

INDIRAN

The newsletter of the Ancient India & Iran Trust

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Editor's Letter

News from the Ancient India & Iran Trust

Welcome to the twelfth edition of *Indiran*, the newsletter of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Taking up the position of Administrator at the Trust again, after eight years' absence, has felt like coming home. I have worked in many places, but there is nowhere that matches the unique environment of the Trust, and the warmth of the Trust 'family'. Not to mention its legendary, most civilised, coffee time at 11 am, hosted by James Cormick, an institution in himself, with his splendid collection of teas and china. Perhaps we could teach the modern workplace a thing or two about enhancing communication and wellbeing!

A major absence, of course, is that of Bridget and Raymond Allchin, who came in almost daily when I worked here from 2005–2010. Their energetic dedication to growing the Trust is reflected in the revered, well-established position it holds for scholars and others interested in Ancient India and Iran 40 years since its inception. As you come into work each day, you can't help but admire the legacy left by the founding trustees, and smile at the touches of magic in the Trust's lovely premises: spotting a deer in the orchard, or being greeted by the delicate purple flowers of the Himalayan Indigo as you open the front door.

It has been fitting, therefore, to come back and edit this issue, mostly dedicated to Bridget Allchin. I feel like I have said a proper goodbye to my former employer, who was very good to me. The pieces here remind us of her formidable character and the remarkable team that she and Raymond were, both professionally and as a couple.

We are grateful to Professor K. Paddayya for his permission to reprint his obituary of Bridget, and to Professors Andrew Goudie and Robin

Dennell for their tributes at her funeral, which are also published in this issue. These three pieces not only describe Bridget and Raymond's huge contribution to South Asian archaeology, but also bring to the fore the tenacity and strength of character that Bridget ceaselessly displayed.

We also report on two special events this year to commemorate Bridget and Raymond: the memorial event we hosted at Wolfson College in March 2018, at which our former trustee Professor Mike Petraglia spoke about Bridget's legacy in Stone Age archaeology; and the planting of a Rowan tree in the Trust's garden by Will and Paula Allchin, Bridget and Raymond's son and daughter-in-law. Completing our tribute are the recollections of our trustee Sir Nicholas Barrington and Custodian James Cormick, who met the Allchins when working abroad, in Pakistan and Afghanistan respectively.

Two publications also feature in this issue: the new (2019) edition of *The Archaeology of Afghanistan*, originally edited by Raymond Allchin and Norman Hammond and published in 1978; and the booklet of talk summaries published by the Trust following the successful symposium held in October 2017 on 'The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historical Buildings'.

As ever, the Trust has attracted a range of academic visitors this year from different institutions, disciplines and at various career stages. Professor Gul Rahim Khan, a numismatist from the University of Peshawar, and Benedikt Peschl, a PhD student in Ancient Iranian Studies at SOAS University of London, describe the time they have spent at the Trust this year.

While the Trust continues to be a valuable resource for scholars, we are also fortunate to be able to draw

on outside expertise to enhance the accessibility of our collections. One such project has been the Ralph Pinder-Wilson archive, which Deborah Freeman Fahid, who worked with Pinder-Wilson in his later years, has kindly helped us organise.

Always an invaluable source of support, our network of Friends continues to thrive. After 10 years of taking care of this community, as Friends Coordinators, Sandra Mason and Bill Martin have passed on this baton to our trustee Sam Lieu. We look forward to hosting more special events for Friends and continuing to develop these relationships.

As well as our Friends events, our Friday Lectures remain a permanent fixture. We have been delighted to host a number of speakers who have shared their expertise on a wide range of subjects, from classical Indian music to Kushan chronology.

Finally, the garden continues to delight both staff and visitors. The extraordinarily hot summer this year made us appreciate it even more. Our Annual Garden party was a bright, sun-kissed occasion and the beautiful plants and flowers were in full bloom. We round off this issue, therefore, with a reflection on our Omar Khayyam rose, which we hope you will enjoy.

Munizha Ahmad-Cooke is the Administrator of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

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Bridget Allchin remembered

10 February 1927 – 27 June 2017

A spokesperson par excellence for South Asian archaeology

K. Paddayya

In his well-known book *Roots of Ancient India* (1971), Walter A. Fairservis Jr. gently reminds his American co-workers specialising in studies of the Indian subcontinent that 'most of us have been mere tourists in its presence, seeing without understanding ... [failing] to recognize that on the subcontinent we are in the midst of an ancient civilization still living, still vital, still of an importance in our world that is beyond price'. The Allchin couple from Britain are an outstanding exception to this unhappy situation, which is not totally inapplicable in the case of South Asians themselves. Raymond and Bridget Allchin were spokespersons par excellence for South Asian archaeology in the West for well over half a century in teaching, research, writing and other promotional matters. They together mastered the region's early past, with Raymond (d. 4 June 2010) specialising in protohistory and early historic archaeology, and Bridget taking charge of prehistory. Sadly, now Bridget, too, has passed away in Norwich on 27 June 2017 at the age of 90.

Bridget was born in Oxford on 10 February 1927. After completing her early education in England, she moved with her parents to South Africa where she developed an interest in the study of simple societies. She enrolled herself at the University of Cape Town and completed a full-fledged university degree in anthropology and archaeology. This served as the basis for her interest in prehistory and awareness of the relevance of ethnography in its study. In 1950, Bridget returned to England and enrolled herself in a doctoral degree

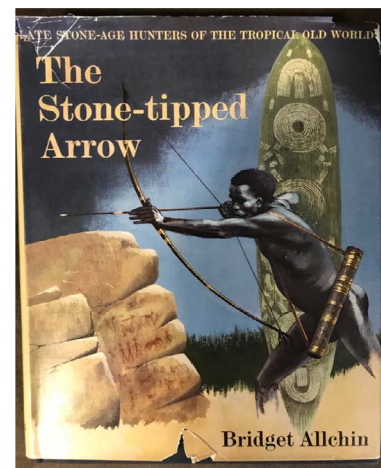
on the Late Stone Age of Southern Africa at the Institute of Archaeology in London under the supervision of Frederick Zeuner. Around this time, Raymond commenced his doctoral research on the early cultures of Raichur Doab at the School of Oriental and African Studies. They met at one of Zeuner's lectures and got married shortly thereafter. Thus started their long partnership in South Asian archaeology. A full and lively account of their road journey from Iran and Afghanistan to India in the very first year of their partnership is available in their memoir, *From the Oxus to Mysore in 1951*, published in 2012. This was the beginning of their numerous visits to various parts of South Asia.

Besides completing her PhD thesis on the African Stone Age, in the next decade and a half Bridget equipped herself with complete knowledge of South Asian prehistory both by visiting major sites and her own discovery of several Middle Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. She published several important research papers including a synthesis of the Indian Stone Age sequence (*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 1963).

A major contribution made by Bridget to the prehistory of the tropical lands is a comparative study of the Late Stone Age (Mesolithic) hunter-gatherer societies of sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Australia. This culminated in her famous book *The Stone-Tipped Arrow* (1966).

Although the lithic industries of all these far-flung areas are characterised by microlithic traditions, they show tremendous regional peculiarities, as dictated by differences in raw material use and ecological settings. Another major aspect of this book concerns Bridget's extensive use of the ethnographic record pertaining to

hunter-gatherer groups such as the Bushmen and Hottentots, Chenchus, Veddas, Semangs and Australian aborigines for reconstructing Late Stone Age lifeways.



She in fact correctly proposed a lineal connection between the extinct and surviving hunter-gatherer groups in the respective regions. The two chapters in this book dealing with India and Sri Lanka read extremely well, even now, and represent the first major attempt in South Asian ethnoarchaeology.

