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# Year of South Asia Fall Book Exhibit and Bibliography

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## Year of South Asia Fall Book Exhibit and Bibliography

### Premodern History

Avari, Burjor. *Islamic Civilization in South Asia: A History of Muslim Power and Presence in the Indian Subcontinent*. New York: Routledge, 2013. Print.

Muslims have been present in South Asia for 14 centuries. Nearly 40% of the people of this vast land mass follow the religion of Islam, and Muslim contribution to the cultural heritage of the sub-continent has been extensive. This textbook provides both undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as the general reader with a comprehensive account of the history of Islam in India, encompassing political, socio-economic, cultural and intellectual aspects. Using a chronological framework, the book discusses the main events in each period between c. 600 CE and the present day, along with the key social and cultural themes. It discusses a range of topics, including: How power was secured, and how was it exercised The crisis of confidence caused by the arrival of the West in the sub-continent How the Indo-Islamic synthesis in various facets of life and culture came about Excerpts at the end of each chapter allow for further discussion, and detailed maps alongside the text help visualise the changes through each time period. Introducing the reader to the issues concerning the Islamic past of South Asia, the book is a useful text for students and scholars of South Asian History and Religious Studies.

**CN: BP63 .I4 A946 2013**

McLeod, John. *The History of India*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2002. Print.

Descriptions of India are often woefully cliched. Foreigners may preserve old ideas of the exotic East, or reflect the preoccupations of Western media, or view India as a country of violence and disaster. Yet many Indians see their homeland as a modern industrial power, the world's largest democracy, and the country where an ancient civilization thrives alongside state-of-the-art computer technology. This accessible narrative account follows the entire path of Indian history from the Harrapans to today. Readers will encounter the foundation of Buddhism, Hinduism, the Gupta dynasty, Muslim encounters in India, British rule, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and much more. A biographical section and an annotated bibliography add reference value to this up-to-date resource on the history of India.

**CN: DS463 .M224 2002**

Robb, Peter. *A History of India*. New York: Palgrave, 2001. Print.

*A History of India* explores the principal themes that unify Indian history and offers the reader a sophisticated and accessible view of India's dynamics from ancient times, the Mughal Empire, the British Raj through post-1947 India. The book examines Indian politics, religious beliefs, caste, environment, nationalism, colonialism, and gender, among other issues. The book also discusses long-term economic development, the impact of global trade, and the origins of rural poverty. Peter Robb's clear, fluent narrative explores the interplay between India's empires, regions of rule,

customs, and beliefs, and is an ideal starting-point for those with an interest in India's past and present.

**CN: DS436 .R63 2002**

SarDesai, D.R. *India: The Definitive History*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2008. Print.

D. R. SarDesai presents the history of India in its entire civilizational depth. Using an Indiacentric approach, (as opposed to the Eurocentric or Anglocentric) the book covers the process of change in India through the centuries affecting different segments of the society, including the subalterns. He deals with the sweep of traditional Indian history as well as with the post-independence events, judiciously balancing narrative and analysis in the conceptual framework of postcolonial and postmodernist approaches. This is the first major survey which deals with the entire Indian history along the lines of tradition and modernity instead of the old and largely inapplicable divisions of ancient, medieval and modern time frames. In adopting such a periodization, the book supports what is followed by most instructors in their courses on India.

**CN: DS436 .S23 2008**

Talbot, Ian. *A History of Modern South Asia: Politics, States, Diasporas*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016. Print.

Noted historian Ian Talbot has written a new history of modern South Asia that considers the Indian Subcontinent in regional rather than in solely national terms. A leading expert on the Partition of 1947, Talbot focuses here on the combined history of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh since 1757 and specifically on the impact of external influences on the local peoples and cultures. This text explores the region's colonial and postcolonial past, and the cultural and economic Indian reaction to the years of British authority, thus viewing the transformation of modern South Asia through the lens of a wider world.

