

Afghanistan: Sources in the India Office Records

A wealth of archival resources can be found in the India Office records for the study of the modern history of Afghanistan. They document the Anglo-Afghan relationship from the contacts made by the agency of the East India Company in the early 17th century, to the administration of the British Legation at Kabul in the mid-20th century. This Guide outlines a general framework of the India Office Records, India Office Private Papers, and the publications of primary sources corresponding to major historical events.

Chronology	3
The first contacts: from the establishment of the East India Company to the election of Ahmad Shah Durrani as King of the Afghans, 1600-1747.....	3
Sources 1600-1747.....	4
The emergence of the Afghan Kingdom to the mission of Mountstuart Elphinstone, 1747-1809.....	5
Sources 1747-1809.....	6
The overthrow of Shah Shuja to the eve of the First Anglo-Afghan War, 1809-1838.....	10
Sources 1809-1838.....	11
The first Anglo-Afghan war, 1838-1842.....	16
Sources 1838-1842.....	17
The restoration of Amir Dost Muhammad to the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Afghan War, 1843-1878.....	24
Sources 1843-1878.....	26
The second Anglo-Afghan War, 1878-1880.....	31
Sources 1878-1880.....	32
The reigns of Abdur Rahman Khan and Habibullah, 1881-1919.....	37
Sources 1881-1919.....	39
The assassination of Habibullah to the abdication of Amanullah, 1919-1928.....	45
Sources 1919-1928.....	47
The civil war to the reign of Zahir Shah, 1929-1950.....	50
Sources 1929-1950.....	52
Afghanistan: List of British and Indian agents, c.1856-1947	55
c. 1856-78 Native Vakils.....	55
1882-1919 Indian Muslim Agents of the Government of India.....	55

1922-47 British Ministers	55
Rulers in Afghanistan, 1747-1973	56
Saddozai dynasty (ruling all Afghanistan) 1747-1817	56
Ruling in Herat 1817-1863.....	56
Ruling in Kabul 1817-1863	57
Ruling in Kandahar 1817-1863	57
Ruling Afghanistan 1863-1973	58
1863-68 Civil war and anarchy	58
Second Anglo-Afghan War.....	59
Who was who in Central Asia (British)	60
Afghanistan: Glossary	65
Bibliography	67

Chronology

The first contacts: from the establishment of the East India Company to the election of Ahmad Shah Durrani as King of the Afghans, 1600-1747.



Ahmad Shah Durrani, First Ruler of the Sadozai dynasty, 1747-73. ©The British Library Board [Add Or 2685]

1600	East India Company established
1613	First factory (trading post) set up at Surat on the west (Malabar) coast of India
1616-23	EIC factories set up in Persia
1646-58	Unsuccessful campaigns of the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jehan, against Balkh
1648	Conflicts over Kandahar between the Mughals and Persians until it becomes a Persian city and province
1713	Revolt in Kandahar against the Persians; Mir Wais, a Ghilzai, proclaimed ruler
1716	Revolt in Herat against the Persians; Assadullah, a Sadozai Abdali, becomes ruler of the province
1720	Mahmud, son of the deceased Mir Wais, invades Persia; is proclaimed Shah over an area of Persia extending westwards as far as Isfahan
1725	Mahmud dies; succeeded in Persia by his cousin, Mir Ashraf, and in Kandahar by his brother, Husain
1730	Mir Ashraf and the Ghilzais expelled from Persia by Nadir Quli Khan
1731-39	Nadir Shah conquers Herat, Kandahar, Kabul and the Punjab
1732	Nadir Quli Khan becomes Nadir Shah of Persia
1739	Nadir Shah conquers and sacks Delhi
1747	Nadir Shah assassinated, Ahmad Shah Durrani elected leader of the independent nation of the Afghans at Kandahar

Sources 1600-1747

Documents on Afghanistan in the India Office Records of the early period of the East India Company are likely to be sparse. Occasional references may be found in the following series.

[IOR: E] General correspondence

E/3 Original correspondence, 1600-1709

Much of the early seventeenth century correspondence has been published in F.C.Danvers & W.Foster, *Letters received by the East India Company from its servants in the East, 1602-1617*, 6 vols London, 1896-1902 and W.Foster & C.Fawcett, *The English factories in India. Old Series, 1618-1669*, 13 vols 1906-1925, New Series, 1670-1684, 4 vols 1936-55.

E/4 Correspondence with India, 1703-1858

[IOR: G] Factory records

G/3 Bombay, 1669-1704

G/29 Persia and Persian Gulf, c 1620-1822

Bandar 'Abbas Consultations and Letters contain mentions of the Ghilzai invasion of and rule in Persia, the Afghan campaign of Nadir Shah, and Perso-Afghan relations after the establishment of the Durrani monarchy.

G/36 Surat, 1616-1804

The Persian factories were originally administratively subordinate to Surat until Bombay became the principal west coast settlement of the English in 1687

G/40 Miscellaneous, 1608-1834

[IOR: P] Proceedings of the Government of India and of the Presidencies and provinces

Bombay Public Proceedings, 1704-1822

The emergence of the Afghan Kingdom to the mission of Mountstuart Elphinstone, 1747-1809.



Shah Shuja, 5th King of Saddozai dynasty (1803-09). By J.Rattray. 1847. ©The British Library Board [PandD: P2079]

1747	Accession of Ahmad Shah Durrani at Kandahar. Conquest of Kabul and Peshawar.
1748	Lahore occupied
1756	Ahmad Shah occupies Delhi but does not remain there
1757	The East India Company gains control of Bengal at the Battle of Plessey
1761	Ahmad Shah, at the head of an alliance of Muslim powers of Northern India, defeats the Hindu Mahratta confederacy at the Battle of Panipat
1767	Lahore lost to Sikhs
1772	Ahmad Shah dies; succeeded peacefully by his son Timur Mirza
1775	Capital transferred from Kandahar to Kabul
1783	George Forster, of the Madras Civil Service of the East India Company, travels overland from Bengal to England via Afghanistan
1793	Timur Shah dies leaving 23 sons and no designated heir. Zeman Mirza succeeds with the backing of Payendah Khan, influential head of the Muhammadzai clan of the Barakzai tribe
1793-95	Ghulam Serwar, a native agent of the East India Company, visits Afghanistan
1795, 1797-98	Expeditions of Zeman Shah in the Punjab (advances no further than Lahore)
1798	Mehdi Au Khan, a Persian agent of the East India Company, sent on mission to Persia, partly to counteract the Afghan threat
1799	Zeman Shah executes Payendah Khan for conspiring against him; his son, Fath Khan, joins Zeman Shah's rebel brother, Mahmud, in Persia
1800	Zeman Shah overthrown by his brother, Mahmud; Mahmud succeeds to insurrections,

	discord, intrigue
1803	Mahmud overthrown by Shuja-ul-Mulk, full brother of Zeman Shah
1806	Treaty of Lahore between the British and the Sikhs
1808	Publication of Forster's account of his journey of 1783
1809	Shah Shuja receives mission from the Government of India under Mountstuart Elphinstone and signs a treaty with him

Sources 1747-1809

Sources in the India Office Records for this period tend to be sparse, scattered and somewhat unreliable up to the period of the Elphinstone mission and usually consist of second or third-hand accounts received from agents via the Residents. At the beginning of this period even the mode of referring to the Afghans varies: 'Ophgoons', 'Patans', 'Doorannees and Abdalees'. In a report of the Battle of Panipat Ahmad Shah is simply referred to as the 'King of Kings'; his successors, however, normally appear under their own names.

Publications

Forster, George. *A journey from Bengal to England through the northern part of India, Kashmire, Afghanistan and Persia, and into Russia by the Caspian Sea*, 2 vols. London, 1808

Elphinstone, Mountstuart. *An account of the Kingdom of Caubul and its dependencies in Persia, Tartary and India*.

London, 1815

India Office Records sources

[IOR: E] General correspondence

E/4 Correspondence with India, 1703-1858

[IOR: F] Board of Control Records

F/4 Board's Collections, 1796-1858

[IOR: G] Factory Records

G/29 Persia and Persian Gulf, c 1620-1822

[IOR: H] Home miscellaneous

H/456b, 474-76, 511, 521, 685 (various references)

H/512,657-59 (papers on the Elphinstone mission)

[IOR: L/PS] Political and Secret Department Records

L/PS/3 Home Correspondence, 1807-1911

L/PS/4-6 Correspondence with India, 1756-1874

L/PS/9 Correspondence relating to areas outside India, 1781-1911. There are occasional references in letters from Persia and Baghdad

[IOR: P] Proceedings

Probably the major source at this period. Some volumes contain indexes, which are not always helpful: see *under* 'Country (or Native) Powers', and *under* 'Residents' (e.g. especially 'with Scindia'). The Cabul mission (1809) has separate index entries.

Bombay Political, Secret and Select, 1755-93

Political and Secret, 1794-1809

Bengal Select Committee, 1756-64

Secret, 1768-85

Secret Political and Separate, 1786-1834

Political, 1789-1858

[MSS EUR] Private Papers

Mss Eur A3-5; B4-10; C9-10; D26-32; E49-50

ERSKINE (William)

Erskine Collection: papers collected by William (1773-1852), legal office holder, Bombay from 1804, Master in Equity, Recorder's Court 1820-23; Secretary and later Vice-President of the Bombay Literary Society 1805-23; oriental scholar; chiefly relating to the history, geography, customs and antiquities of the peoples of India and Central Asia. Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. 21 volumes, 1804 - 1841

Mss Eur B14

FORSTER (George)

`Mr Forster's Rout[e] from Jumboo, in the Northern Mountains of Hindustan, to Astracan, in Russia': fair copy of a journal closely related to the published work `A Journey from Bengal to England, through the Northern part of India, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Persia, and into Russia by the Caspian Sea'(London 1798), by George Forster (d 1792), East India Company servant, Madras 1770-92. See printed catalogue for full description; requisition as Mss Eur B 14. 1 volume, 1783 - 1784

[Mss Eur D128-129; E91-92](#)

ELPHINSTONE (Mountstuart)

Memoirs on Afghanistan, Iran, and neighbouring countries by Mountstuart Elphinstone (qv), and Lt (later Capt) Francis Irvine (1786-1855), Bengal Army 1805-22, mostly incorporated into Elphinstone's 'Account of the Kingdom of Caubul' (London 1815); also list of nine memoirs by various hands on Afghanistan, Persia, etc, relating to Elphinstone's Embassy to Kabul 1808 and Sir John Malcolm's mission to Persia 1810. Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. 4 volumes, 1808 - 1810

[Mss Eur D1070](#)

CROKATT (John)

'Thoughts on the external defence of India from the projected Invasion of the French and Russians': paper, dated 28 Jan 1808, by John Crockatt, clerk on staff of Board of Control c1803-37. 1 volume, 1808 - 1808

[Mss Eur E401](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Printed broadside published by the Army Press, Lahore (c1940), describing the gun 'Zamzamah' manufactured in 1757 at Lahore for Ahmad Shah, Amir of Afghanistan, and used by him at the battle of Panipat 1761. 1 folio, nd

[Mss Eur F22](#)

MUGHAL BEG

Translation from the Persian, made c1850, of reports made by Mughal Beg to his employer Lt (later Lt-Col) Francis Wilford (c1761-1822) in 1790 on a series of journeys made in the preceding years in the Punjab, north west India, Afghanistan and Central Asia. (Cf Wilford's references to Mughal Beg in 'Asiatic Researches', vol xiv). See printed catalogue for full description; requisition as Mss Eur F 22. 1 volume, 1780 - 1790

[Mss Eur F89](#)

ELPHINSTONE (William Fullerton)

Elphinstone Collection (3): papers of William Fullerton Elphinstone (1740-1834), East India Company Director 1786-1825, Chairman 1804, 1806 and 1814; and of other members of his family including his son Maj-Gen William George Keith Elphinstone (1782-1842), British Army 1804-42; also Elphinstone estate papers. 189 items, 1788 - 1841

[Mss Eur F204](#)

LE-POER TRENCH (Richard), 2nd Earl of Clancarty

Miscellaneous papers of Richard le-Poer Trench, 2nd Earl of Clancarty (1767-1847), Member of the Board of Control 1804-06, relating to the administration of India c1793-1811, including material on Oudh, military affairs, finance and trade. 331 folios, 1793 - 1811

[Mss Eur F228](#)

KIRKPATRICK (William), Maj-Gen

Kirkpatrick Collection: papers and correspondence of Maj-Gen William Kirkpatrick (1754-1812), Bengal Army 1773, and Lt-Col James Achilles Kirkpatrick (1764-1805), Madras Army 1780, chiefly as successive Residents at Hyderabad 1793-97 and 1797-1805, but also including papers relating to Mysore, the Marathas, and Nepal; also some papers of Maj-Gen Sir John Malcolm including material on Afghanistan, c1800. 96 items, 1782 - 1811

[Mss Eur Orme](#)

ORME (Robert)

Orme Collection: papers of Robert Orme (1728-1801), East India Company servant, Bengal and Madras 1743-58, historiographer to the Company 1769-1801, chiefly collected for his 'History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan from the year 1745' (London 1763, 1778). 356 volumes, 1745 - 1780

The overthrow of Shah Shuja to the eve of the First Anglo-Afghan War, 1809-1838.



The Bala Hissar and the city of Kabul from the citadel. Watercolour. J. Atkinson, 1839. ©The British Library Board [WD 2404]

1809	Defeat of Shah Shuja by Shah Mahmud at the Battle of Nimla; Shah Mahmud regains throne, appoints Fath Khan of the Payendah Khel as his Wazir (Prime Minister)
1810	British regain control of the Indian Ocean from the French
1811	Kashmir subdued and Muhammad Azim Khan of the Payendah Khel appointed Governor
1815	Final defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo; end of French threat to India
1816	Persian forces move on Herat; Hajji Feroze, the ruler, appeals to his brother Shah Mahmud for help. Fath Khan marches to Herat, imprisons Hajji Feroze and sends him to Kabul
1817	The Saddozais turn against Fath Khan and the Payendah Khel
1818	Kamran Mirza, son of Shah Mahmud, blinds Fath Khan at Herat. Shah Mahmud defeated by forces under Dost Muhammad Khan of the Payendah Khel. Shah Mahmud kills Fath Khan. Saddozai dynasty retreats to Herat. Muhammed Azim Khan, eldest surviving member of the Payendah Khel, becomes ruler of Kabul
1818	British rule reaches to the Sutlej
1819	Sikhs annex Kashmir
1819-26	Travels of William Moorcroft and George Trebeck in the Himalayas, Afghanistan and Central Asia
1819-26	Civil War between different brothers of the Payendah Khel
1822	Peshawar added to the domains of Ranjit Singh but governed by Payendah Khel sirdars until 1834. Muhammad Azim Khan dies, succeeded as ruler of Kabul by his son, Habibullah

1823	Sikh rule over the Derajat and Baluchistan established
1826	Dost Muhammad Khan becomes ruler of Kabul and a restricted surrounding area
1829	Death of Shah Mahmud at Herat. succeeded by Kamran Mirza, his son
1830-31	Travels of Lieutenant Arthur Conolly in Central Asia and Afghanistan
1832	Lieutenant Alexander Burnes and companions travel to Bokhara
1834	Abortive attempt by Shah Shuja to regain the throne. Charles Masson appointed news-writer to the Government of India in Kabul
1836	Dost Muhammad Khan has himself crowned in Kabul with the title of Amir. G.T. Vigne, a London barrister, visits Afghanistan
1837	Lieutenant Eldred Pottinger of the Bombay Artillery travels in Afghanistan and reaches Herat. Herat besieged by Persians; Pottinger aids the Wazir, Yar Muhammad, in its defence. Skirmishing between Afghans and Sikhs. Alexander Burnes sent on a commercial mission from the Government of India to Dost Muhammad Khan; Dost Muhammad Khan receives Captain Vitkevitch, a Russian envoy, in Kabul
1838	Failure of Burnes' mission to Kabul; Vitkevitch returns to St Petersburg, has his mission disowned and commits suicide
1826-38	Travels of Charles Masson (James Lewis) in Afghanistan and surrounding areas

Sources 1809-1838

Apart from official documents in the India Office Records, there are also plenty of travelogues generated during this period. Moorcroft and Trebeck's papers were edited posthumously. These firsthand reports are included here as primary sources.

