



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

Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum  
Razmnama and Ramayana Photographs

Ryan Murray

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## Table of Contents

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Overview .....        |   |
| Administrative Information ..... | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical .....  | 2 |
| Scope and Contents .....         | 2 |
| Arrangement .....                | 2 |
| Names and Subjects .....         |   |
| Container Listing .....          |   |

## Collection Overview

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|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives                            |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Razmnama and Ramayana Photographs                   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | circa 1924-1970s                                                                       |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | FSA.A2019.07                                                                           |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Widgery, Alban G. (Alban Gregory), 1887-1968<br>Akbar, Emperor of Hindustan, 1542-1605 |
| <b>Source:</b>     | Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum                                                     |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 Cubic foot                                                                           |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .                                                                              |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Transferred from the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library.

### Provenance

*Photographs of the Paintings in the Razam-Nameh at The Palace, Jaipur, India* given to the Freer Gallery of Art by Alban G. Widgery in 1965, *Mahabharata* copy prints created by Freer Gallery of Art staff in the 1970s, *Ramayana* photographs given to the Freer Gallery of Art by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum in the early 1970s. All were maintained by the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library prior to their transfer to the Archives in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Razmnama and Ramayana Photographs, FSA.A2019.07.  
National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

### Conditions Governing Use

Permission to reproduce and publish an item from the Archives is coordinated through the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery's Rights and Reproductions department. Please contact the Archives in order to initiate this process.

## Biographical / Historical

These photographs document paintings illustrating scenes from the *Razmnama*, a Persian translation of the Sanskrit *Mahabharata*, and the *Ramayana*. The original paintings Widgery photographed are from the collections of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum in Jaipur, India. Both works were commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Akbar I (1542-1605).

The Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, located at The City Palace in Jaipur, India, was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II. It preserves and offers access to the palace itself, as well as collections of paintings, textiles, photographs, and archives.

Alban Widgery (1887-1968) was most noted as a professor of philosophy at Duke University, where he served as chair of the Department of Philosophy from 1930-1946. He specialized in the philosophy of religion and took particular interest in India, where he traveled extensively.

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## Scope and Contents

Collection consists of three sets of silver gelatin black and white photographs. The first is a bound volume, titled *Photographs of the Paintings in the Razam-Nameh at The Palace, Jaipur, India*, prepared by Alban G. Widgery, containing 105 photographs of paintings depicting scenes from the *Razmnama*, a Persian translation and abridgement of the *Mahabharata*, including labels. Widgery obtained the photographs from the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, which holds the original *Razmnama* illuminated manuscript, in Jaipur, India before 1924. The volume is bound inside a cover originally belonging to *Plants of the Falkland Islands*.

The second is a larger set of 148 photographs of *Razmnama/Mahabharata* scenes. These are copy prints made in the 1970s by Freer Gallery of Art staff of photographs from the volume assembled by Widgery, including additional images that are not in the volume.

The third is a set of 154 photographs of paintings depicting scenes from the *Ramayana* from the collection of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, which gave the photographs to the Freer Gallery of Art in the early 1970s.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by format, thereunder alphabetically by title, thereunder numerically.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum

## Container Listing

|                  |                                                                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Item 1    | Photographs of the Paintings in the Razam-Nameh at The Palace, Jaipur, India, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 1  | [Mahabharata]: List of Photographs from the Razm-Nama, undated                        |
| Box 2, Folder 2  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 1-20, undated                                              |
| Box 2, Folder 3  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 21-40, undated                                             |
| Box 2, Folder 4  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 41-60, undated                                             |
| Box 2, Folder 5  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 61-80, undated                                             |
| Box 2, Folder 6  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 81-100, undated                                            |
| Box 2, Folder 7  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 101-120, undated                                           |
| Box 2, Folder 8  | Mahabharata: Photo Prints, 121-148, undated                                           |
| Box 2, Folder 9  | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 1-10, undated                                                 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 11-20, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 21-30, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 31-40, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 41-50, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 51-60, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 61-70, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 71-80, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 81-90, undated                                                |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 91-100, undated                                               |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 101-110, undated                                              |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 111-120, undated                                              |
| Box 3, Folder 1  | Ramayana: Photo Prints, 121-130, undated                                              |

Box 3, Folder 2      Ramayana: Photo Prints, 131-140, undated

Box 3, Folder 3      Ramayana: Photo Prints, 141-154, undated