

## T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

### Tape 856 Finding Aid

**INTERVIEWEE NAMES:**

John Shattock	4700.0583	Tape 856.1	(Tape 2 of 4)
Colonel and Mrs. C.A.K. Innes-Wilson	4700.0585	Tape 856.2	(Tape 4 of 4)

**IDENTIFICATION:** Britons in Pre-Independence India**INTERVIEWERS:** Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan**SERIES:** British Voices from South Asia**INTERVIEW DATES:**

Shattock: 3/30/1978  
Innes-Wilson: 3/29/1978

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 32 minutes

Shattock: 46 minutes  
Innes-Wilson: 46 minutes

**OTHER MATERIALS:** None**RESTRICTIONS:** Copyright retained by interviewee and/or the interviewee's heirs**NOTE:** Copyright and property rights are assigned jointly to Centre of South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge and Louisiana State University and A & M College Libraries and its successor agencies.**INDEX****Tape 856, Side A****Innes-Wilsons (Part 5 of 5) (856.2)**

- 000 they stayed in a bungalow with no doors; message, "Royal Bengal Tigers Operating"; man-eating tiger was on the loose, they had a worrisome night
- 020 as a family, they were lucky because they didn't get too sick, except for malaria, which was common; they had friends who died from malaria
- 029 had a friend who drank from a stream and got cholera and died very quickly
- 042 dog dying of rabies; people getting rabies injections in the stomach (painful)
- 056 the tiger would not attack during the day, but at night it might stalk and kill
- 061 the black bear in the central provinces had very long claws; woodcutters stirred the bear and startled it, the bear slashes at men's faces
- 073 on the frontier, we went into a dangerous area with some tribesmen
- 087 in the Khyber Pass, principle enemy was the army; he went up to the Khyber to take

panoramic photos for one of the army's secret plans; instead of taking military escort, he took tribesmen; he was observed by the army and they said, "Get this man!"; he was being gunned for and they tracked him down, but he told them he was just a civilian

102 having a baby in British military hospital India; didn't want to go back to England to have baby because she wouldn't have been able to return during the war; followed book, *How to Bring up Children in the Tropics*

126 they met an American dentist who returned to America every year

139 Mrs. Innes got to Calcutta in 1938, and they were married in 1939; she stayed in a fort with her military friends, a young captain

146 after they were married, they lived in Calcutta; then they moved to the north of India until he went overseas to Iraq in 1942; she lived in a bungalow at a hill station and worked in a hospital library

163 they met each other on New Year's Eve in 1938 in the Three-Hundred Club

202 Fridays were the days that the mail was sent out; businessmen felt as though their work was done on Friday and had beer at the Saturday Club; air mail changed all of this

212 hill stations during the war; wives shared bungalows; there was a convalescent home for the officers; a lot of young soldiers got polio during the war

230 being close to the Japanese in Madras, but they stayed put, and luckily they did not invade

238 in Burma, they wouldn't let the wives leave because they didn't want panic

251 people back home wrote letters to her telling her she shouldn't be there during the war, but it was too late, they couldn't really leave

252 in Burma, the army thought they could stop the Japanese; General Alexander, who was the Commander in Chief in Burma, went to the British Commissioner at Mandalay (their friend) and told him to tell all of the British people to stand fast

261 the nearest she was to the Japanese was when she was in Shillong; the Japanese had come in through the north through Imphal; they were told to have their suitcases packed under their beds in case they had to make a quick get-away

287 looking out the window at a rainbow and discussion of future vacation plans

337 seniority in India; social obligations; dinner parties and lunch parties; people who didn't get asked would get very upset;

382 the community tended to divide itself into sheep and goats; i.e., certain dances were given by small groups (for example the 21 most eligible men in town)

400 their son left India at age six; normally they went home about seven or eight years old; they would come out on holidays; they did this because the schools in India weren't that good, especially for girls; girls should be sent home so they didn't get into trouble; this pattern of sending kids home from India wasn't that much different than sending them to boarding school in England

450 when he was a little, there were schools that specialized in looking after children whose parents were in colonies; he was sent to one when he was seven, but didn't stay long

496 they regretted sending their son away so early; he was garrulous, but came back very quiet

524 everyone wants to go back to India; the Innes-Wilsons also want to go to New York and Australia

550 their friends who travel back and forth from Pakistan to England

561 their friends ask them if they remember four o'clock tea time, and tell them that now it's changed (for them) to four o'clock beer time

577 directly after Independence, things didn't immediately [?]  
 602 in 1954, they went on a trip, and had a picnic . . .

