

INDIRAN

The newsletter of the Ancient India & Iran Trust

Issue 13: Winter 2019



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Editor's Letter

News from the Ancient India & Iran Trust

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of *Indiran*, the newsletter of the Ancient India and Iran Trust. We hope you will enjoy this variety of perspectives on life at the Trust over the past academic year.

As part of our mission to support and promote scholarly research and public interest in early Central and South Asia and Iran, we have again hosted a rich programme of Friday Lectures given by experts based in the UK and abroad. As well as exploring various cultural aspects of the Silk Road, these talks have presented new research on, among other things, the courtly musical culture of eighteenth-century Lucknow, the history of the Tajiks and endangered Zoroastrian heritage.

Our participation in the Cambridge Festival of Ideas has also proved popular. Each year, our 'sold out' event – a presentation by one of our trustees on their research – has brought many new people to the Trust and has had an enthusiastic response.

Among our special events, our annual Garden Party was again blessed with sunny weather and an equally warm gathering of Friends and close associates. The event was summed up in a Tweet by longstanding Friend of the Trust Simon Pulleyn as 'always such a jolly occasion and an annual milestone'.

Our Friends were also treated to another word on the cake at our biennial tea party to commemorate the birthday of founding trustee Sir Harold Bailey. You can read more about this, as well as our Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture, which alternates with the tea party and takes place this year on Friday 13 December.

Another special event is the Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology. Established to

commemorate the work of founding trustees Raymond and Bridget Allchin, this annual conference brings together scholars working in this field as well as South Asian history and the history of art and architecture. Last year's symposium, held at the Trust and summarised here by trustee Cameron Petrie, was varied and stimulating, and preparations for this year's event, at SOAS University of London on 7 December, are underway.

As for day-to-day life at the Trust, we bade a fond farewell this year to Jose John, who has retired. Having worked here for over 20 years, Jose contributed a great deal, first to the daily running of the Trust and then as an assistant in the library. At the same time, we welcomed a new recruit, Janet Pope, to our small team of dedicated volunteers, who writes here about the valuable work she has been doing in the library.

The library itself is a continually expanding resource, in both the range and depth of its specialist materials, and has been further enriched this year with generous donations and bequests. A particularly exciting project we have recently embarked on is the transfer of our digital archives to the Cambridge University Digital Library, which significantly widens their accessibility to researchers.

It has also been a delight to welcome several new researchers, from MPhil students to senior scholars, who have made use of our library this year, and have contributed to our lively coffee-time discussions and intake of sweet treats. Our recently revived Pakistan Visiting Fellowship funded the three-month research trip of Professor Gul Rahim Khan from Peshawar University, who, as reported in *Indiran* 12, visited us with the help of a Trust Bursary last year. His path usefully crossed that of Bursary recipient, Nicholas

Groat, a PhD student from Sheffield University. Both provide an account here of how Trust funding has benefited their research.

However, as we welcome new faces, we sadly also have to say goodbye to firm friends who have supported the Trust over the years and have left us generous bequests. Included here are tributes to the late Professor John Hinnells, Lisbeth Gershevitch and Josef Elfenbein.

Finally, the symposium on the 'The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings' held in 2017, and reported on in *Indiran* 12, appears to be having a ripple effect that, as described here by Abdul Majid Sheikh, has reached the higher echelons of Pakistan's officialdom.

And we close with another reflection on the 'treasures' of 23 Brooklands Avenue from our Custodian James Cormick. In this issue, he sheds light on the portrait of founding trustee Sir Harold Bailey that presides over the fireplace in our Iran Room.

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

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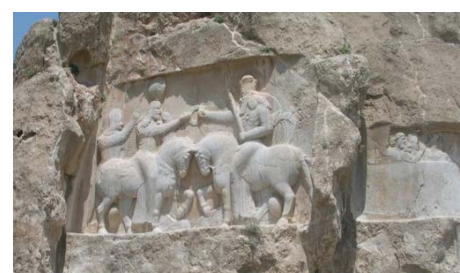
Special events

Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture 2019: 'Divine imagery in ancient Persia'

We are delighted that our biennial Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Dr Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, Curator of Middle Eastern Coins at the British Museum. Dr Curtis will be speaking on 'Divine imagery in ancient Persia'.

From the 6th century BC until the 7th century AD, the ancient kings

of Iran introduced an imagery and a vocabulary that emphasised divine support for the ruler. Royal titles were indicative of the king's position in his realm and the region. At times of maximum power, as well as in periods of internal unrest and external threats, a wide range of symbols associated with the divine splendour of the king appeared in the royal court art of ancient Iran. This imagery is seen on a variety of media, including coins, reliefs and other small objects of the three pre-Islamic Iranian dynasties – the Achaemenid Persians, the Arsacid Parthians and the Sasanians.



Top: Sasanian silver coin of Ardashir I (AD 224–240). © Trustees of the British Museum

Bottom: Rock relief of Ardashir I at Naqsh-e Rostam near Persepolis. © V.S. Curtis

The Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture will take place on Friday 13 December 2019 at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA at 5:30pm (refreshments from 5pm). All welcome.

Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology Cameron Petrie

Following a fallow year, the Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology returned to the Ancient India and Iran Trust in 2018. As has become customary, we had a lecture at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research on Friday 30 November – this year given by trustee Richard Blurton on 'The Hotung Gallery at the British Museum: different ideas, and some new views of Amaravati'. Richard regaled us with insights into the rationale and process of updating the displays in the Hotung Gallery, which was reopened in 2018. The talk was followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Trust and a dinner hosted by trustee Sir Nicholas Barrington. The symposium itself convened on Saturday 1 December at 23 Brooklands Avenue, and included, in presentation order, Cemre Ustunkaya, Akshyeta Suryanarayan and Alessandro Ceccarelli from the University of



Dr Cemre Ustunkaya opening the symposium with her research on Indus agricultural production and management. Photo: Alessandro Ceccarelli

Cambridge, Emilia Smagur from the University of Warsaw, Raminder Kaur from Leicester University, Mehreen Chida-Razvi, Fiona Buckee and Crispin Branfoot from SOAS University of London and Mudit Trivedi from the University of Chicago. The topics ranged in time from the foods and crafts of the Indus Civilisation, through Buddhist donation and Roman coinage, and on to a range of aspects of medieval and colonial period art, archaeology and the processes of temple rebuilding and renovation. In true Brooklands

Avenue style, the atmosphere was both relaxed and stimulating, and a good time was had by all.