Publications

Burnes, Lt-Col Sir Alexander. *Travels into Bokhara: being the account of a journey from India to Cabul, Tartary and Persia - performed under the orders of the Supreme Government of India in the years 1831, 1832 and 1833.*

London, 1834

Cabool: being a personal narrative of a journey to and residence in that city, in the years 1836, 1837 and 1838. London, 1842

Conolly, Lt Arthur. *Journey to the North of India overland from England through Russia, Persia and Afghanistan.* London, 1834

Lal, Munshi Mohan. *Journal of a tour through the Pun jab, Afghanistan, Turkistan, Khorasan and part of Persia in company with Lt Burnes, and Dr Gerard.* Calcutta, 1834

Travels in the Punjab, Afghanistan and Turkistan to Balk, Bokhara and Heart. London, 1846

Masson, Charles. *Narrative of various journeys in Baluchistan, Afghanistan and the Punjab including a residence in those countries from 1826 to 1838*. London, 1842. See also [Private Papers](#)

Moorcroft, William and Trebeck, George. *Travels in the Himalayan Provinces of Hindustan, and the Punjab, in Ladakh and Kashmir; in Peshawar, Kabul, Kunduz and Bokhara*, by Mr William Moorcroft and Mr George Trebeck from 1819 to 1825, ed H.H. Wilson. London, 1841. See also [Private Papers](#).

Vigne, Godfrey T. A. *Personal narrative of a visit to Ghazni, Kabul and Afghanistan and of a residence at the Court of Dost Muhammad; with notices of Ranjit Singh, Khiva and the Russian expedition*. London, 1840

Wood, Lt John (IN) *A personal narrative of a journey to the sources of the River Oxus, by the route of the Indus, Kabul and Badakhshan, performed under the orders of the Supreme Government of India in the years 1836, 1837 and 1838*. London, 1841

India Office Records

[IOR: F] Board of Control Records

F/4 Board's Collections, 1796-1858 See *under* headings relevant to specific places or events in the subject index.

[IOR: L/MIL] Military Department

See Service Army Lists for careers of Burnes, Conolly, Pottinger

[IOR: L/PS] Political and Secret Department

L/PS/4 Abstracts and Notes of Board of Control correspondence in the Secret, Political and Foreign Departments, 1784-1838; see *also* Z/L/P&S/4 Registers and Indexes

L/PS/5 Secret letters and enclosures from India, 1756-1874

NB: A number of enclosures to Secret Letters, consisting of reports on the missions of Burnes and Conolly seem to have been kept separately from the main series and are at present listed under L/P&S/20 (see below)

L/PS/6 Political letters and enclosures from India, 1792-1874

L/PS/9 Letters and enclosures from areas outside India, 1781-1911 Some letters from the Envoy in Persia, etc, give accounts of affairs in Afghanistan

L/PS/19/26 Papers on the Trade of Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries (Country between the Indus and the Caspian), by Mr CE Trevelyan and Lt A Conolly, 1831

L/PS/19/42-43 Travels into Bokhara, Pts I and II, by Lt A Burnes, 1832-35

L/PS/19/44 Political report on the countries between India and Russia by Lt A Burnes, 1833 (Bk I)

L/PS/19/45 Commerce of Central Asia by Lt A Burnes, 1833 (Bk 2)

L/PS/19/46 Military memoir on the countries between Russia and India by Lt A Burnes, 1833 (Bk 3)

L/PS/19/47 General and geographical memoir: an account of the kingdom of Bokhara by Lt A Burnes, 1833 (Bk 4) (Some, but not all of the above, were originally received as enclosures to Secret Letters)

L/PS/20 Political and Secret Department Library.

[IOR: P] Proceedings

Bengal Secret and Political, 1786-1858

Agra / North Western Provinces Political, 1834-77

India Secret and Political, 1834-58

(see in index under 'Native Powers' and under correspondence with the Resident at Ludhiana, found in India Proceedings under the index heading 'Lahore, Sikh and Hill Protected States' The Burnes Mission of 1837 has its own separate index heading)

[MSS EUR] Private Papers

[Mss Eur A12-19](#); [B44-49](#); [C38](#); [D232-35](#); [G34-35](#)

RICH (Claudius James)

Rich Collection: papers of Claudius James Rich (1787-1820), traveller and East India Company's Resident at Baghdad 1808-21, chiefly relating to his residence and travels in Mesopotamia and Kurdistan and including journals, field sketches, maps, astronomical, meteorological and survey notes, on which was based much of his 'Narrative of a residence in Koordistan... edited by his widow' (London 1836). Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. 21 volumes, 1811 - 1822

[Mss Eur A20-21](#); [B50-51](#); [C39-45](#); [D236-69](#); [E113](#); [F35-41](#); [G27-31](#)

MOORCROFT (William)

Moorcroft Collection: journals, correspondence and notes of William Moorcroft (1765?-1825), veterinary surgeon in the Bengal Army and superintendent of the Company's stud in Bengal 1808-25, apparently employed as a secret agent, chiefly relating to his journey to Bukhara 1820-25 and describing the Himalayan regions through which he passed. Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. 51 volumes, 1812 - 1825

[Mss Eur A31](#); [B98-101](#); [C90](#); [D441-42](#); [E161-70](#); [F61-65](#)

MASSON (Charles), alias James Lewis

Masson Collection: papers of Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36, comprising correspondence, journals and narratives and other topographical, historical and

numismatic papers, notes, sketch maps and drawings relating to Afghanistan, Punjab, Sind Baluchistan and Persia. Before ordering see printed catalogue for full description and shelfmarks. 29 volumes, 1828 - 1853

[Mss Eur B198](#)

GREY (Henry George), Viscount Howick; 3rd Earl Grey

Letter, dated 8 Oct 1838, from Henry George Grey, Viscount Howick, later 3rd Earl Grey (1802-94), Secretary at War 1835-39, to Lord John Russell (1792-1878), Home Secretary 1835-39, criticising Government policy towards Afghanistan, Persia, and more particularly Russia. 7 folios, 1838 - 1838

[Mss Eur B218](#)

MASSON (Charles), alias James Lewis

`Private notes of Mr Masson as drawn up from memory': copies of narratives of seven journeys in Afghanistan and the Punjab made c1827-29 by Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36. 1 volume, 1827 - 1829

[Mss Eur B256](#)

BURNES (Alexander), Lt-Col Sir

Two letters from Lt-Col Sir Alexander Burnes (1805-41), Bombay Army 1821-41, from 1836 engaged on political missions to Afghanistan: (i) dated c1833, concerning his book `Travels in Bokhara' (London 1834); (ii) dated c1840, on the probity of Rahan Dil a merchant of Kabul. 4 folios, 1833 - 1840 5b

[Mss Eur C941](#)

LAL (Mohan)

Letter, dated 30 March 1833, describing Herat, from Mohan Lal (d c1870), Persian munshi on expedition of J G Gerard and Alexander Burnes to Bokhara, Afghanistan and Persia 1831-33, to Dr (later Sir) John McNeill (1795-1883), Bombay Medical Service 1816-36, member of British Legation in Persia. 4 folios, 1833 - 1833

[Mss Eur F88](#)

ELPHINSTONE (Mountstuart)

Elphinstone Collection (2): papers, correspondence and journals of Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859), Bengal Civil Service from 1795, including papers as Envoy to Afghanistan 1808-09, Resident at Poona 1810-17, Commissioner for territories annexed to Bombay 1817-19, Governor of Bombay 1819-27. 483 items, 1790 - 1859

[Mss Eur F213](#)

HOBHOUSE (John Cam), Baron Broughton

Broughton Collection: papers and correspondence of John Cam Hobhouse, Baron Broughton (1786-1869), as President of the Board of Control 1835-41 and 1846-52. Topics includes Russian expansion around the First Afghan War period. 123 items, 1827 - 1852

[Mss Eur F470](#)

COLVIN (John Russell)

Papers of John Russell Colvin (1807-57), Bengal Civil Service 1826-57, Private Secretary to the Governor-General Lord Auckland 1836-42, Lt-Governor of North Western Provinces 1853-57; also a few papers of or relating to other members of the Colvin family 12 items, 1825 - 1857

[Mss Eur G40](#)

MASSON (Charles), alias James Lewis

Miscellaneous drawings of Afghanistan, Sind and North-Western Provinces, from the collection of Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36. 76 folios, nd

[Mss Eur G41](#)

MASSON (Charles), alias James Lewis

Drawings of the caves of Jalalabad and Kabul, with descriptions (c1850), from the collection of Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36. 29 folios, nd

[Mss Eur G42](#)

MASSON (Charles), alias James Lewis

One general view of the caves of Bamian, and drawings of architectural details, with descriptions (c1850), from the collection of Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36. 13 folios, nd

The first Anglo-Afghan war, 1838-1842.



Defile between Deyra and Kahun. By Dr.Kirk, 1st Bombay Granadiers, 1841. ©The British Library Board [1786.d.5]

1838	
Jun	British naval expedition against Persia. Conclusion of a Tripartite Treaty between the Government of India, Ranjit Singh and Shah Shuja for the latter's restoration
Sep	Persians raise siege of Herat; Pottinger appointed British Political Agent
1 Oct	Lord Auckland issues the Simla Manifesto announcing the intention of the Government of India to restore Shah Shuja to the throne of Afghanistan
Nov	The Army of the Indus sets off
1839	
Apr	The Army of the Indus reaches and takes Kandahar
	Death of Ranjit Singh
	Shah Shuja re-enters Kabul. Treaty concluded with Shah Kamran of Herat
1840	
	After raising support in the north and some military success in Kohistan Dost Muhammad Khan surrenders to the British and is sent to India. Major D'Arcy Todd, Political Agent, withdraws from Herat
1841	
	General William Elphinstone appointed to command of British forces in Afghanistan
Oct	General Sale's brigade marches to Jalalabad through hostile tribes
Nov	Insurrection breaks out in Kabul: Burnes murdered; British besieged in cantonment. Shah Shuja deposed and imprisoned; Zeman Khan Muhammadzai appointed Amir
23 Dec	Sir William Macnaghten, British envoy and minister, killed during a conference with Afghan sirdars
1842	
6 Jan	4,500 troops (British and Indian) and 12,000 camp-followers leave Kabul to march to Jalalabad; Dr Brydon, only European survivor, reaches Jalalabad. Jalalabad and Kandahar garrisons under attack but continue to hold out

Feb	Shah Shuja murdered; Fath Jang, his son, proclaimed Sadozai Amir, civil war
Mar	Yar Muhammad in Herat assassinates Shah Kamran and takes power
Sep	Pollock relieves Jalalabad; Pollock enters Kabul, followed shortly afterwards by Nott from Kandahar. British withdraw from Afghanistan

Sources 1838-1842

As well as the items in the India Office Records listed below, researchers are advised to consult the numerous contemporary published narratives relating to the campaign, e.g. *History of the war in Afghanistan* by Sir J W Kaye (1851) is a standard although biased account. It is also recommended to search the private papers of officers, other ranks and non-combatants, in the India Office Records and elsewhere, principally the School of Oriental and African Studies, the National Army Museum and headquarters of the various regiments involved.

[IOR:F] Board of Control Records

F/4 Board's Collections, 1796-1858

See under specific events or persons in the subject index.

[IOR:H] Home Miscellaneous Series

H/543-45 Papers connected with Sale's Brigade

H/546 Letter book of Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton, commanding at Kabul, Sep 1840-Feb 1841

See Subject Index in the Catalogue for other references scattered in various volumes.

[IOR:L/MIL] Military Department

L/MIL/3 Correspondence with India, 1803-1937

L/MIL/5/259-61, Prize and Batta Rolls for the Afghan Campaigns, 1839-1844

L/MIL/17/14 Military Department Library: Afghanistan

See also Service Army Lists [L/MIL/10, L/MIL/12] for details of EIC officers involved.

It should be noted, in the case of both Departmental Records and Proceedings that matters dealt with under 'Military' are mainly of an administrative nature and that 'Political' and 'Secret' records are much more informative, even on military topics.

[IOR:L/PARL] Parliamentary Branch

L/PARL/2/87 Afghanistan and Aden: confidential papers presented to Parliament 1839

L/PARL/2/87A Parliamentary Papers 1839-43

[IOR:L/PS] Political and Secret Department

L/PS/3 Home correspondence, 1807-1911

L/PS/5 Secret correspondence with India, 1756-1874

L/PS/6 Political correspondence with India, 1792-1874

L/PS/9 Correspondence with areas outside India, 1781-1911

L/PS/9/115-20 include correspondence directly from the Envoy at Kabul to the Secret Committee as well as enclosures in letters from the Envoy in Persia; L/P&S/9/115-17 include letters from the Political Agent Herat to the Secret Committee.