In the 1970s, Bridget undertook a multidisciplinary research project in the Rajasthan desert in collaboration with the late K.T.M. Hegde of Baroda University and the geographer Andrew Goudie of Oxford University. This project aimed to reconstruct the Quaternary environmental history and Stone Age adaptations. Their field studies, the results of which appeared in print as a major monograph entitled *The Prehistory and Palaeogeography of the Great Indian Desert* (1978), showed that the area witnessed two major wet periods separated by dry phases. The Stone Age groups occupied sand dunes overlooking shallow water bodies in the form of lakes and ponds. These results were confirmed by the later investigations by V.N. Misra and S.N. Rajaguru in the area. Bridget's third major contribution to South Asian prehistory relates

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to northern Pakistan. From 1980 to 1990, she and Raymond organised and directed the British Archaeological Mission to the Siwalik Hills. As part of this prolonged field research, Robin Dennell, Helen Rendell and their co-workers re-examined the Soan culture sequence put forward earlier by De Terra and Paterson and disproved the glacial origin of Soan sediments as well as the chronological relationship between these and stone tool assemblages found on their surfaces. However, as part of this work, the team found that the Riwat site dated back 1.9 million years, and the Acheulian sites of Dina and Jalapur dated back 0.7 million years.

Although Bridget did not hold a regular academic position in England, she was involved in teaching South Asian archaeology in the extramural departments of the Universities of Cambridge and London. She co-authored with Raymond three major and still widely cited syntheses of South Asian archaeology: *The Birth of Indian Civilization* (1968), *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan* (1983) and *The Origins of a Civilization* (1997). The Allchins published the latter to mark 50 years of India's independence – an event that went totally unnoticed by Indian and Pakistani archaeologists.

While being practising archaeologists, both Raymond and Bridget held a larger conception of India's heritage and included in it natural heritage, various arts and crafts and oral traditions. In order to create awareness about the increasing loss of heritage due to modernisation processes, in 1982, jointly with B.K. Thapar of the Archaeological Survey of India, they organised a seminar in Cambridge on conservation in which naturalists such as Madhav Gadgil and the famous 'Snake Man of India', Romulus Whittaker, also participated. They

promptly published the proceedings (*Conservation of the Indian Heritage*, 1989). The destruction of archaeological sites in India has since assumed truly alarming proportions and a follow-up of the initiative taken by the Allchins is yet to come.

Through her visits to various remote parts of South Asia and consultation of anthropological writings, Bridget realised that the ethnographic approach she had adopted in *The Stone-Tipped Arrow* had a much wider scope in archaeological studies. She brought this topic into prominence by organising a theme-based seminar in Cambridge in 1991, in which about 20 senior scholars from South Asia, Europe and America participated. Again, the proceedings were soon published, as *Living Traditions* (1994). Bridget herself captured well the relationship between the past and the present in the region in the memorable statement 'South Asia's living past'. To date, this is the only meeting on ethnoarchaeology in South Asia as a whole.

In 2004, Bridget (representing the Ancient India and Iran Trust) and Michael Petraglia of Cambridge University organised a Conference in Cambridge on 'South Asia at the Crossroads' to review the state of palaeoanthropological research in the region. More than 20 leading scholars from America, Europe and South Asia participated. Bridget and Michael published the proceedings promptly (*The Evolution and History of Human Populations in South Asia*, 2007).

The Allchins joined hands with Sir Harold Bailey, J.E. van Lohuizen-de Leeuw and her husband Jan and established from their own funds the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT) in Cambridge to promote South Asian studies. They also prevailed upon the Charles Wallace India Trust to institute short-term annual research fellowships for young South

Asian scholars. The AIIT took on the responsibility of administering these fellowships. Many South Asian scholars visited Britain and conducted research on various topics. As Secretary of the AIIT, Bridget took good care of the visiting scholars and their various needs.

In 1970, the Allchins founded the European Association for South Asian Archaeology (now the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art), which holds biennial conferences. For many years, Bridget served as its Honorary Secretary and also as the Editor of its journal *South Asian Studies*.

All through their working lives, Bridget and Raymond stayed in cordial contact with South Asian scholars by visiting their institutions and excavation sites and attending major seminars and conferences. They were the honoured guests of the Indian Society of Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies at its 25th Annual Conference held at H.N. Bahuguna University in Srinagar (Garhwal) in October 1997. Raymond delivered the prestigious H.D. Sankalia Memorial Lecture on the topic 'The Interface of Archaeology and History'. Bridget herself gave the presidential address, titled 'Whither South Asian Prehistory' (*Man and Environment*, Vol. 23(1), 1998, pp. 37–44), in which she gave an excellent review of the progress made thus far and also listed the issues still to be tackled in South Asian prehistory.

Bridget and Raymond are survived by their widowed daughter, Sushila (born in India and hence fondly given the Indian name), their son William and daughter-in-law Paula, and three grandchildren.

Katragadda Paddayya is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology and former Director of Deccan College. This obituary first appeared in *Man and Environment*, Vol. 42(2), 2017.

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Indefatigable, indomitable and illustrious

Andrew Goudie

Very early on in my academic career, around 1970, I was engaged in conversation with a distinguished but crusty Oxford geologist who had worked with archaeologists in Africa. 'My boy', he said, 'keep away from archaeologists – they are nothing but trouble'. Fortunately, I ignored his advice and, for the most part of the following four decades or so, found archaeologists, though frequently eccentric, to be perfectly agreeable. This was certainly true of an archaeologist I met in the early 1970s. I gave a lecture at Churchill College to a meeting of South Asian archaeologists, my first ever at an international conference, and at the end of it a very distinguished looking figure with a luxuriant head of hair and a splendid moustache, leapt onto the stage, shook my hand and offered his congratulations. 'Let us go and have a drink', he said. It was only 9:30 in the morning, but using his legendary charm, he managed to get a college servant to find two pints of ale, and we had a great natter. This paragon was, of course, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, a man who was then over 50 years my senior. In spite of his eminence, he was not too proud to talk to a new and nervous academic. It was just before this that I had started a collaboration with Bridget Allchin, and she was also most encouraging to the young, as the list of her co-workers over the years clearly demonstrates. 'Always be nice to your graduate students', said the late Richard Chorley, Professor of Geography at Cambridge, 'for it is they who will write your obituary'. That is why I am standing here this afternoon. Bridget was very good to me, as she was to so many aspiring academics.

I loved visiting the family home in Barrington, shooting pigeons with an air rifle in the orchard with Raymond and playing with Pluto, their dog, in many ways the most intelligent member of the household. When I bought my first house, she gave me some lovely old tables, beds and dressers with which to furnish it. Above all, I relished our trips to the Indian subcontinent.

When we had one, the Royal Navy used to give its capital ships names that remind me of Bridget: Indefatigable, Invincible, Indomitable and Illustrious. Throughout her career, she demonstrated these characteristics, and was the equal of other doughty lady archaeologists that this country has produced. One thinks of Lady Hester Stanhope, Kathleen Kenyon, Gertrude Bell, Amelia Edwards, Gertrude Caton-Thompson, and Beatrice de Cardi. Some of them may, to use modern parlance, have appeared to some men to have been 'bloody difficult women', but the obstacles put in front of them were often massive and required a certain degree of persistence and resolution to overcome. Resolution, by the way, was another favoured name for Royal Navy warships.

Bridget was an avid fieldworker, and she showed many of these characteristics on our travels. Fieldwork in the outlying parts of India and Pakistan – the mofussil – was not entirely easy in those days. We travelled on rough tracks in an open Jeep with unforgiving cart springs. There was then no bottled water, telephones were scarce and rudimentary (if you could get a line you had to shout), we had no modern maps and we stayed in rather basic dak bungalows. On one of our trips, we arrived in India at the outbreak of the Indo-Pakistan war, and that presented its challenges. Bridget was keen for us to get back into the field even before hostilities

ceased, so I remember heading north into Gujarat in our Jeep and having from time to time, at the behest of the police, to leap into a roadside ditch to avoid what they claimed was imminent enemy fire (though this never materialised). Roadside ditches in India are not something you leap into very willingly or without trepidation.

Bridget was a pioneer and a proselytiser, for since Independence and Partition, British archaeologists had taken little interest in the subcontinent. Fred Zeuner, her research supervisor, Mortimer Wheeler and Stuart Piggott were notable exceptions. The Allchins put the subcontinent on the map and generated a whole new generation of scholars, both British and Indian, many of whom referred to her as 'Auntie'. In particular, Bridget contributed hugely to our understanding of the Indian Stone Age, in terms of its typology (she was very good at drawing tools), distribution and dating. Before we started work in the Rajasthan desert, people had always assumed it was too dry for there to have been extensive Stone Age presence in that huge area – we found the reverse was the case. The desert teemed with Stone Age sites of different ages, often preserved in sequences of dunes and palaeosols and in proximity to old lake basins. Although the dating methods then available were nothing like as good as they are now, the sequence that Bridget postulated has remained remarkably durable. Above all, we showed that river terraces, upon which archaeologists had been fixated for generations, were not optimal locations for palaeolithic archaeology. Bridget's work was not, of course, restricted to Gujarat and Rajasthan. I remember with pleasure investigations we undertook in the Rohri Hills of the Indus Valley, in the red laterite hills of Maharashtra and

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in the loess terrains of Tajikistan. Robin Dennell speaks more authoritatively on this facet of Bridget's work than I can.