This year's Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology will take place on Saturday 7 December at SOAS University of London.

Cameron Petrie is Reader in South Asian and Iranian Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, and Honorary Secretary of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Events calendar 2018–19

Michaelmas Term 2018

26 October: Cambridge Festival of Ideas: Christine van Ruymbeke (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge; Ancient India and Iran Trust): Literary criticism and the pendulum of taste: the reception of the *Anvar-e Sohayli*

9 November: Katherine Butler Schofield (King's College London): The courtesan and the memsahib: Khanum Jan, Sophia Plowden and their Hindustani airs, Lucknow 1788

30 November: Keynote Lecture, Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology (McDonald Institute): Richard Blurton (British Museum): The Hotung Gallery at the British Museum: different ideas, and some new views of Amaravati

1 December: Fifth Allchin Symposium on South Asian Archaeology

7 December: Susan Whitfield (University College London): Silk, slaves and stupas: material culture of the Silk Road

Lent Term 2019

25 January: Preeti Khosla (independent scholar): Reintroducing the Ni'matnamah half a century later

22 February: Friends' event: Joe Cribb (British Museum; Ashmolean Museum; Ancient India and Iran Trust): Coins as the key to ancient Central Asian history

8 March: Georgina Herrmann (University College London): Royal Merv, a city on the Great Silk Road

Easter Term 2019

26 April: Friends event: Sam Lieu (Macquarie University, Sydney; Ancient India and Iran Trust): Manichaean art and calligraphy from the Silk Road

10 May: Richard Foltz (Concordia University, Montréal): From Sintashta to Samarkand: the Tajiks and their ancestors in Central Asian history

31 May: Saloumeh Gholami (Goethe University Frankfurt): Endangered Zoroastrian heritage of Iran: new insights from recently discovered manuscripts



Mr Masud Khalifazoda, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan (left) at Richard Foltz's lecture on the Tajiks, 10 May 2018

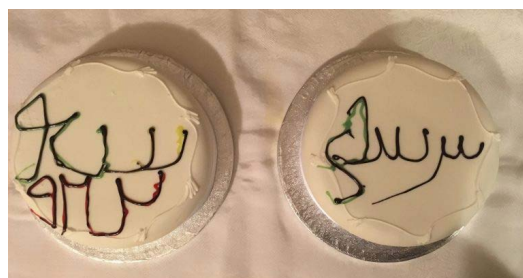
The word on the cake

Ursula Sims-Williams

December 16th marked the 119th anniversary of the birth of our founding Trustee Sir Harold Bailey in 1899, just before the turn of the century – as he often reminded us. During his lifetime he regularly held a birthday tea party on that date to which he invited colleagues and their partners. An especially charming custom was to present each of the ladies with a scented freesia. However, the main attraction was always the cake, a traditional fruit cake on which he had inscribed a word. Usually the word was too obscure to be recognised by most of the guests, but he would always introduce the cutting of the cake with a detailed explanation, making the annual event one of the most memorable pre-Christmas festivities.

Since Sir Harold's death in 1996 we have kept the tradition alive, alternating it with a biennial Bailey Memorial Lecture series (see p. 3). This year, the closely guarded secret of the cake decoration was revealed by our treasurer, Almut Hintze, who picked not a word but the number 691, the date, according to the era of Yazdegird, of the oldest dated Zoroastrian manuscript. As she explains:

'The number is written in the Pahlavi script. It is read from right to left in Semitic fashion and starts with a 6, as indicated by the 6 little hooks. Then it is followed by the sign for 100, by 2 hooks, each of which stands for 20, then by the number for 50 and finally by the word for one, *ēk*. Now you have to add them all together and you get 600, 20, 20, 50 and 1, i.e. 691 in total'.



The number 691 in the Pahlavi script on the cakes at the Bailey Tea Party

Other news

A fond farewell

As we closed for Christmas and New Year in December 2018, we bade farewell to Jose John who retired from the Trust having worked here since 1997. Jose came to us from the Department of Archaeology, Cambridge University, where she had worked for Professor Colin Renfrew for many years. She was founding trustee Bridget Allchin's assistant until 2005, when she moved to work part-time in the Trust library. A valued colleague and an integral, loyal member of the Trust 'family', we wish Jose well in her retirement.



Jose John

New Friends Coordinator



Joe Cribb

Nicholas Sims-Williams wins Farabi International Award for Iranian and Islamic Studies

We are delighted to share the news that our Chair of Trustees, Nicholas Sims-Williams, Emeritus Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies at SOAS University of London, has been awarded the Farabi International Award for Iranian and Islamic Studies. Nicholas travelled to Tehran at the end of January to receive the award, which honours his life's work in Old and Middle Iranian philology – the study of the history of language, including the historical study of literary texts.

Aimed at developing Islamic Humanities, the Farabi International Award is now in its tenth year. It is presented by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, in collaboration with UNESCO and ISESCO and several scientific and research centres in Iran. It is named after Abu Nasr al-Farabi (c. 878–c. 950 CE), known in the West as Alfarabius, a renowned philosopher, jurist, scientist, cosmologist and mathematician.

Nicholas was one of 30 domestic and 6 international recipients of this year's award, presented by Es'haq Jahangiri, First Vice-President of Iran, at a ceremony held at the Iran International Conference Center on 27 January.



Nicholas Sims-Williams (right) receiving the Farabi Award from Es'haq Jahangiri (second from right)

We are pleased to inform our Friends that trustee Joe Cribb has recently taken over the role of Friends Coordinator from Sam Lieu. Joe will be ensuring that we continue to host a variety of termly events exclusively for Friends to mark our appreciation for their support.