### **Tape 856, Side B**

#### **Shattock (Part 2 of 5) (856.1)**

000 after six months, they went back to Calcutta for the first round of examinations; he became  
 a second-class magistrate; he traveled quite frequently  
 009 at the end of the year, he went off to learn revenue training, and then he went to school to  
 learn surveying and measuring peoples' land, recording revenue owed to the government  
 033 coal mines  
 037 magistrate appointments; one came open to be filled by an Indian, who was not a member  
 of the club; John thought that this was intolerable and decided that he needed to be made a  
 member; most people agreed with him, except for a few who didn't want the Indian to see  
 them drunk; he quickly reminded them that the bartenders and their mistresses see them  
 drunk; three principle British people told him to leave the procedures to them because he  
 was a governing officer; he went to his Indian friend and told him that they would break the  
 barriers down; the Indian was then voted in the club  
 067 it was the custom to give responsibility to young officers in the Indian Civil Service as soon  
 as possible  
 069 in Bengal, there were three subdivisions of a district, which were particularly industrial;  
 one was in eastern Bengal in a place called Narayanganj, which specialized in jute milling;  
 a young British officer was always sent there  
 073 a young British officer was also sent to another subdivision near Calcutta that had many  
 cotton mills around it  
 076 he was sent to [?], which was coal mines, steel, potteries, paper mills  
 081 learning from mistakes, if they're not too expensive  
 090 also, he was in charge of a welfare board for the mines, and he had to visit many mines to  
 ensure that welfare legislation was being carried out  
 098 he wanted a new appointment, which was assistant private secretary to the governor of  
 Bengal to help out as additional ADC; this meant doing the governor's political work not  
 all the difficult cases, but private political work  
 112 he had a lot of correspondence trying to find better ways of dealing with insurgencies  
 132 story about being chastised for not reading all of the paperwork  
 144 he also had to do a great deal of social work connected with the household, especially in  
 the winter when there were a lot of house guests  
 149 his schedule for entertaining folks  
 153 routines: being on duty, dinner, talking after dinner  
 168 John is showing pictures of house parties at Christmas  
 176 the whereabouts of the viceroy  
 180 one year, Lady Willingdon had a Period Ball, where people dressed in costume  
 194 they sent out for their costumes in London or had them made in India  
 195 Lady Willingdon was a tremendous ruler of the social scene; she gave six months' notice  
 for her balls  
 203 a photo of John Shattock and John Anderson during the second winter season  
 205 the Calcutta season was particularly gay when the viceroy came to visit  
 210 in the summer months, they went up in the hills for April, May, and June and returned to

Calcutta and traveled to eastern Bengal on his great yacht, which was very convenient for travel in the rainy season; they returned to Darjeeling for September and October, then back to Calcutta from November until March

224 story about John Anderson went out into the wilds and took John with him to the mountains and into Tibet; he got to see Buddhist life

246 the business life was at its strongest in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras; they were very wealthy people and lived a higher standard of life than service people like John were used to; the standard of life was higher in Calcutta, for example, than in Delhi

269 recreational games played by British folks

282 perks of social life, different than living in the wilds with his Indian friends

290 a great number of British clubs spread out over industrial areas

300 ADC social composition

333 ADC birthday party, officer who later lost a leg in the war

350 his boss lost an arm in the war

355 the military secretary was a charming Indian colonel, who was so nice to John, maybe because he was the only civilian living amongst so many soldiers

363 looking at pictures; his boss' wife was burnt on a roof [?]

377 the Anglo-Indians had their own community; they didn't quite fit in with the British and rejected the Indians

385 there were notable exceptions like his friend, whose father was an Indian doctor and whose mother was a Scott; his father was killed in a motor accident; his son got into the Indian Civil Service, went to Bengal (where he and John met), went to New Delhi and was an immense success in the finance side; when independence came, the Indian government wanted him to stay, but he didn't know what to do; he took employment in a British pharmaceuticals firm; he didn't get to the top of the tree and so he joined an American firm and did much better; he retired from India and bought a house in London; then moved to Texas and is teaching a class at a university on problems of third world countries

444 *sahib lok* is a Hindustani word for people

448 originally, people of mixed blood were called Eurasians, and people like him who served in India were called Anglo-Indians, but that changed around the 1920s (when he went out to India); they called themselves British

478 *jewan* means youngster or a recruit in the army

485 sad story about his bearer (personal servant), who died while he was on leave; he then had a young man who was sharp; he was with him in Delhi and Kashmir; he married a woman in Kashmir, but broke off with her and was suddenly very unsatisfactory; he then had a table servant who became his bearer, who came with him to Delhi; his new bearer had to have a woman, but got VD; the doctor told him to, "Get rid of that filthy servant!"; John had no intention of doing so and told the doctor to cure him; he was cured and went on with life; then came independence; then came the massacre of the Muslims; John was living with a general whose wife had gone to England; his Kashmiri Muslims were willing to stay with John and the general (although they couldn't leave the compound); Mahatma Gandhi made it safe for Muslims to walk free in the street, but within one week Gandhi was assassinated; his bearer still lives in Kashmir and John sends him a pension because he stayed by him even though his life was in danger

588 he had other servants, one splendid Muslim from Bengal, his driver . . . end of interview