



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# East India Company agents and antiquarians in early nineteenth-century Iraq

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## Abstract

Although British individuals and British imperialism figure prominently in discussions of the history of Mesopotamian archaeology, relatively little attention has been paid to the role of a central British imperial institution, the East India Company. This paper aims to address this intersection of cultural, commercial, and imperial projects, examining some prominent and some less well-known characters in the history of the field in terms of their Company positions. My interest is less in individuals' antiquarian contributions and more in gaining some insight into the social and cultural setting within which they lived and worked. How did their antiquarian interests and activities fit into their larger personalities and roles? The results at once highlight the connections of British individuals in Iraq to India, specifically Bombay (present-day Mumbai), and draw out significant differences between the lives and lifestyles of those individuals and their British contemporaries in India in a changing imperial landscape.

## Keywords

History of archaeology, East India Company, Iraq, 19th century, antiquarianism

## Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation