

their introduction: ‘We need to make room in our histories for the local partners, guides, porters, fixers, interpreters, traders and officials who made journeys of exploration possible; and also the sponsors, patrons, publishers and editors who enabled accounts of these journeys to circulate more widely’ (p. 5). *Hidden Histories of Exploration* shows just how we might accommodate the individuals and institutions that have been vital to exploration.

As the subtitle of the volume suggests, *Hidden Histories of Exploration: Researching the RGS-IBG Collections* is also an important attempt to explore hitherto unknown aspects of geographical collections, particularly those of the RGS-IBG. The exhibition – and the space in which it was shown – are also part of the ‘Unlocking the Archives’ project that began when the RGS merged with the IBG in 1995. Volume and exhibition show how careful and critical historical investigation of RGS-IBG collections can expand the ways in which histories of geography in general might be researched, written, and opened up to new readings and new audiences. *Hidden Histories*, like the RGS-IBG collections it draws on, includes items from across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and from every continent. The histories of exploration, of both familiar and unfamiliar varieties, that might be illuminated by research on RGS-IBG collections are thus truly global in their scope and potential.

After a short introduction to the exhibition and RGS-IBG collections the authors turn to ‘The work of exploration’ (pp. 11–23), in which they trace the shifting relations between European explorers and non-European guides, interpreters, and intermediaries. Traces of indigenous peoples and agency are often to be found in the visual records of expeditions, as is shown in the next section, ‘The art of encounter’ (pp. 25–35), which considers a range of representations of exploration and encounter in the work of expeditionary artists such as Thomas Baines and naval officers such as William Smyth. In the next section, ‘Exploration on camera’ (pp. 37–41), the authors’ skilful selection of photographs and documentary film from the RGS-IBG’s huge collections illustrates less well known aspects of exploration including, as with the album page of Everest Sherpas discussed above, the essential contribution made to expeditions by indigenous agents. Contributions of non-Europeans to exploration were not totally hidden from view in official narratives, and in the final section, ‘Recognition and responsibility’, the authors consider how non-European explorers were recognised. Devices of recognition, ranging from formal awards and medals to inclusion in official accounts, record both ‘loyal followers’ and employees, such as the ‘Pundits’ of the Survey of India, and the ‘unfaithful’ and ‘unruly’ of whom traces survive only because they disrupted expeditionary routines and itineraries. What responsibility European explorers bore to the people with whom they travelled and whom they encountered was debated even before the RGS was established. As the authors show, cases such as the controversy over Henry Morton Stanley’s methods of exploration in Africa in the mid-nineteenth century show how geographical collections represent multiple opinions on the ethics of exploration, if only because there was no consensus on such questions – even at the height of European colonial confidence.

While often overlooked in narratives of exploration, non-Europeans were central to the success of expeditions and the survival of European explorers. As *Hidden Histories* shows, traces of these guides, interpreters, and intermediaries survive, by accident and intention, across a range of material collected during expeditions. Volume and exhibition throw down an important challenge for historians of exploration and geographical knowledge: to find new perspectives and materials that can illuminate explorations as ‘co-productions’ (p. 11) rather than singular efforts by self-possessed, independent European heroes. The authors are careful

to stress the variety of objects in the RGS-IBG collections that might tell new tales of exploration, including books, manuscripts, maps, paintings, engravings, film, and photographs. As they note in their conclusion, the form of the materials makes a difference because it shapes the information contained, and reading different materials requires an understanding of the conventions governing their creation and display in the past and today.

This volume captures the flavour of the exhibition excellently. Chapters bear the same titles as the exhibition themes, and high quality colour images are carefully incorporated throughout. The authors helpfully include detailed footnotes and a full exhibition catalogue (pp. 52–63) at the end of the volume. A small full-colour image of each item, following the panel sequence in the exhibition, is presented, together with full reference information including measurements, original captions, call reference number, and scan number to help others study the objects themselves at the RGS-IBG or via on-line catalogues.

Hidden Histories of Exploration ably demonstrates how fresh perspectives are opening up geographical collections to new questions and audiences. While this volume might seem a relatively slim substitute for an entire exhibition, as an essential co-production it ensures that the important messages and implications of *Hidden Histories* will travel far.

James R. Ryan

University of Exeter (Cornwall Campus), UK

doi:10.1016/j.jhg.2010.08.004

Kerry Ward, *Networks of Empire. Forced Migration in the Dutch East India Company*. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2009, 340 pages, £45 hardcover.

