjab War and the Indian Mutiny.

These documents allow researchers to build up a detailed view of life and conditions in India during the Raj. They are rich in social historical detail, recording both the impact of the Raj on India and the impact of India on Britain.

Part 1: 25 reels - Available

Part 2: 29 reels - Available

Part 3: 20 reels - Available



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