L/PS/14/1 Board's copies (in English) of correspondence of the King or Queen of England, the Board of Control and the Foreign Office with Asian Rulers and Indian Princes, 1796-1858

L/PS/20 Political and Secret Department Library

Odd items among 'A' and 'B' books and in miscellaneous material Geographical memoir to accompany papers respecting Afghanistan and Persia (Printed by order of the House of Commons) (No 91)

[IOR:P] Proceedings

India: Secret

Political

Military

Bombay: Secret

Political

Military

Passing references in Bengal and North-Western Provinces Political

[MSS EUR] Private Papers

Mss Eur A42

EYRE (Vincent), Maj-Gen Sir

`The Military Operations at Cabul, which ended in the Retreat and Destruction of the British Army, January 1842. With a Journal of Imprisonment in Afghanistan' (London 1843), by Lt (later Maj-Gen Sir) Vincent Eyre (1811-81), Bengal Artillery 1829-63; with manuscript notes including extracts from reviews, and from letters from the author, dated 1841-43, describing the march to Kabul, the city and the surrounding country. 1 volume, 1841 - 1843

[Mss Eur A186](#)

SALE (Florentia), Lady

Letter, dated 8 May [1842], from Florentia, Lady Sale (1790-1853), to her husband Maj-Gen Sir Robert Henry Sale (1782-1845), British Army 1795-1845, second in command, British Forces in Afghanistan 1839-42, giving news of herself and other hostages during their captivity in Afghanistan during the First Afghan War. 1 folio, 1842 - 1842

[Mss Eur B191](#)

EDEN (George), Earl of Auckland

Ten letters from George Eden, Earl of Auckland (1784-1849), Governor-General of India 1836-42, to Lt-Gen Sir Jasper Nicolls (1778-1849), British Army 1793, C-in-C, India 1839-43, discussing details of military administration, and affairs in Afghanistan and the Punjab; also letter to Nicolls, dated 5 Jul 1841, from John Cam Hobhouse, Baron Broughton (1786-1869), President of the Board of Control 1835-41 and 1846-52. 1 portfolio, 1839 - 1841

[Mss Eur B234](#)

BIRD (William Wilberforce)

Letter, dated 11 Jun 1840, from William Willerforce Bird (d 1857), Bengal Civil Service 1803-44, Member, Supreme Council of India 1838-44, to William Butterworth Bayley (1782-1860), Bengal Civil Service 1799-1830, East India Company Director 1834-58, Chairman 1840, mainly discussing affairs in Afghanistan and relations with Russia. 5 folios, 1840 - 1840

[Mss Eur B255](#)

KEANE (John), Lt-Gen 1st Baron Keane

Letters received by Lt-Gen Sir John Keane, 1st Baron Keane of Ghuznee (1781-1844), British Army 1793, C-in-C, Bombay 1834-40, commanded advance of Army of Indus into Afghanistan 1839: (i) dated 1836-39, from General Sir Henry Fane (1778-1840), British Army 1792, C-in-C, India 1835-39 on various matters; (ii) dated 1838-41, from Lord Auckland, Governor-General of India 1836-42, chiefly relating to the progress of the Afghan War. 2 volumes, 1836 - 1841

[Mss Eur B275](#)

SALE (Florentia), Lady

Journal kept by Florentia, Lady Sale (1790-1853), wife of Maj-Gen Sir Robert Henry Sale (1782-1845), British Army 1795-1845, second in command, British Forces in Afghanistan 1839-42, recording her experiences during the first Afghan war, the retreat from Kabul, and as a captive of Muhammad Akbar Khan. Published as 'A Journal of the Disasters in Afghanistan 1841-42' (London 1843). 1 volume, 1841 - 1842

[Mss Eur B360](#)

SALE (Florentia), Lady

Notebook of Florentia, Lady Sale (1790-1853), wife of Maj-Gen Sir Robert Henry Sale (1782-1845), British Army 1795-1845, second in command, British Forces in Afghanistan 1839-42; including a history of her husband's service, intermittent diary entries, an account of the deposed queen of Gwalior, and a description of Agra illustrated with watercolours; with companion volume of watercolours, and mica paintings. 2 volumes; 30 mica paintings, 1832 - 1833

[Mss Eur B315](#)

KEANE (Edward Arthur Wellington), 2nd Baron Keane

'Rough Notes of the Campaign in Sindh and Afghanistan' by Sir James Outram (Bombay, 1840) and 'Narrative of the Campaign of the Army of the Indus', vol 1, by Richard Hartley Kennedy (London, 1840), with occasional annotations by Edward Arthur Wellington Keane, 2nd Baron Keane, ADC to his father Lt-Gen Sir John Keane who commanded the Army of the Indus during the campaign of 1839. 2 volumes, 1804 - 1804

[Mss Eur B415](#)

SALE (Robert Henry), Maj-Gen Sir

Letter, dated 19 Dec 1841, from Maj-Gen Sir Robert Henry Sale (1782-1845), British Army 1795-1845, second in command, British Forces in Afghanistan 1839-42, to Lt-Gen Sir Jasper Nicolls (1778-1849), British Army 1793, C-in-C, India 1839-43, reporting on the situation of the British troops at Kabul Nov-Dec 1841; with typescript transcript. 4 folios, 1841 - 1841

[Mss Eur C181](#)

DOUGLAS (James Dundas), Capt

Five letters to his father and brother from Capt James Dundas Douglas (1801-41), Bengal Army 1820-41, written from Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul describing his experiences during the 1st Afghan War; with typescript transcripts. 9 folios, 1839 - 1840

[Mss Eur C182](#)

ORR (Sutherland George Gordon), Maj

Two letters, dated Jun and Jul 1842, from Lt (later Maj) Sutherland George Gordon Orr (b 1816), Madras Army 1835-58, written from Jalalabad to his mother and sister, and describing conditions during the 1st Afghan War. 4 folios, 1842 - 1842

[Mss Eur C573](#)

COLLISTER (Peter)

'Hostage in Afghanistan': unpublished book by Peter Collister giving an account of the experiences of

the British men and women taken hostage during the Afghan War 1839-42, as a guarantee against treaty violation, including illustrations and maps. 1 portfolio, 1839 - 1842

[Mss Eur C814](#)

MEIN (George), Maj-Gen

Copies of papers relating to the services of Lt (later Maj-Gen) George Mein (1817-96), British Army, during the first Afghan War. [Copies of photographs taken by his son, Capt Alexander Lechmere Mein (1854-1927), during the second Afghan War, are available in Prints and Drawings section]. 1 folder, 1841 – 1842

[Mss Eur D159](#)

GRIFFITH (William)

Report by William Griffith (1810-45), Madras Medical Service 1832-45, on the botanical, agricultural and natural products of Afghanistan, printed in part in `Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal', nos x-xi (1841-42) and in Griffith's `Journals of Travels', 6 vols (Calcutta 1847-54). See printed catalogue for full description; requisition as Mss Eur D 159. 1 volume, 1841 - 1842

[Mss Eur D634](#)

HUTCHINSON FAMILY

Extracts from memoirs of Maj-Gen Alexander Ross Elliott Hutchinson, Bengal Army 1843-77, and journal of James Alexander Caldwell Hutchinson (1828-95), Bengal Medical Service 1850-84, and other Hutchinson family papers, chiefly relating to the Indian mutiny; also `Journal of the Campaign in Afghanistan': manuscript account of 1st Afghan War compiled from letters of Capt Christopher Codrington, Bengal Army 1830-41, by his widow. 1 portfolio, 1838 - 1859

[Mss Eur D649](#)

NICOLLS (Jasper), Lt-Gen Sir

Correspondence and papers of Lt-Gen Sir Jasper Nicolls (1778-1849), British Army 1793, C-in-C, India 1839-43, on matters concerning the British force at Kabul including the conduct of Capt Besant, Bengal Army, and the movement of troops to and from Afghanistan; including letters from the C-in-C at Kabul, Maj-Gen William George Keith Elphinstone (1782-1842). 24 folios, 1840 - 1841

[Mss Eur D937](#)

NICHOLL (Thomas), Capt

Papers of and relating to Capt Thomas Nicholl (1796-1842), Bengal Artillery 1816-42, and his son General Thomas Nicholl (1831-1903), Bengal (later Royal) Artillery 1849-97, including references to the British retreat from Kabul 1842, and the Indian Mutiny; other papers relating to the Nicholl and Boileau families. 8 items, 1840 - 1895

[Mss Eur D1089](#)

BROADFOOT (George), Maj

Precis of correspondence, dated July 1841-Feb 1842, of the Government of India with and concerning Afghanistan; made in about 1885 for Maj William Broadfoot when writing the life of his uncle Maj George Broadfoot (1807-45), Madras Army 1826-45, the defender of Jalalabad. 1 portfolio, 1841 – 1842

[Mss Eur D1118](#)

NICOLLS (Jasper), Lt-Gen Sir

Letters and sketch map received by Lt-Gen Sir Jasper Nicolls (1778-1849), British Army 1793, C-in-C, India 1839-43, relating to 1st Afghan War, including three (1839) from Lt-Gen Sir John Keane, C-in-C, Bombay 1834-40 (one on the storming of Ghazni); and one (27 Feb 1842) from Maj-Gen George Pollock, Commander of expedition to relieve Jalalabad 1842, urging an advance into Afghanistan. 30 folios, 1839 - 1842

[Mss Eur D1165](#)

MCNEILL (John), Sir

McNeill Collection: private and official correspondence and papers of Sir John McNeill (1795-1883), Bombay Medical Service 1816-36, chiefly relating to his negotiations as British Envoy to Persia 1836-42. 19 items, 1824 - 1857

[Mss Eur F336](#)

MACNAGHTEN (William Hay), Sir, Bart

Letter book, dated Feb 1839-Mar 1841, of Sir William Hay Macnaghten, Bart (1793-1841), Madras Army 1809, Bengal Civil Service 1814-41, Envoy and Minister at the Afghan Court of Shah Shuja from 1838, containing copies of his letters to the Governor-General Lord Auckland, and other British civil and military officers, on foreign political and administrative matters, and in particular on policy towards Afghanistan. 1 volume, 1839 – 1841

[Mss Eur F439](#)

POLLOCK (George), Field Marshal Sir, 1st Bart

Miscellaneous papers of Maj-Gen (later Field Marshal) Sir George Pollock, 1st Bart (1786-1872), Bengal Artillery 1803, relating to his campaign as Commanding Officer in Afghanistan 1842. 16 items, 1841 - 1843

[Mss Eur G134](#)

KEANE (John), Lt-Gen 1st Baron Keane

Grants, dated 19 and 22 Aug 1840, of augmentations supporters to arms borne by Lt-Gen Sir John Keane, 1st Baron Keane of Ghuznee (1781-1844), British Army 1793, C-in-C, Bombay 1834-40, commanded advance of Army of Indus into Afghanistan 1839. 2 folios, 1840 - 1840

[Mss Eur Photo Eur 452](#)

EAST INDIA COMPANY

Photocopies of selected Secret Department (Confidential) Newsletters compiled in India, dated Jan - Dec 1841. (The items selected appear not to be available in India Office Records L/PS/5 series.) 1 portfolio, 1841 - 1841

The restoration of Amir Dost Muhammad to the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Afghan War, 1843-1878.



Portrait heads of Dost Muhammad, and three members of his family, E.Eden, June 1841. ©The British Library Board [WD 1291]

1843	Return of Dost Muhammad Khan to Kabul. British annex Sind
1845-46	First Anglo-Sikh War
1846	Death of Muhammad Akbar Khan, heir apparent of Dost Muhammad
1847-48	Ghilzai rebellions
1848-49	Second Anglo-Sikh War: Dost Muhammad Khan allies with the Sikhs
1849	British defeat the Sikhs and their allies and annex the whole of the former Sikh dominions. The whole of northern Afghanistan (except Badakhshan) submits to Dost Muhammad
1851	Yar Muhammad Khan of Herat dies; succeeded by his son Saiyid Muhammad Khan
1854	Persian attempts to exert control over Herat: British remonstrate. Persian envoy to Kabul seeks anti-British alliance
1854-56	Crimean War between Britain and Russia
1855	Mission of Ghulam Haidar Khan, heir-apparent of Kabul, as plenipotentiary to meet the British at Peshawar. Treaty of friendship signed with Sir John Lawrence for the Government of India. Dost Muhammad annexes Kandahar, provoking considerable opposition. Saiyid Muhammad of Herat overthrown by a conspiracy
1856	Persians besiege Herat; it falls in October. Ghilzai revolts
1856-57	Arrival of British Vakil to the Court of the Amir of Kabul
1857	Jan Dost Muhammad goes to Peshawar and concludes a treaty with the Government

	<p>of India; is granted a subsidy</p> <p>Mar Anglo-Persian Treaty of Paris; Persians withdraw from Herat; a nephew of Dost Muhammad appointed ruler</p> <p>Apr A British Military Mission under Major H.P. Lumsden arrives in Kandahar</p>
1857	May Outbreak of rebellion in India against the British
1858	Death of Ghulam Haidar Khan; Sher Ali appointed heir apparent. Government of India transferred from the East India Company to the British crown
1859	Badakhshan recognises Dost Muhammad Khan as ruler. British annex Baluchistan
1863	<p>May Dost Muhammad annexes Herat</p> <p>Jun Death of Dost Muhammad Khan; Sher Ali succeeds to much opposition</p>
1863-69	Civil war between Sher Ali and his brothers
1863	Sher Ali defeats the combined forces of Muhammad Azim Khan and Muhammad Afzal Khan
1864	Abdur Rahman Khan, son of Muhammad Afzal Khan flees to Bokhara; Sher Ali imprisons Muhammad Afzal Khan; Muhammad Azim Khan takes refuge at Rawalpindi with the British. The death of the heir apparent casts Sher Ali into a fit of melancholia. The British Vakil leaves Kabul, leaving the Munshi in charge
1866	Abdur Rahman Khan and Muhammad Azim Khan take Kabul and place Muhammad Afzal Khan on the throne. Sher Ali retains Herat and considerable support in the south and north. British recognise Muhammad Afzal as Amir of Kabul
1867	Death of Muhammad Afzal Khan; Muhammad Azim Khan succeeds as Amir, quarrels with Abdur Rahman Khan, who leaves for the north
1868	Sher Ali reconquers Kandahar and Kabul. Muhammad Azim flees to Persia, Abdur Rahman Khan takes refuge in Tashkent. British Vakil returns to Kabul
1869	The Government of India grant Sher Ali a subsidy and invite him to a conference at Amballa with the Viceroy, Lord Mayo
1871	Sher Ali nominates Abdullah Jan as heir apparent; his other sons Muhammad Yakub Khan and Muhammad Ayub Khan rebel
1872	Boundary Commission in Seistan under Major Goldsmid to settle frontier between Afghanistan and Persia
1873	Anglo-Russian agreement over spheres of influences in Central Asia. Simla conference between Government of India and Afghan delegation
1874	Sher Ali imprisons Muhammad Yakub Khan; revolt by his brother Muhammad Ayub Khan fails; he takes refuge in Persia
1875	Muslim agent of the Russian Czar appointed to Kabul

1876	Turkish mission to Kabul
1877	The British establish a military outpost at Quetta in Baluchistan. Sher Ali invited by the British to send a representative to meet Sir Lewis Pelly for a conference at Peshawar. Saiyid Nur Muhammad, the anti-British Afghan representative, dies early in the discussions.
1878	Russo-Turkish war settled by the Congress of Berlin

Sources 1843-1878

During this period there was a great increase in the production of official record material in the India Office Records on several levels. After the appointment of a British Vakil at Kabul around 1856-57 reports on affairs in Afghanistan were submitted weekly. At another level, because of the international strategic and diplomatic issues involving Afghanistan, there was an increase in correspondence, memoranda, etc, dealing with the formation of high policy decisions, as well as précis, abstracts and summaries. During this period, the series of Political and Secret Department memoranda was started, and also the Political and Secret Department Library.

[IOR: C] Minutes of the Council of India

[IOR: L/PARL] Parliamentary Branch

L/PARL/2/88 Parliamentary papers on Afghanistan, 1846-79

L/PARL/2/89 Parliamentary papers on Afghanistan, 1878-79

L/PARL/2/182 Parliamentary Papers on Afghanistan and Central Asia, 1864-84

[IOR: L/PS] Political and Secret Department

In 1875 the separate Secret and Political Departments, which had until then created their own series of records, were amalgamated into one Political and Secret Department and all correspondence with India, both Secret and Political, was bound up in the same series. Secret letters from Persia, however, continued as a separate series until 1888.

