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Tape 840 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES: Margery Hall and Kate Garrod

COLLECTION: 4700.0576  Tape 840  (Tape 3 of 4)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS: Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATE: 2/1/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 93 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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Tape 840, Side A
Hall and Garrod (Part 4 of 6)
001 beautiful Indian girl who had tuberculosis, died, had funeral service for her in the British compound’s chapel, girl’s family
012 British women worked in hospitals in WWII
017 male patients doing needlework in bed
021 man in hospital who got distressing letter from his wife saying she was pregnant, he said he was going to go home and shoot her because the baby was dark, but baby was really his
037 very dark woman with dark, useless daughter
048 British soldiers, lack of women
054 Britons who shouldn’t have come to India, odd mixture of people
062 dark, useless girl was named Margery, she got involved with a British soldier, Margery got pregnant
074 she took the girl to meet the padre, who talked the man out of marrying her by making him describe washing day at home and trying to figure how Margery would fit in
088 padre was concerned with saving family from embarrassment of dark bride
Margery got shipped to England as a nanny
terrible thing to not have a country, also knew people who didn’t have a gender
how it felt for British families to be so far from home
enjoyed life there, easier without children
if you had children, could never relax there because of the dangers
story of child that died quickly in India, doctors disagreed on cause of death
India isn’t a good place for European children
playing bridge
famous Lawrence family in India
health risks in India
missionary’s views on natives
acquiring a house from a Muslim who took forever packing and leaving house
refused to return to unpleasant desert post her husband held for two years
guy who was in desert post had gone mad
troops that committed suicide
difficult journeys through India, especially with children
has great affection for Indian people
had 22 useless servants, like having 22 extra children
conceited man named [Simla?], had ill children
her husband now trains overseas students, but the one class of students he can’t take is Indians, because they’re arrogant and aggressive, have some of the less nice qualities of the colored man
westernized Indians she knew in India were different than the kinds of Indian students her husband has today, now they complain and criticize
Indian students make a mess of the bathrooms, leave paper around
Muslims less in the habit of sending their children overseas than Hindu
problems knowing what to feed Indian vegetarians when they come to her house
de Caro says Americans also have a hard time dealing with Indians
she imitates voice of Indian student who called her house
her arrival in Poona, husband in signal school
major they met, his pay
friend who’s a Sikh, said the whole Punjab would move to England if immigration was relaxed
Sikh’s happiness at marrying off his two daughters
recommends someone for de Caro to get in touch with who lives on Isle of Mull
friend who was ill with dysentery
group of old friends from India that still get together
book about post she was at, Lora Lai
effects of living so far from home, people do things they’d never do if close to family
mothers who ran off with other men in India, abandoned their children, servants took care of children
India bred eccentricity; she was surprised by how lax and slipshod life was there
pathetic little man she knew there
Europeans in terrible clothes full of moth holes
Hall offers to let de Caro read her memoir, she has changed place names
Tape 840, Side B
Hall and Garrod (Part 5 of 6)
003 being educated and brought up in India
009 British officers did a wonderful job there of helping India, but terrible snobbery
013 British elite were cruel to her
018 Margery only had two pairs of shoes
021 senior lady who snubbed her
027 finger bowls
033 girl who got so flustered by dining protocol she ate her napkin
038 Margery learned you should never ignore anybody, even man who takes out your garbage
043 Kate says that the lady who snubbed Margery was a nobody
046 ladies should always extend kindness and courtesy
052 offers cherry yogurt to interviewers
055 people are all alike, but have too many languages, leads to misunderstanding
060 memsahibs not known for their kindness
065 Indians know when you are being patronizing
079 inquire of interviewers who else they are interviewing
088 discussion of Philip Mason, novelist
091 other people they plan to interview
099 BBC portrayed Anglo Indians inaccurately; people in series spoke with elite accents
111 people in services like to think the cream of the crop went to India
115 there was actually a mixture of classes of people who went to India
122 the services were snobby but not corrupt
126 radio broadcasts about life in India were better than the TV
130 different expressions used in parts of India
140 description of man on horse in India
146 soldiers hunting jackals, wearing uniforms
149 westernized Indians were bigger snobs than Europeans there in those days
154 friend who served in Delhi, describes set up of European enclave there
168 Kate didn’t find much snobbery there because she never accepted it
174 Kate doesn’t believe in class
177 protocol; rivalry between branches of service
185 class of people sent to India, to Borneo
192 admittance to clubs in India, how class affected admittance
206 women had to keep British men in line, make them be polite to Indian servants
219 people in India understood breeding
235 British going to India now are not the gentlemen they used to be
240 early British women who went to India and trained servants
242 endless seduction and romantic intrigue
249 inferior services: post office, railway, considered lesser, Margery never knew anyone from these inferior services
258 her friend Charlotte Rose, whose husband was with the railway, still in touch
264 Charlotte’s sister married a Eurasian, probably some Indian blood in Charlotte’s family
271 Charlotte loathed India; Charlotte was first woman to get degree at Rhodesia University
279 Charlotte hated the patronage she experienced in India, getting snubbed all the time by
people in better services

“[marley?] pond” was makeshift swimming pool

in Quetta, more senior woman offered use of her marley pond to Margery’s children

Charlotte asked Margery if she thought she could get her invited to use pool

couldn’t get swimming clothes there; her children swam naked, which was immodest

senior woman took Margery aside and told her senior Indian named Inda had complained about her children swimming naked

senior woman told her that Charlotte Rose’s husband had complained about Margery’s naked kids

Margery confronted Charlotte’s husband, who had a terrible temper

senior Indian’s wife swam in only her bra and panties, you could see everything

turned out that Roses had been blamed for complaint because they were inferior service, really they hadn’t complained

when Inda’s family moved away, he tried to give Margery all her curtains, which were worth a lot, but she refused, he insisted, it was as close to an apology as he could manage

he’d done a wretched thing to her and the Rose family, devious, Indians lied because expected to

this should be deleted from tape because it would make him feel bad, they did become friends

Indian railways full of Indians, great snobbery in that society

Margery insists it was the fault of British people for making them snobs

Kate thinks people that are snobby are just that type, no matter their culture

Margery and Kate disagree about snobbery in children; Kate thinks children are the cause of snobbery among parents

they argue about human nature, how bad people are

Margery thinks snobbery is symptom of fear of being found out

products easier to get in railway centers

Indian girls parading up and down train platforms, snobbery amongst girls

their greatest ambition in life is to marry a white man, these Anglo-Indian girls could be very dark, but they’d talk about England as home

blond girl that married into Anglo-Indian family, suffered because her husband was darker, great complications

jokes about small town on railway line

tragedy of Anglo-Indians at time of partition