**CN: DS340 .T35 2016**

Vohra, Ranbir. *The Making of India*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2001.

Revised to encompass developments through to the end of the 20th century, this is a study of India's complex history and society. The author views the development of Indian civilization in terms of the socio-religious conflicts and traditions through time, and their impact on political culture.

**CN: E-book (Please see the library catalog for online access)**

## **Hinduism**

Chaudhuri, Nirad, Madeleine Biardeau, D.F. Peacock, and T.N. Madan (eds.). *The Hinduism Omnibus*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003. Print.

This Omnibus edition brings together four classic works on Hinduism by renowned scholars, providing the liturgical, historical, anthropological, and individualist's interpretation of the religion. With an introduction by T.N. Madan, this volume will make an excellent and very comprehensive collector's item on the subject of Hinduism.

**CN: BL1202 .H56 2003**

Jagannathan, Shakunthala and Nanditha Krishna. *Ganesha: The Auspicious, the Beginning*.

Bombay: Vakils, Feffer & Simons Ltd, 1992. Print.

Ganesha is the most popular and loved of the gods of the Hindu pantheon. Nothing auspicious takes place without invoking his name. Was this always so? if not, how did he rise into prominence? These and so many more questions have exercised the minds of those interested in Hindu religion and philosophy. This title answers those questions.

**CN: BL1225 .G34 S49 1992**

Kinsley, David. *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious*

*Tradition*. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1986. Print.

Goddess worship has long been a significant aspect of Hinduism. In this book David Kinsley, author of "The Sword and the Flute--Kali & Krishna: Dark Visions of the Terrible and the Sublime in Hindu Mythology," sorts out the rich yet often chaotic history of Hindu goddess worship.

**CN: BL1216.2 .K56 1986**

Lutgendorf, Philip. *Hanuman's Tale: The Messages of a Divine Monkey*. New York: Oxford

University Press, 2007. Print.

Philip Lutgendorf examines Hindu popular literature, art, and ritual, and shows that Hanuman is perhaps the most beloved deity in the Hindu pantheon. He traces the history of Hanuman's character, teases out the many variations on the story, and examines the sources of his enormous appeal.

**CN: BL1225 .H3 L87 2007**

Mittal, Sushil and G.R. Thursby (eds.) *The Hindu World*. New York: Routledge, 2004. Print.

*The Hindu World* is the most complete, authoritative and up-to-date one-volume guide to Hindu faith and culture available today. With twenty-four dedicated chapters written by the world's leading Hinduism scholars, it elucidates the history, philosophy and practice of one of the world's great religious traditions. The perfect reference for all students of Hinduism, it is ideal for both for introductory-level study and for use as a definitive reference source. Proving invaluable for its wealth of historical material, in addition, *The Hindu World* also offers new insights into all aspects of Hindu life, ranging from the devotional texts of the Vedas and Ramayana to current perspectives on dharma and kama, temple architecture, sacred food, ritual, caste, cosmic philosophy, history and modernization. *The Hindu World* emphasizes Hinduism's classical heritage and daily practice as well as contemporary approaches to Hindu scholarship. Exploring the enormous diversity of Hindu devotion whilst considering Hinduism's academic status as a category for analysis, the book achieves a distinctive creative balance between the beliefs and values of Hindus themselves, and scholarly 'outsider' perspectives.

**CN: BL1202 .H546 2004**

## **Buddhism**

Collett, Alice (ed.). *Women in Early Indian Buddhism: Comparative Textual Studies*. New York: Oxford

University Press, 2014. Print.

The path of practice as taught in ancient India by Gotama Buddha was open to both women and men. The texts of early Indian Buddhism show that women were lay followers of the Buddha and were also granted the right to ordain and become nuns. Certain women were known as influential teachers of men and women alike and considered experts in certain aspects of Gotama's dhamma. For this to occur in an ancient religion practiced within traditional societies is really quite extraordinary. This is apparent especially in light of the continued problems experienced by practitioners of many religions today involved in challenging instilled norms and practices and conferring the status of any high office upon women. In this collection, Alice Collett brings together a sampling of the plethora of Buddhist texts from early Indian Buddhism in which women figure centrally.