Joe has been a trustee since 2017. He is former Keeper of Coins and Medals at the British Museum and Research Associate at the Ashmolean Museum's Heberden Coin Room. In February, he gave a talk for Friends on coins and Central Asian history and, in November, hosted an event introducing Friends to the coins held at the Trust.

Symposia Iranica prize

The Trust once again awarded a prize for the best paper on pre-Islamic Iran at the biennial conference on Iranian studies, Symposia Iranica, held at St Andrews University in April. The prize went to Olivia Ramble, studying in Paris and Leiden, for her paper on 'Performative uses of monumental writing in ancient Iran'. Alberto Bernardo, University of Padua, and Mariano Errichiello, SOAS University of London, received honourable mentions.

News from the library

AIIT collections on the Cambridge University Digital Library

Joanna Salisbury

On 29 March this year, the Trust's photographic archive of the collections of the Kabul Museum was made available to view online on the Cambridge University Digital Library (CUDL). This collection of almost 200 photographs was taken by Bridget Allchin in 1951 of objects in the Kabul Museum from sites including Begram, Fondukistan, Hadda and Kunduz, as well as from Nuristan. It is an excellent photographic resource for historical collections in Afghanistan and one that will also be enriched with further contextual data, upon completion this year of a Stein-

Arnold Scheme-funded research project by Eva Meharry (McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research).

The Trust has begun digitising our special collections, with a view to increasing access and for preservation purposes. The Allchin photographs of the Kabul Museum are the first to be made available on CUDL, and we anticipate that several other collections from our archives will be added to CUDL within the next 12 months, including the coin collection of Professor Harold Bailey, featuring over 100 predominantly Parthian and Sasanian coins.

The entire collection of Kabul Museum photographs from our Allchin collection can be viewed on the AIIT page of the Cambridge Digital Library at: <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/aiit/1>.

Donations continue to enrich library

Joanna Salisbury

The Trust was very fortunate to receive a generous bequest from Lisbeth Gershevitch. Lisbeth was a long-time Friend of the AIIT and wife of the late scholar of Iranian languages Ilya Gershevitch (see p. 12). In addition to her valuable collection of books on textiles amounting to approximately 70 titles, Lisbeth left the Trust a substantial financial gift.

Following the sad news of Heide and Josef Elfenbein's passing in late 2018 and early 2019, respectively, the library received another kind donation of books and offprints from the Elfenbein family. Our library collection now includes 250 books and 150 offprints on Indo-Iranian languages and linguistics from the library of Josef Elfenbein, who had been Professor of Iranian Philology at the University of Mainz (see p. 13).

An additional 90 books have been added to the already extensive library collection of Professor Charles Bawden. Professor Bawden, a distinguished Mongolian studies scholar, also donated his working papers and correspondence to the Trust in 2014, which are currently being catalogued.

Trustee Sir Nicholas Barrington kindly donated over 20 books on Lahore and Pakistan from his personal library, all of which are now on the library catalogue. Included was a very special 1897 edition of *The Sikhs and the Sikh Wars: The Rise, Conquest, and Annexation of the Punjab State* by Gen. Sir Charles Gough and Arthur D. Innes, which has been added to our rare books collection.

We have also very recently received a substantial collection of books on South Asian numismatics and history from trustee Joe Cribb.



Image 92, Kabul Museum I - B.A., AIIT Allchin Collection on CUDL (Cambridge Digital Library)

Title: Fragment of bas relief with depictions of Buddha and human forms made of stucco from Hadda (c. 3–5 Century CE)



Image 82, Kabul Museum I - B.A., AIIT Allchin Collection on CUDL (Cambridge Digital Library)

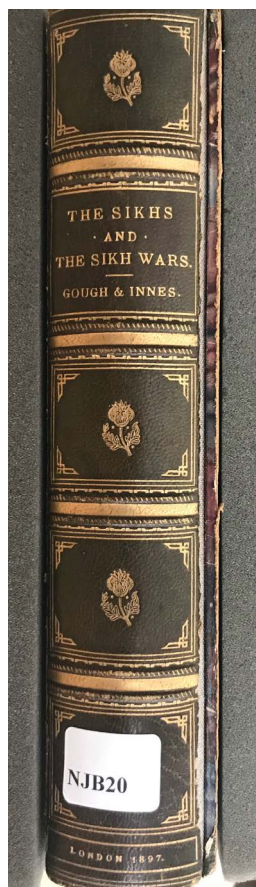
Title: Frontview of two wooden Nuristani statues of male and female human figures from 19th Century. Male figure on left carved with dagger over right shoulder, elaborate headdress, necklace, and belt, all symbols of prestige. The female figure on the right carved with exposed chest, necklace, and tassel on belt

News from the library

In 2018, the Trust was bequeathed the library collection of Professor John Hinnells, formerly Professor of Comparative Religion at SOAS (see p. 10), which totalled over 60 boxes of books, journals, offprints and other publications, kindly delivered to us by the Hinnells family. The initial task of sorting out duplicates and books for accession to the library has already been completed by one of our volunteers, Janet Pope (see this page), and we will shortly begin cataloguing this important collection on ancient India, Iran, the subcontinent and Zoroastrian studies.

These recent additions to our collections highlight not only the generosity of our donors, but also the depth and diversity of subject matter, enabling us to expand and enrich our specialist library collections.

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



The Sikhs and the Sikh Wars, 1897, now in our rare books collection

Volunteering at the Trust

Janet Pope

It all started after a Friends supper last November hosted by trustee Sam Lieu. The talk turned to volunteers, what they do for the Trust and, given the very few staff, how much they can contribute. I have enjoyed coming to the Friday lectures so offered to volunteer one morning a week for whatever I (as a total non-specialist) could do.

A few weeks later, I met with trustee and Honorary Librarian Ursula Sims-Williams and Assistant Librarian Jo Salisbury. The timing was excellent as the Trust had recently been bequeathed the library of Professor John Hinnells who died in 2018 (see p. 10). His areas of interest included Zoroastrianism, the Parsis of India and comparative religion.

