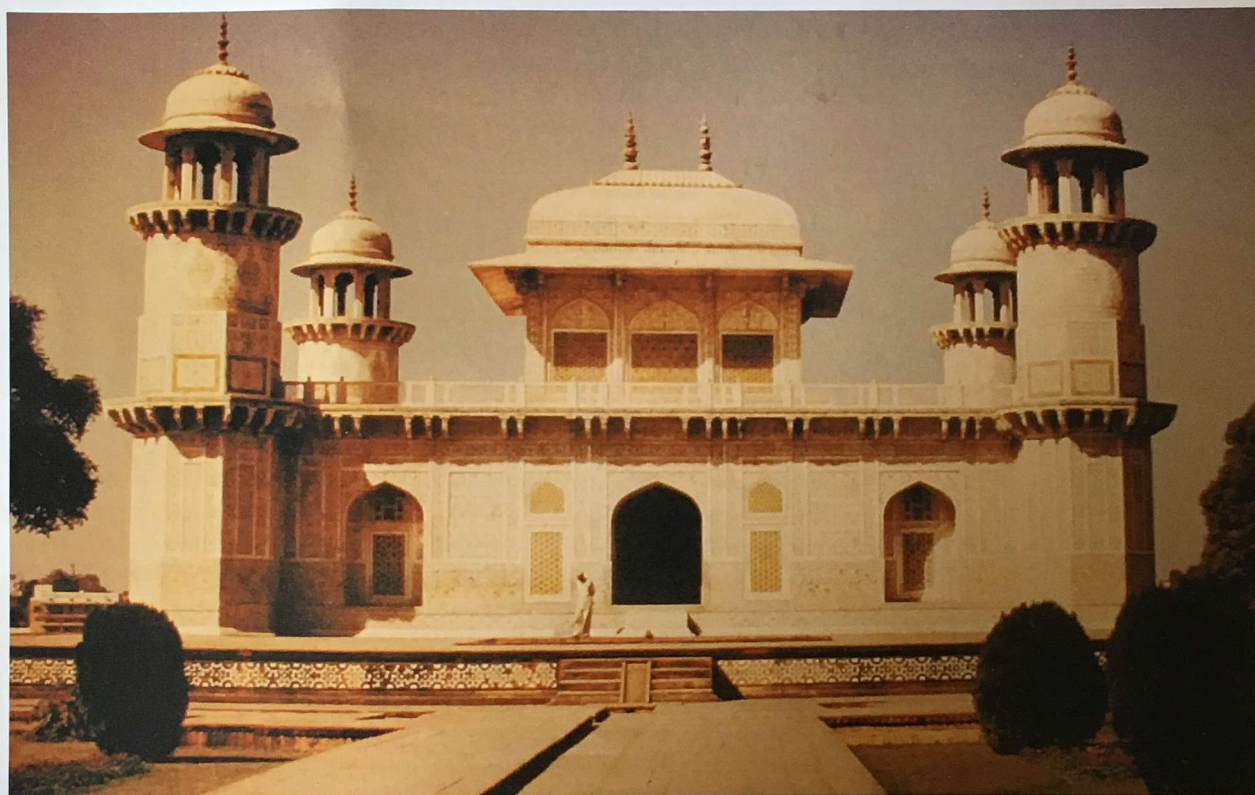




## INDIAN MONUMENTS THROUGH BRITISH EYES



*Tomb of I'timad al-Daula, father of Nur Jahan, at Agra, completed c. 1626/27.  
Photo Ancient India and Iran Trust, Allchin collection*

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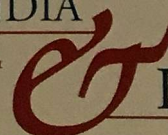
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Originally brought together for the Festival of India in 1982, the exhibition came from several sources. The older, black and white pictures, dating from late Nineteenth Century came from the John Marshall Collection held by the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Cambridge and the Collections of Mr J C Taylor and Mrs Western, held by the Fitzwilliam Museum. The majority were coloured photographs from the Allchin Collection,

and were taken between 1959 and 1982. Some demonstrate how the same monument has changed during half a century or more, and generally how well major monuments of this kind have been preserved through time. They also serve as a reminder of what fantastic national treasures and tourist attractions India's monuments are, and how vulnerable they are in the modern world with India's rapidly rising population.

### THE ANCIENT INDIA

The aim of this Newsletter is to keep Friends of the Trust and others interested in the realisation of its aims and objectives informed of what is happening.