L/PS/3 Home Correspondence, 1807-1911

L/PS/5 Secret Correspondence with India, 1756-1874

L/PS/6 Political Correspondence with India, 1792-1874

L/PS/7 Political and Secret Correspondence with India, 1875-1911

L/PS/8 Demi-Official Correspondence, 1862-1912

L/PS/9/123-190 Secret Letters and enclosures from Persia, 1843-88

L/PS/18 Memoranda: 'A' Series

L/PS/20 Political and Secret Department library: 'B' Books. See also miscellaneous material

[IOR: P] Proceedings

From 1860 (with some variations) Proceedings were no longer sent back to London in full but were divided into Part 'A' Proceedings which were sent back in their entirety, Part 'B' Proceedings of which only a summary was sent and Part 'C' (or 'Deposit') Proceedings which dealt with routine and ephemeral matters, and which were not copied to London.

India: Secret (to 1859 only)

Political and Foreign (to 1858)

Foreign and Political, 1859-61

In the indexes up to 1860-61 see *under* 'Native Powers' and 'Government of the Punjab' for material on Afghanistan.

India: Foreign (Political) (from 1861)

Monthly indexes to the proceedings in the various branches of the Foreign Department were bound up in annual volumes but not consolidated; for Afghan affairs see indexes to the proceedings in the Political Branch. The indexes are printed and follow a modern-style system from 1861.

Punjab: Foreign (from 1871)

Punjab Foreign Department Proceedings were not received by the India Office prior to 1871.

British Vakil's Reports

From the appointment of a British Vakil at Kabul around 1856 periodical diaries as well as occasional newsletters on affairs in Afghanistan were submitted through the Commissioner, North West Frontier at Peshawar, to the Government of the Punjab who forwarded them to the Government of India. Up to 1865 only translated extracts of the reports were sent to the Indian Government and by them to the India Office but from 1865 translations of the complete diaries were sent. Reports were also received from newswriters elsewhere in Afghanistan. These diaries and newsletters can be found in the following series of India Office Records:

L/PS/5 Secret Department: Enclosures to letters from India (to 1874)

L/PS/7 Political and Secret Department Correspondence (from 1875)

P Proceedings: India Foreign (Political) (to 1871 only)

P Proceedings: Punjab Foreign (from 1871 only)

[MSS EUR] Private Papers

Mss Eur B380

BOURKE (Richard Southwell), 6th Earl of Mayo

Private letters from Richard Southwell Bourke, 6th Earl of Mayo (1822-72), as Viceroy of India 1869-72, to the 8th Duke of Argyll (1823-1900), Secretary of State for India 1868-74, commenting on official matters and enclosing copies of official papers (indexed). 5 volumes, 1869 - 1870

Mss Eur C260

FLEMING (Henry Hugh Mackenzie), Capt

Letters from Capt Henry Hugh Mackenzie Fleming (d 1852), British Army 1840-52, to his parents and sister, describing his life in India, including service in Sind, Afghanistan, and the Sikh War 1848-49, when he was present at the battle of Chilianwala (1849). 1 volume, 1840 - 1851

[Mss Eur C605](#)

ANONYMOUS

Manuscript copy of (i) letter by unidentified officer of the Bengal 30th Native Infantry, dated 26 Jan 1849, describing the battle of Chilianwala; (ii) letters, dated 13 and 28 Mar 1849, describing the pursuit of the Sikh and Afghan armies. 7 folios, 1849 - 1849

[Mss Eur C634](#)

HERRIES (William Robert), Capt

Letters from Capt (later Maj) William Robert Herries (d 1846), British Army 1835-46, chiefly describing his activities as A.D.C. to the Governor-General Lord Ellenborough, including events in Afghanistan, his task of accompanying the 'Gates of Somnath' on their return to India, and the battle of Maharajpur. 106 folios, 1842 - 1846

[Mss Eur D1162](#)

FRERE (Henry Bartle Edward), Sir, 1st Bart

Letters from Sir (Henry) Bartle Edward Frere, 1st Bart (1815-84), Bombay Civil Service 1834-67, written while Chief Commissioner in Sind 1850-59, to Brig-Gen John Jacob, Political Superintendent of Upper Sind 1847-58; with copy of Secret Despatch 64 of 1858 from Frere to Governor of Bombay on Kalat affairs 1839-58 recommending formation of Frontier Field Force and the occupation of Quetta. 1 folder, 1858 - 1858

[Mss Eur F78](#)

WOOD (Charles), 1st Viscount Halifax

Wood Collection: papers of Sir Charles Wood, 1st Viscount Halifax (1800-85) as President of the Board of Control 1853-55 and Secretary of State for India 1859-1866. 143 items, 1853 - 1870

[Mss Eur F83](#)

BRUCE (James), 8th Earl of Elgin

Elgin Collection (1): papers of James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-63) as Viceroy of India 1862-63. 117 items, 1862 - 1863

[Mss Eur F90](#)

LAWRENCE (John Laird Mair), Sir, 1st Baron Lawrence

John Lawrence Collection: papers and correspondence of Sir John Laird Mair Lawrence, 1st Baron

Lawrence (1811-79), Bengal Civil Service 1830-59; Member, Board of Administration of the Punjab 1849-53; Chief Commissioner of the Punjab 1853-59; Member, Council of India 1859-63; Viceroy of India 1864-69. 79 items, 1841 - 1879

[Mss Eur F114](#)

NAPIER (Robert Cornelis), 1st Baron Napier of Magdala

Napier Collection: correspondence and papers of Robert Cornelis Napier, Field Marshal 1st Baron Napier of Magdala (1810-90), Bengal Engineers 1826; Military Member, Governor-General's Council 1861-65; C-in-C, Bombay 1865-68; commanded Abyssinian Expedition 1867-68; C-in-C, India 1870-76; Governor of Gibraltar 1876-82. Some reference to affairs in Central Asia and Persia in 1875. 68 volumes; 7 portfolios; 10 boxes, 1794 -1910

[Mss Eur F126](#)

PELLY (Lewis), Lt-Gen Sir

Pelly Collection: correspondence and papers of Lt-Gen Sir Lewis Pelly (1825-1892), Bombay Army 1840; Indian Political Dept 1851; held political posts in Persia and Zanzibar 1859-62; Political Resident, Persian Gulf 1862-73; Agent to Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, Rajputana 1873-78; Resident and Special Commissioner, Baroda 1874-75. 113 items, 1836 - 1892

[Mss Eur F134](#)

GOLDSMID (Frederic John), Maj-Gen Sir

Goldsmid Collection: correspondence and papers of Maj-Gen Sir Frederic John Goldsmid (1818-1908), Madras Army 1839-75, chiefly relating to his work as Boundary Commissioner for the settlement of the Perso-Baluch frontier and Arbitrator in the Perso-Afghan dispute concerning Sistan 1870-72; also including unpublished memoirs and literary papers. 89 items, 1836 - 1899

[Mss Eur F231](#)

SMITH (Robert Vernon), 1st Baron Lyveden

Lyveden Collection: correspondence and papers of Robert Vernon Smith, 1st Baron Lyveden (1800-73), as President of the Board of Control 1855-58, relating in particular to the Persian Campaign 1856-57 and the Indian Mutiny 1857-58; also papers, dated 1898-1900, relating to the service and death of Capt Ronald James Vernon in the Boer War. 34 items, 1855 - 1858

[Mss Eur G38](#)

BOWRING (Lewin Bentham)

Compiled by Lewin Bentham Bowring (1824-1910), Bengal Civil Service 1843-70, Private Secretary to Viceroy 1858-62, Chief Commissioner, Mysore and Coorg 1862-70. See G38/1, ff.6, genealogical and biographical material on 'Pedigree of Kings of Cabul'

[Mss Eur IOR Neg 11671-88](#)

GASCOYNE-CECIL (Robert Arthur Talbot), 3rd Marquess of Salisbury

Papers of Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, 3rd Marquis of Salisbury (1830-1903) as Secretary of State for India 1866-67 and 1874-78. 18 reels, 1866 - 1878

[Mss Eur Photo Eur 440](#)

MOORE (Adolphus Warburton)

Photocopy of letter book of Adolphus Warburton Moore (d 1887), India Office official from 1858-87, Assistant Secretary, Political Department from 1875-85, containing copies of private correspondence with Col (later Maj-Gen Sir) Owen Tudor Burne (1837-1909), Private Secretary to Viceroy 1869-72 and 1876-78, Secretary, Political and Secret Dept, India Office 1874-76 and 1878-80; and others.
1 folder, 1876 - 1877

The second Anglo-Afghan War, 1878-1880.



The Khan of Lalpura and followers with political officer. J.Burke, 1878-9. ©The British Library Board [Photo 487(55)]

1878	
Jul	Russian mission under General Stolietev reaches Kabul
Aug	The Viceroy of India, Lord Lytton demands that Sher Ali receive a British mission. Death of the heir apparent, Abdullah Jan. British mission to Kabul under Sir Neville Chamberlain turned back at the frontier
Nov	Three British columns enter Afghanistan, bound for Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul. Sher Ali concludes a treaty with Russia; he takes his son Muhammad Yakub Khan out of prison, appoints him Regent, and then flees to Russia, where he is refused permission to cross the border
1879	
Jan	British occupy Kandahar
Feb	Sher Ali dies at Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghan Turkistan
26 May	Yakub Khan signs the Treaty of Gandamak with the British
Jul	Sir Louis Cavagnari, the new British Resident, arrives in Kabul
3 Sep	Residency besieged by mutinous Afghan troops; the Resident, his staff and escort all killed
Oct	Column under General Roberts takes Kabul, occupies Bala Hissar: Yakub Khan abdicates
Dec	Outbreak of tribal rebellion. Roberts and his troops besieged in cantonments at Sherpur near Kabul; siege raised; relief column arrives from Jalalabad. Muhammad Ayub Khan takes Herat
1880	
Feb	Abdur Rahman Khan crosses the Oxus and rallies support
May	General Sir Donald Stewart assumes command in Kabul
Jun	Following a change of government in London, from Conservative to Liberal, Lord Rippon replaces Lord Lytton as Viceroy.

	Muhammad Ayub Khan moves towards Kandahar
Jul	Muhammad Ayub Khan defeats the British at Battle of Maiwand; besieges Kandahar
Aug	Roberts leads column on forced march to Kandahar. Stewart proclaims Abdur Rahman Khan Amir of Kabul.
1 Sep	Roberts defeats Muhammad Ayub Khan and supporters at Kandahar. British withdraw from Afghanistan (except Kandahar)

Sources 1878-1880

Sources in the India Office Records for the study of the second Anglo-Afghan War, 1878-1880.

[IOR:C] Council of India

C/137-142 Printed memoranda prepared by Members, 1874-1879.

[IOR:L/MIL] Military Department

L/MIL/2 Home Correspondence, 1830-81

L/MIL/3 Correspondence with India, 1803-1937

L/ MIL/5 Military Miscellaneous: 110-24 Medal Rolls; 677-89 miscellaneous papers

L/MIL/7 Departmental Collections: 5675-688 (Coils 129, 129A); 9268-269 (Coll 207)

L/MIL/17/14 Military Library: Afghanistan

[IOR:L/PARL] Parliamentary Branch

L/PARL/1 /88-9 Parliamentary papers on Afghanistan, 1846-79

[IOR:L/PS] Political and Secret department

L/PS/3 Home Correspondence, 1807-1911

L/PS/7 Correspondence with India, 1875-1911

L/PS/8 Demi-Official Correspondence, 1862-19 12

L/PS/18 Memoranda: Series A

L/PS/20 Library: 'B' books

[IOR:P] Proceedings

India Foreign (Political) (see under Cabul/ Kabul) Military

Punjab Foreign

NB: As in the period of the First Anglo-Afghan War(1838-42), Political records are more informative, even on military topics.

[MSS EUR] Private Papers



Earl of Lytton. Viceroy of India 1876-1880. Photo 2/1 (12) © The British Library Board

[Mss Eur B340](#)

CAVAGNARI (Pierre Louis Napoleon), Lt-Col Sir

Letter, dated 11 Dec 1877, from Capt (later Lt-Col Sir) Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari (1841-79), Bengal Army 1858-79, Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar 1877-78, to Col George Pomeroy Colley, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, discussing the Afridi expedition of 1875-77. 4 folios, 1877 - 1877

[Mss Eur A153](#)

LYALL (Alfred Comyn), Sir

Two letters from Sir Alfred Comyn Lyall (1835-1911), Bengal Civil Service 1856-87, Foreign Secretary, Government of India 1878-81, Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Provinces 1882-87, to Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff (1829-1906), Under-Secretary of State for India 1868-74, Governor of Madras 1881-86; on relations with Afghanistan and Russia, and the failure of Indian Civilians in careers outside India. 9 folios, 1878 - 1887

[Mss Eur C212](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Three Albums of newspaper cuttings on Afghanistan, Persia and Sind. 3 volumes, 1877 - 1881

[Mss Eur C651](#)

ROBERTS (Frederick Sleigh), Field Marshal 1st Earl Roberts

Letter, dated 3 Jul 1885, from Field Marshal Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts of Kandahar (1832-1914), C-in-C, Madras 1881-85, C-in-C, India 1885-93, discussing the Russian threat to Afghanistan and the northern frontier of India. 4 folios, 1885 - 1885

[Mss Eur D610](#)

VARIOUS

Miscellaneous typescript and manuscript extracts and printed pamphlets, chiefly relating to the part played by Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe, 5th Bart (1828-83), and George Henry Mildmay Ricketts (1827-1914), in the Indian Mutiny; also letters from Earl Roberts about Afghanistan (1888), and the Earl of Minto about Kitchener's military reorganisation (1906). 9 items, 1847 - 1906

[Mss Eur D604](#)

CAVENDISH (Spencer Compton), Marquess of Hartington

Hartington Collection: papers of Spencer Compton Cavendish, Marquis of Hartington (later 8th Duke of Devonshire) (1833- 1908), Under-Secretary, War Office 1863-66, Chief Secretary for Ireland 1870-74; Secretary of State for India 1880-82, Secretary of State for War 1882-85, comprising six volumes of telegraphic correspondence with India, and Cabinet and other papers on British Domestic and Foreign Affairs. 64 items, 1863 - 1903

[Mss Eur D625](#)

MEREWETHER (William Lockyer), Col Sir

Letters and papers of Col Sir William Lockyer Merewether (1825-80), Bombay Army 1841, Member of Council of India 1877-80, chiefly relating to the Indian Army and to the 2nd Afghan War. 18 items, 1861 - 1880

[Mss Eur D938](#)

MELSOM (Thomas Hill), Pte

Diary, dated 11 Oct-20 Nov 1880, by Private Thomas Hill Melsom (b 1852), British Army 1874, describing the punitive expedition by the Marri Field Force under Maj-Gen Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor (1840-87), with list of stages on the march from Kabul to Kandahar Aug 1880; copy of the 'Kandahar News', 14 Aug 1879. 1 volume; 1 folio, 1879 - 1880