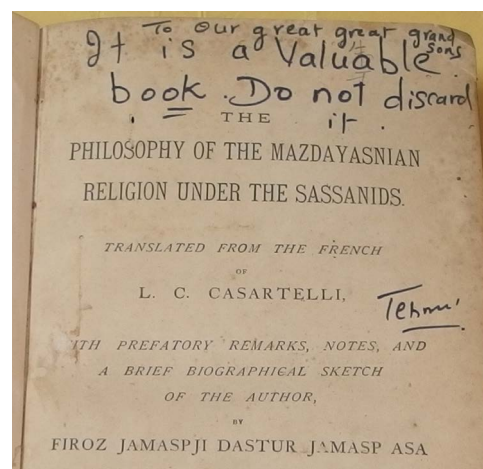
My first job was to go through this large collection held in 74 boxes stored on shelves in the basement and photograph the front pages so the books could be identified quickly. After a false start trying to use my mobile phone I used a 'proper' camera and soon got into the swing of opening boxes, photographing the books, returning them and labelling the boxes. I found a few books that were not relevant to the Trust (e.g. on EU law relating to Turkish migrants, and African art).

The next stage was to check each book against the Trust's holdings using the Cambridge University Library catalogue. This I was able to do at home (a productive way to spend long winter evenings). I estimate that the total number of books was about 1,800 and about a third of these are duplicates. There were also many journal issues including *Parsiiana*, a glossy magazine published fortnightly for the Parsi community in Mumbai.

The final stage of my involvement so

far was to separate the duplicates from the books that the Trust does not hold; yet more rummaging in boxes and moving them around on the shelves. This project took me about 6 months of one morning a week.

Although what I was doing was very routine, I did learn a few things: the first Asian member of the British Parliament was a Parsi, Sir Dadabhai Naoroji. Freddy Mercury, the lead singer with Queen, was a Parsi. There are many Zoroastrian religious texts, most in English or French translation. Some of the books are over 150 years old and probably quite valuable. One published in 1889 had a message from the owner to his great-great-grandsons not to destroy the book as it was valuable.



My present task is to record details of and photograph the various artefacts at the Trust. Many, like that on the cover of this issue, were given by the founding trustees and are displayed in the house; others are in the manuscript room.

One delight of volunteering at the Trust is the coffee break where everyone meets for coffee or tea. It is a chance to chat over a drink and quite often some nice biscuits or cakes that someone has brought in.

Janet Pope is a retired information scientist and long-term Friend of the Trust.

Trust fellowship enables new research on Taxila coins

Gul Rahim Khan

Alexander Cunningham discovered the well-known ancient site Takshasila, now called Taxila, near Rawalpindi, Pakistan, during the late 19th century. Thereafter, Sir John Marshall systematically explored and excavated Taxila at the beginning of the 20th century. He worked there for 22 years and unearthed many archaeological sites including 3 major cities, 1 temple and numerous Buddhist sites. The peak period of these sites was during the Indo-Scythian and Kushan dynasties, but different sites are known to have been occupied from the 5th century BC to the 6th century AD.

In these excavations, Marshall found a large number of antiquities and described them in great detail in several short reports and a final comprehensive report. He also reported more than 12,000 coins of different periods, giving the number of coins, classifying them into types and attributing them to different dynasties and rulers. Of this collection, he selected some for illustration under the title 'Rare and Unique Coins'. From these analyses, he established the chronology of Taxila sites and rearranged the dynastic history of the Mauryans, Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Kushans and successors.

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 city of Taxila. Thereafter, scholarship of this region has always been developed from Marshall's excavation report. In spite of many shortcomings and a limited number of coin photos, this has remained the

main source of archaeological finds available to art historians.

I had the opportunity to reinvestigate the 6,000 coins of the Kushan period unearthed by Marshall from various sites at Taxila, publishing my findings in a series of articles in *Gandharan Studies*. The innovative insights of this new research have been appreciated by many scholars who encouraged me to carry out similar investigations on the other coins of Taxila, such as those of the Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian periods. The study of these coins is complicated but interesting and important. It requires a serious attempt to evaluate them through new perceptions.

In my investigations on the Kushan material, I noted a large number of cut fractions (half and square pieces) of Kujula Kadphises, the first ruler of the Kushans, and assembled them for an article. John Marshall placed these among the normal coins and never mentioned their status and condition. During the second phase of my survey based on the Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian and Indo-Parthian coins, some more cut coins of these dynasties were traced in the cabinet of Taxila Museum. The new cut finds of early periods impacted the dimension and scope of my research about the cut fractions of Kujula. In view of the curiosity and importance of this topic, I planned to prioritise my work on it. I was therefore delighted when The Ancient India and Iran Trust accepted my research proposal on 'The cut fractions of Kujula Kadphises' and provided me with the financial support needed to carry out this work in the summer of 2019.

My 12-week Pakistan Visiting Fellowship comprised two phases: working in Cambridge, then collecting relevant data from the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the Oriental Museum, Durham and the British Museum, London. During

this time, I successfully processed the relevant data and compiled a research paper.

The cut series contains about 450 of Kujula Kadphises and more than 50 cut fractions of preceding dynasties. This unique practice was carried out during the reign of Kujula Kadphises when the currency was badly depreciated and progressively struck in reduced weight. The king might have borrowed the idea from Roman coinage, cutting the normal coins of his own production into halves and sometimes quarters. He also treated the coins of preceding dynasties and contemporary rulers, which were being circulated at that time, in the same way. The 50 cut coins of his predecessors are important for reconstructing the chronology of the reign of Kujula in Taxila.

My research entailed several steps:

1. Identifying all the cut coins
2. Classifying types and varieties
3. Describing and arranging them in the form of a catalogue
4. Preparing diagrams of groups of coins, and carrying out an analytical study of their weight to understand the process and value of cut fractions
5. Analysing excavation data
6. Summarising the practice of cut coins reported from other parts of the world in order to understand the economic condition and circumstances of those coinages
7. Examining cut coins of this period from places like the Swat region
8. Investigating the cut and cut-marked coins of Kujula Kadphises and predecessors in collections at the British, Ashmolean and Fitzwilliam Museums
9. Consulting relevant references at different institutes.

