ARMENIAN GRAVES IN DHAKKA, BANGLADESH

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Category: Opinions

Liz Chater, an expert on the Armenians of South Asia and Southeast Asia, has published "Armenian Graves, Inscriptions and Memorials in India--DACCA 1722-1977", a valuable addition to the study of the patriotic, pioneering and prosperous Armenian merchants and entrepreneurs who, for more than three centuries, were active from India to Indonesia.

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In addition to building churches and schools in the faraway Orient, these remarkable people helped revive the Armenian struggle for an independent Armenia, printed the first Armenian newspaper and financially supported Armenian churches and communities in South & East Asia and elsewhere.

Liz Chater is relative of the illustrious philanthropist Sir Catchik Paul Chater (Khachik Pogose Astwachatoor, 1846-1926). He was born in Calcutta and became a successful businessman in Honk Kong. Also he was an outstanding civil servant. He was knighted in 1902. He is considered as one of the great benefactors of the Armenian community in Calcutta.

Ms. Chater's book contains 160-plus four-color photos of all the remaining graves at the Armenian Church in Dhakka. Some 25 family charts of those buried in the church cemetery are also included. Previously spelled Dacca and part of Indian Bengal, the city is now the capital of Bangladesh.

Chater has cross referenced the grave inscriptions with the Armenian Church register entries and where possible, has included important information from those registers. Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian has translated the Armenian register entries and transcriptions into English
Published by Chater Genealogy Publishing, the book can be ordered at