[Mss Eur D951](#)

BURNE (Owen Tudor), Maj-Gen Sir

Burne Collection: correspondence and papers of Maj-Gen Sir Owen Tudor Burne (1837-1909), British Army 1855, Private Secretary to Viceroy 1869-72 and 1876-78, Secretary, Political and Secret Dept, India Office 1874-76 and 1878-80, Member of Council of India 1887-96. 32 items, 1858 - 1907

[Mss Eur D1045](#)

CAMPBELL (Charles Walter), Lt-Col

Papers of Maj (later Lt-Col) Charles Walter Campbell (1836-1920), Bengal Cavalry 1859-84, including family correspondence, and military documents, letters and diaries concerning Campbell's service with the Kurram Valley Field Force in Afghanistan 1879-80. 1 box, 1873 - 1881

[Mss Eur D1227](#)

ELLIOT-MURRAY-KYNYNMOUND (Gilbert John), 4th Earl of Minto

Miscellaneous printed papers of Gilbert John Elliot-Murray- Kynynmound, Viscount Melgund; 4th Earl of Minto (1845-1914), Viceroy of India 1905-10; also typescript extracts of his letters and journal written while serving as a staff officer in India and Afghanistan 1879-81. 45 items, 1879 - 1920

[Mss Eur E193](#)

PITMAN (Charles Edward)

'Kandahar News', nos 1-227, dated 9 Apr-31 Dec 1879: manuscript garrison newspaper edited by Charles Edward Pitman, Telegraph Dept, Government of India 1868-1900, on special telegraph duties with Afghanistan Field Force 1878-79. 1 volume, 1879 - 1879

[Mss Eur E218](#)

BULWER-LYTTON (Edward Robert Lytton), 1st Earl of Lytton

Lytton Collection: papers of Edward Robert Lytton Bulwer- Lytton, 1st Earl of Lytton (1831-1891) as Viceroy of India 1876-80. 177 items, 1876 - 1880

[Mss Eur F127](#)

STRACHEY (Richard), Lt-Gen Sir

Strachey Collection: papers of Lt-Gen Sir Richard Strachey (1817-1908), Bengal Engineers 1836-75; Member, Council of India 1875-78 and 1879-89; Chairman, East India Railway Company from 1889; of his wife Jane Maria; and of his father-in-law Sir John Peter Grant (1807-93), Bengal Civil Service 1828-62, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal 1859-62, Governor of Jamaica 1866-73. 485 items, 1781 - 1927

[Mss Eur F132](#)

LYALL (Alfred Comyn), Sir

Lyall Collection: correspondence and papers of Sir Alfred Comyn Lyall (1835-1911), Bengal Civil Service 1856-87; Foreign Secretary, Government of India 1878-81; Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Provinces 1882-87; Member, Council of India 1888-1903; and of Sir James Broadwood Lyall (1838-1915), Indian Civil Service, Punjab 1858-92; Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab 1887-92. 173 items, 1842 - 1911

[Mss Eur F354](#)

MASON (Charles A J)

Miscellaneous official papers collected by Charles A J Mason, Assistant, Military Dept, India Office, includes casualty list of the Second Afghan War. 7 items, 1709 - 1880

[Mss Eur F383](#)

Printed genealogies of Afghan Barakzai tribe, apparently compiled, c1880, by an officer during second Afghan War. 4 rolls, 1880 - 1880

[Mss Eur F426](#)

EUAN-SMITH (Charles Bean), Col Sir

Papers of Maj (later Col Sir) Charles Bean Euan-Smith (1842-1910), Madras Army 1859, Indian Political Dept, mostly as Chief Political Officer on staff of General Sir Donald Stewart, C-in-C South Afghanistan 1879-80 and in North Afghanistan May-Aug 1880, mainly relating to Stewart's march from Kandahar to Ghazni and thence to Kabul Apr-May 1880. 26 items, 1880 - 1880

[Mss Eur Photo Eur 028](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

File of papers, dated Apr 1885, apparently kept by Lord Hartington (later 8th Duke of Devonshire) as Secretary of State for War, containing correspondence and draft memoranda on Afghanistan, with particular reference to the Russian attack on Panjdeh. 58 folios, 1885 – 1885



Sher Ali Khan with Cd Charles Chamberlain and Sir Richard F. Pollock, 1869. ©The British Library Board [Photo 752/12 (2)]

The reigns of Abdur Rahman Khan and Habibullah, 1881-1919.



Abdur Rahman Khan, Amir of Afghanistan. 1897. ©The British Library Board, Photo 298 (77)

1881 Apr	British forces withdraw from Kandahar
Jul	Muhammad Ayub Khan advances on Kandahar; defeated by Abdur Rahman Khan
Sep	Forces of Abdur Rahman Khan occupy Herat
1881-84	Campaigns to subdue the Northern territories
1881-82	Campaigns against the Ghilzai
1882-92	Campaigns against the Shinwari
1882	British (Indian) Agent arrives in Kabul
1883-84	Campaigns against the Mangal-Zurmat (Pushtun tribes)
1884	Russians annex Merv. British and Russian governments appoint Commissioners to delineate the boundary of north-western Afghanistan
1885-86	Campaign in Laghman
1885-88	Afghan Boundary Commission delineates the north-western frontier of the country - the Ridgeway Line
1885 Apr	Abdur Rahman Khan visits the Viceroy of India at Rawalpindi. The Russians defeat an Afghan force and occupy the oasis of Panjdeh ('The Panjdeh incident'); as a result of negotiations with the British Government the Russians retain Panjdeh in return for relinquishing claims to points within the Amir's dominions
1886-88	Campaigns against the Ghilzai
1888	Campaign to put down Muhammad 'Ishaq Khan

1889-96	Campaigns against Pushtun tribes in Kunar
1889	Badakhshan campaign
1890	Campaign against the Khan of Asmar
1891	Russian surveyors move into the Pamirs in the north east of Afghanistan. British and Russians agree that the Oxus should be the international boundary, as a result of which several areas change rulers; Wakhan added to the Amir's possessions
1891-93	Hazarajat campaign
1892	Government of India propose to send a mission to the Amir under Lord Roberts (of Kandahar) Abdur Rahman Khan attempts to establish direct relations with British Government
1893	Mission of Sir H.M. Durand to Kabul. Agreement of Abdur Rahman Khan to the settlement of the boundary in the Pamirs. Understanding reached over the Indo-Afghan frontier; the 'Durand line' agreed
1894	G.N. (later Lord) Curzon visits Abdur Rahman Khan in Kabul
1895-96	Campaign against Kafiristan; forcible conversion of pagan inhabitants
1895	Slavery in Afghanistan abolished. Abdur Rahman Khan deposes his son Shahzada Nasrullah Khan to London in attempt to establish direct diplomatic relations. British Agent and son murdered by an Agency chuprassi
1897	Risings of tribes along the North West Frontier against the Government of India
1901	Death of Abdur Rahman Khan: peaceful succession of his son Habibullah. Government of India refuses to recognise the agreement with Abdur Rahman Khan of 1880 as dynastic rather than personal; Habibullah attempts to open independent diplomatic relations. North West Frontier Province becomes a separate administrative unit under the Government of India, distinct from the Punjab
1904	Mission to Kabul of Sir Louis Dane
1905	Treaty agreed, based on Abdur Rahman Khan's agreement with the Government of India. Revision of the Goldsmid Award in Seistan
1907	Habibullah visits India. Anglo-Russian convention over spheres of influence in Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet virtually ignores local rulers
1911	Mahmud Tarzi brings out the Afghan modernist newspaper Seraj-al-Akhbar
1914	Outbreak of First World War: Afghanistan remains neutral
1915	Turco-German mission (the Von Hentig-Niedermeyer mission) to Kabul
1918	End of World War I
1919-20 Feb	Habibullah assassinated by person or persons unknown

Sources 1881-1919

There are a number of printed works by Europeans employed by the Amir in Kabul. In addition Abdur Rahman Khan wrote (or authorised the writing of) his own autobiography *The life of Abdur Rahman, Amir of Afghanistan*, edited by Sultan Muhammad Khan (London 1900).

In the India Office Records, there was a proliferation of detailed information from the Agent during this period, although the restrictions on his movements and communications had rendered the material not entirely reliable. There is also correspondence and memoranda concerned with the development of policy as well as précis and summaries prepared as a basis for the latter.

In addition, during this period, such items as gazetteers, military reports, notes on tribes and ethnic groups, *Who's Who* and reports on survey operations (chiefly produced in connection with boundary delineation) begin to proliferate. They are mainly to be found in the Military and Political and Secret Department Libraries and among the Political Department Memoranda; they may also be found as enclosures to Political and Secret Letters.

[IOR: C] Council of India

[IOR: L/E] Revenue Department

L/E/7 Revenue, Statistics and Commerce Departmental Papers, 1882-87
Revenue and Statistics Departmental Papers, 1887-1921

[IOR: L/MIL] Military Department

L/MIL/17/14 Military Department Library: Afghanistan

[IOR: L/PARL] Parliamentary Branch

L/PARL/2/182-83, 284 and 334 contain Parliamentary Papers dealing with Afghanistan issued during this period

[IOR:L/PS] Political and Secret Department

L/PS/3 Home Correspondence (to 1911)
L/PS/7 Correspondence with India (to 1911)
L/PS/8 Demi-Official Correspondence (to 1912)
L/PS/10 Departmental Papers: Separate (Subject) Files, 1902-31
L/PS/11 Departmental Papers: Annual Files 19 12-30
L/PS/14/4-7 Correspondence between the Viceroy and the Amir, 1901-20
L/PS/17 Parliamentary Questions and Addresses, 1881-1911
A number of these Questions relate to Afghanistan
L/PS/ 18 'A' Series Memoranda
L/PS/20 Political Department Library: 'B' Series and miscellaneous

[IOR: P] Proceedings

India Foreign

Until 1884 Afghanistan will be found generally under the Political Branch. In 1884 the Frontier Branch was created and took over responsibility for most questions relating to Afghanistan. From 1884 there are consolidated annual indexes to all branches.

Punjab Foreign (to 1901) Frontier Branch are rather sparse

Except for a short series of Irrigation Proceedings, no Proceedings of the Government of the North-West Frontier Province (created 1901) were received by the India Office.

[MSS EUR] Private Papers

[Mss Eur A11](#); [B94-95](#); [C37](#); [C83-89](#); [D201-30](#); [D440](#); [D544](#)

RAVERTY (Henry George), Maj

Papers of Maj Henry George Raverty (1825-1906), Bombay Army 1843-64, oriental scholar, including unpublished manuscripts entitled 'The History of Herat', 'The Mahdi', 'History of the Mings or Hazarahs of the Chingiz or Great Khan'; translations and notes from various oriental works; and a Persian-Pamiri-Chitrali vocabulary; also Raverty's recollections of his experiences during the second Sikh War. 57 items, 1848 - 1906

[Mss Eur C178](#)

ALDER (Garry John)

'British Policy on the Roof of the World 1865-95, with special reference to the Anglo-Russian agreement of 1895', by Garry John Alder (Ph.D. thesis, University of Bristol, 1959), later published as 'British India's Northern Frontier, 1865-95' (London 1963). 1 volume, 1865 - 1895

[Mss Eur C375](#)

HAMILTON (Lilias), Dr

Typescript copy of 'The Power that Walks in Darkness' an unpublished novel set in Afghanistan by Dr Lilias Hamilton (c1857-1925), personal physician during the 1890s to Abdur Rahman Khan, Amir of Afghanistan. 1 box, 1890 - 1899

[Mss Eur D573](#)

MORLEY (John), Viscount Morley of Blackburn

Morley Collection: papers of John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn (1838-1923), as Secretary of State for India 1905-10 and 1911. 59 volumes; 1 folder, 1905 - 1911

[Mss Eur D613](#)

ROOS-KEPPEL (George Olof), Lt-Col Sir

Correspondence of Lt-Col Sir George Olof Roos-Keppel (1866- 1921), Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor-General, North West Frontier Province 1908-19, with Lord Hardinge, Viceroy 1910-16, and Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy 1916-21, and others, relating to frontier administration, relations with Afghanistan, the Indian constitutional problem, and international relations. 3 volumes, 1902 - 1919

[Mss Eur D659](#)

DANE (Louis William), Sir

Dane Collection: papers of Sir Louis William Dane (1856-1946), Indian Civil Service, Punjab 1876-1913, Foreign Secretary, Government of India 1903-08, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab 1908-13, mainly relating to the British Mission at Kabul 1904-05. 15 items, 1894 - 1939

[Mss Eur D686](#)

BIRDWOOD (William Riddell), Field Marshal 1st Baron Birdwood

Birdwood Collection: papers of Field Marshal Sir William Riddell Birdwood, 1st Baron Birdwood (1865-1951), C-in-C, India 1925-30; including correspondence and papers of Lord Kitchener as C-in-C, India 1902-09 to whom Birdwood was Military Secretary; papers arising from Birdwood's appointments as ADC to the King 1906-11 and 1917-22, and as G.O.C., ANZAC 1914- 18 and Australian Imperial Force 1915-20. 99 items, 1883 - 1949

[Mss Eur D727](#)

DURAND (Henry Mortimer), Sir

Durand Collection: papers of Sir Henry Mortimer Durand (1850-1924), Indian Civil Service, Bengal 1870-94, Foreign Secretary to Government of India 1885-94, negotiated frontier agreement with Afghanistan ('Durand Line') 1893, Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran 1894-1900. 19 items, 1876 - 1908

[Mss Eur E204](#)

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG (Theobald von), Count

Letter (nd) in German with Indian translation from Count Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg (1856-1921), German Chancellor 1909-17 to the Thakur Sahib of Gondal, encouraging opposition to British rule in India and advocating the German view of the 1st World War; copy of letter to Amir of Afghanistan introducing members of German mission to Kabul; explanatory note (1921) by Sir Dighton Probyn. 1 volume, 1915 - 1915

[Mss Eur E214](#)

FERGUSSON (James), Sir, 6th Bart

Fergusson Collection: papers of Sir James Fergusson, 6th Bart (1882-1907) as Governor of Bombay 1880-85. 23 items, 1880 - 1885

[Mss Eur E233](#)

RUSSELL (Arthur Oliver Villiers), 2nd Baron Ampthill

Ampthill Collection: papers of Arthur Oliver Villiers Russell, 2nd Baron Ampthill (1869-1935), as Governor of Madras 1900-06 and Acting Viceroy 1904. 77 items, 1900 - 1906

[Mss Eur E420](#)

BARROW (Edmund George), General Sir

Barrow Collection: official, demi-official and private papers, correspondence and diaries of General Sir Edmund George Barrow (1852-1934), Indian Army 1877-1919, Military Secretary, India Office 1914-17, Member, Council of India 1917-24, including material relating to the Kitchener-Curzon controversy 1905, and the Mesopotamia Commission 1916-17. 45 items, 1877 - 1930

[Mss Eur F92](#)

