Henry Prinsep’s Empire: Framing a distant colony
Henry Prinsep’s Empire: Framing a distant colony

Malcolm Allbrook
Contents

Dedication ................................................................. vii
Acknowledgments ....................................................... ix
Biographical Sketches of the Family of Henry Charles Prinsep
(1844-1922) ............................................................... xi
1. Introduction—An Imperial Man and His Archive ............ 1
   Henry Prinsep’s colonial life .................................... 1
   Histories across space, place and time ....................... 8
   Accessing the Prinsep archive ................................ 13
2. Images of an Imperial Family .................................... 27
   A novelised and memorialised India ......................... 27
   Governing the others ............................................. 35
   Scholarliness and saintliness ................................ 42
   A place to make a fortune ..................................... 48
   Military might: The limits of violence ...................... 54
   A period of imperial transformation ....................... 57
3. An Anglo-Indian Community in Britain ....................... 81
   Influence and patronage: Indian government
     in the metropole .............................................. 85
   Family narratives on mid-century India .................... 89
   Popular narratives of Indian difference ................... 92
   Departure for a colonial outpost ............................ 96
   Encounters with the others: ‘Sights most curious’ ....... 99
4. Indian Ocean Connections ......................................... 117
   Outposts of a subimperial empire ............................ 119
   ‘Fate has been against you’ ................................... 125
5. Meeting Aboriginal people ........................................ 145
   ‘Fatigue, fear and anxiety’ ................................... 148
   ‘This strange young Englishman’ ............................ 154
   George Coobul and Henry Prinsep ........................... 159
   Fanny Balbuk and Ngilgie .................................... 162
   Almost one of the family ..................................... 164
6. ‘Stationed but not sedentary’ .................................. 183
   Letters from around the world ................................ 188