IRAN TRUST



## ANCIENT MURDER MYSTERY

One of our Trustees, Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams, recently played a leading role in a real-life murder mystery, as was revealed in the film 'The mystery of the Persian mummy' shown on the BBC2 television series 'Horizon' in September.

The story began when police in Karachi seized a mummified body which had supposedly been uncovered in an earth-quake and which was offered for sale as that of an ancient Persian princess. The mummy was richly adorned with gold and encased in a wooden sarcophagus and an inner coffin of stone. Cuneiform inscriptions in Old Persian identified the mummy as Rodogoune, daughter of the Achaemenian monarch Xerxes (486-465 B.C.E.). The evidence that the ancient Persians had mummified their royal dead contrary to the principles of their Zoroastrian religion was quite unexpected and the mummy was immediately hailed as the find of the century.

At first everything appeared authentic: the carved sarcophagus, the golden ornaments, the cuneiform inscriptions. It even appeared that Rodogoune, daughter of Xerxes, was known to the ancient Greek historians. But, as Professor Sims-Williams pointed out, the name should have been written quite differently in Old Persian, as Wardagauna. Could one believe that a Persian king would have buried his daughter under the Greek form of her name? Other discrepancies soon appeared: the mummification process had been bungled, the carpenter had used a modern lead pencil to make his guide-lines on the coffin, and, finally, carbon-14 dating revealed that the Persian princess had died within the last few years. When an autopsy showed that the cause of death was a broken neck, the archaeological investigation was over and a murder enquiry was launched.

## VISIT OF DASTUR HIGH PRIEST, B

Dastur Dr Firoze M Kotwal, the Zoroastrian high priest (Dastur) from Bombay, spent five months in Cambridge, from June to October 2001, as a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall. He came to work on two joint projects with one of our Trustees, Dr Almut Hintze, who is lecturer in Zoroastrianism at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His visit was funded by an anonymous benefactor and further supported by the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, London.

The first project was concerned with a facsimile edition of one of the most important Avestan manuscripts, called El. Dastur Kotwal was able to bring the manuscript to England from the Maherji Rana Library in Navsari, Gujarat. The manuscript was photographed in the Photographic Department of SOAS, London, and the slides were subsequently sent to Berlin for digitisation. In the meantime, Dr Kotwal made a detailed table of contents of the manuscript. When the digitized version is received back in Cambridge, we hope in Spring 2002, each page will be provided with headings identifying the text, and on the margins, the paragraphs of the text will be noted. This particular procedure will enable the user to find any text quickly and easily. The book will be published by Harrassowitz in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The manuscript itself was in very poor state of repair, so Dr Nicholas Hadgraft, who has already carried out much valuable work for the Trust, restored it so as to prevent further decay. Some pages, for example, were heavily worm-eaten and the paper had become so thin that it would break when touched. Dr Hadgraft strengthened these with a special, expensive Japanese transparent paper. Moreover, the entire manuscript was in the form of loose leaves, the binding having been dismantled when it was microfilmed in India several years ago. Dr Hadgraft provided a folder for each group of leaves to protect them and keep them together.



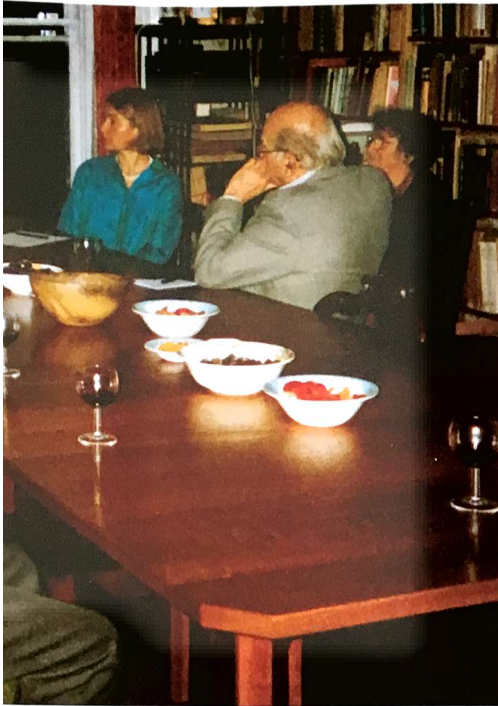
*Dastur Dr Firoze Kotwal speaking about the Zoroastrian Fravardin Festival at Brooklands  
Photo Dr Pramode Danduvate*

It was made clear at the outset that this was going to be a preliminary restoration only. A full restoration, including a new and appropriate binding for the manuscript, would have required more time and money, both of which were not available. However, it was felt that it was good that the manuscript should be restored at least in a preliminary way in order to prevent further decay. This was made possible thanks to the generosity of The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe and their President, Mr Dorab Mistry, who funded the restoration.