I spent six weeks consulting many important books and research papers held in the Trust library. The pleasant academic environment and sufficient literature I discovered there on an

Ancient India & Iran Trust Bursary

earlier visit prompted me to expedite my research on the cut fractions of Kujula Kadphises. I also spent a week consulting numismatic books and some coins relevant to this study at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

In Oxford, I studied the Ashmolean Museum's important collection based on the Indo-Scythian coins. The museum library is similarly noteworthy for its rich numismatic literature on the coins of South Asia and other parts of the world.

The Oriental Museum in Durham, where I spent one week, has a major collection of Marshall's photographs, many of which were not published, related to the excavations of Taxila sites. This collection is significant for understanding the contextual record of coins and finds from different blocks at Sirkap and other sites.

I concluded my visit with three weeks' research in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. I also began work on the Indo-Scythian coins.

This 12-week fellowship was a remarkable opportunity. I met many eminent scholars of archaeology and numismatics and discussed with them ongoing research projects and their potential. I was also able to participate in the conference of Oriental Numismatic Society, speaking on the recent archaeological excavations conducted in Peshawar.

Gul Rahim Khan is Professor of Archaeology at the University of Peshawar.

The Pakistan Visiting Fellowship provides financial support to scholars from Pakistan who wish to spend 2–3 months in the UK, primarily at the Trust, for a specific research project concerned with the early civilisations of Iran, Central Asia or South Asia.

Email info@indiran.org for further information.

A key resource for South and Central Asian archaeological research

Nicholas Groat

This year I had the pleasure of visiting the extensive Ancient India and Iran Trust collection on two occasions to support a major component of my archaeological research on early distillation. Looking into the interpretation made by Raymond Allchin in 1979 that presented the site of Shaikhān Dherī as a concentrated hub of the practice, I have been analysing the precursive technical stages of ceramic apparatus proffered for this purpose. Allchin formulated his idea from Sir John Marshall's classification of water-condensing units uncovered at the urban centre of Taxila; however, accessing the original data that both scholars had formulated their interpretations from quickly proved difficult.

To address this, I visited the Trust in January 2019 intending to get first-hand access to primary sources detailing the components and quantity of distillation apparatus in the region. Little did I know how vast the archive and library are, and it became apparent that Allchin's interpretation was not a passing thought. Judging by a series of notebooks from the 1960s to 1990s, Allchin seemingly had distillation in the back of his mind long after his original publication, evident in numerous hand drawings of apparatus in tandem with itineraries, conferences notes and research-trip diaries. Consequentially, the visit acted more as a preliminary study to review his fieldnotes, initial conceptualisations and cited sources on the antiquity of distillation.

The information held in the Trust

collection on this increasingly large literature survey went far beyond the short visit I had planned. Hence, I found myself again in Cambridge at the start of June. I was fortunate enough to receive a Trust Bursary to do this, which provided the flexibility for me to ascertain a wider spectrum of ceramics contemporaneous to the chronology of Shaikhān Dherī and therefore contextualise the suggested distillation apparatus with other vessel forms. This further helped me to understand the extent of how widespread the apparatus was, and possible functional attributes of specific ceramic vessels suggested as distillation units.

I had noted throughout that the classification of 'condensers' was not accepted across the research community, and my second-hand understanding of the apparatus from drawings would never be on par with detailed insights. The Trust again provided a valuable opportunity to help me with this, and at the end of the month I met with the Trust's Pakistan Visiting Fellow Professor Gul Rahim Khan from the Department of Archaeology, University of Peshawar, to discuss what I had recognised and the current limits to my body of research. Thus, my time at the Trust culminated with far more questions than I arrived with, though nevertheless allowed me to fully experience its role as a key resource for South and Central Asian archaeological research. This lies not just in its physical collection, but equally in the brilliant support of the staff and generosity of the Trust.

Nicholas Groat is a White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (WROCAH) PhD researcher at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield. Visit <https://www.indiran.org/about/bursaries> to find out more about our Bursaries.

Friends remembered: John Hinnells

John Russell Hinnells (1941–2018)

Almut Hintze

On 3 May 2018, the Trust lost one of its friends and supporters, Professor John Russell Hinnells. Throughout his life he was a great admirer of Sir Harold Bailey, and he missed no opportunity to talk fondly about his visits to the Trust and the hours he spent with Sir Harold, not only discussing things Zoroastrian but also gardening. On 12 March 2017, the Trust celebrated John Hinnells' scholarly work on the occasion of the publication of a collection of articles written in his honour by colleagues and friends. It was a joyous occasion at which John was surrounded by his family, friends and colleagues.

John Hinnells was born on 27 August 1941 in Derby, the only child of Lillian and William Hinnells. He spent much of his childhood from the age of 6 to 13 in hospital for tuberculosis treatment, the after-effects of which were powerful and challenging throughout his life. He felt inclined to become a clergyman of the Church of England and even expressed a wish to enter the monastic life. For this purpose, he joined the Anglican Community of the Resurrection based in Mirfield Monastery near Leeds, West Yorkshire. However, there he met and fell in love with his future wife, Marianne Grace Bushell, who was visiting a cousin. As a result, his plans changed dramatically. Unable and unwilling then to take monastic vows, he left the monastery and in 1961 went up to King's College London to study Theology and Religious Studies and graduated as a Bachelor of Divinity in 1964. He and Marianne were married on 24 July 1965 and they had two sons, Mark Julian (b. June 1966) and Duncan



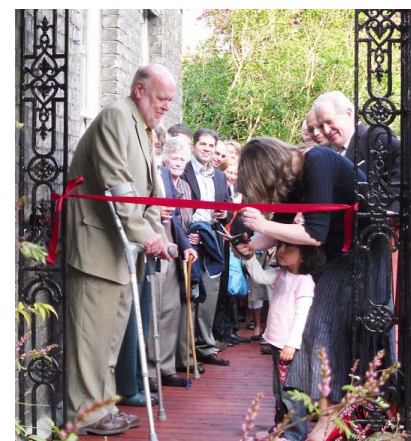
John Hinnells (4th from right) and Harold Bailey (2nd from left) at the First International Congress of Mithraic Studies, Tehran 1971. Photo: J. Hinnells/Manchester University Press

Keith William (b. October 1968).