LEE-WARNER (William), Sir

Lee-Warner Collection: correspondence, writings and papers of Sir William Lee-Warner (1846-1914), Indian Civil Service 1869-95; Secretary, Political and Secret Dept, India Office 1895-1903; Member, Council of India 1902-1912. 32 items, 1863 - 1917

[Mss Eur F101](#)

MCMAHON (Arthur Henry), Col Sir

Miscellaneous letters and official reports of Col Sir (Arthur) Henry McMahon (1862-1949), Indian Army 1885, Indian Political Dept 1890-1914; photograph of McMahon with Chinese and Tibetan delegates to Simla Conference, 1913-14; letter from Dalai Lama, 1915. 72 folios, 1900 - 1915

[Mss Eur F111-112](#)

CURZON (George Nathaniel), Marquess Curzon

Curzon Collection: correspondence and papers of George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925), Parliamentary Under-Secretary, India Office 1891-92 and Foreign Office 1895-98; Viceroy of India 1899-1905; Lord Privy Seal 1915-16; Lord President of the Council and member of War Cabinet 1916-19; Foreign Secretary 1919-24; and papers of his family c1842-1968. 1464 items, 1866 - 1925

[Mss Eur F122](#)

RICHARDS (Henry Erle), Sir

Correspondence and papers of Sir Henry Erle Richards (1861-1922) as Legal Member of the Governor-General's Council 1904-1909. Papers on the Viceroy's state visit to Agra attended by the Amir of Afghanistan in 1907. 20 items, 1904 - 1909

[Mss Eur F123](#)

HAMILTON (George Francis), Lord

Hamilton Collections: papers of Lord George Francis Hamilton (1845-1927) as Secretary of State for India 1895-1903, including correspondence with the Viceroy, the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and others. With special references to the negotiation with the Amir of Afghanistan in 1901-02. [See also Mss Eur C125]. 105 items, 1895 - 1903

[Mss Eur F131](#)

KEYES (Terence Humphrey), Brig-Gen Sir

Keyes Collection: letters and papers of Brig-Gen Sir Terence Humphrey Keyes (1877-1939), Indian Army 1897-1932, Indian Political Service 1903-33, relating to his services in Iran 1904-06, Makran (Baluchistan) 1912-17, with the British Military Mission, South Russia 1917-20, and as Resident, Hyderabad 1930-33; with family correspondence and a diary by his daughter; includes papers on the early 20th century Central Asia questions especially on the 1905 Anglo-Afghan treaty. 46 items, 1897 - 1953

[Mss Eur F171](#)

WERGE THOMAS (Evelyn Maude)

Werge Thomas Collection: papers of Brig-Gen John Nicholson (1821-57), Bengal Army 1839-57, and other members of his family; of General Sir James Abbott (1807-96), Bengal Artillery 1823, Deputy Commissioner, Hazara 1847-53; of their biographer Evelyn Maude Werge Thomas (1891-1975); and of other members of the Thomas family, including Geoffrey David Ivor Thomas (1905-74), Indian Civil Service, Burma from 1930; includes papers on Russian expansion and the 1st World War. 155 items, 1746 - 1972

[Mss Eur F197](#)

YOUNGHUSBAND (Francis Edward), Lt-Col Sir

Younghusband Collection: papers of Lt-Col Sir Francis Edward Younghusband (1863-1942), British Army 1882, Indian Foreign Dept 1889-1909, British Commissioner to Tibet 1903-04, religious thinker; his wife Helen Augusta (nee Magniac) (1861-1945); his daughter Dame Eileen Louise Younghusband (1902-81); and other members of their families. 694 items, 1836 - 1981

[Mss Eur F480](#)

LE MARCHAND (John Wharton Jones), Lt

Photographs of Lt John Wharton Jones Le Marchand (1887-1915), Indian Army 1908-1915, with the 56th Punjabi Rifles; also an article entitled "The Le Marchand Story" from The Military Chest, 1986. 1 folder, 1909 - 1915

[Mss Eur Photo Eur 291](#)

DAVIS (Walter Stewart)

Copy of memoir by Walter Stewart Davis (b 1865), Indian Police 1884-88, Indian Political Service 1888-1920, Political Agent, Bhopal 1912-20, describing his upbringing and his career on the North-West Frontier and in the Persian Gulf and Bhopal; continued up to 1934 as a journal of his retirement. 423 folios, 1884 - 1920

The assassination of Habibullah to the abdication of Amanullah, 1919-1928.



The Bala Hissar, Kabul. By John Burke, 1879. ©The British Library Board [Photo 430/2 (58) pt 2]

1919	
Feb	Shahzada Nasrullah, brother of Habibullah, declares himself Amir at Jalalabad. Amanullah Khan third son of Habibullah, controls Kabul and central government, wins over the army. Army revolts against Nasrullah, imprisons him and his chief supporters, including the Musahiban family Amanullah proclaims his accession as Amir to the Government of India. Disturbances in India against the proposed repressive Rowlatt Acts
13 Apr	Amanullah holds a Durbar in Kabul: Nasrullah alleged to be instigator of Habibullah's assassination; imprisoned for life (dies c 1921), the actual assassin executed. Musahiban family released from prison
May	Outbreak of Third Anglo-Afghan War. British bomb Kabul and Jalalabad; both sides seek the restoration of peace
Aug	Treaty of Rawalpindi restores peace between the two nations and grants Afghanistan autonomy in foreign affairs; subsidy and licence to import arms not renewed
Oct	An Afghan mission arrives in Moscow
1920	
	Hijrat movement of Indian Muslims into Afghanistan; welcomed at first by Amanullah (most of them later drifted back into India)
Apr	Conference at Mussoorie between representatives of the Government of India and an Afghan
Jun	delegation headed by Mahmud Tarzi, now Amanullah's father-in-law and Minister of Foreign Affairs; no agreement reached
1921	
Jan	British Mission under Sir Henry Dobbs arrives in Kabul. Afghan mission visits Europe and USA to establish diplomatic relations

26 May	Treaty between USSR and Afghanistan; diplomatic representatives exchanged
22 Nov	Anglo-Afghan Treaty restores 'neighbourly relations'
1922	
Mar	British Minister, Sir Francis Humphrys, arrives in Kabul
Sep	Franco-Afghan protocol for cultural relations
1923	
	Anglo-Afghan Trade Convention. Crisis between Afghanistan and Government of India over frontier affairs and interference with tribes; British women evacuated from Kabul. Amanullah issues the Nizamnama or Fundamental Code based on modernist and reformist principles
1924	
Mar	British women return to Kabul. Outbreak of rebellion in Khost under the Lame Mullah (Pir-i-Lang)
May	Amanullah awards Sir Francis Humphrys the order of Sardar-i-Ali
1925	
Jan	Khost rebellion finally put down with British support. Nadir Khan of the Musahiban family, formerly responsible for tribal affairs, appointed Afghan Minister in Paris (honourable exile). Mabmud Tarzi resigns as Minister of Foreign Affairs (not accepted officially by Amanullah until 1927). Incident with the USSR over Urta Tagai Island in the River Oxus (Amu Darya)
1926	
	Treaty of Non-Aggression and Neutrality between Afghanistan and the USSR. Air service established between Tashkent and Kabul. Amanullah takes the title of Pad shah (king)
1927	
Dec	Amanullah embarks on a tour in Europe with Queen Souraya
1928	
Jul	Amanullah returns, begins a widespread programme of sweeping modernisation
Nov	Revolt of Shinwaris at Jalalabad. Invasion of Kabul by Bacha-i-Saqqo, a Tajik bandit from Kohistan
1929	
Jan	Amanullah abdicates in favour of his brother Inayatullah; three days later Inayatullah abdicates. British airlift of European community out of Kabul. Defeat of Amanullah by Bacha-i-Saqqo; Bacha-i-Saqqo proclaims himself Amir as Habibullah Ghazi

Sources 1919-1928

The most significant sources of information in the India Office Records come from the British Legation in Kabul and the Consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad and as a result of the general opening-up of Afghanistan to European penetration.

[IOR: L/E] Revenue Department

L/E/7 Revenue and Statistics Departmental Papers (to 1921)
Commerce and Revenue Departmental Papers, 1921-24
Industries and Overseas Departmental Papers, 1921-24
Economic and Overseas Departmental Papers, 1924-29

[IOR: L/MIL] Military Department

L/MIL/6 Departmental Papers, 1882-1948
L/MIL/7 Military Collections, c 1850-1950
See index to collections for a number of files relating to the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Kabul Airlift, border incidents etc; also the North-West Frontier generally.
L/MIL/17/14 Military Library: Afghanistan

[IOR: L/PS] Political and Secret Department

L/PS/10 Departmental Papers: Separate (Subject) Files, 1902-30
L/PS/11 Departmental Papers: Annual Files, 1912-30
L/PS/18 'A' Series Memoranda: Afghanistan, Baluchistan, North-West Frontier, Northern Frontier, Chitral etc.
L/PS/20 Political Department Library: 'B' Series: Afghanistan, Baluchistan, North-West Frontier and Kashmir (including Northern Frontier)

[IOR: L/PO] Private Office

L/PO/5/21 Afghanistan affairs, 1923-25
L/PO/5/25 Afghanistan, 1927-28
L/PO/5/30 Afghanistan, 1928-29

[IOR: P] Proceedings

India Foreign (Frontier) (to 1921 only; with the introduction of a subject file system by the Government of India Foreign and Political Department proceedings ceased to be returned to London).
India Military

[IOR: R/12] Records of the British Legation, Kabul, 1923-30

[\[MSS EUR\] Private Papers](#)

[Mss Eur C313](#)

SINCLAIR (Ronald), Maj (alias Reginald Teague Jones)

Sinclair Collection: papers and photographs of Maj Ronald Sinclair (alias Reginald Teague Jones) (1889-1988), Frontier Constabulary 1914-17, Indian Army Reserve Officer 1917-22, British Consul, New York 1941-53; relating to the policing of the North-West Frontier, the British Mission to Central Asia 1917-22, and his extensive travels throughout India, Central and East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and West Indies 1926-40. 98 items, 1903 - 1980

[Mss Eur C340](#)

HOWGEGO (Reginald Mortimer), Sgt

Papers relating to the army career of Sgt Reginald Mortimer Howgego (1895-1980), British Army 1913-20, including photographs of his service in Amritsar at the time of the 1919 disturbances, the North-West Frontier and Afghanistan. 1 box, 1914 - 1920

[Mss Eur D660](#)

GRANT (Alfred Hamilton), Sir, 12th Bart

Hamilton Grant Collection: papers of Sir (Alfred) Hamilton Grant, 12th Bart (1872-1937), Indian Civil Service, Punjab 1895-1922, Foreign Secretary, Government of India 1914-19, Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province 1919-21. 31 items, 1905 - 1921

[Mss Eur D670](#)

CUNNINGHAM (George), Sir

Cunningham Collection: letters, papers and reports of Sir George Cunningham (1888-1964), Indian Civil Service, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province 1911-46, Governor of NWFP 1937-46 and 1947-48. 47 items, 1903 - 1966

[Mss Eur D703](#)

SMITH (Frederick Edwin), 1st Earl of Birkenhead

Birkenhead Collection: correspondence and papers of Frederick Edwin Smith, 1st Earl of Birkenhead (1872-1930), as Secretary of State for India 1924-28. 47 items, 1924 - 1928

[Mss Eur D998](#)

HOPKINSON (Arthur John)

Hopkinson Collection: letters, papers and photographs of Arthur John Hopkinson (1894-1953), Indian Civil Service, United Provinces 1920-24, Indian Political Service 1924-47, including letters to his family and papers relating to his service in Kathiawar, North-West Frontier Province, and Tibet. 58 items, 1921 - 1951

[Mss Eur D1218](#)

HARVEY-KELLY (Charles Hamilton Grant Hume), Lt-Col

Papers and photographs of Maj (later Lt-Col) Charles Hamilton Grant Hume Harvey-Kelly (b 1885), Indian Army 1906-28, including accounts of his part in the Mekran Mission 1916-17, with photocopy of diary of Mission by Capt (later Maj) Duncan Gordon Cooper (b 1884), Indian Medical Service 1909-1927; account of South Persia Rifles; Harvey-Kelly's diary and report of an expedition to Afghan Turkestan (1925) while Military Attache, Kabul Legation. 12 items, 1917 - 1925

[Mss Eur E264](#)

THESIGER (Frederic John Napier), 1st Viscount Chelmsford

Chelmsford Collection: papers of Frederic John Napier Thesiger, 1st Viscount Chelmsford (1862-1933) as Viceroy of India 1916-21. Includes Afghan Series. 94 volumes, 1916 - 1921

[Mss Eur E396](#)

KIRKE (Walter Mervyn St George), General Sir

Kirke Collection: letters and papers of General Sir Walter Mervyn St George Kirke (1877-1949), British Army 1896-1940, including papers as Commandant, Bhamo Battalion, Burma Military Police 1902-11, and Deputy Chief of the General Staff, India 1926-29. Also includes papers on the strategic importance of Afghanistan and its military position in the 1920s. 41 items, 1902 - 1949

[Mss Eur F163](#)

BRUCE (Charles Edward), Lt-Col

Bruce Collection: correspondence and papers of Lt-Col Charles Edward Bruce (1876-1950), Indian Army 1896, Indian Political Service 1901-31, and of his father Richard Isaac Bruce (1840-1924), Indian Civil Service 1863-96, relating chiefly to the North-West Frontier and Baluchistan; includes papers on Afghan tribes in the early 20th century. 81 items, 1871 - 1939

[Mss Eur D696](#)

PARSONS (Arthur Edward Broadbent), Maj-Gen Sir

Parsons Collection: papers of Maj-Gen Sir Arthur Edward Broadbent Parsons (1884-1966), Indian Army 1908, Indian Political Service 1919-39, Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan 1936-39, Acting Governor, NWFP 1939, mainly relating to North-West Frontier tribes and Frontier policy. 7 items, 1904 – 1958

The civil war to the reign of Zahir Shah, 1929-1950.

