



Lecture Series

125th Foundation Year Celebrations

Smt. Sreya Guha, IAS

Director General, National Archives of India

Cordially invites you to the tenth lecture in the series

by

Ms Penny Brook

Head of India Office Records, the British Library

on

The India Office Records
Improving access for audiences worldwide

Date: 4 December 2015 at 3.00 PM

Venue: Conference Room, Ground Floor, National Archives of India (Annexe)

RSVP:
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Abstract

Complementing the vast collections at the National Archives of India, the nine miles of official records and 5,000 collections of private papers held at the British Library are an essential resource for anyone interested in the history of Asia and its international connections. The lecture will give a brief overview of the India Office Records and Private Papers held at the British Library in London and an introduction to online resources and other initiatives to enhance access by a range of audiences.

Recognising the collections' importance for diverse audiences in the UK and worldwide, the British Library has developed a range of partnerships to enable it to enhance access through cataloguing and digitization in addition to facilitating personal research in its reading rooms.

The lecture would discuss these partnerships and the improvements to access resulting from them. Projects have spanned a wide range of subject areas including family history, the history of science and the environment, the First World War and the history of the contributions Indians in Britain made to society and culture.

Speaker



PENNY BROOK joined the British Library in 1996, and is responsible for the India Office Records and Private Papers.

Her research interests include the history of science and the environment in British India, particularly botany and forestry. She has been involved in the projects, viz. 'Moving Here' and 'Making Britain', both of which focussed on the South Asian presence in and contribution to Britain.

Conscious of the importance of these archives for international and British history, Penny and her team have made use of modern technology to enhance access to them. Nearly all the catalogues are now available online together with an ever-increasing number of images of the archives themselves. Penny has a particular interest in raising awareness of less well-known histories buried in the archives and for several years has worked with Professor Susheila Nasta of the Open University to highlight the long presence of Asians in Britain through projects led by the OU such as Beyond the Frame: India in Britain 1858-1950. She was also instrumental in setting up the British Library's 'Untold Lives' blog (<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/untoldlives/>), together with Dr Margaret Makepeace who manages it, which opens up the collections through story-telling, appealing to general readers but also inspiring research and creative writing.