

You are invited to attend

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

2018 Annual Event



November 17, 2018

2:00 PM

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

2018 Annual Event

In Celebration,

SACHI and Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Are Proud to Present

PAPER JEWELS: POSTCARDS FROM THE RAJ

An Illuminating Presentation

By Distinguished Scholar and San Francisco based historian

Omar Khan

Saturday, November 17, 2018

2:00 PM

Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

A Reception follows in the Loggia at 3.30 PM

Free with Museum Admission and Open to the Public

Event immediately follows the SACHI Annual Meeting
scheduled for 1:15 PM

RSVP Recommended, info@sachi.org; Tel. 415-221-0338



SACHI Annual Event coincides with Omar Khan's recent book publication and an India exhibition launch of his collection at the Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai, (August 18-October 1, 2018) to be followed by an exhibition at the Art Heritage Gallery, Delhi (opening October 18, 2018).

Paper Jewels is the story of postcards during the Raj spanning India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Burma. Postcards were the Instagram of their time, depicting the subcontinent, its people, places and preoccupations to the world. The first color and global visual communications medium to represent India between 1892 and 1947, the talk weaves together postcard artists, photographers, and publishers that define the rich history of the postcard in the subcontinent.

Postcards were to the people in 1900 what the internet was to the world in 2000. They represented the world's first mass transfusion of images. The world went from thousand to a billion postcards in a very short span of time involving the finest artists from India, Austria, and Japan. Omar Khan's talk will lead us to the earliest illustrated postcards of India in discussing the many technical, commercial and political factors that went into shaping this then new form of communication.

The talk will introduce the first artist-signed postcards of India (made in Austria); the Ravi Varma Press and the first Indian-published postcards; and the first Raj publishers to cater to mass audiences in multiple cities. We will meet the great Indian postcard artist M.V. Dhurandhar and the people and stories of Bombay he illustrated; the London-based Raphael Tuck & Sons, the biggest global Indian postcard publisher; as well as early advertising postcards of India by Singer, Liptons, Nestle and others.

Paper Jewels is an enlightening introduction to a largely unknown and little-researched visual history.



Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay
Raphael Tuck & Co., London, c. 1905
Omar Khan Collection



Omar Khan, grew up in Vienna, Austria and in Islamabad, Pakistan. He has researched early photography and ephemera of the subcontinent for thirty years, and is the author of a prior publication, *From Kashmir to Kabul: The Photographs of John Burke and William Baker 1860-1900* (Mapin, 2002).

An avid historian, he acquired a large collection of the early postcards from the Indian subcontinent now published in a lavishly illustrated volume, *Paper Jewels: Postcards from the Raj* (Mapin 2018)



A graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia and Stanford Universities, Omar Khan is a software executive in San Francisco. His award winning and popular website, www.harappa.com was launched in 1995.

SACHI extends gracious thanks to Betty & Bruce Alberts, Helen & Raj Desai, Shivi Singh & Dr. Prithvi Legha, Rekha & Bipin Shah, Elvira & Gursharan Sidhu and Gita & Ashok Vaish for generous program support.

In addition, SACHI extends special appreciation also to Jadeja Family Foundation and Krishnan-Shah Family Foundation for generously supporting the Annual Event.



SACHI
Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

Cover image:

Telegraph Peon

M.V. Dhurandhar (signed), Unknown Publisher, c. 1903
Copyright Michael Stokes Collection,
Royal Society for Asian Affairs, London
"23-02-04. Still waiting for a reply to my letter, M.M."

Inside cover image:

Parsee Ladies at Seaside

M.V. Dhurandhar (signed), Unknown Publisher, c. 1903
Omar Khan Collection

