About the

ANCIENT INDIA & IRAN TRUST

(REG. CHARITY NO. 276295)

For over thirty years, the Trust has occupied a unique position in the UK. We are the only independent charity concerned with the study of early India, Iran and Central Asia, promoting both scholarly research and popular interest in the area. We have a growing library of over 28,000 volumes, and organise a range of activities including conferences, public lectures, visiting fellowships and bursaries. Our primary interest has been in prehistory, archaeology, art history and ancient languages, but this extends to more modern topics and other disciplines.

We are based in a large Victorian house on Brooklands Avenue, near the Botanic Garden and central Cambridge. The house was bought by the five founding Trustees in 1981 and is the repository of their specialised libraries. It was also the home until his death at the age of 96 of our first Chair, the distinguished scholar and linguist, Sir Harold Bailey.

The Trust's greatest asset is its extensive library of over 28,000 volumes, many of which are very rare. This includes the personal collections of the founding Trustees: Sir Harold Bailey (Indo-Iranian studies and philology, Buddhism and Armenian/Caucasian studies); Professor Joan van Lohuizen (art and archaeology of South and South-East Asia), and Drs Bridget and Raymond Allchin (South Asian archaeology, prehistory and art history). It also includes the collections of Professor Mary Boyce (Zoroastrianism and Iranian studies), Professor Charles Bawden (Mongolian studies), Professor Gregory Possehl (South Asian archaeology, travel and anthropology) and Ralph Pinder-Wilson (Islamic Art), along with recent acquisitions in all fields.. Details of the printed collections are included in the Cambridge University Library Catalogue: http://affint-newton.lib.cam.ac.uk. We also host the photographic collections of the Allchins, Professor van Lohuizen, Dr James Harle, Professor Howard Wilson, and Penelope Betjeman (over 60,000 in total) which are in the process of being catalogued, listed and digitised.

Friends of the ANCIENT INDIA & IRAN TRUST



The Trust depends on its own resources, receiving no public money. Our work has attracted a number of volunteers, donors and close associates, but recent improvements completed at our premises, and plans for future expansion have led us to establish a more organised network of contacts and supporters through an association of Friends. We hope that those who are interested in the academic work promoted by the Trust, or more generally in the history and culture of the countries covered, will become Friends, whether they live in the UK or overseas.

Friends receive newsletters and advance information about lectures and seminars and other activities, including our development plans. Special events are held for Friends only, and, as part of the Trust 'family' Friends are invited to our traditional Summer Garden Party and other social functions as appropriate. They are always welcome to visit the Trust. We also highly value help from our Friends in providing ideas, contacts and advice, as well as financial support.

Our longer-term plans include building an extension to our premises to provide for a lecture room, essential accommodation for our photographic archive and further donations of books, some already promised, and secure exhibition facilities for the Trust's small collection of historic artefacts and manuscripts.

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NB: Becoming a Life Friend, or paying by Standing Order (form overleaf) eliminates the need for reminders and reduces our administration costs.

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1 May 2004.

INTERESTS FORM

Please indicate your areas of interest by ticking the relevant categories below.

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THE ANCIENT INDIA TRUST



The Ancient India and Iran Trust is an independent educational charity, established in 1978 to encourage the study of the early civilisations and languages of the Indian subcontinent, Iran and Central Asia.

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