Dr Kotwal's second project was working on an edition of five Avestan prayers called the Gāȟs. These are prayers to be recited by faithful Zoroastrians at five different times of the 24-hour day. The work consists of a textcritical edition of the Avestan text and variant readings, a translation, a commentary and a glossary. Dastur Kotwal was able to provide numerous valuable comments on the interpretation of the texts, while Dr Hintze contributed to its linguistic analysis.



# R DR FIROZE KOTWAL, BOMBAY



house.

The presence of Dastur Kotwal in Cambridge attracted a number of Zoroastrians to come and visit him at his house in Clare Hall. On several occasions, members of the Zoroastrian community of London invited him to conduct religious ceremonies or give lectures. The Trust was fortunate to have a very interesting and beautifully presented lecture from Dr Kotwal at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, on October 12th, in the Friday lecture series. He spoke about the Zoroastrian Fravardin Festival. The event attracted a good audience and stimulated a lively and engaging discussion following the lecture.

While in Cambridge, Dr Kotwal decided to accept the Trust's invitation and establish his place of work there, in the Iranian room, Sir Harold Bailey's former study. He was very satisfied to find most of the books he needed for his work, including some rare books. The books being on open shelves, and concentrated in one room, within easy reach, this proved to be an ideal working environment.

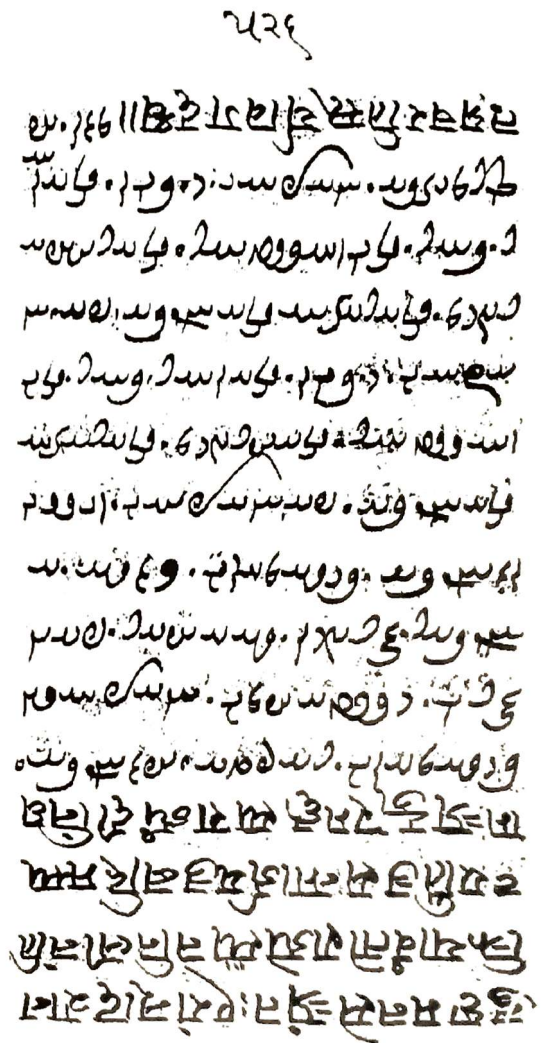
Moreover, the Trust's library provided the ideal venue where he and Dr Hintze could meet and work together and discuss their joint projects.

Dr Kotwal is an erudite, kindly and charming person. It was an honour for the Trust to have him here, and a pleasure for us all to have the opportunity to get to know him and his family. He stayed at Clare Hall with his wife Nawaz, and their three children used this opportunity and came from Bombay to visit their parents and have a holiday in Cambridge. Silloo, their daughter, decided to stay with her parents for the whole period, after securing herself a temporary job as Development Officer at Clare Hall.

