



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

Robert J. Del Bonta Collection

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Local Numbers.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Robert J. Del Bonta Collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	FSA.A2014.06
<b>Date:</b>	undated
<b>Extent:</b>	6 Linear feet (Prints, books and stereographs)
<b>Creator:</b>	Underwood & Underwood
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Robert J. Del Bonta Collection</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Gift of Robert J. Del Bonta, 2014 and 2015

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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## Biographical / Historical

Polymath scholar, curator, collector, and jeweler, Dr. Robert J. Del Bontà began to collect prints related to India while completing his doctorate in South Asian art history at the University of Michigan in the 1970s. In his collecting practices, Del Bontà traces how Europeans and Americans constructed knowledge about India through prints. He focuses on the curious mixture that resulted when events witnessed "up close" in India were published "from afar," in Europe or America. A careful attention to prints made "up close" allows Del Bontà to see how Indian and European texts and visual resources influenced travelers' on-the-spot observations in India. By viewing prints created "from afar," he examines how printmakers and publishers fluent in European artistic conventions adapted travelers' in-person observations, always adding a dash of fantasy. He further tracks how compositions were copied and altered over long stretches of time, inspiring questions about publication practices as well as the accuracy of these images.

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## Scope and Contents

Works from the encyclopedic collection of Dr. Robert J. Del Bontà. Comprised of prints and published volumes from a range of European and North American sources dating from the 16th through 20th centuries, primarily illustrating the visual reception of Indian visual culture through scholarly and

popular press. By tracing how these images were interpreted and reproduced over time, the collection demonstrates how perceptions of Indian culture shifted through the centuries, from the Enlightenment to the colonial period and Christian missionary movement, and into modernity. Together these prints reveal structures of the European and American imagination as much as they encapsulate conceptions of India. Specific topics illustrated include religious ascetics and religious practices, as well as Mughal rulers. Also included are an extensive group of photographic stereocards of Indian subjects from a number of publishers, including a nearly complete set taken by James Ricalton between 1891 and 1900 and published by Underwood & Underwood.

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## Arrangement

Arranged on one shelf

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## Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Prints  
Stereographs

Names:

Picart, Bernard, 1673-1733

Geographic Names:

India

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## Container Listing

FSA A2014.06 13: Shiva as Sadhu from a set of 12 Trading Cards, Histoire de L'Inde, 1939

*1 Print*

[Image\(s\): Robert J. Del Bonta Collection](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

French.

Chromolithographic trade card from a set of 12 made by Liebig Company.

Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06 13

Topic: Sadhus

Place: India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 01: Voyagien der Engelsen, pages 9 and 10, 1706

*1 Item (Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Dutch; Flemish.

Printed book folio.

Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06 01

Topic: Sadhus

Place: France  
India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 02: Voyagien der Engelsen, pages 7 and 8, 1706

*1 Item (Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Dutch; Flemish.

Printed book folio.

Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06 02

Topic: Sadhus

Place: France  
India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 03: Indiaanische pagodem en schrikkelyke boetdoeningen of lichaams kwellingen der fakirs, from Tegenwoordige staat van de koninkryken Pegu, Ava, Arrakan, Acham. Als mede van het eigentlyke India, of het ryk van den Groten Mogol, en van Malabar, Kormandel, en het eiland Ceilon, 1730s  
*1 Item (Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Salmon, Thomas, 1679-1767

Dutch; Flemish.

Printed book folio. Dutch version of the original English publication.

Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06 03

Topic: Sadhus

Place: Amsterdam (Holland)  
England  
India  
Netherlands

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 2.143: The Mogul Dynasty in Hindustan. No. II. Image of Baber. The Penny Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, #468, p. 273, July 20, 1839  
*6 Items (7/8" ; Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Dutch; Flemish.

This print is identical to a Mughal ivory called Baber Shah in Sotheby's New York, March 26, 2003, lot 109.

Local Numbers

E591

FSA A2014.06 2.143

Individual print from a larger printed book folio.

Names: Babur  
Zahir al-Din Muhammad

Place: England  
India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 2.144.E125: Sultan Baber: The Oriental Annual, July 20, 1839, London, United Kingdom (86 Fleet Street, London, U.K.);, Charles T.H.;, October 1, 1836

1 Print (on paper; 7 5/8" x 4 3/4")

[Image\(s\)](#)

Daniell, William, 1769-1837 (Artist)

Dutch; Flemish.

This print is identical to a Mughal ivory called Baber Shah in Sotheby's New York, March 26, 2003, lot 109.

Local Numbers

E125

FSA A2014.06 2.144.E125

Individual print from a larger printed book folio.

Engraved by John Cochran, active 1821-1865.

Names: Babur  
Cochran, John, Engraver, active 1821-1865  
Daniell, William, 1769-1837 (Artist)  
Zahir al-Din Muhammad

Place: India  
London (England)

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 2.065: Prints from Atlas Historique, Ou Nouvelle Introduction A L'Histoire, by Henri Abraham Chatelain, Zacharie Chatelain, and Zacharie Chatelain, Jr, 1705-1732  
*11 Items (3/4" ; Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Dutch; Flemish.

Captions read: Sek ou Seich Omar, mort en 1493; Babar ou Baber ou Babour, mort en 1530; Amayum ou Houmayon, mort en 1552; Akebar ou Xa Aguebar, mort en 1605.

This print is identical to a Mughal ivory called Baber Shah in Sotheby's New York, March 26, 2003, lot 109.

Local Numbers

E1361

FSA A2014.06 2.065

Individual prints from a larger printed book folio. Unknown edition.

Names: Babur  
Chatelain, Henri Abraham, 1684-1743 (map maker, engraver)

Chatelain, Zacharie, 1690-1754  
Zahir al-Din Muhammad

Place: France  
India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 2.006: Babur: Zahir-ud-din Muhammad Babur, 1483-1530  
*13 Items (1/4" x 8" ; Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Text in Dutch.

Print from "Oud en nieuw Oost-Indien, vervattende een naaukeurige en uitvoerige verhandeling van Nederlands mogentheyd in die gewesten, benevens e, Dordrecht, 1724-1726" by Francois Valentijn. No.7, page 193.

Local Numbers

E879

FSA A2014.06 2.006

Caption reads "Sjah Baboer sevendde groote Mogol."

Individual print from a larger printed book folio.

Names: Babur  
Zahir al-Din Muhammad

Topic: Sadhus

Place: India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 04: Divers Pagods and the Penitence of the Faquirs from The Ceremonies and Religious Customs of the Idolatrous Nations, 1733  
*1 Item (Print on paper)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Du Bosc, Claude, Engraver, 1684-1745?

Dutch; Flemish.

Printed book folio. Dutch version of the original English publication.

Local Numbers

FSA A2014.06 04

Topic: Sadhus

Place: England  
India

Genre/Form: Prints

FSA A2014.06 2.S: Stereographs of India



*151 Items (stereocards)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Ricalton, James

Underwood and Underwood

Dutch; Flemish.

151 commercial stereographs depicting scenes of South Asia. Sources include Underwood and Underwood Publishers; Ricalton; H.C. White Co.; American Stereoscopic Co. and Keystone View Co. Collectively this is a nearly complete complement of photographs of India taken by James Ricalton.

Local Numbers

E591

FSA A2014.06 2.S

Place: India

Genre/Form: Stereographs  
Stereoscopic photographs