Bridget was also an enthusiast for India and Indians, Pakistan and Pakistanis and for Afghanistan and Afghans. She instilled in me, and in others, a love for the landscapes of the region – who could fail to be entranced by the Rajputs and Rajasthan, by Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, and the fabulous sacred town of Pushkar? – and introduced me to local scholars that she assiduously befriended, cultivated and collaborated with. She was deft at networking before that term was used and I was fortunate indeed to meet in her presence such towering Indian prehistorians and historians as Romilla Thapar, H.D. Sankalia, R.V. Joshi, B.K. Thapar, D.P. Agrawal, S.N. Rajaguru and, above all, my late friend and our co-author, K.T.M. Hegde. She encouraged me to wear Indian clothes, to eat Indian food and even to put coconut oil in my hair (which in those days was black). I have to admit, however, that I never managed to wear a lungi with the same panache as Raymond.

In those happy days before the nonsense of Brexit, she also worked with European scholars such as Joan van Lohuizen-de Leeuw and Jean-François Jarrige and, with Raymond, helped to set up the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art.

Bridget achieved so much, without ever having a secure university post and by seeking out a stream of research grants. It was to the credit of Wolfson College that it gave her a Fellowship and to the Royal Asiatic Society that it awarded her, just a little while ago, its gold medal. She will be missed by generations of friends and scholars, but her work and influence will endure.

Andrew Goudie is Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Oxford.

A remarkable person and a remarkable life *Robin Dennell*

Although this is a sad occasion, we should celebrate the remarkable person Bridget was, and the remarkable life she led. She was unrepeatable. From her childhood and adolescence in Scotland and South Africa, she acquired a Scottish self-reliance and a South African stubbornness. As she describes in her autobiography, she was newly married in 1951 and travelling overland from England to India – no light undertaking in those days – and discovered that she was pregnant. Undeterred, she took it in her stride, carried on and returned with Sushila, her daughter. She may have been called many things in her lifetime, but no one would ever have described her as a snowflake.

In early post-war Britain, she was one of the few people who obtained a PhD, and of those, was one of very few women. Today, thankfully, it is not unusual for a woman to have a PhD and proceed to an academic career. In Bridget's case – and it shows how much Britain has changed – she was told by her supervisor, Frederick Zeuner, then the leading Pleistocene

geochronologist in Britain, that she would never have an academic career because she was a woman. And yet, with her determination, and the support given her by Raymond, she published several books and papers, did fieldwork, including that in the Thar Desert that Andrew Goudie has mentioned, and became a recognised authority on the Palaeolithic of South Asia. She was also the driving force behind the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT), of which she was Secretary and later, Chair; she was the editor of *South Asian Studies* for 10 years; Secretary General of the European Association of South Asian Archaeologists; and she played an important pastoral role as a Fellow at Wolfson College. In 2014, she was awarded the Royal Asiatic Society's gold medal as a lifetime achievement award. In this day and age, with her track record, she would have been, like my wife, a professor in a tenured post.

One of Bridget and Raymond's main achievements in Cambridge when I was there in the 1960s and 70s was that that they kept South Asia on the map. What she achieved was, in my view, despite Cambridge, not because of it. For all the emphasis that Cambridge then placed on a world archaeology, South Asia never ranked highly. It is now a hot spot, especially India: the Thar Desert



Raymond and Bridget Allchin in conversation at the Trust, 2010

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continues to generate exciting data on the earliest evidence of our species in South Asia, and recent work by Mike Petraglia and his team in the Son Valley, the Jawallapuram Basin and now in Sri Lanka has built on foundations of knowledge and personal contacts established by Bridget and Raymond, and has generated world-class data. On top of all that, she mothered a family and had a long, happy marriage.

I came to know Bridget best by a serendipitous route from her fieldwork in the Thar Desert. In the 1970s, I was working in Iran on a UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme on desertification, until the revolution in 1978. The proposed workshop was then moved from Tehran to Jodhpur, and as the Thar volume had just been published, I asked *Antiquity* if I could review it as I would be seeing part of the Thar Desert. I duly reviewed it, praised it highly, and a few months later, Bridget rang me to ask if I knew anyone who might be interested in working with her in Pakistan. It took me no more than a couple of nanoseconds to say that I could think of someone, and that is how I worked under her direction as part of the British Archaeological Mission to Pakistan throughout the 1980s.

I first went to Pakistan in 1981, thinking it would be a short, one-off trip. I confess, it did not begin auspiciously. When I arrived in Islamabad, she and Raymond were not at the airport as they had promised, so eventually I took a taxi to Taxila Museum, the only place they had mentioned to me, which I discovered was 30 miles away. Thankfully, they were there, and had forgotten that I was coming that week. But, as Bridget said, I was in time for tea. Anyhow, that one-off trip lasted 18 years, with around 20 visits and some 2 years of fieldwork. Thanks to Bridget, Pakistan dominated my middle career and

gave me a range of experiences that have never been matched.

Although we never found a hominin, we came close; we did find the oldest stone tools outside Africa that are almost 2 million years old, as well as what were then the earliest handaxes in South Asia, and the earliest signs of an upper palaeolithic dated to circa 45 ka. None of that would have happened without the constant support of Bridget and Raymond. It was through them that I was awarded a Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship so that I could be Field Director of the Mission; and on a personal note, it was also through them that I met my wife, who was part of the team in 1987 and for several seasons thereafter. I remember the first time we visited them in Cambridge as a couple. I felt that Bridget was vetting my wife as though she were a prospective daughter-in-law; thankfully, she passed the appraisal and Bridget later told me it was a good match.

I was constantly amazed by the range of people she and Raymond knew. This included, I think, every Director General and senior archaeologist in India and Pakistan; numerous ambassadors and high commissioners, including Sir Nicholas Barrington, who is still part of the AIIT; I remember her comparing her personal impressions of Margaret Thatcher, Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi; and she knew an enormous range of less-exalted individuals. In India and Pakistan, she was most often called 'Auntie', which suited her well. As Auntie, she viewed those around her with a critical yet kindly eye; she was indulgent, always well-meaning, occasionally exasperated with her errant juniors and sometimes very cross – at which point you felt extremely small. She was also incredibly tolerant of human frailties and foibles; I think the only thing she could not tolerate were bad manners.

Bridget could be totally unpredictable, in her own way, like a tornado that no force could withstand. I remember her phoning me at 6am on a Sunday morning, and her being surprised that I wasn't busy. There was also a rumour that she had made a plane turn around mid-flight from Islamabad to Delhi because she had forgotten something. I never found out if it was true, but no one has seemed inclined to disbelieve it. I do remember she was very fond of the fruit cake she bought from the bakery at the local army base. This should have been off-limits to foreigners, but she did not seem to think it was problematic. There was also one time I was staying with her and Raymond for a meeting at the AIIT. She woke me loudly at 4am and told me to get ready. I thought perhaps the house was on fire, but she said the lunch arrangements were not satisfactory so we had to go shopping. Tesco in Huntingdon, she informed me, would be open. After a white-knuckle drive, we arrived and she summoned some hapless shelf-stacker and presented him with a long list, which included cooked chicken and various types of salami, cheese, salad and bread. My role was simply to follow and help fill the shopping trolley. We drove back, she calmly opened the meeting and the lunch was indeed sumptuous.

Overall, we are remembering and celebrating someone who maintained a long and happy marriage, a loving family, and despite the odds, had a successful career as an academic, editor, organiser and fundraiser. I remember her with immense respect and affection, and I doubt if we shall see her like again.

Robin Dennell is Honorary Research Professor of Archaeology, University of Exeter.

