

JNU Seminar on Botanical & Meteorological History of the Indian Ocean, 1600-1900

The Vidyajyoti College located now in Civil Lines, North of old Delhi (4/A Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi 110054) was started in 1879 as a seminary for Jesuit missionaries from Belgium who came to India young and had to do the course of church study (theology) before being ordained priests. In 1889 the seminary was transferred to Kurseong, in the mountains near Darjeeling, West Bengal, where it grew for 72 years. In the course of all this time it collected a good library of books on India, some quite old, printed in Europe in the 16th to 19th centuries. They can be considered 'incunabilia' in a broad sense (actually our oldest book was printed only in 1514). Vidyajyoti does not have an archive as such, but a library, except for the manuscripts of the twentieth century Henry Hosten, a historian and chronicler mostly of church history in India. The following books could be of interest to the concerns of the seminar:

1. Joseph Tieffenthaler, S.J. *Historisch-geographische Beschreibung von Hindustan*. Ed. By Johan Bernouille. 3 volumes in 2, 4° pp xxxv-370-xxxviii, xviii-238., 244. Berlin, 1785-1788. Tieffenthaler lived between 1719 and 1795 and is buried in Agra, behind the so called Akbar chapel or church. He describes and maps many areas in north India, both towns and countryside.
2. Anthony Monserrate (Montserrat, Monserrat) wrote (a) *Mongolicae legationis commentaries* published in the *Memoirs of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 3/9 (1914). (b) *Jesuit Letters and Moghul Allied Papers on Mogor, Tiber, Bengal and Burma*. There is an English translation of the text (a) by Hoyland, annotated by Josep Lluís Alay, with a good commentary and a study of his map of India, a vast improvement on previous maps. I brought a copy of his book because it contains a good photograph of the celebrated "map of Indostan" to study which Alay dedicates 12 pages of his work.
3. Of special interest to the topic of the seminar may be the well known *Hortus Indicus Malabaricus*, 6 volumes in 3, by Henry van Rheede and John Caesarium, Amsterdam 1678-1685, highly illustrated with excellent drawings of the plants discussed, with their names in Latin, Greek, Sanskrit and local languages. There are two more volumes added in 1688: vol. 7 "de fructibus scandentibus" and vol. 8 "de herbis pomiferis et leguminosis." I don't dare translate.
4. Chitra. Cities and Monuments of 18th century, from French archives. It contains plans and drawings of models. Delhi, OUP 2001.
5. we have a number of "histories of India" or of Christianity in India (especially Jesuit missions) printed in the 17th and 18th centuries, generally in Latin or on Portuguese or French. (Historians from Kerala may be especially interested in a book by Alexis de Menezes, Archbishop of Goa, *Historia Orientalis*, printed in 1609).
6. there are also in our library sets of printed documents referring to the last four or five centuries in India that may be of general interest to historians but I am doubtful about how far they can help the work proposed in this seminar. The most important may be *Documenta Indica* (DI), part of a much larger collection of *Monumenta Historica Societatis Jesu* (MHSI). DI consists of 18 volumes of letters sent by missionaries in India between 1542 and 1598, in their original languages, with introductions and notes in Latin (English in the five of six volumes), very well indexed and annotated. But I do not think that anything worthwhile can be gleaned from them of interest for the topic of this seminar: the Jesuits write mostly about the administration of the Jesuit order and of the church or the (Portuguese) state, or give their first personal impressions about India as tourists do even today, without any "scientific" knowledge.
7. We have also 11 volumes of the *Memories of the Royal Asiatic society of Bengal, 1905-1929* referred to above in relation to Commentary of Monserrate.
8. There are several collections of the French series of the Jesuit *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*, for popular reading, published in the 18th and 19th centuries.
9. We have also a separate section of Travelogues, worldwide, Asian and India, where naturally

there are observations of all kinds from India. As samples I may mention the *Histoire generale des voyages*, by Abbe Antoine Francios Prevost (1747-1780) in 25 volumes, including one on Indian cartography with a very good index. Year 8 (?! is it 1808?) for those interested I brought 6 pages from a librarian's shorthand catalogue mentioning collections of travel in the world, in Asia and in India. I Do not know if anything can help the implementation of the programme of this seminar.

