

Transcriber's Note

MSS. Eur. D. 243

Eighth Fasciculus of Journal from the 17th August to September 16th and from Ritanka ki Joth in Kolloo to Toong-Loong Ghath in Hither Tatar

MSS.Eur.D.244

9th Fasciculus of Journal from Sep^t. 16th to Oc^t. 21st 1820—in the Country of Ladakh

Mss Eur. D 259

10th Fasciculus of a Journal, pp. 1-5

This fragment is included because it is the concluding part of the Memorandum on Rhubarb with which the 9th Fasciculus ends. After the end of the Memorandum, however, the daily Journal of events at Leh doesn't resume; the rest of the volume, despite being labelled 10th Fasciculus, consists of copies of letters, some of inordinate length, and long Notes on various subjects.

The Text

Moorcroft's handwriting, at first sight a semi-legible scrawl, opens up to reveal his meaning as the reader perseveres. It's easy to get accustomed to phenomena like the long double-s; and while there may be a lot of ambiguities (e.g. 'a's that aren't properly closed and look like 'u's, or 'n's and 'u's that are indistinguishable) these can in most cases be resolved by reference to context. This is not the case, however, with local terms; and especially in the Eighth Fasciculus I don't guarantee the accuracy of all of the unfamiliar place-names as they appear in the typed text. They are transcribed as they appear to the transcriber, with an indication of doubt where necessary.

Please note also that Moorcroft isn't entirely consistent in his spelling of local terms. 'Bhoothea' (Bhotia), his usual spelling, is occasionally replaced by 'Boothea'; 'Khooksur' by 'Kookshur'. As he hears different pronunciations in the mouths of his informants, so his spelling of a name alters. E.g. 'Lahool' sometimes becomes 'Lahoul'. Occasionally he changes his spelling of a place-name consistently, after perhaps learning a more accurate pronunciation. Thus 'Ludagh' in the earlier part of the text becomes 'Ludakh' in the later pages of the 9th Fasciculus.

For his system of transliterating vernacular terms and names in English script, see below. I've done my best to transcribe the manuscript exactly as is. Indications of doubt, and occasional interpolations as necessary are enclosed in square brackets. Words that remained stubbornly illegible I have replaced in the typed text with '[illeg.]'. There are also a few instances in which I thought I'd got the correct reading but wasn't absolutely certain; and others in which an apparently clearly written word didn't seem to make a lot of sense in context. These I've marked with '[?]'. None of the above instances materially affect the overall meaning of the text. Very occasionally I've interpolated a word that Moorcroft in his haste seems to have omitted, if it seemed necessary to complete the meaning, putting it again in square brackets.

Process of transcription.

Most of the digitized text is in PDF format, and I zoomed it up to 125% of the original, which enabled me to keep the width of one page open on one side of the screen, leaving room for the Word document with the transcribed text on the other. When a word was difficult to

read, I zoomed it up again to 200%, and this often enabled me to figure it out. The few pages from the Tenth Fasciculus, which are included so as to complete the Memorandum on Rhubarb with which the Ninth Fasc. concludes, came to me in JPEG format. I used the Enhance tool in my photo-editing app to increase their clarity, and to copy them opened them in Windows Photo View, which enabled me to zoom them up and down at will.

Pagination and Notes

I've left a line-space after every page. In the Eighth Fasciculus page numbers, inserted presumably by some library staffer, are placed at the foot of every alternate page and refer not to individual pages, but to double-page spreads. Awkward though this seems, I have placed the numbers as I've found them on the page. Anyone using the text and making citations, therefore, should be alert to the fact that the numbering of the spreads refers to the text **above** the number. The Ninth Fasciculus is numbered page-by-page, but only the odd-numbers have actually been inserted (in a hand other than Moorcroft's); so for ease of reference I've inserted the even numbers in square brackets.

I've kept Moorcroft's own footnotes on the pages they belong to, using a slightly smaller font-size and indenting them. Index numbers in the text refer to my own endnotes, which cover points of discrepancy &c. with the published *Travels*, edited by H.H. Wilson; and also items that I was unfamiliar with and had to look up, thinking that some other readers might also find them beyond their ken.

Moorcroft's system of interpreting Indian names in roman script.

Moorcroft is consistent in his transcription of Indian and other foreign names, especially their vowel sounds. His system looks outlandish at first sight, but once you get the hang of it, it makes sense.

It goes as follows:

a = the long a, as in English 'far'. E.g. Yarkund.

e = short English e as in pet. E.g. Ser

ee = the long ee as in English 'feed'. E.g. Meer; Lateef; Kashmeer

i = the short English i as in 'is'. E.g. Izzut

oo = both the long and the short oo in the English 'boon', 'book'. E.g. Oollah; Abdool

u = both the vowel sounds in the English 'butter'; i.e. the short u, and the indeterminate sound represented in 'butter' by e. E.g. Nujuf; Yarkund; Sumurkund.

ou = English ow, as in 'pout'. E.g. Doulut

Moorcroft's spelling, punctuation and diction

Moorcroft consistently uses what we should regard as the American spelling of words like 'color', 'honor', 'endeavor', &c. A few other spellings vary from modern usage, e.g. 'filligree', 'chrystal' 'negociate'.

Punctuation is minimal, apart from full stops which are marked with a little flourish. Even apostrophes are used rarely, thus 'the Kuloons decisions'. And in several reported dialogues it's only by reference to context that it becomes clear which of the interlocutors is speaking. In the Memorandum on Rhubarb, which concludes the document, he quotes extensively from published authors, using inverted commas at the beginning and end of each and every line of the quoted passages. I've followed modern usage, simply enclosing each quoted passage as a whole within inverted commas.

Moorcroft's diction is that of his time, more 18th century (born 1765) than 21st. Some of the words he uses are not so common today, e.g. 'betwixt' instead of 'between'; 'save' instead of

'except'. The frequently used word 'cattle' refers not exclusively to bovines, which are called 'neat cattle', but to large domesticated animals in general, especially I think to pack animals. In general, he prefers long words to short, and circumlocutions rather than direct phrasing. The following couple of sentences give a good impression of his style.

Our interpreter a Carrier though apparently proficient in the Tibet language did not in some instances succeed in exactly communicating our sentiments. He succeeded however so far as to convince us that we had subdued the greater part of the apprehensions first entertained when a report reached Leh of an European armed force being on its march against that town.