These tributes by Andrew Goudie and Robin Dennell were delivered by the authors at Bridget Allchin's funeral on 20 July 2017.

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Professor Michael Petraglia

Celebrating Bridget Allchin's life

Munizha Ahmad-Cooke

We were delighted that so many people attended the memorial event for Bridget Allchin at Wolfson College, Cambridge, on Saturday 17 March. The occasion, attended by Dr Allchin's family, friends, colleagues and students, and fellow trustees, was hosted by the Trust, in cooperation with Wolfson College.

The event was introduced by Dr Gordon Johnson, former President of Wolfson College, and Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams, Dr Allchin's successor as Chair of the Trust. This was followed by a fascinating talk by our former trustee Professor Michael Petraglia, now at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany.

'Following in Bridget Allchin's Footsteps: the Current State of Stone Age Archaeology' paid tribute to Dr Allchin's pioneering contribution to the field of South Asian archaeology and prehistory, tracing the scholarly developments and debates that have followed this work.

The talk, perfectly pitched for a mixed academic and non-academic audience, looked at three key areas of Dr Allchin's work: the earliest colonisers; environments

and modern humans; and hunter-gatherers before agriculture. The first part discussed the discoveries made about the earliest settlers in South Asia, perhaps dating back 2 million years, by the British Archaeological Mission to Pakistan (1981–1991), directed by Bridget and Raymond Allchin and Professor Robin Dennell.

The second part looked at the effect of environmental factors on early migrations, and Dr Allchin's pioneering work in the 1970s on the relationship between Stone Age populations and changing environments in the Indian subcontinent. In relation to this, Professor Petraglia went on to discuss the discoveries that have been made about the survival and migration of human populations after the Toba volcanic super-eruption 74,000 years ago, citing Dr Allchin's instruction to him: 'Go to the Belan River Valley Mike!'

The third part of Professor Petraglia's talk opened with the eye-catching cover image of Dr Allchin's 1966 book, *The Stone-Tipped Arrow: The Stone-Age Hunters of the Tropical Old World*. From here we journeyed through Dr Allchin's and her successors' archaeological studies of weaponry and rock art, as well as touching on bees and honey in the Bilasurgam Caves, which have now been carbon dated to 3000 BC, and to which Bridget and Raymond Allchin travelled by bullock cart in 1957.

Integral to the ground-breaking work of the Allchins was an attitude of always re-evaluating the methodology and techniques used in their field. As Bridget put it: 'After my first visit to India in 1951–2 I became increasingly aware of the urgent need for modification of the ... classification of pre-Neolithic cultures'. And, as they both stated in an interview in 1998: 'We must be prepared for changes of approach and changes in the types of jobs available. There has to be a move away from large excavations to problem oriented archaeology, exploring all kinds of new techniques and methods of analysis'.

This forward-thinking attitude and lifelong commitment is also evident in the establishment of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, with fellow founding trustees Sir Harold Bailey and Joan and Jan Van Lohuizen, and its continued growth 40 years on. The Allchins worked tirelessly to develop the Trust and ensure that it maintained its position as an independent, invaluable resource for the study of early South Asia, Iran and Central Asia.

The buzz around the display of Bridget Allchin's publications at the reception reflected how a life driven by constant inquiry, discovery and sheer determination had been celebrated to the full. The liveliness of the occasion was something she would have appreciated.



Bridget Allchin remembered

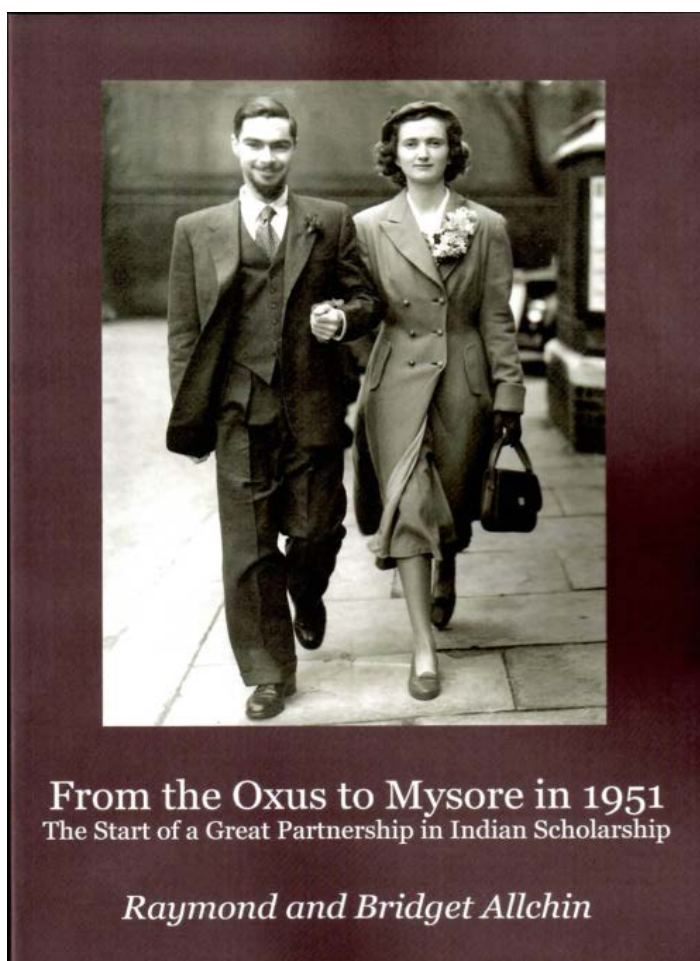
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A character who made her mark in everything she did *Nicholas Barrington*

My last diplomatic post as British Ambassador in Pakistan was made much more agreeable by advice to contact Raymond and Bridget Allchin. They were regular visitors, and a fount of knowledge on Pakistan's monuments and history. I visited the site of their archaeological dig near Jhelum, and accompanied them on trips to some places even they had not been to before, like the walled village of Hund, near where Alexander the Great crossed the Indus river (wide and shallow). They had a great range of Pakistani scholar friends, several of whom became mine.

Four years before I retired in 1994, I was delighted to be asked to be a trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, of which the Allchins had been co-founders. I was able to see something of the great linguist Sir Harold Bailey before he died, and enjoyed the company of the people he and the Allchins collected around them, including younger scholars such as Robin Coningham, Almut Hintze and Richard Blurton. Raymond was the relaxed source of comprehensive knowledge of the Indian subcontinent, Bridget, the prehistorian, was the focused organiser, who nurtured international contacts and liked hard work; never happier than arranging a conference or a high-profile lecture. She had her likes and dislikes. I made sure to keep on the right side of her. She was sympathetic to me as a non-academic. She valued commitment in others and was always looking for opportunities to further the interests of the Trust family. She was also a great cook and a welcoming hostess. Above all, she was a character who made her mark in everything she did.

The book that she and Raymond started to write in the last years of their lives, too late really, because they could have written so much more about their achievements, was very important to her. It describes their different and, in her case, adventurous childhoods and how they teamed up, in all senses, to provide the genesis of British Indian scholarship for a long period of years. She made me solemnly undertake, with Almut Hintze, to bring the text to publication while her powers were fading. Thanks to a great deal of hard work, more from Almut than from me, *From the Oxus to Mysore in 1951: The Start of a Great Partnership in Indian Scholarship*, was published in 2012. I hope it can be read more widely, as Bridget would have wished.



From the Oxus to Mysore in 1951 is available to buy from the Trust for £15 (inc. free UK postage). To purchase a copy, email library@indiran.org or call 01223 702095.

Nicholas Barrington is Former British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Honorary Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, and a trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Bridget and Raymond Allchin remembered

When I met the Allchins

James Cormick

I first got to know the Allchins 40 years ago in Kabul. We were there for radically different purposes: I was trying to improve the present, whereas they were trying to uncover the past. Let me explain.

The Ministry of Overseas Development in collaboration with the British Council had decided to send out a team of 'experts' in 1977 to help the Afghans reform the teaching of English throughout the entire educational system, which was generally recognised to be in a parlous condition. I was responsible for the teacher training college level of the project, and because it was a British Government funded project, it was considered appropriate that I be given a house in the second compound (the Hospital Compound) of the British Embassy in Karte Parwan, in what had been the doctor's house. This fact is relevant, because shortly after I arrived I acquired significant neighbours. The British Institute of Afghan Studies (BIAS) was also invited to move into what had been the hospital in that same compound.