**CN: BQ4570 .W6 W64 2014**

Fogelin, Lars. *An Archaeological History of Indian Buddhism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Print.

"An Archaeological History of Indian Buddhism is a comprehensive survey of Indian Buddhism from its origins in the 6th century BCE, through its ascendance in the 1st millennium CE, and its eventual decline in mainland South Asia by the mid-2nd millennium CE. Weaving together studies of archaeological remains, architecture, iconography, inscriptions, and Buddhist historical sources, this book uncovers the quotidian concerns and practices of Buddhist monks and nuns (the sangha), and their lay adherents--concerns and practices often obscured in studies of Buddhism premised largely, if not exclusively, on Buddhist texts. At the heart of Indian Buddhism lies a persistent social contradiction between the desire for individual asceticism versus the need to maintain a coherent community of Buddhists...This book also serves as an exemplar for the archaeological study of long-term religious change through the perspectives of practice theory, materiality, and semiotics"

**CN: BQ286 .F65 2015**

Kinnard, Jacob. *The Emergence of Buddhism*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2006. Print.

In the 6th century B.C.E., a young prince named Siddhartha Gotama set out on an ascetic quest to alleviate human suffering. In the middle ground between opulence and self-denial, he discovered a path to enlightenment and self awareness--and he dedicated his life to sharing that discovery. The man called Buddha, the Awakened One, traveled as an itinerant monk, imparting principles of enlightenment throughout India and what is now southern Nepal. He was not worshipped as a god, but became teacher and model to ascetics, royalty, and townsfolk alike. In the 2,500 years that followed, through the spread of Buddha's teachings and the monastic communities that upheld them, the world's oldest missionary religion has grown so that it now boasts over 350 million followers worldwide. The story of Buddhism unfolds through a series of narrative chapters, dealing with the Brahmanical cosmology from which Buddhism emerged, the stories and myths surrounding Buddha's birth, Buddha's path to enlightenment, and the eventual spread of his teachings throughout India and the world. Kinnard's clear telling of the tale helps students understand such complex concepts as the natural law of cause and effect (karma), the birth/life/death/rebirth cycle (samsara), the ever-changing state of suffering (dukkha), and salvation, the absence of all states (nirvana). Primary documents, illustrations, glossary and biographical sketches illuminate the extraordinary life and legacy of the man called Buddha.

**CN: BQ286 .K53 2006**

Omvedt, Gail. *Buddhism in India: Challenging Brahmanism and Caste*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2003. Print.

This book is an historical survey of Buddhism in India and shows how over a period of 2500 years, Buddhism has been engaged in a struggle against caste-hierarchy. It has challenged Brahmanism, the main exploitative system of traditional Indian society, and instead endeavoured to build religious egalitarianism.

The book focuses on the question of what is the 'core' element in Buddhist Dhamma, on what role it has played in the development of Indian civilization, and the changed perspective of Buddhism in a modern industrial age.

**CN: BQ4610 .B7 O49 2003**

### **Premodern Literature**

*Bhagavad Gita*. Trans. Laurie L. Patton. New York: Penguin, 2008. Print.

'Know this- that with which all this world is woven is not to be destroyed. No one is able to effect the destruction of the imperishable.' The *Bhagavad Gita* is an early epic poem that recounts the conversation between Arjuna the warrior and his charioteer Krishna, the manifestation of God. In the moments before a great battle, the dialogue sets out the important lessons Arjuna must learn to change the outcome of the war he is to fight, and culminates in Krishna revealing to the warrior his true cosmic form, counselling him to search for the universal perfection of life. Ranging from instructions on yoga postures to dense moral discussion, the Gita is one of the most important Hindu texts, as well as serving as a practical guide to living well. Laurie Patton's accessible and elegant new translation reflects The Bhagavad Gita's status as both an aesthetic and a social document, and her introduction examines the structure of the poem and the various commentaries on it through the ages. This edition also includes suggested further reading and a glossary of terms.

