



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

South Asia Photography Collection

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	South Asia Photography Collection
Identifier:	FSA.A1992.07
Date:	19th century
Creator:	Burke, John, d. 1900 (Photographer) Scowen & Co. Shepherd & Robertson
Extent:	8 Prints (albumen; images 24 x 29 cm. or smaller.)
Language:	Undetermined .
Digital Content:	Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection Image(s): South Asia Photography Collection

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased in 1992.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

John Burke (1843-1900) was an Irishman who came to India as an apothecary with the Royal Engineers. A few years later, he became the assistant of the photographer William Baker. At the start of the Second Anglo-Afghan War, Burke tried to go as an official photographer with the British Army, but his request was refused. He decided to travel with the Army at his own expense, financing his trip by selling photographs depicting the life of British soldiers and native people of India. It was in this context that Burke took some of the earliest photographs of Afghanistan.

Scope and Contents

Taken in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, these photographs portray the people, architecture and landscape of Sri Lanka, India and what is now the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area. The collection consists of 8 photographic prints: 1. Natives of Rajputana, signed "Shepherd & Robertson Photo 1120" in black ink in the lower left corner; 2. Native Soldiers in Armour, unsigned; 3. Kandyan Chiefs and Government Agent, signed "Scowen & Co." in white ink in the lower left corner; 4. Taj Mahal, unsigned; 5. Mausoleum of the Great Akbar at the Secundra, unsigned; 6. Ali Musjid and Surroundings from Rotass, Looking Down on Fort, Showing Ascent with River, signed "Burke 28" in white ink in the lower left corner; 7. A Khyber Village, signed "Burke 32" in black ink and in white ink in the lower left corner; 8. Rifle Practice, signed "Burke 285" in black ink in the lower left corner.

Arrangement

Eight large file folders arranged in one box.

Local Numbers

FSA A1992.07

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Akbar, -- Emperor of Hindustan, -- 1542-1605 -- Tomb.
- Forts
- Rajput (Indic people)
- Soldiers
- Taj Mahal (Agra, India)

Types of Materials:

- Albumen prints
- Photographs

Places:

- Kandy (Sri Lanka)
- Khyber (Pakistan)
- Khyber Pass (Afghanistan and Pakistan)
- Sikandra Rao (India)