I became friendly with the Director of the Institute, Ralph Pinder-Wilson, and through him was introduced to a very interesting series of people visiting or temporarily resident in Afghanistan for purposes widely different from my own.

BIAS had been and was still carrying out an excavation at Kandahar in southern Afghanistan when I arrived in the country. Through Ralph I met Svend Helms, the director of the dig, and most of the other archaeologists working with him, including Richard Blurton and Warwick Ball, and actually visited the site twice during my two years in Afghanistan. (Richard is, of course, one of our



The Ambassador's Residence, British Embassy, Kabul, 1968

trustees and the recently emerited head of the South Asian section in the British Museum's Department of Asia.)

In February 1978, a group of members of the Society for Afghan Studies came out for a visit, to see what was happening in Kandahar and other sites considered to be within the Society's remit. They were led by Raymond and Bridget Allchin and used the embassy compound as the base for their excursions into the countryside. Apart from the Allchins, with whom I immediately established a rapport, I particularly remember certain other people from that group: Bob Knox, who was then Raymond's postgraduate student at Cambridge and later became Keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum; Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop, who was an expert on ancient metalwork and jewellery at the Institute of Archaeology; and Lionel Sackville-West, the 6th Baron Sackville and owner of Knole, the magnificent country house in Kent.

Knole was, in fact, by then no longer wholly owned by the Sackville-West family, but had been partly made over to the National Trust. I was asked to put up Lord Sackville as a guest in my house during his sojourn in Kabul, and I recall during one of our after-dinner conversations his answer to my surprise that they had parted with such a treasure. He said 'Yes, but can you imagine how

expensive it was to maintain 7 acres of roof?' I couldn't.

There was nothing of comparable magnificence in Kabul, unfortunately. Even though it was conquered in 1504 by the first Mughal emperor, Babur, nothing even approaching the wonderful Mughal tombs, mosques and palaces in Pakistan and India was ever built there. There were two gardens, however, which were attractive and of some historical interest.

The Bagh-e-Babur was the garden site of Babur's tomb on a hillside anciently planted with lovely plane trees (*chenar* in Persian, *platanus orientalis* in Latin). It was a very pleasant spot when I was there, but showed too many signs of later (post-Mughal) additions and subtractions. Another attractive but much more recent (late 19th-century) site was the Bagh-e-Bala, a royal palace built amongst gardens on a hill overlooking the British Embassy in Karte Parwan. The palace had suffered a demotion in recent years and had become a restaurant, which was convenient, actually, for entertaining guests of the embassy. (I took the Allchins and other guests there for tea during their visit.)

Eight years later, when I decided to stop working abroad and take up residence in Cambridge, I re-established contact with the Allchins. We met in local pubs (of which they had an unrivalled knowledge) and entertained each other in our homes for dinner. I even house-sat for them in Barrington when they went abroad. And five years later in 1991, after the death of Jan van Lohuizen, they asked if I would like to live in the Trust's house at 23 Brooklands Avenue, to occupy Jan's rooms upstairs, and make sure that Sir Harold Bailey, the nonagenarian occupant of the adjacent suite, didn't burn the house down. I accepted.

Bridget and Raymond Allchin remembered



Plantatio memoralis *James Cormick*

By now the Muntjac deer that regularly forage in our garden will have noticed a new and potentially delicious addition to their larder. It is a young tree, with beautiful pinnate leaves, planted (on Friday 18 May 2018) in the south-eastern corner of the lawn. And although the Muntjac is not a native species, the tree will almost certainly jog its ancestral memory, for the tree is a Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and is as widely spread in China, the deer's original home, as it is in Britain and other northern European countries. A large amount of species diversity occurs, of course, especially in China, but not enough to confuse our clever little visitors.

The deer had better beware, however. Before sinking their teeth into the familiar leaves of this lovely young tree, they should read the notice planted in front of it. (They have learnt English, of course, since being introduced into Britain by the 11th Duke of Bedford in 1894.)

This might make them realise that the tree is of protected status. And had one of the deer been hiding behind the Magnolia tree at 4:30pm

that Friday afternoon, she would have seen around 25 brightly dressed humans drinking Spanish champagne, eating Pringles, and watching William and Paula Allchin, the son and daughter-in-law of Raymond and Bridget, planting it.

According to Richard Mabey in his splendid *Flora Britannica* (p. 203), the Rowan was 'once widely planted by houses as a protection against witches' and 'in parts of Scotland there is still a strong taboo against cutting down a rowan tree, especially when it is close to houses'. The choice of tree and the position of planting is, therefore, entirely appropriate, and would have been especially appreciated by Bridget, a proud lowland Scotswoman.



Will and Paula Allchin planting and watering the new Rowan tree

An uninvited guest to the party was a swarm of bees. They decided to form a hive on a branch of the spring-flowering Osmanthus (*Osmanthus x burkwoodii*) opposite the door of the house, an hour before the festivities were about to begin. Terrible timing, unfortunately. Had they come much earlier in spring when the Osmanthus was flowering, they would have had a larder on their doorstep. Or had they been patient and waited for the Rowan itself to flower in a few weeks time, or even more patiently, waited until autumn for the companion Osmanthus (*Osmanthus heterophyllus*) opposite the door to flower, they could have had an abundance of rich summery nectars to sup from. As it was, for fear of frightening our guests, we had to arrange for a bee enthusiast to come and transport them to one of his own hives.



James Cormick is the Custodian of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

The swarm

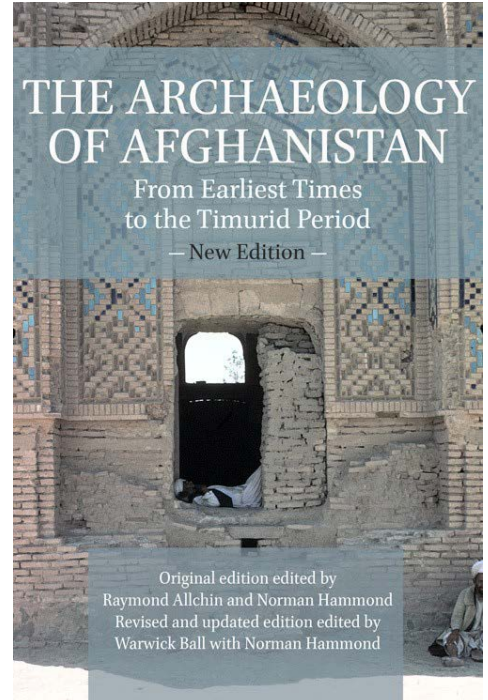
Bridget and Raymond Allchin remembered

The republication of *The Archaeology of Afghanistan* Norman Hammond

The Archaeology of Afghanistan began as a collaboration between Raymond Allchin and myself not long after my 1966 archaeological reconnaissance of sites in the lower Helmand valley, south from Bost towards Seistan in the corridor between the Dasht-i Margo and Registan deserts. Raymond had worked in the Bamiyan valley a decade and a half earlier, and we were both acutely aware of the lack of any overarching publication on Afghanistan's archaeology, certainly in English, although the numerous French monographs of the Délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan (DAFA), several publications by Americans including Louis Dupree, and a few Russian and Italian works documented the richness of the country's ancient heritage. We determined that a collaborative book would be best, rather than trying to synthesise everything ourselves, and duly began to recruit a team of specialists, eventually drawn from Britain, Germany, Italy and the United States, and with the cooperation of colleagues in France and elsewhere. As we progressed, the biennial South Asian Archaeology conferences developed from an initial small meeting in Cambridge in 1970 organised by Raymond and Bridget Allchin, Johanna Van Lohuizen and myself, and a formal one there in 1971 which led to the first volume of *South Asian Archaeology* (published by Duckworth in London and the University of Pittsburgh Press in the USA in 1973). The participants in these, working both in and around Afghanistan in South and Central Asia, added to our database, and our book, *The Archaeology of*

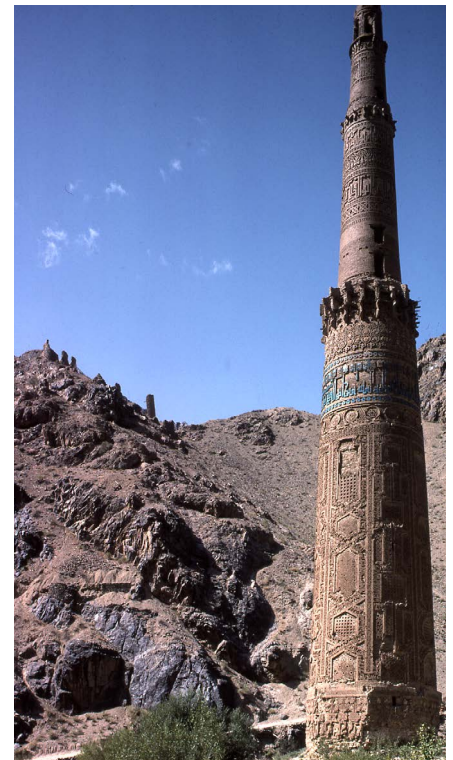
Afghanistan from Earliest Times to the Timurid Period, was published by Academic Press in 1978.