Preferring academia to the priesthood, John engaged in postgraduate research at King's College London and at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where, under the supervision of Professor Mary Boyce, he researched Zoroastrian influence on the Judaeo-Christian tradition. He went on to have a distinguished academic career, starting at the age of 26 as a lecturer at the University of Newcastle (1967–1970). In 1970 he moved to the University of Manchester, where he remained for 23 years, rising to Professor of Comparative Religion in 1985. In 1993, he took up the Chair of Comparative Religion at SOAS and became the founding head of its new Department for the Study of Religions. However, he left SOAS in 1997 after the painful loss of his beloved Marianne, who sadly died prematurely from cancer in 1996.

John moved to Cambridge in 1997 to take up a visiting fellowship at Clare Hall. He became Research Professor in Comparative Religion first at Derby University (1999–2002) and then, in 2002, at Liverpool Hope University until his retirement. Throughout these years, John made Cambridge

his home. He was a Senior Member at Robinson College, where he met again his former tutor at King's College London, Professor Morna Hooker. He enjoyed the congenial company at Robinson College as well as at Clare Hall, and that of his friend Mrs Alison Houghton, founding librarian of Robinson College. He also benefited the Trust with his advice, especially on the ramp providing disabled access to the building. On 1 May 2009, he opened the ramp with the help of two-year-old Rubi Ahmad-Cooke, the daughter of our Administrator Munizha, shown with him in the picture below cutting the red ribbon.



The inauguration of the disabled access ramp at the Trust in 2009

Friends remembered: John Hinnells

In 2013, John decided to sell his bungalow in Histon and move closer to his son Mark in Oxford, where he lived in a bungalow set in beautiful grounds until his sudden death in 2018. He further benefited the Trust by bequeathing his entire academic library to it, thus complementing the collections of Mary Boyce, Sir Harold Bailey and other scholars.

John Hinnells' academic work is particularly significant in four major areas: the question of Zoroastrian influence on Christianity, Mithraism, the Zoroastrian diaspora and the study of religions in general. Many friends of the Trust will know him as an expert in Zoroastrianism and for his work with the Zoroastrian community. He loved working with Zoroastrians, paying special attention to the impact of diaspora on individuals, families and the community. His *Zoroastrians in Britain* (1996) represents a pioneering study of the Zoroastrian diaspora in the United Kingdom, and in his magnum opus, *The Zoroastrian Diaspora: Religion and Migration* (2005), he identifies religion as a crucial marker of identity in diasporic groups. This masterful piece of research is the fruit of 30 years of study. He not only undertook an unprecedented survey of Zoroastrian diasporic communities by means of a questionnaire which yielded 1,840 responses to questions on demographic issues, religious belief and practice and secular culture, but he also visited the 11 diasporic centres that he wrote about, studying their archival sources and living with local Zoroastrian families. His unrivalled first-hand familiarity with communities world-wide enabled him both to present fiercely debated topics in a sensitive and impartial manner and to convey personal perceptions of individual Zoroastrians.

John Hinnells also made the study of religion widely known through



John Hinnells (centre), with editors Alan Williams (left) and Almut Hintze (right) of the festschrift presented to him at the Trust in 2017

the publication of accessible books such as the richly illustrated and very popular but substantive *Persian Mythology* (first published in 1973), *Zoroastrianism and the Parsis* (1981) and numerous articles on various aspects of Zoroastrianism and religion for teachers of Religious Education. He had a great impact on the non-specialist understanding of religion in his role as editor for Penguin Books, in particular *The Penguin Dictionary of Religions* (1984), *A Handbook of Living Religions* (1984), *The Penguin Handbook of the World's Living Religions* (1985), and *Who's Who of World Religions* (1991). All these publications include substantial and authoritative chapters on Zoroastrianism, thus spreading the knowledge of this all too often neglected religion.

In recognition of his contributions to the study of the Zoroastrian community, the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE) bestowed on John Hinnells the title of 'Honoured Friend of the ZTFE' on 20 May 2007, together with Professor A.D.H. Bivar and, posthumously, Professor Mary Boyce. In his acceptance speech, John said: 'Whereas some of my colleagues specialising in other religions have received death

threats, I and other academics specialising in Zoroastrian history, have received nothing but support. It is a matter of great pride that with the support of the Zartoshty Brothers, funds have been raised to establish a full-time post in Zoroastrian studies at SOAS, the first such dedicated post in the world.' His and Mary Boyce's vision have laid the foundation for the flourishing of the study of Zoroastrianism and of Ancient and Middle Iranian languages at SOAS. The Zartoshty Brothers Chair in Zoroastrianism is now firmly established and has recently been complemented by the endowment of £5 million for the SOAS Shapoorji Pallonji Institute of Zoroastrian Studies.

John Hinnells donated his own library to the Trust, thus enriching our collections, especially in the field of Parsi Zoroastrian studies.

The Ancient India and Iran Trust is proud and thankful to count John Hinnells among its abiding friends and benefactors beyond his death.

Almut Hintze is Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism at SOAS University of London, and Honorary Treasurer of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Friends remembered: Lisbeth Gershevitch

Lisbeth Gershevitch (1925–2017)

Ursula Sims-Williams

In our last newsletter, we recorded the sad death of Lisbeth Gershevitch on 13 December 2017 at the age of 92. Lisbeth had been a faithful friend of Sir Harold Bailey and she became a Life Friend of the Trust and regular attendee of Friday lectures. On his death in 2001, her husband Ilya's academic books were given to the University of Bologna, Ravenna, but Lisbeth kept her own collection of books on textiles which she left to us in addition to a generous bequest.

