



GOLDSMID, MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FREDRICK JOHN

GOLDSMID, Major-General Sir Fredrick John, British scholar, negotiator and arbitrator of Perso-Afghan boundary dispute (b. Milan, 1818; d. Hammersmith, England, 1909). Goldsmid was the son of a British cavalry officer and grandson of a well-known Jewish financier. He was educated in Paris and King's College, London, and commissioned in 1839 in the 37th Madras Native Infantry Regiment, with which he served in China and India. In 1851 he went as a political officer to Sind, where, in 1861, he began his long connection with the laying of the telegraph line from London to India, exploring Baluchistan and Makrān and negotiating with local chieftains for the extension of the line. During 1865-70 Goldsmid was director-general in London of the Government of India's Indo-European Telegraph Department. He spent three months in Tehran in 1865 negotiating the Anglo-Persian Telegraph Convention of that year. He was chief British Commissioner on the Baluchistan (Makrān) Boundary Commission of 1870-71 and Arbitrator on the Perso-Afghan (Sistān) Arbitration Commission of 1872-73. Goldsmid was proficient in Hindustani, Arabic, and Persian and learned Turkish when he was attached to Turkish troops in the Crimea in 1855. He was knighted in 1871. After retiring in 1874, Goldsmid maintained a lively interest in Persia, writing and reading papers to the Royal Geographical and other learned societies. He also undertook a number of foreign assignments in Réunion, Egypt, Constantinople, and the Congo. He married in 1849 and had two sons and four daughters.



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