This unfortunately coincided with a downturn in opportunities for archaeological fieldwork in Afghanistan as the result of political events; but by the early 21st century it became clear that sufficient new information and ideas were available for a revision to be feasible. Raymond died before a formal contract could be drawn up, but Bridget welcomed the idea. Warwick Ball was willing to join as co-editor and principal reviser, and with the encouragement of Carole Hillenbrand at the University of Edinburgh, the book proposal was accepted by Edinburgh University Press. We look forward to its appearance in April 2019.



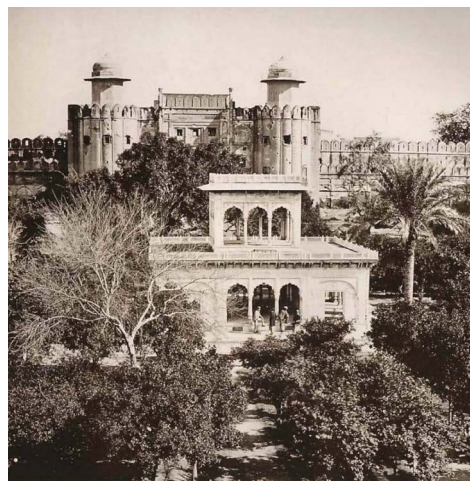
For further information about this publication, visit: <https://edinburghuniversity-press.com/book-the-archaeology-of-afghanistan-hb.html>

Norman Hammond is a Senior Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.



Left: Part of a 1st-2nd-century ivory throne from Begram, Afghanistan (now in the Musée Guimet). Right: The Minaret of Jam, dated 1174/5, site of the Ghurid capital of Firuzkuh in western Afghanistan. Photos: Warwick Ball.

Symposium on Lahore



The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings

A symposium held in Cambridge
13–14 October 2017

Summaries of talks

A spotlight on Lahore's heritage *Nicholas Barrington*

At the end of 2016, various elements came together to suggest that it would be time to organise a conference in Cambridge on 'The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings'.

As British High Commissioner in Islamabad 20 years ago, I had taken special interest in the history of Pakistan, particularly the number of historic sites in Lahore. I claimed to have discovered monuments in the back streets of the city of which most of my sophisticated Pakistani friends had seemed unaware. But my research had only been superficial.

Pakistan has been in the news for many reasons, but there are now few visitors. Security concerns have restricted the sort of tourism that India enjoys. Because the country has this poor image, it was appropriate to remind people about its rich history. I also knew that Lahore's antiquities were

under threat, most recently from a mass transit plan already under construction, with a high-level rail system going through the heart of the city, so the issue was topical.

As a trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, I was able to persuade the management to sponsor a two-day symposium and provide some administrative back-up. What clinched the decision was that Dr Abdul Majid Sheikh, a respected journalist and author with deep knowledge about, and interest in, Lahore, had taken to working in the Trust's library. We could organise the conference together. He has links with the Centre of South Asian Studies at Cambridge University and is a Research Associate at Wolfson College, a suitable conference venue.

Experienced and aspiring scholars expressed keenness to come for a two-day conference in October 2017. They included potential high-profile speakers, including an acknowledged Pakistani expert on Lahore and a British UNESCO professor who had produced a report on the mass transit scheme, which was then subject to a court case. Dr Sheikh and I drew up a programme covering a range of aspects of Lahore's history. It was an ambitious project. Sufficient funding was needed, and eventually secured, for which we are most grateful to a number of donors. In due course the subject attracted interest and over 100 people came and enjoyed the event.

A subsequent booklet, published by the Trust, has been well-received. It has not been subject to academic rigour, but gives people who could not attend the symposium informal summaries of the talks as drafted by the speakers themselves, together with pictures of the main monuments discussed. It is planned that an academic volume of the proceedings will be published by the British Association for South Asian Studies, probably in 2020.

Most of Lahore's monuments suffer from neglect. There are not enough funds to properly maintain them, nor enough public interest, it appears, to ensure this is done. Some restoration has been destructive, not preserving original elements, nor recording the difference between old and modern structures and decoration; some, using wrong materials, can do more harm than good. Encroachment for greed has been resisted in some places, for example the courtyard of the Wazir Khan Mosque, blighted with quasi-religious structures from a local mullah, has been cleared. The park leading to Dai Anga Mosque has been much improved. The baths near Delhi Gate in the Old City have been expertly restored by British and then Aga Khan consultants. But the Cypress Tomb is fenced in. Some structures have just disappeared through local sharp practice, or in the case of Hindu buildings, because of tension after the Babri Mosque destruction in Ayodhya. The opponents of the overhead metro line eventually lost their case in the Supreme Court. It can only be hoped that more such obtrusive structures are not built in other areas of the city if significant monuments are affected.

The consensus of this symposium was that the people of Lahore should be encouraged to preserve their unique heritage, which should, in years to come, attract tourism and income for the city. But Pakistan, with all its defects, is a democracy and it is up to the people themselves, and the media, to decide what should be done.

The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings is available to download at:

www.indiran.org/the-history-of-lahore-and-the-preservation-of-its-historic-buildings-2/

To order a print copy, email info@indiran.org or call 01223 356841.

Events calendar 2017-18

We have had another full calendar of events this past year, including our Friday Lectures, special events for Friends of the Trust, the Harold Bailey Memorial lecture, delivered by Peter Frankopan, and a special memorial event for our founding trustee Bridget Allchin. One highlight was the sarangi concert by Deepak Paramashivan, which provided a heart-warming, atmospheric glow on a showery April evening. The weather was equally suitable (i.e. glorious) for our Annual Garden Party in June. Guests enjoyed strawberries and cream and sparkling wine in the splendour of the Trust's garden, lovingly tended to by our gardener, Charlotte Synge.



Capturing the colour of the occasion: a guest at our Annual Garden Party

Michaelmas Term 2017

3 November: Mark Elliott (University of Cambridge): Curating *Another India*: Object histories and contemporary voices

10 November: Ursula Sims-Williams (British Library): Investigating the library of Tipu Sultan of Mysore

17 November: Friends' Event. Afternoon Guided Tour of *Another India: Exploration and expressions of indigenous South Asia* at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, with exhibition curator Mark Elliott

3 December: H.W. Bailey Memorial Lecture: Peter Frankopan (University of Oxford): Sir Harold Bailey and the content of Indian, Iranian and Asian Studies

Lent Term 2018

19 January: Emily Hannam (Royal Collection): Georges, Nawabs and Nabobs: The British monarchs and India in the 18th century

2 February: Almut Hintze (SOAS): The Multi-Media Yasna: Recent research in Mumbai

23 February: Christopher Wright (British Library): Robert Ker Porter's travels in Georgia, Persia, Armenia and Mesopotamia 1817–1820

9 March: Friends' Event. James Crowden (author): Soldier, spy, archaeologist and academic: The story of Professor K de B Codrington (1899–1986)

17 March: Bridget Allchin memorial event at Wolfson College. Michael Petraglia (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena): Following in Bridget Allchin's Footsteps: The current state of Stone Age archaeology' (see p. 8)



Easter Term 2018

27 April: Deepak Paramashivan (University of Alberta) with Satvinder Sehmbe on tabla: Soulful Sarangi: An Indian classical music concert

18 May: Tree planting in memory of Bridget and Raymond Allchin (see p. 11)

18 May: Friends' event. Rachel Rowe (Cambridge University Library): Archival Adventures with Ephemera: Treasures from the Queen Mary Indian Collection

25 May: Joe Cribb (former Keeper of Coins and Medals, British Museum): Constructing Kushan Chronology: Bactria and Gandhara 1st–4th century AD

24 June: Annual Garden Party

Deepak Paramashivan, performing at the Trust in April 2018

News from the Library

The Ralph Pinder-Wilson archive

Joanna Salisbury

Over the past two years, Deborah Freeman Fahid (former Assistant Curator and Head of Publications at the al-Sabah Collection, Kuwait) has given us her time and expertise to complete a preliminary assessment of our Ralph Pinder-Wilson archive. Pinder-Wilson (1919–2008) was an AIIT Honorary Fellow, Deputy Keeper in the Department of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum and Director of the British Institute of Afghan Studies in Kabul. His collection of art historical books, sale catalogues and archival material was donated to the Trust in 2008.

