A Cosmopolitanism of Things: The Historical Exploration of Astronomy in 18th Century India

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- Cosmopolitanism: an orientation or predisposition to "...think, feel and imagine beyond existing boundaries and to transform their everyday practices and identities".
- cultural omnivorousness: "a disposition to appreciate a wide variety of cultural objects"
- ethnic tolerance: "positive attitudes towards ethnic outgroups".
- Cosmopolitics: a concern for our future as a human race.

enam, c'est-à-dire, quand on leur remet devant les yeux tout ce qu'il y a d'extravagant dans leur créance, ils Cette lecture l'atrépondent froidement qu'ils ne suivent que lui faire verser des la pure parole de Dieu, et qu'ils ne sont pas plus sages que leurs ancêtres et leurs Docen Samouseredam, teurs. On trouve cependant quelques Bra-, est celui qu'ils mes, qui, plus éclairés et plus spirituels que endant il n'y a perles autres, avouent de bonne soi que tout ce tende : ils ne laisqu'on débite au Peuple n'est qu'un tissu de par cœut, dans la sables dont on l'amuse: mais il en est peu t d'en réciter quelqui fassent un aveu si sincère, a rémission de ses aie sait voir que ue de personne, est OBSERVATIONS ais inutile; que la Dieu pour le salut Géographiques faites en 1734 par des Pères elligible, afin que Jésuites, pendant Tour voyage de Chanvolonté de Dieu, l de se sauver : co dernagor à Delhi et à Jaëpour. pression sur leur s de leurs ancien-LE Raja d'Amber, Jassing-Savaë, dont les Cazettes d'Europe sirent mention en 1728 fables grossières ou 1729, au sujet d'un voyage en Portugal que que nos livres que le Révérend Père Figueredo, Jésuite té inconnus; car Portugais, fit par ses ordres, mourut en ge, d'une arche, 1743. C'était un Prince riche, puissant et es semblables. Ils savant dans l'Astronomie, pour laquelle il stnou a paru pluavait sait des dépenses immenses. Il entretele bien des homvait plusieurs Astronomes, qui observaient un homme, tand'un poisson. Ils

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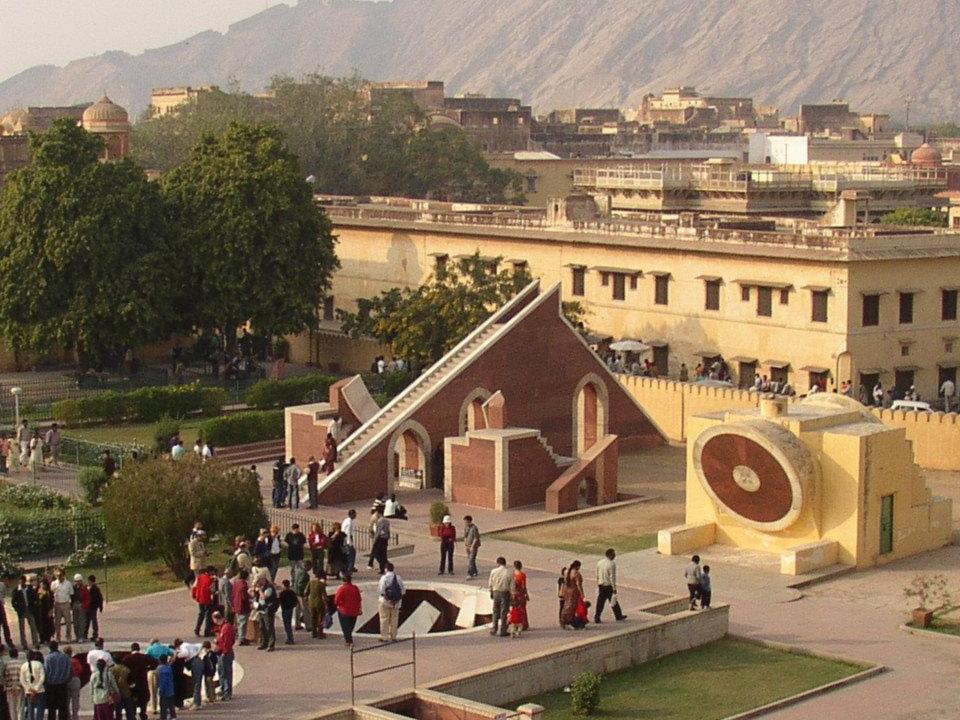
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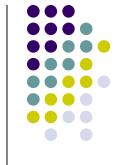
Sawai Jai Singh (1688-1743)











Pere Boudier S.J. to Etienne Souciet

"...The passport that we have ...is in the name of the raja even though we have yet 300 leagues of the country to cross which is part of the Mughal empire; if I am not mistaken, this passport will be more respected than if it were in the name of the emperor himself (meaning the Mughal emperor)" (translated from French).

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Fig. 1. Mean Parameters for the planet Venus in the Zij-i Muhammad Shāhī. The entries in the table follow a modified Abjad notation, and they are read from right to left.



- Jantar Mantgar, Delhi 1724
- Mathura observatory 1723
- Jaipur observatory 1728-1735
- Ujjain before 1730.
- Varanasi observatory 1730

Strobl to the Canonicum in Rome



• "I am of service to Him (Jai Singh) on matters concerning mathematics of which he is extremely fond... He seems to be pleased with my services, since he twice turned down a request by the Mughal emperor, who has invited me for the sake of mathematics to Dely (sic)".

Activities at the Observatory



- [1] the construction of instruments and observatories,
- [2] the production of texts and commentaries in astronomy
- [3] the translation of astronomical texts from Persian, Arabic and European languages into Sanskrit
- [4] the collection and copying of books for the palace library.

Strobl to the Canonicum at St. André



• "the Almighty chose to call our king to other realms ... the late king surpassed all other monarchs reigning in India at this time...his regard for science and learned men; and the great care he took to give his subjects the most beneficial laws...He supported not only men of learning belonging to this nation, ... but he also went to great expense to call learned men from far-away countries to His kingdom... before his death he had decided to ask our Right Honourable Pater General to send him priests acquainted with mathematics whom he wanted to put in charge of the various observatories to be built in his kingdom. How much he spent on such scientific constructions is evident for everybody...".

The sciences of the archeive



 "These projects create and serve the sciences of the archive, which embrace both the human and natural sciences: history and astronomy, meteorology and archaeology... the cultural preconditions for titanic undertakings that project themselves in imagination far into the future; the modalities of classification, from the physical arrangement of books on library shelves to the digital indexing of the data sent by space probes; the fantasy of completeness, whether expressed in a photograph or a museum collection; the techniques for registering and manipulation of information, from the table to the data base". Lorraine Daston