

Jeremiah Losty

British Library (Emeritus)

James Skinner's artists

The British Library's copies of James Skinner's *Tashrih al-Aqvam* (An Account of the Castes, Add. 27255) and his *Tazkirat al-'Umara* (Notices of the Nobles, Add.27254) were written in 1825 and 1830 respectively in Hansi and dedicated to Sir John Malcolm, from whose library the British Library copies were acquired. The manuscripts consist of notices of the various castes and sects to be found in Delhi and its neighbourhood and of the local princely rulers. They are heavily illustrated by Delhi artists and the name of the well-known artist Ghulam 'Ali Khan is often mentioned in connection with Skinner's patronage. This paper looks at the manuscripts in the context of contemporary painting in Delhi and tries to determine to what extent Ghulam 'Ali Khan may have been involved.