

Mr Stuart Hall's album of cartes de visite, mainly by F W Baker of Calcutta

A very unusual collection of cartes de visite by F W Baker providing a fairly comprehensive record of trades, occupations, and service in North India. All those listed bear the blue printed photographer's details on the reverse *By Appointment Photographed from life by Mr F W BAKER, CALCUTTA* unless otherwise described. The cards and photographs are generally in very good condition but the album which has protected them for a century and a half has fared less well and is very dilapidated. We have left the cards in the album because each has a pencilled title beneath the aperture for it. A few photographs have lifted totally from the card backing through atmospheric change [this is noted individually]. The front free endpaper of the leather bound album, measuring 11.5 x 15cm, has the pencil name of the owner *Stuart, 8 C..... Street, Calcutta*. We are offering this album as a research challenge to which the key lies in identifying the Europeans.

The cards according to the titles on the mount are:

1. *Baboo* *Ch*..... [detached from card which is printed in black]
2. of *My* “ “
3. *Buggy* [European, probably Mr Hall, looking out from a two wheeled trap]
4. *Bettel Woman*
5. *Rice Woman*
6. *Syce* [Black printed card]
7. *Beestie* “
8. *Khansoma* “
9. ?
10. *Baboo* [Black printed card]
11. & *Shaver* [shaving a bearded European]
12. *Brinder Walla* [man with performing monkey]
13. *Kansoma at Table* [serving European, black printed card]
14. *Hackey* [bullock cart]
15. *Ayah* [black printed card]
16. *Native Shaver*
17. *Dancing Girl* [standing by a table, black printed card]
18. *Baboo*
19. *Palkee* [black printed card]
20. *Sweeper*
21. *Dancing Girl* [Younger girl standing by a chair, black printed card]
22. *Jewess* [black printed card]
23. *Lahoree* [young woman with a water pot on her head]
24. *Naga Chief*
25. *Andamanese Women* [black printed card]
26. *Money Changer*
27. *Tailors*
28. *Native Gentleman of Bengal* [red printed card]
29. *Ayah* [black printed card]
30. *Dancing Girl* “
31. *Dr Richards* [by Schwarzschild, Calcutta],
32. *Stuart Hall* [by Duval & Co, 28 Tank Square, Calcutta],
33. *Lieut Duries* [also by Duval]

34. A card of an Indian in a shawl, possibly a scholar, standing by a carved table, inscribed in ink on the reverse *Bassie Misser Casmeere* [This card by Schwazschild with a printed medal on the reverse dated 1863]
35. *Dancing girl, Musselman* [inscription on bottom of photograph, girl seated,. This card with impressed mark of Saché & Westfield]
36. *Dancing girl, Musselman* [inscription on bottom of photograph, girl standing by a pedestal,. This card with impressed mark of Saché & Westfield]
37. To 49 12 cards of Pompei and southern Italy including one of Vesuvius erupting.