In this excellent book, Kerry Ward extends and reinterprets a decade’s worth of scholarship on networked conceptions of empire, demonstrating how richly productive this field remains. Ward’s ambitious, thoughtful, and thorough work will appeal to scholars concerned with the history of the Dutch East India Company, with imperial activity in the Indian Ocean, with histories of forced migration, and with the conceptualisation of empires.

Ward argues that it was through its networks that the empire of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) was manifested: taken together intersecting, mutable networks constituted ‘a sovereign totality or imperial web’ (p. 9). Like other recent scholars of imperial networks, Ward deploys and expands a range of supporting terminology (‘circuits’, ‘sub-circuits’, and ‘nodes’, among others), but more importantly she demonstrates that multiple levels of analysis can be kept in productive tension: temporal and spatial; macro and micro; oceanic and territorial. In particular, Ward shows how the fluctuating fortunes of different nodes and connections within the empire contributed to the success of the empire as a whole; she offers an account which emphasises mutability rather than teleology; and she manages to keep the ‘lives of ordinary individuals’ (p. 31) in sight whilst exploring the constitution of imperial sovereignty across the Dutch East India Company’s empire.

Networks of Empire covers the entire span of the VOC’s existence, from the early seventeenth to the late eighteenth century, although different chapters consider widely varying timescales. Geographically, the ‘primary circuit’ of the VOC’s Indian Ocean empire connecting Batavia and the Cape of Good Hope is the book’s focus, but Ward’s analysis also extends to other parts of the

Indonesian archipelago, to Mauritius, Malacca, Persia, Surat, and Ceylon. A series of different zones and sub-circuits receive special attention, most notably the Southeast Atlantic/Southwest Indian Ocean zone, centred on the Cape; and also the 'South West Indian Ocean subcircuit' which connected Mauritius, Madagascar, and Rio de la Goa (p. 146). Initially important as strategic refreshment stations, Ward shows how these colonies developed into slave trading depots, penal stations, and European settlements. Her approach allows Ward to draw attention to inter and intra-imperial connections between the VOC, other European enterprises, and indigenous networks. This works particularly well in the final chapter, which explores the transition from Dutch to British sovereignty at the Cape. Ward's disruption of territorial conceptions of empire is also compelling: both seaborne transportation networks and the seasonal nature of shipping were critical to shaping the empire. As Ward argues, we should keep 'both land and sea in sight, as this was the perspective of the world inhabited by those who lived at the time' (p. 176).

Ward is centrally concerned with accounting for the extension of sovereignty and assertion of power within the empire. *Networks of Empire* demonstrates how 'partial territorial and legal sovereignties' were haltingly brought into a 'single imperial web' (p. 5) during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as they travelled from the United Provinces, to Batavia, and then back and forth across the Indian Ocean arena incorporating significant regional variations. Systems and forms of justice, and the study of criminal cases involving indigenous peoples, Europeans, and non-European migrants allow Ward both to illuminate general processes and to provide specific illustration. Her second chapter incorporates a valuable introduction first to the Dutch East India Company, explaining the development of its institutions of governance and justice, underlining its patrimonial nature, and demonstrating the importance to both company servants and supplicants of forging and utilising personal connections. It was, Ward argues, not enough simply to recognise the complicated lines of communication and authority through which power flowed; one had also to know how they operated, and be in favour with those who controlled them. This account also emphasises the extent to which the company's developing networks – of ideas, money, and labour as well as goods – were 'intertwined with indigenous Indian Ocean trading networks' (p. 59). But Ward's use of court records to demonstrate the responsiveness of the company's legal system to the distinct demands of Batavia and Cape Town also underlines the need for careful, specific analysis of each colony. This works particularly well in a discussion of how the status of the Khoekhoe at the Cape of Good Hope changed as company jurisdiction shifted from being 'embodied' in VOC servants to residing 'on the land' (p. 163).

Ward's analysis of the development of forms of governance and systems of justice within the empire emphasises the empire's dependence on a variety of forms of forced labour and migration. The consideration of convicts and political exiles alongside slaves offers some new perspectives. Batavian court records, for example, are skilfully exploited to demonstrate the mutability and flexibility of the categories employed by the VOC to define populations within and between colonies. Thus Batavian households were characterised according to the status of the male patriarch, obscuring the frequently different backgrounds of wives and servants. Moving between colonies also affected the company's categorisations. Ward argues that 'becoming a criminal overshadowed other forms of personal classifications for the individual being punished' (p. 117), whether a slave or company servant. Similarly, the force of religious and ethnic distinctions varied with location. Ward focuses her analysis of the 'circuits of exile' travelled by high profile religious and

political figures focuses on a series of individuals, most notably Shaykh Yusuf. She demonstrates how the exile circuit 'operated... as an unintended conduit for religious and political movements' by extending Islamic practices from Batavia to southern Africa. Equally, exiles of high rank disrupted colonial hierarchies that 'equated rank and privilege with ethnicity, religion, and freedom' (pp. 230–231). The approach Ward develops in this study of forced migration offers a productive way of coping with often fragmented sources, even if definitive proof that, for example, high-ranking exiles brought Islamic practices to southern Africa can never be found. Ward is right to conclude that historians' too frequent obsession with self-contained units, such as 'nations' and 'empires', stems as much from historiography as history. What she offers in *Networks of Empire* is a productive way of complicating the story.

