

Voyages dans l'Inde

by Alexis Soltykoff

Bibliographic article on the various octavo editions of this work.

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General

This work by Soltykoff, describing his two voyages to India, appeared in several octavo editions with small differences per edition during the period of 1848 up till 1853.

Around 1849 a folio edition was published as well under the same title, however, with the plates only and on a much larger format. It was published with a title page but with no further text. Possibly prince Soltykoff wanted it to accompany the text as already published in 'Lettres sur l'Inde', although that volume was illustrated for the greater part with the same plates, though much smaller and done by other engravers.

There are two variants of this title page; one with only the name of Auguste Bry as the printer of the plates, which reads:

Imp. Par Auguste Bry, G^{de} Médaille d'Or de S.M. l'Empereur de Russie

And another variant with above the line with the name of the printer an extra line with the text:

Paris, H. Gache, Editeur, Rue de la Victoire, 66

Also the plates as printed by Auguste Bry have different imprints * under the plates, either:

Variant 1) *Imprimé par Auguste Bry, à Paris* , or

Variant 2) *Imp. Par Auguste Bry, G^{de} Médaille d'Or de S.M. l'Empereur de Russie*

The name of the engraver (L.H. de Rudder, 30 plates or A.F. Girard, 6 plates) printed on the left:

Lith. Par De Rudder d'après le Dessin du Prince A. Soltykoff.

Or

Girard lith. D'après le dessin du Prince A. Soltykoff.

And sometimes in the middle the name of the publisher:

Paris, Gache éditeur

* There are no plates that were printed with both imprints. For instance the plate captioned "Village Bengali des Bords du Gange" only exists in variant 1, while the plate with the caption "Une Rue de Lahore" only exists in variant 2.



'Village de Gatiganawa'. Plate no. 7 from "Voyages dans l'Inde". Engravers Trayer (left – C&L, 2nd issue) and Cupper (right – all other issues). Size in both cases 133 x 102 mm.

The octavo publication of "Voyages dans l'Inde" appeared in three editions. At first the Amyot edition of 1848, under the title "Lettres sur l'Inde" and published in one volume. Subsequently around 1850 it was published by Curmer & Lecou under the revised title "Voyages dans l'Inde" in two volumes, marked "deuxième édition" on both title pages. The last of the three editions is the one by Garnier Frères, published simultaneously with the C&L edition, or slightly later, but with two volumes in one and marked "troisième édition" on a single title page and with the pages numbered consecutively.

Of the latter two editions there are two different issues each; several plates were re-engraved by other lithographers. The differences can be found in the table here below.

In my copy of 'Lettres sur l'Inde' someone (Léon de Wailly?) has written in pencil on the half title page:

'Revues & corrigées par Mr. Léon de Wailly à Paris.'

On the text pages of this volume some corrections have been made in pencil too, which have been implemented in the editions as published by Curmer & Lecou and by Garnier Frères.

I have divided the editions by L. Curmer and V. Lecou (C&L) as well as the editions by Garnier Frères (Garnier) in first and second issues. This division is based on the names of the engravers of the plates.

After the publication of the folio edition of 'Voyages dans l'Inde', for the greater part drawn on stone by De Rudder, apparently Trayer was commissioned to do the work for the publication of 'Habitants de l'Inde' by the Parisian publisher H. Gache.

There is no year of publication of this book, but it definitely was published before May 1853.^{1}

In what I define as the first issue there are no plates done by Trayer, however, in what I define as the second issue there are several plates done by Trayer. Possibly prince Saltykov requested Trayer to redo some of the plates of the octavo edition.

It leaves us with the very interesting issue of the years of publication of the C&L and Garnier editions. Both variants of the C&L edition have the imprint 'Deuxième édition', whereas both variants of the Garnier editions have the imprint 'Troisième édition'.

There are no copies in institutional libraries worldwide of a first edition by C&L, neither are there any auction records of a first edition. So it seems reasonable to assume that the 1848 Amyot edition of 'Lettres sur l'Inde' was considered to be the first edition of 'Voyages dans l'Inde', though it has 32 plates only.

Consequently the C&L editions are a second edition and the Garnier editions a third edition. But when were they published? The Amyot edition has the imprint '1848'^{2} on the title page; the C&L editions are dated 1851 on the letterpress title pages, while the Garnier Frères editions are undated.

Generally it is assumed that part of the C&L edition, first issue, possibly was published in 1850, given the date on the extra lithographed title page in a few of the first issues. Most likely the second issue was published in 1851 as well. For the Garnier editions the years 1853, 1854 and 1858 are mentioned, though nobody knows for sure.

The main difference between the two editions is that the C&L editions were published in two volumes sometimes bound as one (Vol. I, pp. 227; Vol. II pp. 267), while the Garnier editions were published in one volume only (pp. 456).

Some of the copies published by C&L, bound as one, appeared in an ornate binding, while a few of the copies by Garnier were bound in that same luxurious binding.

There can be no doubt that the publishers worked in close collaboration. Given the use of the bindings and more importantly the sequence of the various issues where it concerns the plates done by Trayer *possibly these editions were published simultaneously*. Likely also at different prices.

There are some peculiar deviations, however.

The plate numbered 6 in the table here below ('Ceylan entre Colombo et Kandy'), has been redone by Trayer only in the second C&L issue, however, with a different title ('Villageois Cingalis'), as well as the plate numbered 7 with a slightly amended title as well^{3}, while the plate numbered 33 ('Achat d'Armes a Delhi') in the first issue by Garnier was done by Cupper, while in all other cases the stones done by De Rudder were used.

