

Voyages dans l'Inde
by Prince Alexis Soltykoff

Article on the various editions of this work.
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Folio edition

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 1850 a folio edition was published as well under the same title, however, with the plates only and on a much larger format. Originally from 1849 onwards single sheets were issued and sold apparently, sometimes measuring as large as approx. 90 x 70 cm. An unknown number of these sheets survive to the present day, reflecting their high value.

Then those 36 plates were published in one tome with a title page but with no further text, while the size of the sheets apparently was standardized to approx. 87 x (at least) 57 cm ^{a)}.

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 the title page of the folio edition; 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 ^{b)} 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 engravers are printed on the left side of the plates as quoted below:

L.H. de Rudder who engraved 30 plates, A.F. Girard who engraved 5 plates ^{c)}), while one plate was done by those two together ^{d)}.

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

Lith. par de Rudder d'après le dessin du Prince A. Soltykoff or

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

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

Or

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

OR

Lith. par Girard et De Rudder d'après le dessin du Prince A. Soltykoff

And sometimes in the middle the name of the publisher:

Paris, Gache éditeur

All plates bear a number (1 ~ 36) above the top right corner, however, apparently an extreme small number of these plates have been printed with the imprint at the top side matching those in “Lettres sur l’Inde”, like for instance our copy of *Une rue de Lahore* which has the imprint: “N°. 20” on the top left side and “Page 210” on the top right side

- ^{a)} The size of the Robert & Maria Travis copy; Sotheby’s, their sale May 26th 2005, lot # 262. The size of the copy auctioned by Joigny Enchères, their sale January 12th 2025, lot # 158 is described as 87 x 64 cm.
- ^{b)} 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.
- ^{c)} The captions under these five plates by Girard read:

<i>Une Pagode a Madura</i>	(12)
<i>Temple Rustique aux environs de Simla</i>	(25)
<i>Aux environs de Tchini Gong</i>	(27)
<i>Déota ou Temple Payen. Vallée de Canaour</i>	(28)
<i>Bords de l’Indus, à Saccar-Baccar</i>	(31)

The numbers in brackets are the plate nrs. in the top right corner above the plates.

- ^{d)} The captions under this plate read:
Interieur du Couvent Condgeveram

Octavo editions



'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 given at the end of this article.

In my copy of "Lettres sur l'Inde" someone (likely Léon de Wailly himself) 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, who had lithographed all plates for “Voyage en Perse”, first published in 1851, 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 octavo issue of “Voyages dans l’Inde” 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 logical 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 marked as a second edition and the Garnier editions as 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 1850 on the title pages printed in gold and 1851 on the common 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 title page with the text printed in gold and without the text *deuxième édition*, only found in a few of the copies. Most likely the second issue was published in 1851 as well.

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 a matching luxurious binding.

There can be no doubt that the publishers worked in close collaboration.

For the Garnier editions the years of publication, viz. 1853, 1854 and 1858 are often given both by auction houses and dealers, though without any reference.

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* or in quick succession. 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 temps (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

Title pages

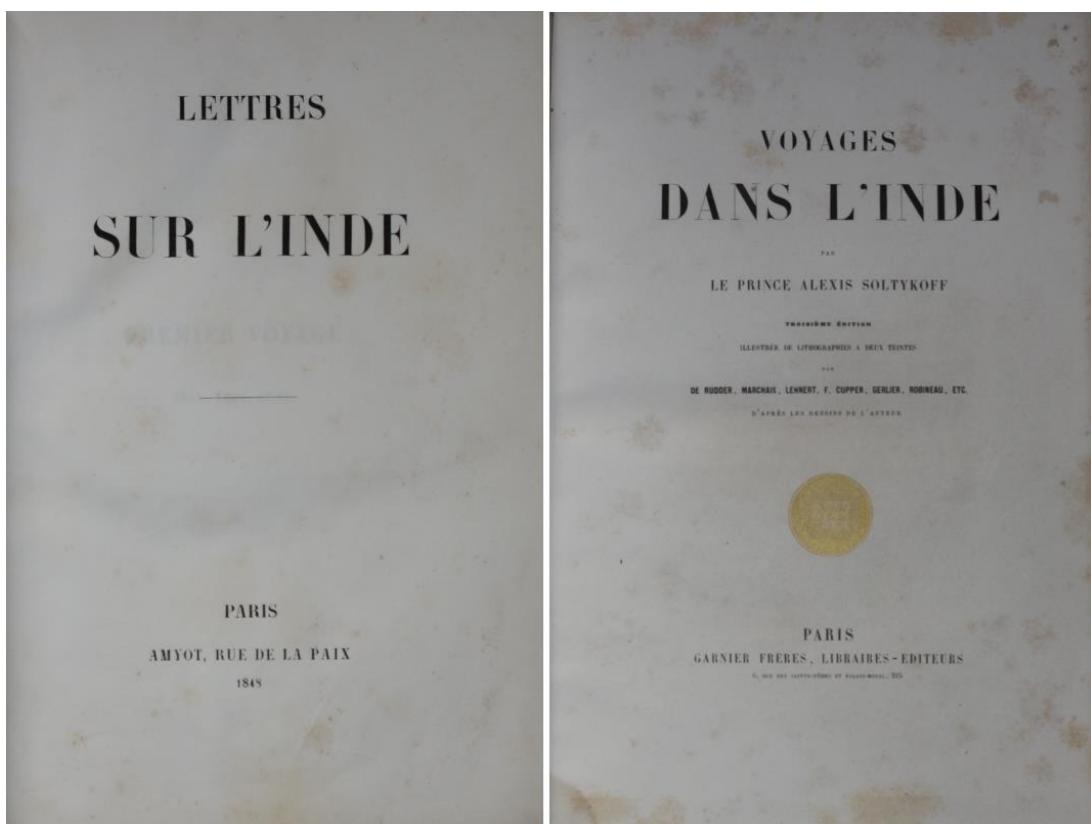
All four different title pages are shown here below.