10. In the library section on Indian flora we have five large volumes of the research of Fr. K. M. Mathew, a former alumnus of Vidyajyoti College when in Kurseong, on the flora of Karnataka and Tamilnadu. He followed the footsteps of Heemeglid Santapau, S.J., of Mumbai, for one year the Chief Botanist of India, who worked on the plants in Maharashtra and the orchids of India and revived the Blatter Herbarium in Mumbai. Fr. Cecil Saldanha, S.J., like other less well equipped missionaries, was a researcher in Karnataka flora. Interesting in this section is also the 1567 book of Garcia de Orta (1501-1568), a Portuguese Jew who settled in Goa , *Aromatum et implicium aliquot medicamentorum apud indos nascentium*. Carlos Clusio, quoting the Latin text, translated into Portuguese. The book in our library is a reprint of 1954. in the section on Indian fauna, I may mention the book on butterflies of India by M.A. Wynter-Blyth, published in 1857 and 30 volumes (out of 65?) of the impressive collection *The Fauna of British India* (1888-1927).

11. finally, may I mention a Delhi source outside Vidyajyoti. When our institution was transferred to Delhi after 82 years in Kurseong we brought a thick collection of charts recording daily data about temperature , rain, pressure and perhaps other weather information in Kurseong, about 5000 above sea level. If I am not mistaken the charts were donated to the department of Geography (or of Human Geography) in the University of Delhi. Presumably the charts, if of any use are still preserved. I am not sure how many there were. I suspect that the data is of the 20th century, but they might have started earlier.

12. There are of course all over India other libraries and institutions where the missionary contribution is specially preserved. May I mention the Goethals Library in St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, the Xavier Centre of Historical Research in Goa, the Madurai Jesuit Archives and Natural Museum in Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal.

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Vidyajyoti, Delhi, 30 August 2013
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Indian Travels

- 1.Foster, W. Early Travels in India 1593-1619
- 2.Oaten, E.F. European travellers in India during the 15th, 16th & 17th centuries
- 6.Godinho, M. Relcoa do novo caminho que fez por terra e mar
- 9.Haapner, J. Reize naar Bengalen en terugreize naar Europa
- 10.Haafner, J. Lotgevalten op eene reize van Madras over Tranquebaar naar het eiland ceilo
- 11.reize in eenen palanquin . . .
- 13.Macmillan, M. The globe trotter in India 200 years ago and other Indian studies
- 14.La Flotte, de. Essais historiques sur l'Inde . . .
- 15.Toree, O. Voyage . . .
- 16.Vasco De Gama, The story of the first voyage from Europe to Asia.
- 17.Shahamat Ali, the Sikhs and Afghans.
- 18.Guyon, A. Histoire des Indes Orientales . . .
- 25.L'Estra, S. de.
- 26.1-4. The Modern Traveller
- 27.1-3. Shoberl, F. The World in Miniture
- 28.1-6. L'Hindoustan, ou religion, moeurs, usages, arts et metiers.

- 33.1-2. Wilson, Horace Hayman, Travels in the Himilayan province of N
34.Sen, S.N. Indian Travels of Thevenot and Careri
35.Campbell, D. A journey overland to India, partly . . .
37.Temple, R.C. The travels of Richard Bell
38.1-2. Tieffenthaler, J. Historisch-Geographische Beschreibung
40.Chumovsky, T.A. Tres Roteiros Desconhecidos de ahman . . .
41.Perrin, M. Voyage dans L'Indostan
42.Brunet, P. Voyage a L'ile de France . . . L'Inde et
44.Ryley, J.H. Ralph Fitch
45.1-2. Chunder, B.N. The travels of a hindoo to various parts of Bengal and U.India
46.Guisepe di S. Maria, Prima Speditione all Indie Orientali.
47.id. Seconda Speditione all Indie Orientali
48.Burnell, J. Bombay in the days of Queen Anne . . .
49.Locke, J.C. The first Englishmen in India
50.Moreland, W.H. Relations of Golconda in Early 17th c.
51.1-2. Degrandpre, L. Woyage dans l'Inde et au Bengale
52.1-2. Hamilton, A. A new account of the E.Indies
53.Bontekoe, W.Y. Memorable description of the E.Indian voyage 1618-25
54.Schurhammer, G. Fernao Mendez Pinto und Seine
55.1-2.Tavernier, J.B. Travels in India
57.1-2.Huyghen van Linschoten. The voyages of . . .
58.de Castro, J. Roteiros de Joao de Castro III
59.De Castro, D.J. Cartas de . . .
60.Varthema, L.di. The Itinerary of L.di Varthema of Bologna from 1502 to 1508 . . .
61.1-2.Archer, Major Tours of Upper India, . . .
63.1-3.Herber, R. Narrative of journey through the upper provinces of India
64.1-2.id. Voyage a Calcutta
65.1-2.id. Narrative of a journey through the upper provinces of India, . . .
66.Soltikoff, Lettres sur L'Inde.
69.Bowrey, T. A geographical account of countries round the Bay of Bengal . . .
70.Holditch, T. The gates of India
71.Calcoen.
72.Jacquemont, V. Correspondance inedite de . . .
73.id. Corresponance de . . .
74.1-2.id. Letters from India
75.id. Letters from India, 1829-1832.
76.1-2.Elwood, Mrs Colonel, Narrative of a journey overland from England . . .
77.1-4.Rennell, J. Decription Historique et geogr.de L'Indostan
78.Ketelaar, J.J. Journal van J.J.Ketelaar's bofroia (?faded) naar den Groot Mogol te Lahore 1711-1713
82.Jordan of Severac, O.P. Mirabilia Descripta. The wonders of the East.
88.1-2Dahlmann, Joseph, Indische Fahrten
- 1.Catalani de Severac, J. Les merveilles de Aisle
3.Polo, Marco, O livro de . . .
4.1-3. id. The book of ser Marco Polo the Venitian
5.id. Le description du monde
6.id. The most notable and famous travels of -.
7.id. Travels of Marco Polo the venietian
8.1-3.de Ataide, A. Viagens do Reino para a India e da India para Reino
9.1-2. Lafitau, J.F. Histiore des devouvertes at conquestes des Portugais dans le nouveau monde . .
10.1-4. Hanway, J. an historical account of the British trade over the Caspian Sea.