Deborah and I worked together to categorise, list and rehouse the archive in secure, stable boxes. It is now housed in our newly converted basement Archives Room. Future work will include more detailed cataloguing and an appraisal of a collection of miscellaneous photographs and negatives, with a view to adding these to the archive.

There is particularly interesting material on key areas of Islamic art, including rock crystal, ivory, glass and jade and research material from the excavations of glass at Fustat with George Scanlon. Also, substantial material (mostly secondary) on Ghaznavid and Ghurid monuments in Afghanistan and India, and material on Persian painting, on which Pinder-Wilson published several articles in his early career.

The Pinder-Wilson library collection, which totals 600 books, has now been fully catalogued and all of the donated books are available to search on Cambridge University Library's online platform, iDiscover: <https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk>

Joanna Salisbury is Assistant Librarian at the Ancient India and Iran Trust.



The organised Pinder-Wilson archive

Working on the Archive

Deborah Freeman Fahid

I first met Ralph Pinder-Wilson in 1995 when I joined Christie's Islamic department. Long retired, he was still very active, as a consultant to the auction house and pursuing the interests that had occupied him throughout his working life. In 1997 he published a group of fascinating stone press moulds for leatherworking in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection. These utilitarian objects were used to produce small leather goods such as wallets or pouches, and are carved in intaglio with rich arabesque and figural decoration to create a design that stands in relief to the surface. From one inscription, he identified an important Ghurid general and governor of Herat who died in AH 607 (AD 1210 or 1211), and was thus able to attribute the group to Khurasan and the late 12th to early 13th century. This typified his approach to Islamic art history: an ability to identify relatively humble objects that would turn out to be of great interest and that he would treat with the same level of scholarship as larger, more impressive items.

In 2004 I took over cataloguing the extensive collection of chess and other games pieces in the al-Sabah Collection, Kuwait. As most were made of ivory and bone, glass, rock crystal and other hardstones, this large project was ideally suited to Ralph, but not to his advanced years. I was fortunate that we made at least two trips to Kuwait together to examine the pieces. With often not much to go on in terms of dating, his familiarity with the materials and observations on decoration techniques were invaluable; his opinion on the dating of an object was often confirmed when we later undertook scientific tests such as carbon-14 analysis.

I was delighted to take on sorting out the archive for the Trust, particularly as I had only known Ralph at a later stage of his working life. Much of his initial research was contained in small notebooks, written in his distinctive spidery hand, with sketches of objects. This seems to have been a lifelong habit, as some go back to school and university days. Very little of his work is dated, so it was not possible to categorise his papers in chronological order; we grouped things by subject as far as was possible. His numerous photographs, both prints and slides, are disordered and very few are inscribed with a place or date. With correspondence with other scholars and postcards from friends and colleagues, the papers demonstrate a lifelong interest in the core subjects that occupied him throughout his long working life.

A bibliography of his books, articles and catalogue entries will later be published on the AIIT website.

Deborah Freeman Fahid is an independent scholar and former Assistant Curator and Head of Publications at the al-Sabah Collection, Kuwait.

Ancient India & Iran Trust Bursaries

On the trail of Taxila's coins *Gul Rahim Khan*

For 22 years in the first half of the twentieth century, Sir John Marshall carried out extensive excavations at the world famous archaeological site of Taxila (Pakistan). He dug out three major urban sites, one temple and many Buddhist sites, dating from the fifth century BCE to the sixth century CE. He published the numerous antiquities he unearthed in several short (annual) reports and a final comprehensive report in three volumes. He also reported more than 12,000 coins from different periods, with statistics and illustrations of some of the most interesting and unique examples. Based on these coins, Marshall not only established the chronology of these sites, but also built up the dynastic history of the Mauryans, Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Kushans and subsequent rulers. Later, E.H.C. Walsh published a monograph on punch-marked coins (the earliest coins of South Asia) mostly reported from Bhir Mound, the earliest town of Taxila.

A few years ago, I began my research on the coins of the Kushan period found by Marshall at Taxila and published some wonderful results in various articles. These are widely appreciated by scholars, particularly those working on Kushan coins and history. This was, for example, the first time that the lifetime copper issues of Vasudeva I (194–231 CE) were distinguished from imitations issued by his successors. Before this, all coins with the uniform design bearing the standing king on the obverse and Oesho and bull on the reverse were assigned to Vasudeva, the last ruler of the Great Kushans, even though some had been issued over 100 hundred years after his demise. With the problem of distinguishing the two coinages of the same design settled,

it is less difficult to establish the authentic history of the Kushans and archaeological sites where coins of this design are reported.

Joe Cribb and other friends then advised me to carry out similar research on the remaining coins of Taxila. I thus began to research the Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian coins excavated from different sites there. The coins and chronologies of these periods are complicated and scholars' opinions therefore diverse. For my study, I needed to consult the relevant literature, the archival records of the Taxila excavations and the coins themselves. I am grateful to the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT) and Royal Numismatic Society for their financial, material and research support, which enabled me to access the coins and documents of Marshall and R.B. Whitehead in the AIIT library and the cabinets of the Fitzwilliam, Ashmolean and British Museums. The staff of all these were also extremely helpful.

My two-week visit to Cambridge was generously funded and supported by the AIIT and I worked there and at the Fitzwilliam Museum. I was pleased to find a large number of original black and white photographs of Marshall's Taxila excavations and some relevant numismatic literature in the AIIT library. Marshall published only selected photos in his reports, and the locations of the coin-finds and other material he mentions have always posed a problem for myself and other scholars. The unpublished photos mostly concern the locations of the sites where the material was found at different occupation levels. At the AIIT, I acquired 170 scans and 150 digital photos of the original images from Marshall's excavations and of other antiquities. These will help me a great deal to understand the context and sequence of more than 3,000 coins reported from various sites at Taxila.



*Tea at the Trust: Gul Rahim Khan with
AIIT Chair, Nicholas Sims-Williams*

Meanwhile, the Fitzwilliam houses a good number of coins from the Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian periods. Although I could not consult them all in the time I had, I collected the data for 1200 of them. I have previously published some interesting coins of the Kushan period selected from the cabinet of Coins and Medals at the Fitzwilliam. This time, I studied many coins of the Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian periods. As well as coins, I consulted historical documents and the initial work by Whitehead on the Taxila coins now in the Fitzwilliam cabinet. This comprises his analysis and description of the Rare and Unique Coins from different Taxila sites. This worthy contribution is published by Marshall in his comprehensive report.

My work in Cambridge was a wonderful experience. I learnt a lot about the coins and process of excavation at Taxila through Marshall's photographs. I was also able to meet several new and eminent scholars. I owe thanks to the AIIT Bursary scheme for this opportunity to deepen my knowledge and research. I am also very grateful to Munizha Ahmad-Cooke, Jo Salisbury and other staff members for their kind support and cooperation.

Gul Rahim Khan is Professor of
Archaeology, University of Peshawar.

Living and working at the Trust

A veritable temple of learning, and more...

Benedikt Peschl

Now that the end of my memorable six-month stay at the Ancient India and Iran Trust is here, it is time to write down some recollections about life and work at this unique institution. The present issue of the Trust's very own newsletter offers me a welcome opportunity to do so.

