

## DELHI CORONATION DURBAR 1903.

### The Harry Jeddere-Fisher - Barr Album.

The original owner of this album, Harry Cuthbert Jeddere-Fisher of Wilderwick, Sussex [b. 1885] was the son of Emma Compton Barr the daughter of Lt Col Sir David William Keith Barr, K.C.S.I., at this time Resident at the Court of the Nizam of Hyderabad, and he and his sister attended the Coronation Durbar in 1903 as guests in the Hyderabad Camp, which the Resident headed. The camp only had 24 occupants [the Nizam and his suite lived in the Civil Lines], including Capt A K Barr [Personal assistant to the Resident], Mr & Mrs A D Barr, Maj-Gen Richardson [commanding the Hyderabad Contingent], and Maj-Gen Wodehouse [commanding the Lahore Division].

The very substantial album, 17 x 13ins [43 x 33cm] is bound in dark green leather over padded boards, gilt ruled and gilt stamped on the front board *H. J-F*. It is a little scuffed and damaged at the extremities but is very sound, all card page edges are gilded. Most of the leaves are unused but there are 11 good, large plates relating to the Durbar, mounted on both sides of the page. The sizes vary very little and most are 11.5 x 7.5ins [29 x 19cm]. They are tipped to the pages at the corners only and although there are no photographer's credits in the images they are certainly by Bourne & Shepherd [we acquired a duplicate of one of the images and it has a blue oval stamp to the reverse *Bourne and Shepherd, Calcutta*].

The album begins with a group portrait showing 14 men and 7 women in civilian day dress apart from one captain who wears blue service dress. The only bearded figure in this plate is the Resident who appears in a later plate, uniformed, with the Nizam.



The following images are:

1. Lord & Lady Curzon's elephant passing along Chandni Chowk in the State Entry procession, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1902, the Viceroy clearly to be seen acknowledging the salute of a company of an Indian infantry regiment lining the route at this point. The massive elephant, Luchman, was on loan from the Maharaja of Benares and the gilded howdah was that used by Lord Lytton in 1877 at the Imperial Assemblage [now on loan display at Kedleston Hall].
2. A pair of elephants carrying ruling princes passing the same spot on Chandni Chowk with a good view of the long double line of elephants with their princely occupants swaying along the thronged road.
3. A view of the procession from the Jama Masjid at the point where the long line of elephants began to turn sharply towards the mosque steps. Along the road are specially erected stands but the prime view was to be had from the walls of the mosque, the vantage point of this photographer.

4. Mounted retainers, many seemingly Arabs, passing along Chandni Chowk, probably towards the end of the procession.
5. A close view of one of the stands in the Durbar amphitheatre. On the front row can clearly be seen the Maharaja of Orchha, The Begum of Bhopal, the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior, and the Maharaja of Datia. The Begum of Bhopal is totally veiled but had declined a seat with the various Maharanis in purdah boxes, perhaps particularly proud of her position as the only female ruler and wishing to take her place amongst her peers. Her Resident, as usual seated on her right, leans down to talk to Her Highness.
6. A more distant view of the amphitheatre showing the dais beneath its cupola with an open carriage and its cavalry escort arriving.
7. A very good close view of the opening scene of the Durbar showing the Viceroy and the royal guest, H R H Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught [King Edward VII's younger brother], returning the salute of the Herald. Major Maxwell is immediately in front of the six Indian and six British trumpeters on their matching black chargers. Immediately in front of the camera can be seen some of the 100 members of the Gordon Highlanders who had the honour of forming the royal bodyguard for the day.
8. In this image the herald and trumpeters have withdrawn and one of the rulers [possibly a Shan Prince judging by his dress] is paying homage to the Viceroy, the Duke standing by his side while the Duchess and Lady Curzon remain seated to the right of their husbands' thrones.
9. A good, close view of the front row of Block W. On the right side as viewed is the Nizam of Hyderabad with his heir the Shahzada on his left and Sir David Barr in cocked hat and ICS uniform to his right. To their right are the Gaekwar of Baroda with his son Shrimant Yuvraj Fateh Singh Rao Gaekwar and to his right Mr J F Hewett, Chief Commissioner of the United Provinces. next to the young Maharaja of Mysore. Four princes from the United Provinces are seated behind them.
10. A close view of the left wing occupied by Bombay chiefs. In the centre is the Governor Lord Northcote with the senior ruler the Maharaja of Kolhapur on his right with the Rao of Cutch to the left of lady Northcote.

The last page has a few small unrelated images from a trip to the north east frontier area. Three pages following have been removed and the rest of the album consists of unused pages. Loosely inserted are two large group photographs, one a family wedding group [possibly that of Harry Jeddere-Fisher [he attended the Durbar with a sister], as Sir David Barr is prominent in the group. The other is a view of guests outside a tent. The family lived in Sussex.

**£1250**



Image 1 The State Entry Procession

Detail



Image 2. State Entry on Chandni Chowk



Image 3. Approaching the Jama Masjid



Image 5. One of the Stands for Princes



Detail: The Begum of Bhopal



Image 7. The Herald salutes the Viceroy



Item 9. The Nizam of Hyderabad in Block W



Detail: The Nizam & Sir David Barr



Image 10. The Governor of Bombay