11. Tome Pires. A suma oriental de - .
12. Cartesao, A. & Thomas, H. Carta das novas que vieram a el rei nosso senhor do descobrimento de - .
14. Lopes de Castanheda. Historia do descobrimento e . . .
15. Andrana, R. Freyre de. Commentaries of Ruy Freyre de . . .
16. Collis, M. The grand Peregrination.
17. id. The land of the great image
18. Zweig, S. Magellan, pioneer of the Pacific.
- 20.1-2. id. Manrique, S. Itinerario de las misiones
- 21.1-2. id. Itinerario de - .
26. Hourani, G.F. Arab Seafaring in the Italian Ocean in Ancient and early medieval times
- 27.1-2. Keppel, G. Personal narrative of a journey from India to England in the year 1824
- 32.1-3. Pyard de Laval, F. The voyage of - , to the East Indies
33. Barbaro, J. & Cintrani, Travels to Tana and Persia.
- 34.1-2. Barbosa, D. The book of - .
35. Gonzalez de Clavijo, R. Life and acts of the Great Tamewrlane.
- 37.1-3. Carre, A. The travels of the Abbe Carre in India.
38. Mendez Punto, F. The Voyaging and adventures of - .
39. Abu Taleb Khan, M. Travels of - .
- 41.-1-2. Tavernier, J.S. De Zes reizen van de Heer - .
- 42.1-3. id. Les six voyages de - ,
43. The itinerary of Benjamin Tudela
- 44.1-3. Kotzebue, O. von. A voyage of discovery into the S. Sea and Beering Straits . . .
- 51.1-5. Valentia, G. voyages dans l'Hindoustan, . . .
52. De Castro, J. Roteiro em que se contem a viagem . . .
- 53.1-2. La Graviere, J. de. Les Anglais et les Hollandais . . .
56. Vander AA, P. Naaukeurige versameling der gedenk-waardigste zee en land-reysen na . .
59. Sidi Ali Reis. The travels and adventures of the Turkish admiral - ,
62. Saint-Genois, J. Les voyageurs belges du XIII au XVIe siecle
63. Stavorinus, J.S. Voyage par le cap de Bonne-Esperance.
65. Fyfe, J.H. Enterprise beyond the seas
72. Della Valle, P. Viaggi di Pietro della valle il Pelegrino . . .
- 73.1-8. id. Voyages de . . .
74. Persianische und Ost-Indianische Reis wellce Franz Kaspar & Schillinger mit P.W. Mayr, S.J. . .
- 76.1-2. Relation des voyages faits par les Arabes et les Persans, . . .

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2. Montanus, Arnoldus. Gedenkwaerdige gesantschappen der Ost-Indische Maatschappy in't Vereenigde . . . 1669
3. Nieuhoff, Jean. L'Ambassade de la Compagnie Orientale des provinces Unies vers l'empereur de la Chine ou Grand Cam de Tartarie, . . . 1665
- 4-6. Stocklein, J., S.J. Der Neue-Weltbott mit allerhand Nachrichten der Missionariorum S.J. 3 vols. 2 vols
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31. Hodges, William. Travels in India, during the years 1780-83 2nd ed
32. Vincent, William. Voyage de Nearque, des bouches de l'Indus jusqu'a l'Euphrate, . . . 1797
33. id. The voyage of Nearchus from the Indus to the Euphrates, . . . 1797.