**CN: BL1138.62 .E5 L44 2008**

*Mahabharata*. Trans. David R. Slavitt. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2015. Print.

Within its 200,000 verse lines in Sanskrit the Mahabharata takes on many roles: epic poem, foundational text of Hinduism, and, more broadly, the engaging story of a dynastic struggle and the passing of an age when man and gods intermingled. David R. Slavitt's sparkling new edition condenses the epic for the general reader. At its core, the Mahabharata is the story of the rivalry between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, two related noble families who are struggling for control of a kingdom in ancient northern India. Slavitt's readable, plot-driven, single-volume account describes an arc from the conception and birth of Bhishma to that hero's death, while also introducing the four goals of life at the center of Hinduism: dharma (righteousness, morality, duty), artha (purpose), kama (pleasure), and moksa (spiritual liberation). The Mahabharata is engaging, thrilling, funny, charming, and finally awesome, with a range in timbre from the impish naivete of fairy tales to the solemnity of our greatest epics, and this single-volume edition is the best introduction available.

**CN: BL1138.25 .S59 2015**

*Upanisads*. Trans. Patrick Olivelle. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

In the first major English translation of the ancient Upanisads for over half a century, Olivelle's work incorporates the most recent historical and philological scholarship on these central

scriptures of Hinduism. Composed at a time of great social, economic, and religious change, the Upanisads document the transition from the archaic ritualism of the Veda into new religious ideas and institutions. The introduction and detailed notes make this edition ideal for the non-specialist as well as for students of Indian religions.

**CN: BL1124.54 .E5 2008**

Valmiki. *The Ramayana*. Trans. Ramesh Menon. New York: North Point Press, 2003. Print.

Still an integral part of India's cultural and religious expression, The Ramayana was originally composed by the Sanskrit poet Valmiki around 300 BC. Retold here by Ramesh Menon in modern prose, it concerns the exiled Prince Rama's struggle to rescue his wife from a demon and reclaim his throne.

**CN: BL1139.22 .E54 2003 (Special Collections Research Center)**

## Colonialism

Dirks, Nicholas. *Castes of the Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. Print.

This volume traces the caste system from the medieval kingdoms of southern India through early colonial archives to the 20th century. It surveys the rise of caste politics and how caste-based movements have threatened nationalist consensus.

**CN: DS422 .C3 D58 2001**

Farrington, Anthony. *Trading Places: The East India Company and Asia 1600-1834*. London: British Library, 2002. Print.

The British merchants who began trading with Asia in the late 1500s found a sophisticated and thriving trading community. Goods were manufactured and traded on a scale never seen in Europe, and Britain discovered a wealth of products including silks, porcelain, tea, spices and furniture. This illustrated book examines the history of trading with Asia, drawing on the extensive collections of the British Library, the prime holder of the documentary legacy of the East India Company.

**CN: HF486 .E6 F37 2002**

Goswami, Supriya. *Colonial India in Children's Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2012. Print.

*Colonial India in Children's Literature* is the first book-length study to explore the intersections of children's literature and defining historical moments in colonial India. Engaging with important theoretical and critical literature that deals with colonialism, hegemony, and marginalization in children's literature, Goswami proposes that British, Anglo-Indian, and Bengali children's literature respond to five key historical events: the missionary debates preceding the Charter Act of 1813, the defeat of Tipu Sultan, the Mutiny of 1857, the birth of Indian nationalism, and the Swadeshi movement resulting from the Partition of Bengal in 1905. Through a study of works by Mary Sherwood (1775-1851), Barbara Hofland (1770-1844), Sara Jeanette Duncan (1861-1922), Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), Upendrakishore Ray (1863-1915), and Sukumar Ray (1887-1923), Goswami examines how children's literature negotiates and represents these momentous historical forces that unsettled Britain's imperial ambitions in India. Goswami argues that nineteenth-century British and Anglo-Indian children's texts reflect two distinct moods in