Dastur Dr Firoze Kotwal's visit served to highlight the need for conservation of many of the rare printed books in the Bailey Library. Among them, a number of valuable books on Zoroastrianism are in very poor condition, and literally falling apart, due to the intensive use made of them by Sir Harold himself and others. Some of them, such as Bartholomae's Avestan Dictionary or Geldner's edition of the Avesta, in particular, are in urgent need of repair and conservation. Dr Kotwal is extremely careful and could of course be relied upon to use them, but in their present state it would not be possible to allow them to be generally used.

The Trustees of the AIIT are currently seeking funding to bring all rare printed books in the collections to a condition where they can safely be handled and used

by all readers. Every donation of whatever size will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged. For example, a donor may choose one or more individual books and



Avestan Manuscript EL, folio 528 verso, containing the end of the Brahman Yasht, in Pahlavi with Sanskrit translation.

Photo Dr Almut Hintze (???)

fund their restoration. Once restored, the book will contain a label inside the cover acknowledging the gift. Depending on the state of repair, the restoration of one book costs between £30 and £60. If they wish the donors name can be acknowledged as a bookplate.

The Trust has a project for the conservation of all its rare printed books, which it is estimated will cost £15,000.

Any contributions to this will be most gratefully received and immediately put to good use.

If you wish to adopt a book to be restored, to contribute to the project, or would like to obtain more information on this, please contact the Secretary of the Trust on 01223 356841 or e-mail her at: [Indiran@aol.com](mailto:Indiran@aol.com)

## RECENT EVENTS

### New Treasurer

Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams has been appointed Treasurer in place of Dr F R Allchin, who will continue as Chairman. Nicholas Sims-Williams has been Assistant Treasurer for some years.

### Charles Wallace India Visiting Fellow

Our current Wallace India Fellow is Dr Pramod Dandwate, Director of the Archaeological Museum, Deccan College, Pune. He has spent the last four months with us and is shortly returning home. Whilst here he has visited a number of important museums in Cambridge, London, Oxford and Edinburgh and has worked hard in the AIIT and other libraries, and given a lecture in our autumn lecture series.

## FORTHCOMING .....EVENTS.....

Symposium on two themes,  
one *Travellers in Afghansitan and Central Asia*  
and the other *Digitising of the Photo Image*,  
from 10th-13th June.

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The Garden Party this year will be held in conjunction with the Symposium, on *12th June*, enabling invitees to meet our American Friends

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Members of the East Anglian Region of  
*the Royal Society of Arts*  
will be visiting the Trust on Monday,  
8th April, 5.00 p.m-8.00 p.m.

### Lecture Series Lent Term

25th January 2002  
Professor Vincent Pigott (London University),  
*Where's the Bronze? – Tracking Metallurgical Developments  
across Ancient Iran*

8th February 2002  
Dr Ute Franke-Vogt,  
*New Archaeological Discoveries  
in South Eastern Buluchstan (Pakistan)*

22nd February 2002  
Sir Nicholas Barrington (Former Br.H.Com., Pakistan),  
*The History of Afghanistan as a Background to Recent Events*

8th March 2002 (Hon. Sec. AIIT),  
*The Pathans as I've Known Them*

### TRUSTEES ACTIVITIES

Dr Giles Tillotson spent the period July-September 2001 conducting fieldwork in various parts of India, notably Uttaranchal and Rajasthan, completing work on a project on the city of Jaipur and has recently published an edited volume, *Stones in the Sand: The Architecture of Rajasthan*, Marg Publication, Mumbai, 2001.

Dr Andrew Topsfield was elected to the Council of the Society for South Asian Studies from 2001 and contributed an article 'City Palaces and Lake Palaces: Architecture and Court Life in Udaipur painting to the above edited volume.

## FRIENDS OF THE AIIT

All those in Britain who regularly give us £100 or more p.a. we automatically regard as "Friends of the Ancient India and Iran Trust", and they receive our Newsletter, our lecture programmes, invitations to our annual garden party and notification of other events.

Members of the Committee of American Friends of the Ancient India and Iran Trust receive our Newsletter and if they wish can receive lecture programmes, invitations and notifications of events, all of which they are most welcome to attend when in Britain. We are grateful to them all for their financial support and encouragement.

*We also have a number of Friends in Europe and India, and would like to have a further category, to include all friends in Europe who help us in various ways, and Friends in India.*