1929	
Feb	Nadir Khan, Shah Wali Khan and Hashim Khan of the Musahiban family pass through India on way from France to Afghanistan; meeting with R.R. Maconachie of the Indian Political Department, later British Minister in Kabul
Mar	Nadir Khan and his brothers join a fourth brother, Shah Mahmud Khan, in Afghanistan and start rallying support against Amir Habibullah Ghazi
Apr	Nadir Khan's forces defeated by those of Habibullah
May	Herat falls to Abdur Rahim, a Tajik supporter of Habibullah. Amanullah arrives in India
Jun	Nadir Khan again defeated. Ghulam Nabi Charkhi, Afghan ambassador in Moscow, invades the north
Aug	Tribal lashkars (from both sides of the border) join Nadir Khan
Oct	Nadir Khan takes Kabul. Shinwaris take Jalalabad. Nadir Khan proclaimed king. Habibullah captured and executed
Nov	First of three uprisings in Koh-i-Daman. Recognition of new regime by British Government. Return of Russian Minister to Kabul
1930	
May	Return of British Legation to Kabul; confirmation of treaties and trade agreement. Secret gift to Nadir Shah from the Government of India of money, arms and ammunition to stabilise his rule. Shinwari revolt
Jun	Ibrahim Beg, 'the Basmachi bandit', pursued by Soviet forces, arrives in north Afghanistan, foments revolt
Jul	Third and final rising in Koh-i-Daman, ferociously put down by tribal levies. Nadir Shah appoints two of his brothers to the important posts of Minister in London and Minister in Moscow
1930	
	Nadir Shah sends his brother, Shah Mahmud, to the north as dictator
1931	
	British consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad re-opened. Nadir Shah issues a Constitutional Code, based on Amanullah's Nizamnama of 1923 but making concessions to religious and traditional feelings. Herat reconquered from the Tajik Abdur Rahim
Jun	New treaty on Non-Aggression and Neutrality signed with the USSR. Commencement of building of a road to connect the north and the south of Afghanistan, over the Shibar pass
1932	

	Wives of British Legation staff return to Kabul. Ghulam Nabi Charkhi foments a pro-Amanullah uprising in the Southern Province
8 Nov	Nadir Shah has Ghulam Nabi Charkhi executed
1933	
Jun	Assassination of Nadir Shah's brother, Muhammad Aziz, in Berlin by a Charkhi adherent
Sep	Three of British Legation staff murdered in Kabul by an Afghan
8 Nov	Nadir Shah murdered by a son (natural or adopted) of Ghulam Nabi Charkhi. Zahir Jan, Nadir's son, proclaimed King by Shah Mabmud, the only Musahiban brother in Kabul. Hashim Khan as Prime Minister rules as Regent for his nephew until 1946
1934	
	Afghanistan joins the League of Nations. Indian Trade Mission visits Afghanistan. Opening of the Bank-i-Melli, first bank in Afghanistan
1935	
	Afghan Government requests a large loan from the Government of India: refused because of international financial situation. Growth of ties between Afghan Government and Germany, Italy and Japan
1936	
	Treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and the USA
1937	
	Establishment of weekly Lufthansa air service between Berlin and Kabul
Jul	Afghanistan joins with Turkey, Iran and Iraq in the Sa'adabad Pact of Friendship and Non-Aggression. Indian Trade Agency set up in Kabul
1938	
	Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, visits Kabul. Government of India prevents the Shami Pir from entering Afghanistan with a tribal lashkar to restore Amanullah Incorporation of the Da Afghanistan Bank (State Bank)
1939	
	Outbreak of World War II; Afghan Government declares neutrality
1941	
	Britain and USSR jointly demand the expulsion of all non-diplomatic Axis personnel from Afghanistan; all non-diplomatic foreigners ordered to leave by Afghan Government; Afghans forbidden to attend the British Legation hospital and dispensary
1943	
	USA and Afghanistan exchange diplomatic representatives
1945	
	End of World War II

1946	
	Hashim Khan retires as Prime Minister and is succeeded by his brother, Shah Mahmud. Initiation of the Helmand Valley Project (in conjunction with USA) to reclaim desert areas of Seistan
1947	
15 Aug	India and Pakistan become independent
1948	
Mar	British Legation becomes an Embassy

Sources 1929-1950

Although the India Office ceased to exist on the Transfer of Power in August 1947, its residual functions were taken over by the Commonwealth Relations Office and archival continuity was preserved until the reorganisation of the CRO in 1950. Thereafter, with the Foreign Office's assumption of full responsibility for British relations with Afghanistan, researchers should consult the records of the Foreign Office and other departments available in the National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU.

[IOR: L/E] Revenue Department

L/E/8 Economic and Overseas Departmental Files, 1930-48
L/E/9 Economic and Overseas Departmental Collections, 1930-48

[IOR: L/MIL] Military Department

L/MIL/17/14 Military Library: Afghanistan
LWS War Staff

Some files deal with Afghanistan from the point of view of defence, security and strategy.

[IOR: L/PS] Political and Secret Department

L/PS/10 Departmental Papers: Separate (Subject) Files, 1902-30
L/PS/11 Departmental Papers: Annual Files, 1912-30
L/PS/12 Political (External) Department Files and Collections, 1931-50
Collections 3 and 4 deal specifically with Afghanistan but there is also relevant material in other collections (e.g. Arms and Ammunition, Aviation, Travellers) and on annual files.
L/PS/18 'A' Series Memoranda
L/PS/20 Political Department Library 'B' Series

[IOR: L/PO] Private Office

L/PO/5/35 Afghanistan affairs, 1937

[IOR: R/12] Records of the British Legation, Kabul, 1923-48

[\[MSS EUR\] Private Papers](#)

[Mss Eur C357](#)

HARE (William Francis), 5th Earl of Listowel

Weekly correspondence of William Francis Hare, 5th Earl of Listowel (b 1906), as Secretary of State for India Apr-Aug 1947, with Lord Mountbatten of Burma (1900-1979), Viceroy of India Mar-Aug 1947; also letters, dated 1968 and 1978, relating to the appointments of Wavell and Mountbatten as Viceroy, and Listowel's as Secretary of State. 1 portfolio, 1943 - 1947

[Mss Eur D545](#)

WALTON (John Charles), Sir

Walton Collection: papers of Sir John Charles Walton (1885-1957), India Office official 1909-46, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for India 1936-42, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Burma 1942-46. 41 items, 1920 - 1946

[Mss Eur D609](#)

DUNDAS (Lawrence John Lumley), 2nd Marquess of Zetland

Zetland Collection: papers of Lawrence John Lumley Dundas, 2nd Marquess of Zetland (1876-1961), Governor of Bengal 1917-22, Secretary of State for India 1935-40 and for Burma 1937-40. 78 items, 1910 - 1952

[Mss Eur D670](#)

CUNNINGHAM (George), Sir

Cunningham Collection: letters, papers and reports of Sir George Cunningham (1888-1964), Indian Civil Service, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province 1911-46, Governor of NWFP 1937-46 and 1947-48. 47 items, 1903 - 1966

[Mss Eur D891](#)

STROUD (Richard William Alexander)

Diary and photograph album compiled by Flying Officer Richard William Alexander Stroud (d 1930), R.A.F. 1927-30, during his service in England and India, chiefly on the North-West Frontier and in Afghanistan. 2 volumes, 1928 - 1930

[Mss Eur D923](#)

LYDALL (Edward Francis)

Papers of Edward Francis Lydall (b 1907), Indian Civil Service, Assam 1932-35, Indian Political Service 1935-47, including confidential weekly summaries of the North Waziristan Agency where

Lydall was Assistant Political Agent 1938-39, and other papers as Secretary to British Legation, Kabul 1939-42 and Assistant Commissioner, Nowshera 1942-43. 2 files, 1938 - 1943

[Mss Eur F125](#)

HOPE (Victor Alexander John), 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow

Linlithgow Collection: papers of Victor Alexander John Hope, 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow (1887-1952) as Viceroy of India 1936-43.

180 items, 1936 - 1943

[Mss Eur F158](#)

INDIA PAKISTAN AND BURMA ASSOCIATION

Papers of the India, Pakistan and Burma Association, a specialised trade association providing information to its members on commercial and political conditions in India, Pakistan and Burma. [Now known as the British and South Asian Trade Association (BASATA)]. 1218 items, 1941 - 1972

[Mss Eur F203](#)

CAROE (Olaf Kirkpatrick), Sir

Caroe Collection: papers of Sir Olaf Kirkpatrick Caroe (1892-1981), Indian Civil Service 1920, Indian Political Service 1923-47, including a few papers relating to his Governorship of the North-West Frontier Province 1946-47; but chiefly reflecting his literary and other interests in retirement, and including unpublished autobiographical writings, and his observations of the 20th century development of Central Asia region. 119 items, 1946 - 1981

[Mss Eur F226](#)

INDIAN POLITICAL SERVICE

Indian Political Service Collection: memoirs of some thirty-five former members of the Indian Political Service, or their wives, describing their experiences, chiefly in the period 1920-1947, as political officers in the Indian States, the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, or the Residencies and Consulates in the Persian Gulf. 35 items, 1920 - 1947

[Mss Eur R152](#)

SQUIRE (Irene Mary), Lady

Tape recording of interview, given 1984, by Lady Irene Mary Squire (b 1898), widow of Sir Giles Frederick Squire (1894-1959), Indian Political Service 1924-47, on her life in India as a teacher at the Mahubia School, Hyderabad, and as the wife of an Indian Political Officer serving in Iran 1936-43, and Afghanistan 1943-47, as well as India. 2 cassettes, 1920 – 1947

Afghanistan: List of British and Indian agents, c.1856-1947

c. 1856-78 Native Vakils

The first of these seems to have been appointed c 1856 as a result of the Treaty of 1855 between Sirdar Ghulam Haidar Khan for Amir Dost Muhammad and Sir John Lawrence for the Governor-General. Clause 7 of the Treaty of Peshawar, 1857, made specific provision for the residence at Kabul of a native vakil on behalf of the British Government. These vakils were always Indian Muslims, Pathans from Multan.

- Nawab Foujdar Khan, 1856- Apr 1859
- Ghulam Husain Khan Allizai, Apr 1859- 1865
- Bukhiar Khan, Munshi in charge, Feb 1864- Jan 1868
- Attah Muhammad Khan Khagwani (Formerly Extra Assistant Commissioner, Dera Ismail Khan. Appointed 1865 but did not proceed until Jan 1868), 1865 - 1878

1882-1919 Indian Muslim Agents of the Government of India

- Sirdar Muhammad Afzal Khan, CSI, Khan Bahadur (Of the Bengal Cavalry), Jun 1882- Jun 1885
- Mirza Atta-ullah Khan Sardar (Of the Bengal Cavalry), CSI2 1885-Jul 1891
- Sardar Muhammad Afzal Khan Gundapur Jul 1891-1894
- Muhammad Izzat Khan, Munshi (in charge) Dec 1894
- Muhammad Akram Khan (Of the Bengal Cavalry), Dec 1894- Sep 1895
- Maulvi Ghaffur Khan (Formerly Deputy Collector of Lucknow), 1897-1900
- Hafiz Muhammad Nawaz Khan (Of the Bengal Cavalry), Mar 1900-? 1903
- Malik Khuda Bakhsh Tawana of Shahpur (Of the Punjab Provincial Civil Service), Jul 1903-1907
- Fakir Sajyid Iftikhar-ud-Din, Mar 1907- Jul 1910
- Malik Talib Mahdi Khan (Formerly Revenue Member in Bahawalpur State), Jul 1910- Nov 1913
- Hafiz Saifullah Khan (Formerly Kandahar Agent, and served for many years in Baluchistan), Nov 1913-1919

1922-47 British Ministers

The Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1921 provided for the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two countries. The British ministers in Kabul were members of the Indian Political Service, appointed by the Foreign Office.

- Lt-Col Sir Francis Henry Humphrys, KBE, CIE Jan 1922- Feb 1929
- Sir Richard Roy Maconachie, KBE, CIE Dec 1929- Mar 1935
- Lt-Col Sir William Kerr Frazer Tytler, KBE, CMG, MC Mar 1935-Aug 1941
- Sir Francis Verner Wylie, KCSI, CIE Aug 1941- Jul 1943
- Sir Giles Frederick Squire, KBE, CIE Jul 1943- Sep 1949

Rulers in Afghanistan, 1747-1973

Saddozai dynasty (ruling all Afghanistan) 1747-1817



Ahmad Shah Durrani, First Ruler of the Saddozai dynasty, 1747-73. ©The British Library Board [Add Or 2685]

- Ahmad Shah 1747-73 (dies).
- Timur Shah, son of Ahmad Shah 1773-93 (dies).
- Zeman Shah, son of Timur Shah 1793-1800 (deposed).
- Mahmud Shah, brother of Zeman Shah 1800-03 (deposed).
- Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk, brother of Mahmud Shah 1803-09 (deposed).
- Mahmud Shah 1809-17 (loses Kabul and Kandahar).

Ruling in Herat 1817-1863

- Mahmud Shah, *Saddozai* 1817-29, (?assassinated).
- Kamran, son of Mahmud Shah 1829-41 (?assassinated).
- Yar Muhammad, *Alikozai* (former Vizier) 1841-51 (dies).
- Saiyid Muhammad Khan, son of Yar Muhammad 1851-55 (deposed).
- Muhammad Yusuf Khan, *Saddozai*, 1855 (deposed).
- Sirtalp Isa Khan, *Herati*, 1855.
- *Herat conquered by Persians, 1856.*
- Sultan Ahmad Khan, Sultan Jan. Nephew of Dost Muhammad Khan of Kabul 1857-63 (overthrown).
- Dost Muhammad Khan 1863 (dies).

Ruling in Kabul 1817-1863

- Muhammad Azim Khan, *Payendah Khel Muhammadzai* 1817-22 (dies).
- Habibullah Khan, son of Muhammad Azim Khan 1822-26 (deposed).
- Dost Muhammad Khan, uncle of Habibullah Khan 1826-39 (deposed).
- Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk, *Saddozai* 1839-41 (deposed).
- Zeman Khan, *Barakzai* 1841-42 (?).
- Fath Jang, *Saddozai* (contender) 1842 (?).
- Dost Muhammad Khan 1842-63 (dies).



Portrait heads of Dost Muhammad, and three members of his family, E.Eden, June 1841. ©The British Library Board [WD 1291]

Ruling in Kandahar 1817-1863

- Pur Dil Khan with his brothers Kohan Dil Khan, Rahim Dil Khan, *Payendah Khel Muhammadzai* 1817-39 (deposed).
- Shah Shuja-ul Mulk 1839-41 (deposed).
- Kohan Dil Khan, brother of Pur Dil Khan 1842-55 (dies).
- Dost Muhammad Khan 1855-63 (dies).

Ruling Afghanistan 1863-1973



Amir Sher Ali Khan. By Bourne and Shepherd, 1870. ©The British Library Board, Photo 127 (44)

1863-68 Civil war and anarchy

- Sher Ali Khan, son of Dost Muhammad Khan 1863-66 (deposed).
- Muhammad Afzal Khan, brother of Sher Ali Khan 1866-67 (dies).
- Muhammad Azim Khan, brother of Muhammad Afzal Khan 1867-68 (deposed).
- Sher Ali Khan 1868-79 (dies).
- Yakub Khan, son of Sher Ali Khan 1879 (abdicates).



Abdur Rahman Khan, Amir of Afghanistan. 1897. ©The British Library Board, Photo 298 (77)

Second Anglo-Afghan War

- Abdur Rahman Khan, son of Muhammad Afzal Khan 1880-1901 (dies).
- Habibullah Khan, son of Abdur Rahman Khan 1901-19 (assassinated).
- Amanullah Khan, son of Habibullah Khan 1919-29 (abdicates).
- Inayatullah Khan, brother of Amanullah Khan 1929. Three days only (abdicates).
- Habibullah Ghazi, Bacha-i-Saqqao, a Tajik bandit 1929 Jan-Oct (deposed and executed).
- Nadir Shah, of the *Musahiban family* 1929-33 (assassinated).
- Zahir Shah 1933-73 (deposed).

During his minority effective power was held by the successive Prime Ministers, his uncles Hashim Khan 1933-46, Shah Mahmud 1946-53.

