



Colonial Views of India

Photographs by Eugene Clutterbuck Impey
Mallica Kumbera Landrus

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- A discussion of colonial India as seen in the 19th century photographs of Eugene Clutterbuck Impey
- Except for three very brief articles, published between the 1980s and 1990s, this will be the first book length publication to consider Impey's images of 19th century India
- This publication accompanies the *Colonial Views Of India* exhibition running 11th April - 13th December 2026 at the Ashmolean Museum, UK

In the 19th century, photography and colonial ethnography were tools of British governance on the subcontinent. Colonial officers were asked to submit photographs on various subjects across India. Images of people, place and space was seen as useful surveillance documentation to observe, understand and control native communities. Eugene Clutterbuck Impey (1830-1904) arrived in India in 1851 and lived there until his retirement in 1878. He served as political agent at different posts across the country. The Eastern Art archives include over 250 negatives and photographs of Impey's images of people, architectural sites, and landscapes.

Professor Mallica Kumbera Landrus is Keeper of the Eastern Art Department in the Ashmolean Museum, where the collections span more than 5,000 years of cultural and artistic development, from across Asia and parts of Africa. Her curatorial responsibilities are mainly in Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian art.