Britain's colonial enterprise in India. Sherwood and Hofland (writing before 1857) use the tropes of conversion and captivity as a means of awakening children to the dangers of India, whereas Duncan and Kipling shift the emphasis to martial prowess, adaptability, and empirical knowledge as defining qualities in British and Anglo-Indian children. Furthermore, Goswami's analysis of early nineteenth-century children's texts written by women authors redresses the preoccupation with male authors and boys' adventure stories that have largely informed discussions of juvenility in the context of colonial India. This groundbreaking book also seeks to open up the canon by examining early twentieth-century Bengali children's texts that not only draw literary inspiration from nineteenth-century British children's literature, but whose themes are equally shaped by empire.

**CN: PR990 .G67 2012**

Nayar, Pramod. *Colonial Voices: The Discourses of Empire*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. Print.

This accessible cultural history explores 400 years of British imperial adventure in India, developing a coherent narrative through a wide range of colonial documents, from exhibition catalogues to memoirs and travelogues. It shows how these texts helped legitimize the moral ambiguities of colonial rule even as they helped the English fashion themselves. Analyzes colonial discourse through an impressive range of primary sources, including memoirs, letters, exhibition catalogues, administrative reports, and travelogues. Surveys 400 years of India's history, from the 16th century to the end of the British Empire, Demonstrates how colonial discourses naturalized the racial and cultural differences between the English and the Indians, and controlled anxieties over these differences.

**CN: PR149 .I6 N38 2012**

## **Food**

Collingham, E. M. *Curry: A Tale of Cooks and Conquerors*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Print.

*Curry* serves up a delectable history of Indian cuisine, ranging from the imperial kitchen of the Mughal invader Babur to the smoky cookhouse of the British Raj. In this fascinating volume, the first authoritative history of Indian food, Lizzie Collingham reveals that almost every well-known Indian dish is the product of a long history of invasion and the fusion of different food traditions.

**CN: GT2853 .I5 C65 2006**

Sen, Colleen Taylor. *Feasts and Fasts: A History of Food in India*. London: Reaktion Books, 2015.

From dal to samosas, paneer to vindaloo, dosa to naan, Indian food is diverse and wide-ranging--unsurprising when you consider India's incredible range of climates, languages, religions, tribes, and customs. Its cuisine differs from north to south, yet what is it that makes Indian food recognizably Indian, and how did it get that way? To answer those questions, Colleen Taylor Sen examines the diet of the Indian subcontinent for thousands of years, describing the country's cuisine in the context of its religious, moral, social, and philosophical development. Exploring the ancient indigenous plants such as lentils, eggplants, and peppers that are central to the Indian diet, Sen depicts the country's agricultural bounty and the fascination it has long held for foreign visitors. She illuminates how India's place at the center of a vast network of land and sea trade routes led it to become a conduit for plants, dishes, and cooking techniques to and from the rest of the world. She shows the influence of the British and Portuguese during the colonial period, and



she addresses India's dietary prescriptions and proscriptions, the origins of vegetarianism, its culinary borrowings and innovations, and the links between diet, health, and medicine. She also offers a taste of Indian cooking itself--especially its use of spices, from chili pepper, cardamom, and cumin to turmeric, ginger, and coriander and outlines how the country's cuisine varies throughout its many regions. Lavishly illustrated with one hundred images, "Feasts and Fasts" is a mouthwatering tour of Indian food full of fascinating anecdotes and delicious recipes that will have readers devouring its pages. "

**CN: E-book (Please check the library catalog for online access)**