Who was who in Central Asia (British)

Auckland (Lord)

George Eden, Earl of Auckland (1784-1849), Governor-General of India 1836-42.

Bailey (Frederick Marshman)

Lt-Col Frederick Marshman Bailey (1882-1967), Indian Army 1900, Indian Political Service 1905-38, involved in espionage in the Soviet Russia (1918-24).

Bentinck (William)

Sir William Bentinck (1774-1839). Governor-General of India, 1828-35.

Burnes (Alexander)

Sir Alexander Burnes (1805-41), Bombay Army 1821-41, from 1836 engaged on political missions to Afghanistan, Political Resident from 1839. Assassinated at Kabul 1841.

Burne (Maj-Gen Owen Tudor)

Maj-Gen Sir Owen Tudor Burne (1837-1909), British Army 1855, Private Secretary to Viceroy 1869-72 and 1876-78, Secretary, Political and Secret Dept, India Office 1874-76 and 1878-80, Member of Council of India 1887-96.

Castlereagh (Lord)

Robert Stewart, Second Marquis of Londonderry (1769-1822). President of the Board of Control, 1802-06. Secretary of State for War and Colonies, 1805-09. Foreign Secretary, 1812-22.

Cavagnari (Lt-Col Pierre Louis Napoleon)

Capt (later Lt-Col Sir) Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari (1841-79), Bengal Army 1858-79, Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar 1877-78. Killed in Kabul Embassy riot, 1879.

Conolly (Cpt Arthur)

Captain Arthur Conolly (1807-42), Bengal Army 1823-42, envoy to Khiva 1840-42, executed by the Amir of Bokhara 1842.

Cranbrook (Lord)

Cranbrook, Gathorne Gathorne-Hardy, 1st earl of, Viscount Cranbrook Of Hemsted, Baron Medway Of Hemsted Park (1814-1906), Secretary of State for India, 1878-82(?).

Curzon (Lord)

George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925), Viceroy of India 1899-1905.

Dane (Sir Louis)

Sir Louis William Dane (1856-1946), Indian Civil Service, Punjab 1876-1913, Foreign Secretary, Government of India 1903-08, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab 1908-13, head of the British Mission at Kabul 1904-05.

Dundas (Henry)

Sir Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville (1742-1911). President of the Board of Control, 1793-1801.

Durand (H.M.)

Sir Henry Mortimer Durand (1850-1924), Indian Civil Service, Bengal 1870-94, Foreign Secretary to Government of

India 1885-94, negotiated frontier agreement with Afghanistan ('Durand Line') 1893, Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran 1894-1900.

Elgin (Lord)

James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811-63), Viceroy of India 1862-63.

Ellenborough (Lord)

Edward Law, Earl of Ellenborough (1790-1871), Governor-General of India 1842-44.

Elphinstone (Mounstuart)

Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859), Bengal Civil Service from 1795, Envoy to Afghanistan 1808-09, Resident at Poona 1810-17, Commissioner for territories annexed to Bombay 1817-19, Governor of Bombay 1819-27.

Elphinstone (Major-General William)

William Elphinstone (1782-1842), Battle of Waterloo 1815; First Afghan War 1841.

Evans (Sir George de Lacy)

George de Lacy Evans (1787-1870). British Army General. Commands held: British legion in 1st Carlist War, British 2nd Division in Crimean War. Author of *On the designs of Russia* (1828).

Foster (George)

First British official visited Afghanistan. Madras Civil Service of the East India Company, travelled overland from Bengal to England via Afghanistan in 1783.

Frere (Sir Henry Bartle Edward)

Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, 1st Bart (1815-84), Bombay Civil Service 1834-67, Chief Commissioner in Sind 1850-59, to Brig-Gen John Jacob, Political Superintendent of Upper Sind 1847-58.

Goldsmid (Frederic John)

Maj (later Maj-Gen Sir) Frederic John Goldsmid (1818-1908), Madras Army 1839-75, in civil employ under Bombay Government 1862-64, Director-General of the Indo-European Telegraph 1865-70, worked as Boundary Commissioner for the settlement of the Perso-Baluch frontier and Arbitrator in the Perso-Afghan dispute concerning Seistan 1870-72.

Griffith (William)

William Griffith (1810-45), Madras Medical Service 1832-45. Author of a book on the botanical, agricultural and natural products of Afghanistan, 1841.

Jones (Sir Harford)

Sir Harford Jones Brydges (1764-1830). East India Company Resident at Baghdad, 1798-1806. British Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Persia, 1807-10.

Kinneir (John Macdonald)

John Macdonald Kinneir (1782-1830), British traveller and diplomat. Envoy to Persia 1824-30. Author of *Narrative of Travels in Asia Minor, Armenia, and Kurdistan in 1813-14*, 1818.

Lawrence (John)

Sir John Laird Mair Lawrence, 1st Baron Lawrence (1811-79), Bengal Civil Service 1830-59; Member, Board of

Administration of the Punjab 1849-53; Chief Commissioner of the Punjab 1853-59; Member, Council of India 1859-63; Viceroy of India 1864-69.

Lumsden (Major H.P.)

Headed the British Mission to Kandahar 1857.

Lytton (Lord)

Edward Robert Lytton Bulwer- Lytton, 1st Earl of Lytton (1831-1891), Viceroy of India 1876-80.

Macdonald (Col John)

Col John Macdonald, Envoy to Persia sent by the Government of India, 1826-33.

Macnaghten (Sir William Hay)

Sir William Hay Macnaghten, Bart (1793-1841), Madras Army 1809, Bengal Civil Service 1814-41, Envoy and Minister at the Afghan Court of Shah Shuja from 1838. Killed in a conference at Kabul, 1841.

Malcolm (Sir John)

John Malcolm, Maj-Gen. Sir. Entered EIC 1782; Headed 1st British Mission to Persia 1799, 2nd Mission 1802, and 3rd Mission 1810; Governor of Bombay 1827-31.

Malleson (Major-General Sir Wilfred)

Major-General Sir Wilfred Malleson (1866-1946), Joined Royal Artillery 1886; transferred to the Indian Army 1904; on staff of FM Horatio Herbert Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and Broome as Head of Intelligence Branch, Indian Army Headquarters 1904-1910; accompanied mission to Kabul, Afghanistan, under Sir Louis William Dane 1904-1905; Head of British Military Mission to Turkestan 1918-1920; Afghan War 1919; ran a network of spies from Meshed in north-eastern Persia against the Russians during the same period.

Masson (Charles)

Charles Masson (1800-53), (pseudonym of James Lewis), Bengal Artillery 1822, deserted 1827, traveller, Agent to the Government of India at Kabul 1834-36.

Mayo (Lord)

Richard Southwell Bourke, 6th Earl of Mayo (1822-72), Viceroy of India 1869-72.

Metcalfe (Charles, 1st Baron Metcalfe)

Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, 1st Baron Metcalfe (1785-1846), Acting Governor-General of India, 1835-36.

Minto (Lord)

Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, 1st Earl of Minto (1751 - 1814). Governor-General of India, 1807-13.

Monteith (William)

William Monteith(1790–1864), army officer in the East India Company, diplomatist, and historian.

Moorcroft (William)

William Moorcroft (1765?-1825), veterinary surgeon in the Bengal Army and superintendent of the Company's stud in Bengal 1808-25, apparently employed as a secret agent.

Napier (R. C.)

Robert Cornelis Napier, Field Marshal 1st Baron Napier of Magdala (1810-90), Bengal Engineers 1826; Military Member, Governor-General's Council 1861-65; Commander-in-Chief, Bombay 1865-68; commanded Abyssinian Expedition 1867-68; Commander-in-Chief, India 1870-76; Governor of Gibraltar 1876-82

Pelly (Sir Lewis)

Lt-Gen Sir Lewis Pelly (1825-1892), Bombay Army 1840; Indian Political Dept 1851; held political posts in Persia and Zanzibar 1859-62; Political Resident, Persian Gulf 1862-73; Agent to Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, Rajputana 1873-78; involved in Afghan affairs during the same period; Resident and Special Commissioner, Baroda 1874-75.

Pollock (Sir George)

Maj-Gen (later Field Marshal) Sir George Pollock, 1st Bart (1786-1872), Bengal Artillery 1803, Commanding Officer in Afghanistan campaign 1842

Pottinger (Lt Eldred)

Eldred Pottinger (1811-1843) "Hero of Herat", entered Herat in 1837, offered services to the Herati Grand Vizier, assumed control of all Herat's defences and held off the Russian-backed Persian besiege.

Pottinger (Sir Henry)

Henry Pottinger, Lt-Gen Sir, 1st Bart. (1789-1856). Explored Persia in 1804, travelling in disguise as Muslim merchant and studying local languages; entered EIC 1806; Resident of Sindh and Hyderabad 1820-?; negotiated Treaty of Nanking which ended the 1st Opium War and declared Hong Kong a Crown colony 1842; appointed the 1st Governor of Hong Kong the same year; Governor of Madras 1847-51.

Rawlinson (Sir Henry Creswicke)

Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson (1810-1895), Diplomat and Assyriologist, entered military service in 1827 with the East India Company; appointed political agent at Kandahar in 1840 and in 1843 consul at Baghdad; director of the East India Company in 1856 and from 1859-1860 he was British minister in Persia and member of the Council of India in 1858-1859, 1868-1895. Apart from his official duties, he was a trustee of the British Museum (1876-95) and devoted scholar of cuneiform inscriptions of Babylon and Assyria.

Roberts (Frederick Sleigh)

Field Marshal Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts of Kandahar (1832-1914), C-in-C, Madras 1881-85, C-in-C, India 1885-93

Salisbury (Lord)

Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, 3rd Marquis of Salisbury (1830-1903), Secretary of State for India 1866-67 and 1874-78.

Stoddart (Lt-Col Charles)

Lt-Col Charles Stoddart (? - 1842). Bengal Army. Accompanied Arthur Conolly to Bokhara and Khiva. Executed together with Conolly by the Amir of Bokhara, 1842.

Strachey (Richard)

Lt-Gen Sir Richard Strachey (1817-1908), Bengal Engineers 1836-75; Member, Council of India 1875-78 and 1879-89; Chairman, East India Railway Company from 1889

Wellesley (Lord)

Richard Colley Wellesley, 1st Marquis Wellesley (1760-1842). Governor-General of India, 1798-1805. Foreign Secretary, 1809-12.

Willock (Henry)

Sir Henry Willock, British Envoy to Persia, 1815-26

Younghusband (Sir Francis)

Lt-Col Sir Francis Edward Younghusband (1863-1942), British Army 1882, Indian Foreign Dept 1889-1909, British Commissioner to Tibet 1903-04

Afghanistan: Glossary

A guide to the vocabulary of **Afghan** tribes and **Anglo-Indian terminology**.

abdali One of the two major groups of the Afghans (sense 1), rivals of Ghilzais, also known as Durranis; divided into 9 subtribes. Rulers of Afghanistan, 1747-1973, were all Abdalis with the exception of Baccha-i-Saqo (Habibullah Ghazi).

afghans (1) An ethnic group: the Pushtun tribes inhabiting the area roughly lying between the Hindu Kush in the North and the Indus in the South; Pathans. Comes to mean Pathans residing in Afghanistan. Divided into two main groups, the Abdalis (qv) and the Ghilzais (qv). The predominant ethnic group in Afghanistan. (2) Any inhabitant of Afghanistan (modern meaning, probably not earlier than 19th century).

alizai One of the nine subtribes of the Abdali.

barakzai One of the nine subtribes of the Abdali; tribe to which the Muhammadzai clan, second dynasty of rulers of modern Afghanistan, belonged.

charkhi Family name of important group in late 19th to early 20th century Afghan politics.

chuprassi An office messenger or henchman.

durrani Title taken by Ahmad Shah on his accession to the throne; often applied generally to the Abdalis (qv) and Afghans (sense 1) as a whole.

ghilzai One of the two major divisions of the Afghans (sense 1). Ghilzai Mirs ruled in Persia, 1720-30.

hazaras A non-Afghan minority ethnic group living in Afghanistan: racially Mongoloid, Shi'ite Muslim in religion; mainly inhabit the Hindu Kush.

kafirs A distinct ethnic group inhabiting Kafiristan (now Nuristan) in the north east of Afghanistan. Animists forcibly converted to Islam by Abdur Rahman Khan in 1893. Speak Dardic, a complex non-Indo-European language.

kandahari Descendants of Payendah Khan, ruling in Kandahar **sirdars**.

kirghiz A minority Turkic group, migrated from Russian Turkestan, found only in the Wakhan region of Afghanistan.

lashkars of Persian origin, an army, a camp; or one belonging to an army, a soldier. The corrupt form 'Laskar' also means sailor.

muhammadzai A branch of the Barakzai tribe. The clan to which all rulers of Afghanistan since Dost Muhammad Khan belonged.

musahiban also known as Sultan Muhammed Khel or the Yahya Khel. Descendants of Sultan Muhammed Khan, ruler of Peshawar, brother of Dost Muhammad Khan, i.e. Muhammadzai Barakzais closely related to Amanullah. The family of Nadir and Zahir Shah.

nuristanis see **kafirs**

padshah an emperor, the great Mogul, a king. Of Persian-Hindu origin.

pathans see **afghans**. Comes to mean those tribes not living in Afghanistan itself.

payendah khel Descendants of Payendah Khan, head of the Muhammadzai branch of the Barakzai tribe during the reigns of Timur and Zeman Shah, who became rulers with the decline of the Saddozai dynasty.

popolzai One of the nine subtribes of the Abdalis. The tribe to which the Saddozai clan belonged.

pushtun A speaker of Pashtu; a Pathan or Afghan.

qizzilbashis Descendants of the Persian colony set up in Kabul by Nadir Shah of Persia. Played a significant part in dynastic struggles of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

saddozai The clan of the Popolzai tribe to which Ahmad Shah belonged. The first dynasty of rulers of modern Afghanistan.

shinwaris A tribe of south-east Afghanistan.

sirdar A leader, commander, officer, chief or lord. From Persian-Hindu, 'sardar'.

sultan muhammad kehl see **musahiban**

tajiks An ethnic minority group migrated from former Russian Turkestan, ethnically and linguistically Persian, residing north of the Hindu Kush and around Kabul.

tarzi An important family in 20th-century Afghan politics; in particular Muhammad Tarzi, the modernist intellectual.

turcomen Minority ethnic group migrated from former Russian Turkestan, mainly resident in Afghan Turkestan.

uzbeg/uzbek A minority ethnic group migrated from former Russian Turkestan, mainly inhabiting the northern areas.

wakil An attorney, authorised representative. Of Arab origin, 'wakil'.

vizier A minister under a (Muslim) prince. Arabic origin.

wazir see **vizier**

yahya khel see **musahiban**

Bibliography

Lesley Hall, *A brief guide to sources for the study of Afghanistan in the India Office Records*, (London, 1981)

Yapp, M E, *Strategies of British India - Britain, Iran and Afghanistan, 1798-1850*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980)

Anthony Farrington (Ed.), *British intelligence on Afghanistan and its frontiers, c. 1888-1946: secret and confidential print from the British Government of India*, (Leiden, 2003)