Born Lisbeth Syfrig in Switzerland on 24 November 1925, Lisbeth trained as a nurse before her marriage in 1951 to the Cambridge Iranist Ilya Gershevitch (1914–2001). She brought a sense of adventurous practicality to their life together, which was put to the test during their expedition to Bashkardia in Western Makran, Iran, from March to July 1956. Travelling by donkey and occasionally by camel, they penetrated remote areas where no Europeans had been before. While Ilya recorded dialects (his tapes are now housed at the AIIT, see Agnes Korn's description in *Indiran* 10, 2015), Lisbeth took an active role in studying local crafts and especially textiles, of which she acquired a significant collection. She also took photographs, some of which were published in Ilya's article 'Travels in Bashkardia' (*Royal Central Asia Society Journal* 46 (1959), pp. 213–23). Back in Cambridge, domestic life was also full of adventure when the Gershevitchs provided a temporary home for newly orphaned kid goats. One achieved local fame playing with their daughter Deborah on the slide at the local playground! Whereas Ilya might have seemed at times remote, intent on his academic work, Lisbeth in contrast



Lisbeth Gershevitch at the Trust in 2007

was outward-going, instantly engaging with those she met. I first met her while a student of Ilya's and in the years that followed was a frequent visitor with my husband

Nicholas or other visitors to tea in the garden at 54 Owlstone Road. She would go to great lengths to entertain us and I fondly remember very elaborate preparations before setting off, several hours late, to visit local vineyards on a picnic expedition in their Dormobile 'Dormy'.

Apart from her continuing interest in textiles and folk art in general, Lisbeth was a very keen gardener. Several of her cuttings have grown to maturity at 23 Brooklands Avenue. She became a self-appointed guardian of the Paradise nature reserve neighbouring her house in Owlstone Road and was latterly to be seen frequently removing litter with a grabber provided by the City Council.

Her collection of 74 books has been recently catalogued and is available at the Trust.



Ursula Sims-Williams is Lead Curator of Iranian Collections at the British Library and Honorary Librarian of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

A Zoroastrian wedding shawl, Iran, spread out at 54 Owlstone Road

Friends remembered: Josef Elfenbein

Josef Elfenbein (1927–2019)

*Nicholas Sims-Williams
and Asha Keys*

Regular attendees at the Trust's Friday lectures will be familiar with Josef Elfenbein, who also attended frequently, latterly in his wheelchair. What they may not know is that Josef was a distinguished specialist in the Iranian languages, especially Balochi, on which he published many important books – all of them in the Trust's library, of course. One of his last major works was a *New Etymological Vocabulary of Pashto* (2003), the typescript of which was actually created by Josef on a computer in the basement of the Trust. Sadly, Josef died in January, not long after his wife Heide, but his memory lives on at the Trust, which has been enriched by the bequest of his books and his handwritten Balochi word-index as well as a garden bench kindly donated by his children, Asha and Nina. We are grateful to Asha for the following note on his rich and interesting life:

'In a modern age of increasingly intense specialisation it is becoming rarer to find a person who can, in the words of Stanley Glasser, the Head of Music at Goldsmiths College, claim truthfully to be a true Renaissance man. Such a man was Josef Elfenbein, holder of two postgraduate doctorates in very widely differing fields as well as an accomplished horn-player.

Born in Los Angeles in 1927, Josef went up from Beverly Hills High School to Princeton at the age of 16. Majoring in mathematics, he finished his degree in California, subsequently returning to Princeton to complete his doctorate in Tocharian.

Josef emigrated from the US permanently in 1950 and spent three years in Italy, adding its language to his growing list of accomplishments,



Josef Elfenbein

then relocating to Israel for a time. It was there that he met his future wife Esther, and they married after a whirlwind romance of six weeks. After a period in Holland with Esther's family, Josef relocated once again to London, this time permanently. Two children followed, and then Josef sold the house in Highgate and spent a year with his young family in Pakistan, engaged in fieldwork research with a small tape recorder in remote parts of Balochistan. This was viewed

with disfavour in official circles in Islamabad, and Josef and his family were expelled from the country, seeking refuge in neighbouring Iran.

The family returned to the UK in 1962. Rejecting an offer of a university post in the US, Josef raised his family in Kent, while holding a position at the mathematics faculty at Goldsmiths College. During this time he completed a doctorate in mathematics with Professor Offord of Birkbeck College.

Josef returned once again to the Orient in 1977, this time to Afghanistan, and the following few years were spent partly in Pakistan, from which he was once again expelled in 1982. Josef was offered a position at the University of Mainz in 1986, and he lived in Germany with his second wife, Heide, for several years. He returned to the UK for the final time in 2001 to live out his retirement years in Cambridge.

Josef is survived by his first wife, his son Asha, a musician, his daughter Nina, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.'

Nicholas Sims-Williams is Emeritus Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Languages at SOAS University of London, and Honorary Chair of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Asha Keys, Josef Elfenbein's son, is a musician.



*The bench
donated to
the Trust by
the Elfenbein
family*

Lahore symposium

The ripple effect of the Lahore Symposium

Abdul Majid Sheikh

The most feared bureaucrat in British India was the powerful chief secretary of the Punjab, the last state to fall to the colonial power. Today, in a free Pakistan, he remains the most feared and most influential, irrespective of whether the country is democratic or under the military.

In July 2019, while on a visit to Lahore, I received a call from the chief secretary of the Punjab who wanted to meet me. Normally, a call from him would mean that a scolding of sorts was in order. His Sikh-era office, built by the French General Jean-Baptiste Ventura serving in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's army, is situated in the massive garden of Anarkali's tomb (a lady allegedly buried alive by Akbar the Great for flirting with his son Saleem). Here was I, an 'innocent' researcher from Cambridge, walking meekly into this grand office.

On the wooden honours board on the wall behind this powerful bureaucrat were the names of all the British officers who have served in this particular office, starting with Sir Henry Lawrence, President of the Board of Administration, Punjab, of the East India Company. Apparently, he had summoned me to discuss what had happened at a symposium held in Cambridge 21 months earlier. Finally, Lahore had awoken.

