

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

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

093 Margery got shipped to England as a nanny
 100 terrible thing to not have a country, also knew people who didn't have a gender
 105 how it felt for British families to be so far from home
 110 enjoyed life there, easier without children
 118 if you had children, could never relax there because of the dangers
 121 story of child that died quickly in India, doctors disagreed on cause of death
 135 India isn't a good place for European children
 144 playing bridge
 159 famous Lawrence family in India
 175 health risks in India
 180 missionary's views on natives
 193 acquiring a house from a Muslim who took forever packing and leaving house
 210 refused to return to unpleasant desert post her husband held for two years
 220 guy who was in desert post had gone mad
 255 troops that committed suicide
 260 difficult journeys through India, especially with children
 270 has great affection for Indian people
 273 had 22 useless servants, like having 22 extra children
 280 conceited man named [Simla?], had ill children
 295 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
 305 westernized Indians she knew in India were different than the kinds of Indian students her
 husband has today, now they complain and criticize
 325 Indian students make a mess of the bathrooms, leave paper around
 336 Muslims less in the habit of sending their children overseas than Hindu
 338 problems knowing what to feed Indian vegetarians when they come to her house
 352 de Caro says Americans also have a hard time dealing with Indians
 356 she imitates voice of Indian student who called her house
 363 her arrival in Poona, husband in signal school
 374 major they met, his pay
 380 friend who's a Sikh, said the whole Punjab would move to England if immigration was
 relaxed
 394 Sikh's happiness at marrying off his two daughters
 405 recommends someone for de Caro to get in touch with who lives on Isle of Mull
 440 a friend who was ill with dysentery
 451 group of old friends from India that still get together
 468 book about post she was at, Lora Lai
 480 effects of living so far from home, people do things they'd never do if close to family
 490 mothers who ran off with other men in India, abandoned their children, servants took care
 of children
 502 India bred eccentricity; she was surprised by how lax and slipshod life was there
 515 pathetic little man she knew there
 520 Europeans in terrible clothes full of moth holes
 535 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
285 “[marley?] pond” was makeshift swimming pool
290 in Quetta, more senior woman offered use of her marley pond to Margery’s children
299 Charlotte asked Margery if she thought she could get her invited to use pool
307 couldn’t get swimming clothes there; her children swam naked, which was immodest
312 senior woman took Margery aside and told her senior Indian named Inda had complained
about her children swimming naked
334 senior woman told her that Charlotte Rose’s husband had complained about Margery’s
naked kids
343 Margery confronted Charlotte’s husband, who had a terrible temper
359 senior Indian’s wife swam in only her bra and panties, you could see everything
366 turned out that Roses had been blamed for complaint because they were inferior service,
really they hadn’t complained
388 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
404 he’d done a wretched thing to her and the Rose family, devious, Indians lied because
expected to
419 this should be deleted from tape because it would make him feel bad, they did become
friends
424 Indian railways full of Indians, great snobbery in that society
428 Margery insists it was the fault of British people for making them snobs
433 Kate thinks people that are snobby are just that type, no matter their culture
440 Margery and Kate disagree about snobbery in children; Kate thinks children are the cause
of snobbery among parents
450 they argue about human nature, how bad people are
462 Margery thinks snobbery is symptom of fear of being found out
476 products easier to get in railway centers
484 Indian girls parading up and down train platforms, snobbery amongst girls
492 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
509 blond girl that married into Anglo-Indian family, suffered because her husband was
darker, great complications
525 jokes about small town on railway line
549 tragedy of Anglo-Indians at time of partition