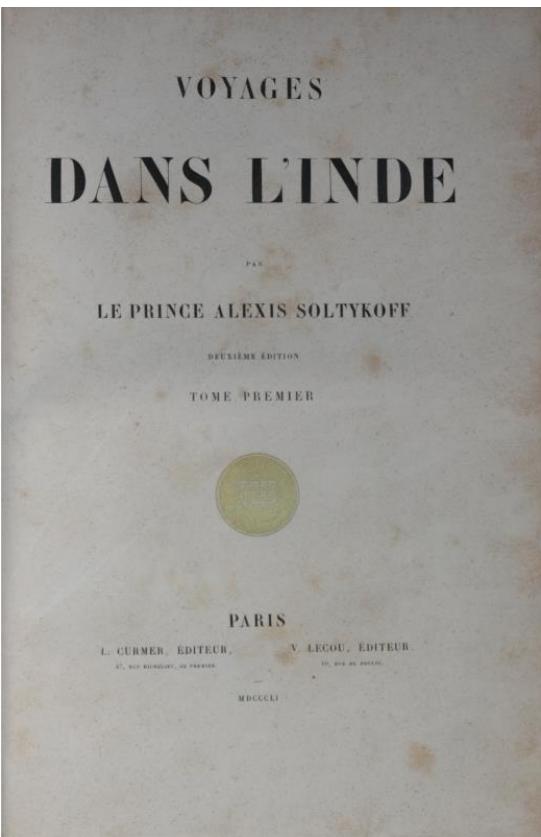
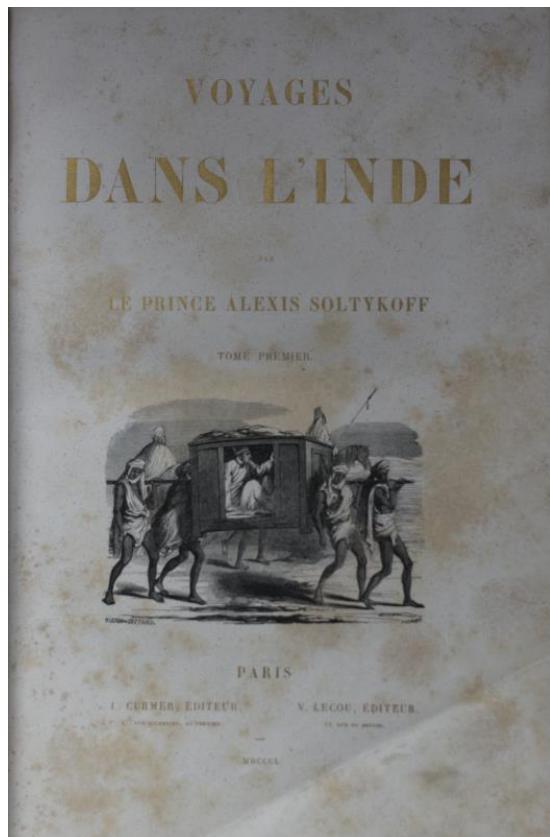
The printed title page of the first and second issue by Curmer & Lecou are fully identical as are the title pages of the first and the second issue by Garnier Frères.

Below above left the title page of "Lettres sur l'Inde" and above right the title page of the editions published by Garnier Frères.

There under the title page with the text in gilt dated 1850 by Curmer & Lecou on the left and the letterpress title page on the right.

On the title page with the text in gilt, a woodcut vignette is printed, matching plate nr. 19: *Voyage en Poste dans les Plaines du Pandjab entre Loudiana et Omritsar.*





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. ¹⁾	G	G	T	G	T
	99x155		128x179		

	L	L	T	L	T
3 Offrande d'un Chef Kandien a un Temple de Bouddha aux environs de Kandy (Ceylan).		100x159		122x197	
4 Prêtres de Boudha Cingalis a Kandy (Ceylan).	C	C	C	C	C
	125x100				
5 Fete de la Lune a Ceylan.	C	C	C	C	C
	103x141				
6 Ceylan entre Colombo.	Ro	Ro	T	Ro	Ro
	155x99		175x125		
7 Village de Gatiganawa a 9 milles de Kandy a Ceylan habité par les Rodias, exilés du temps des Rois de Kandy.	C	C	T	C	C
	133x102		132x102		
8 Procession religieuse dans les Galeries du Convent de Ramisseram pres Ceylan.	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
	98x139				
9 Procession a Madras.	C	C	Anon	Anon	Anon
	107x140		107x140		
10 Condjeveram, Ville Sainte dans le Karnatik aux environs de Madras, lieu de Pélerinage des Indous.	C	Anon	Anon	Anon	Anon
	101x140	101x140			
11 Intérieur du Couvent de Condgeveram, a 40 milles de Madras.	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro	Ro
	100x155				
12 Une Pagode a Madura.	L	L	T	L	T
	100x159		140x196		
13 Éléphants du Radja de Travancore. Travandrum.	C	C	C	C	C
	94x139				

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

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 caption. The space is blank.