

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I've incurred a number of debts in the course of this project that I will likely be unable to repay, given the generosity of time and expertise they represent. John Randolph led me to the Gorchakov Circular and Jeff Sahadeo also pointed me in the right direction early on. Jeff's willingness to read a draft of the introduction and offer detailed feedback is utterly characteristic and most appreciated as well. Thanks to Bonnie Smith for helping me learn some important lessons. Samia Khatun is an invaluable interlocutor: she asked me hard questions and pushed me to see both the limits and possibilities of my arguments and interpretations, for which I am exceedingly grateful. Martin Smith also read the introduction, offering helpful comments and real solidarity. Tom Bedwell handled all the money and extended himself, as ever, way above and beyond. Meanwhile, Roberta Engleman's index is a thing of beauty for which readers will long be grateful. Paul Arroyo saved the day with technical assistance in the eleventh hour and, as usual, he never broke a sweat.

Versions of the introduction were given as talks at St. Joseph's University; the Center for South Asia and Middle East Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana; and the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference of British Studies. I am grateful to Jay Carter, Valerie Hoffman, Randy McGowen, and the energetic audiences of students and faculty in those venues. Throughout my struggles to come to grips with the material at hand, Zarena Aslami's work has been an inspiration. It's been a real privilege to think through the question of representing Victorian Afghanistan with her. As ever, Miriam Angress has been not just a fabulous editor but a sage and calming influence as well: I feel so lucky to have her in my life. Gerri Burton's interest has never flagged, and as for my father, well, I am sure he never imagined I'd be doing military history. His World War II stories poignantly and grippingly unfolded in long drives to and from Mater Misericordia many years ago. They left an indelible imprint whose echoes are to be found here. Thanks and more love than I am capable of expressing to Paul, Nick, Olivia, and the irrepressible Murphy for always being there.