I am a second-year PhD student in the field of Ancient Iranian Studies and formally based at SOAS University of London. I first came to visit the Trust weekly during my MA studies at SOAS in 2015, when I attended Nicholas Sims-Williams' Middle Iranian reading seminar (then on the Manichaean Sogdian cosmogony). For a young student seeking initiation into the more arcane areas of Indo-Iranian studies, these journeys felt like a little pilgrimage, with the Trust being a veritable temple of learning. It became clear to me then that for someone doing research in Iranian Studies, who moreover still prefers the use of actual printed books over electronic material, the library at the Trust had to be a real treasure trove.

So I immediately seized the opportunity when one of the flats at the back of the Trust's building became available in March 2018. I was particularly glad about the impressive collection of facsimiles of Avestan and Middle Persian manuscripts, whose use is so much friendlier on the eye than constantly staring at their digitised equivalents.

A regular highlight was the Khotanese classes run by Professor Sims-Williams in a series of Monday afternoon sessions in the first half of 2018 and again in October. What is more fitting than to ponder the grammar of Khotanese in the midst of Sir Harold Bailey's library?



Benedikt Peschl consulting a 19th-century facsimile of an Avestan text in our library

However, it would be wrong to reduce life at the Trust just to the books. Among the various events I was able to attend at the Trust in recent months, one left a particularly lasting impression on me – the concert by Sarangi player Deepak Paramashivan (accompanied by Satvinder Sehmbe on tabla) in April 2018. The intimate setting of the Trust's India Room provided such a fitting environment for this sonic experience.

An integral part of the AIIT experience is the Trust's beautiful garden with its variety of bushes, roses and other flowers, complemented by a touch of romantic wilderness. Especially in the hot July of 2018, I enjoyed spending the late-afternoon hours on the chairs in front of the house. In fact, it occurs to me only now that I should perhaps have wandered around the enchanted orchard to the right of the main building more often.

All of the above would of course only be half as charming without the friendly environment constantly provided by the staff. Here, special mention must be made of the Custodian, James Cormick. His cordial hospitality, distinctive jokes and constant encouragement to engage with Khotanese irregular verbs contribute immensely to the pleasant atmosphere and counterbalance the air of scholarly seriousness which naturally surrounds the place. And whenever I was lost looking for a book in the wrong room, Assistant Librarian, Jo Salisbury, was quickly at hand to help me out, as was Administrator, Munizha Ahmad-Cooke, whenever I needed support with some bureaucratic matter. I thank them all for making my stay at the Trust so enjoyable, and I hope I will return to visit on many future occasions.

Benedikt Peschl is a PhD student in Ancient Iranian Studies at SOAS University of London.

Friends of the Trust

Continuing the good work of my predecessors

Sam Lieu

As the Trust receives no public funding, but relies entirely on its own resources, we are extremely grateful for the continued support we receive from our Friends and donors. We would also like to express special thanks to Sandra Mason and Bill Martin for carrying out the role of Friends Coordinators, in a voluntary capacity, for the last 10 years. Sandra and Bill have organised many Friends events in this time and have been steadfast in building enthusiasm and support for the Trust's work. We now look forward to seeing them at future Friend events, as guests rather than organisers.

I am delighted to be stepping into Sandra and Bill's shoes as our new Friends Coordinator. I have been a trustee since 2011, but a Friend and supporter of the Trust for much longer. I regularly attend the Friday Lectures and frequently use its wonderful library for my research on the history of the Ancient Silk Road.

Before my (official) retirement in 2016, I was Inaugural Distinguished Professor at Macquarie University, Sydney. I am currently a Bye Fellow (2018–2022) at Robinson College and President (2017–2021) of the International Union of Academies (Union Académique Internationale). This latter role means that I have to be away from Cambridge quite regularly, but I hope to make the most of every opportunity to get to know our Friends better and to develop this network.

To this end, I was delighted to host an informal supper for Friends at the Trust in October. My wife Judith and I are enthusiastic cooks and were pleased to see guests enjoying the food we had prepared. The meal was followed by a fruitful discussion about future events for Friends and the ways in which Friends can help further the aims of the Trust. I look forward to organising more events and building on the wonderful work that Bill Martin and Sandra Mason did for so many years.



Professor Sam Lieu

Fondly remembered

We were saddened this year by the passing of three longstanding Friends of the Trust, Lisbeth Gershevitch, John Hinnells and Heide Elfenbein, all of whom will be greatly missed.

Lisbeth, who died in December 2017 at the age of 92, was the widow of the scholar of Iranian languages, Ilya Gershevitch (1914–2001). She was his constant companion on adventurous research trips to Iran, including an unprecedented three-month visit to Southern Iran in 1956 to record the unknown dialects of Bashkardia. She was a frequent and lively visitor to the Trust and a loyal supporter of its work. We are extremely grateful for the generous bequest left to us by Lisbeth, which includes a number of books on world textiles, which she had a great interest in.

John Hinnells, Professor of Comparative Religion at SOAS University of London and a renowned authority on Zoroastrianism, passed away in May 2018 at the age of 76. He also campaigned to broaden religious education in schools and universities to encompass the world's main religions. In 2017, the Trust hosted a launch and presentation of a festschrift to him (see <http://www.indiran.org/a-festschrift-for-john-hinnells/>), and we are honoured to have just received a large part of his library, which will be added to our collection in due course.

In November 2018, the Trust hosted a post-funeral reception for Heide Elfenbein, the wife of Josef Elfenbein, who was Professor of Iranian philology at the University of Mainz. Heide was a poet and dancer, and another vibrant personality among our supporters. A substantial amount of Josef Elfenbein's library, including many rare books on Balochi, has already been added to the Trust's collection.



Bill Martin and Sandra Mason (2nd and 3rd from left) with our Trustees and Custodian, James Cormick

From the Trust's garden

FitzGerald's roses

James Cormick

Longstanding Friends of the Trust, Bill Martin and Sandra Mason gave us an Omar Khayyam rose 'to commemorate the anniversaries of 2009', including the birth on 31 March 1809 of Edward FitzGerald, translator of the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. It did very well in the first two years of its planting but then became rather antisocial and reclusive. This year, however, perhaps because of the very hot and dry summer, it decided to emerge from its seclusion and display some beautiful light pink flowers.

It is claimed (Peter Beales Roses, <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/omar-khayyam-shrub-rose.html>) that this plant was 'propagated from a plant growing on Edward FitzGerald's grave in Suffolk, planted there in 1893 from seed gathered from plants on Omar Khayyam's tomb in Nishapur', and it is quite possible that the plants on the tomb were descendants of the type of rose much celebrated in his poetry. For instance, of the 75 quatrains in the first edition of FitzGerald's version of Khayyam's work, 7 mention roses. They are mainly spoken of as symbols of beauty (in common with the practice in the vast bulk of poetry in all languages)



The Trust's Omar Khayyam rose

*Iram indeed is gone with all its Rose,
And Jamshyd's Sev'n-ring'd Cup where no-one knows;
But still the Vine her ancient Ruby yields,
And still a Garden by the Water blows.*

(Quatrain 5)

but they are also used in Khayyam's poetry as symbols of the impermanence and fragility of life and civilisations. The flowers don't last long and their delicate petals can easily be torn or dislodged:

*Look to the Rose that blows about us – 'Lo,
Laughing,' she says, 'into the World I blow:
At once the silken Tassel of my Purse Tear,
and its Treasure on the Garden throw.'*

(Quatrain 13)

Interestingly, however, there is no mention of the fragrance of the roses, much lauded in other poetry, or the colour, except in one instance in this quatrain, where obviously red is associated with blood, battle and heroism:

*I sometimes think that never blows so red
The Rose as where some buried Caesar bled;
That every Hyacinth the Garden wears
Dropt in its Lap from some once lovely Head.*

(Quatrain 18)

The Omar Khayyam rose is a damask rose with the rather muddled arrangement of petals typical of this type, but it is pink not red, and light pink furthermore. But we should not read too much into that. Khayyam never claimed to be a hero even in his verse. His claim to fame is in the sad beauty of his elegiac verse not in any military or worldly ambitions or accomplishments. Had he been a Greek poet, he would have ascribed his inspiration to Erato not Calliope.

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