Zoë Laidlaw
Royal Holloway University of London, UK

doi:10.1016/j.jhg.2010.08.016

W. David McIntyre, *The Britannic Vision: Historians and the Making of the British Commonwealth of Nations, 1907–48*. Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, xvi + 377 pages, £65 hardcover.

W. David McIntyre's book considers a moment often neglected in accounts of the British empire: the 'Britannic vision' that briefly dominated early twentieth-century ideas for imperial relations between Britain and the Dominions. It highlights two broad schools of thought: those who foresaw closer union between Britain and the dominions, and those who wanted to see more independence and a looser, scaled back relationship. These ideas contained different understandings of the place of India within the Britannic vision, the possibility of dominion status in Africa, the changing role of the crown, and the international and domestic relationships between the self-governing colonies and Britain. The book takes us through the development of these ideas, and the formal constitutional developments that accompanied them, from the 1907 designation of dominion status, through the strains of two world wars, to Indian independence and its subsequent declaration as a republic. This fundamentally shifted the balance of the Commonwealth debate away from some sort of unity through a Britannic vision, towards the less ambitious and more diverse ideas of Commonwealth that exist today. The epilogue charts this shift towards a 'post-Britannic vision'.

The book focuses on seventeen historians whose writings about empire and Commonwealth 'not only recorded and interpreted' but also 'helped to formulate' this Britannic vision (p. x). The historians in question are a motley crew, from familiar names in imperial history such as Reginald Coupland, Keith Hancock, Nicholas Mansergh, Vincent Harlow, and Margery Perham, to those better known as politicians, such as Leo Amery, Patrick Gordon Walker, and J. Enoch Powell, or as political theorists such as Lionel Curtis and Alfred Zimmern.

The book has an unusual structure. It begins with stern images of the historians in question, followed by a section ('historiography') in which we are introduced to each individually through short pen portraits of their life and contributions to the 'Britannic vision'. These biographies provide a useful point of reference, and, for those of us who like to glimpse faces, fashions, and furnishings from the past, the portraits are intriguing. More importantly, the combination of biography and image highlights the uniformity amongst the assembled contributors; they are all white, all but one are male, and

of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) shipping network in Asia 1595-1660 Parthesius Rome, the Greek World, and the East: Volume 3: The Greek World, the Jews, and the East (Studies. 549 PagesÂ·2006Â·3.79 MBÂ·4,540 DownloadsÂ·New! , and the East (Studies in the History of Greece and Rome) Fergus Millar The Richest East India Merchant: The Life and Business of John Palmer of Calcutta, 1767-1836 (Worlds of the East India Company). 216 PagesÂ·2007Â·2.17 MBÂ·2,765 DownloadsÂ·New! of John Palmer of Calcutta, 1767-1836 (Worlds of the East India Company) Anthony Webster The New Cambridge History of Thus, from the Companyâ€™s original charter in 1602 to roughly 1670, the VOC prospered mightily, due largely to Europeâ€™s insatiable demand for the once exotic spice, pepper. Yet, it was not merely a growing demand for East Asian spices that enabled the VOC to flourish.Â Ward focuses on the network of forced migration to explain how the Company coalesced as a system of intersecting fields of partial sovereignty.7 While Ward addresses this administrative pliability, she fails to connect it to VOC economic success.Â By chronicling the VOC network throughout the East Indies, China, Japan and India, this paper endeavors to capture both the magnitude and breadth of VOC influence in Asia. Networks of Empire. Forced Migration in the Dutch East India Company. Search within full text. Get access.Â This book argues that the Dutch East India Company empire manifested itself through multiple networks that amalgamated spatially and over time into an imperial web whose sovereignty was effectively created and maintained but always partial and contingent. Networks of Empire proposes that early modern empires were comprised of durable networks of trade, administration, settlement, legality, and migration whose regional circuits and territorially and institutionally based nodes of regulatory power operated not only on land and sea but discursively as well. Rights of sovereignty were granted to t