

India photograph album

Ms. Coll. 1175

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Last updated on March 08, 2016.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2016 February 25

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	India photograph album
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1175
Date	1945
Extent	0.8 linear feet (1 volume and 1 folder)
Language	English
Abstract	This photograph album captures the daily life of rural Indians in 1945 as seen by either an American or British military doctor.

Cite as:

India photograph album, 1945, Ms. Coll. 1175, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

This collection is dated 1945 and centers on the experience in India of the creator, likely a military doctor for the British or American army based in or near Chakeri or Cawapore (today Kanpur).

Scope and Contents

This photograph album captures the daily life of rural Indians in 1945 as seen by either an American or British military doctor. It is likely the station sick quarters (S.S.Q.) referenced were located in or near Chakeri or Cawapore (today Kanpur) and the unknown creator is a subject of some of the photos. The photographs are carefully captioned. Loose photos have been placed in their own folder.

Almost all the photos are of Indians engaged in common activities and rituals. The ritual of the burning ghat is carefully documented, from the beginning of the deceased's parade all the way through to the pyre. A wedding is also photographed and described. There are many shots of snake charmers, carpenters, doctors, string makers, monkeys, farmers, children and others.

A few photographs of landscapes and monuments also make an appearance. There is one photograph of a very large, inflatable likeness of Adolf Hitler taken during victory day celebrations in Cawapore, as well as a scene of the VJ celebrations in Cawapore (dated May 14, 1945, so possibly VE Day). There seem to be a number of missing photographs with captions in either a different hand, or perhaps the same hand recorded at a later date.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 2007.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photograph albums
- Photographs

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- India--History--British occupation, 1765-1947--Photographs
- India--Photographs
- India--Social life and customs

SUBJECT(S)

- World War, 1939-1945--India

Collection Inventory

	Box	Volume
Photograph album, 1945.	1	1
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Loose photographs (including landscape, a building, Indian workers, and a wedding party), 1945.	1	1