{1} The copy auctioned by Christies at their London sale of 21 September 2000, lot no. 382, bears a gift inscription by Soltykoff dated April 14th, 1853.

{2} The British Library has a copy of this book, acquired in 1852, with the title page dated 1848 and a cover sheet dated 1849. So possibly the book was published first in 1849.

{3} Caption of plate 7, first issue reads:

Village de Gatiganawa a neuf milles de Kandy a Ceylan habité par les Rodias, exilés du tems (sic!) des Rois de Kandy.

The caption of the second issue reads:

Village de Gatiganawa a 9 milles de Kandy a Ceylan habité par les Rodias, exilés du temps des Rois de Kandy.

Typeface

The typeface of a printed sheet or book means the size of the printed area.

The typeface of the various editions is as follows:

Lettres sur l'Inde	152 x 86 mm
Voyages dans l'Inde, C&L, first issue	166 x 95 mm
Voyages dans l'Inde, C&L, second issue	166 x 95 mm
Voyages dans l'Inde, Garnier, first issue	173 x 99 mm
Voyages dans l'Inde, Garnier, second issue	173 x 99 mm

Lithographs

List of lithographs, followed by the initial of the name of the engraver:

C = Cupper

G = Gerlier

L = Lehnert

M = Marchais

Ro = Robineau

Ru = De Rudder

T = Trayer

W = Walter

	Amyot	C&L 1st issue	C&L 2nd issue	Garnier 1st issue	Garnier 2nd issue
1 Route entre Colombo et Kandy. Ceylon.	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
	99x155				

2 Ballet Dramatique.	G ¹⁾ 99x155	G	T 128x179	G	T
3 Offrande d'un Chef Kandien a un Temple de Bouddha aux environs de Kandy (Ceylan).	L 100x159	L	T 122x197	L	T
4 Prêtres de Boudha Cingalis a Kandy (Ceylan).	C 125x100	C	C	C	C
5 Fete de la Lune a Ceylan.	C 103x141	C	C	C	C
6 Ceylan entre Colombo.	Ro 155x99	Ro	T 175x125	Ro	Ro
7 Village de Gatiganawa a 9 milles de Kandy a Ceylan habité par les Rodias, exilés du temps des Rois de Kandy.	C 133x102	C	T 132x102	C	C
8 Procession religieuse dans les Galleries du Convent de Ramisseram pres Ceylan.	Ro 98x139	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
9 Procession a Madras.	C 107x140	C	Anon 107x140	Anon	Anon
10 Condjeveram, Ville Sainte dans le Karnatik aux environs de Madras, lieu de Pélerinage des Indous.	C 101x140	Anon 101x140	Anon	Anon	Anon
11 Intérieur du Convent de Condgeveram, a 40 milles de Madras.	Ro 100x155	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
12 Une Pagode a Madura.	L 100x159	L	T 140x196	L	T
13 Éléphants du Radja de Travancore. Travandrum.	C	C	C	C	C

	94x139				
14 Procession de la Déesse Kali.	C	C	C	C	C
	96x139				
15 Les Bords du Gange, près de Calcutta.	G	Anon	Anon	Anon	Anon
	102x158				
16 Environs de Calcutta.	W	W	W	W	W
	101x159				
17 Village Bengali des Bords du Gange.	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
	99x155				
18 Principale Rue de Luknow, Capitale du Royaume D'Aoude.	W	W	W	W	W
	102x158				
19 Voyage en Poste dans les Plaines du Pandjab entre Loudiana et Omritsar.	L	L	L	L	L
	101x159				
20 Une Rue de Lahore.	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru
	100x133				
21 Schir Sing Roi du Pandjab et sa suite allant a la chasse aux environs de Lahore.	L	L	L	L	L
	102x157				
22 Schir Sing revenant d'une Revue de Troupes aux environs D'Omritsar.	L	L	L	L	L
	101x160				
23 Habitation Européenne a Simla.	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru
	111x85				
24 Temple Rustique aux environs de Simla, dans L'Himalaya près de la Cascade appelée l'Alpini.	G	G	G	G	G
	156x98				
25 Forêt de Mahassou près de Simla.	NA	M	M	M	M
		100x146			

26 Vallée du Kanaour dans l'Himalaya aux environs de Tchini Gong.	C	C	C	C	C
	96x157				
27 Danse Cachemirienne près de Simla.	NA	M	M	M	M
		123x172			
28 Déota ou Temple Payen. Vallée du Kanaour.	C	C	C	C	C
	158x94				
29 Bords de L'Indus a Saccar Baccar. Le Matin.	G	G	G	G	G
	96x155				
30 Chasse aux Éléphants dans la Forêt de Karnigal.	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru
	111x140				
31 La Cour du Roi de Gwalior.	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru	Ru
	90x143				
32 Aux environs de Tchini Gong.	NA	C	C	C	C
		96x157			
33 Achat d'Armes a Delhi.	Ru	Ru	Ru	C	Ru
	95x134			95x140	
34 Cortège du Grand Mogol, à Delhi.	NA	M	M	M	M
		100x139			
35 Arbre Bahnian dans le Paria Djungle.	C	C	C	C	C
	100x139				
36 Arbre Banian sur la Lisière du Paria Djungle.	C	C	C	C	C
	85x140				

Under the initial of the engraver's name the size of the print.
Always Height x Width in millimeters.

¹⁾ In one of my two copies of 'Lettres sur l'Inde' this plate is without a title. The space is blank.