The Ancient India and Iran Trust sponsored a symposium held on 13–14 October 2017 on 'The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings'. Before the chief minister was a copy of the *Summaries of Talks* that the Trust had produced. 'Gosh, I have had it' is the thought that came to mind. As a journalist working in my youth in Lahore I had seen many a torture in



The History of Lahore and the Preservation of its Historic Buildings

A symposium held in Cambridge
13–14 October 2017

Summaries of talks

police stations 'ordered from above'. Now, 'above' was in front of me and the evidence was in print.

I immediately informed him of the efforts of Sir Nicholas Barrington and about all the distinguished speakers, making special mention of the amazing 'Lahori' dinner at the Trust. The mention of food made him, and me, relax. He ordered tea and biscuits with the comment: 'We are only allowed two biscuits each these days'. I relaxed a bit more. My experience told me that even police 'sepoys' would tremble in his presence. But then researchers are thick-skinned survivors.

To my amazement he was most concerned by Professor Robin Coningham's presentation on the Lahore Orange Line threatening the ancient monuments of the city. He was surprised at how aware 'foreigners' were of the shenanigans of Lahore's rulers. Then came the moment of truth: 'The prime minister wants you to suggest two or three projects concerning the heritage of Lahore.' As the chief minister is a cricketer, I thought a yorker was coming my way.

So I immediately took the opportunity and suggested two possibilities. Firstly, the Punjab Secretariat has the world's finest archives, covering the time from Akbar the Great to Pakistan in 1947 and related to the area from Delhi to Kabul and Kashmir to Multan. He looked shocked. I further informed him that they were lying in the French-era horse stables next to a leaking urinal. His calm eyes widened.

I thought I was doomed as he pressed a bell. Luckily, it was to arrange a meeting with the secretary of the archives. 'What was the other project?', he asked. I suggested that the famous Bradlaugh Hall be made into a museum on Partition. He liked the idea and arranged another meeting. To both ends, two detailed 'project proposals' have been sent. The ice-cold world of bureaucracy has consumed them. Will anything happen? I have no idea. It could yet be a swinger to silence me.

Abdul Majid Sheikh is a Research Associate at the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

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.

From the house

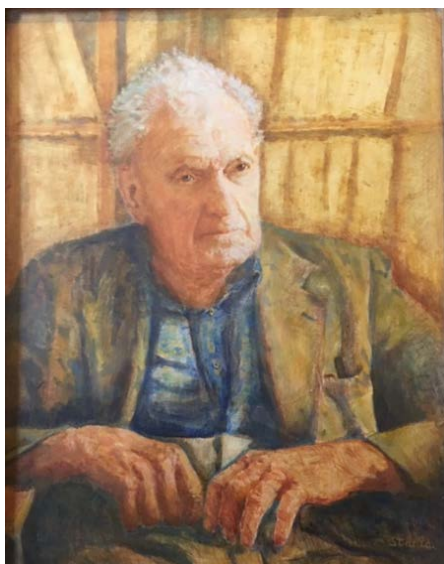
Portraits of Sir Harold Bailey

James Cormick

The portrait of Sir Harold Bailey above the mantelpiece in the Trust's Iran Room, flanked by two Persian watercolours (already spoken about in *Indiran* 10) was painted by Oleg Starza-Majewski in 1993, to commemorate Sir Harold's 94th birthday. He was a frequent visitor to the house in the 1980s and 90s when Sir Harold and fellow founding trustee Jan van Louhuizen lived here, and afterwards in the period between their deaths when I had taken up residence here.

In fact, Oleg had an earlier connection with the van Louhuizens. He did his doctorate at the University of Amsterdam under the supervision of Jan's wife, Johanna van Louhuizen-de Leeuw, and in his academic career afterwards wrote a number of articles in the area of expertise shared by him and Johanna: the art and archaeology of South Asia (see 'A Kusana Gandhara Marble Bodhisattva Head', *South Asian Studies* 15, 1999). He was also a very competent amateur painter, and when I entered the house in the early 1990s the two portraits he had done earlier of Jan and Johanna were already hanging in the lower library.

Of course, any painting of Sir Harold would have to be compared with the portrait commissioned by Queens' College, Cambridge, on his retirement in 1967. It is by Ronald Way and shows Sir Harold dressed in a traditional Caucasian robe, given to him by Georgian admirers: a black hat and coat (*choka*), replete with dagger (*khanjali*) and bullet holders (*gazyrs*). When I last saw it, it was hanging in the new Senior Combination Room of Queens', positioned on one corner of the glaring 1970s' white concrete Cripps Court. I must say, although splendid



Sir Harold Bailey painted by Oleg Starza-Majewski, 1993. Photo: James Cormick

in its way, it struck me as very untypical of Sir Harold. The origins of that particular national dress were clearly military or, at the very least, venatory – neither of which occupations I would associate Sir Harold with.

The style of the portrait itself, however, is in a long tradition. Orientalists (in the best sense of the word) often had themselves portrayed in native dress. T.E. Lawrence is the most egregious example, with numerous photographs of himself in Arab gear, as well as the famous 1919 painting of him by Augustus John, all celebrating his participation in the Arab Revolt and final victory against the Turks in the First World War. And in contrast, there are photographs in Persian dress of the young E.G. Browne, probably the most distinguished of the Cambridge Orientalists in the generation before Sir Harold, crouching with an open book on his lap and a hookah on the floor beside him – one hopes not burning cannabis!

Starza-Majewski's portrait of Sir Harold is more contemplative than Way's, nearer to Browne than Lawrence. But then it is also a



Sir Harold Bailey painted by Ronald Way, 1967. Photo: AIIT Sir Harold Bailey Archive

portrait of extreme old age, painted when the sitter was in his nineties – Sir Harold died just over two years later in 1996. And, ironically, his Caucasian costume deceased too. After his death, it was discovered in a wardrobe in his bedroom, consumed by moths.

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

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Indiran is the newsletter of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

The Trust is an independent educational charity, established in 1978 to encourage the study of the early civilisations and languages of the Indian subcontinent, Iran and Central Asia.

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Front Cover image: Ardhanarishvara (composite figure of Shiva and Parvati), left to the Trust by Jan and Johanna van Louhuizen. Photo: James Cormick
Back cover image: Douglas Robar
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