

FOR TEACHING INDIA [to be created, summer]

**IN KOLKATA: CAPITOL OF INDIA, 1772—1911**

- BUILDINGS as material emblems of what has come before, the buildings, the architecture, the stories, the crumbling and watching them disintegrate! In the context of empire, what do they symbolize?
- Photos of “The Dead Letter Office” building, largest PO in the world 1868, most majestic building in imperial India. With a caption requiring some research and critical thinking
- Hellenic columns on official government buildings
- The Writers Building—housed clerks who processed paperwork that maintained the bureaucracy
- The Stephen House [?] research
- The China House [ie, opium trade bank/center of affairs]
- The Scottish bank and insurance building
- Esplanade mansion, area of rich Jews
- [1877 Victoria named emperor of India]
- Near Victoria monument, replica of London’s Hyde park
- Museum of India, biggest museum of Kolkata [India?], built in 1840s
- [1947, partition led millions of Hindus into Kolkata, resulting in overpopulation and death from] starvation

**LESSON MATERIALS—**

- “Material Culture” For En102,
- World Literature, “Multicultural India”
- “Exploring Our Own Communities” Project For En101

1. Dead letters office



1878, James Humpidge the Dead Letter Office





<http://www.victorianweb.org/art/architecture/granville/1.html>

PO



## 1. Writers buildings

THE WRITERS BUILDINGS <http://www.sahasamay.com/>



Designed by Thomas Lyon in 1777 the Writers' building has gone through several extensions over the years. In 1821 A 128 ft-long verandah with ionic style columns, each 32 ft high, were added on the first and second floors. From 1889 to 1906 two new blocks were added. It acquired its Greco-Roman look, complete with the portico in the central bay and the red surface of exposed brick. The parapet was put in place and the statues sculpted by William Fredric Woodington in 1883, that line the terrace, were installed.[3] The giant pediment at the centre is crowned with the statue of Minerva. The terrace also contains several other statues and notable among them are four clusters of statues, christened 'Justice', 'Commerce', 'Science' and 'Agriculture', with the Greek Gods and Goddesses of these four streams (Zeus, Hermes, Athena and Demeter respectively) flanked by a European and an Indian practitioner of these vocations, adorn the building.[4] Wikipedia

## KOLKATA CHINA BUILDING/ INDIAN CHINESE

1. <http://www.kolkatachinatown.com/>
2. "Street in Kolkata hails support by China, Sun" By Indrajit Basu (China Daily) Updated: 2011-10-10 08:00[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/2011-10/10/content\\_13858578.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/2011-10/10/content_13858578.htm)



### 3. Sino-Indian War, 1962

#### Persecution of Chinese Indians

Chinese in India faced anti-national sentiment during the Sino Indian war of 1962.[57] After its defeat in the war, India passed the Defence of India Act in December 1962,[58] permitting the "apprehension and detention in custody of any person [suspected] of being of hostile origin." The broad language of the act allowed for **the arrest of any person simply for having a Chinese surname, a drop of Chinese blood, or a Chinese spouse**.[59] Under the draconian law, 10,000 people of Chinese origin were estimated to have been detained at the desert prison camp in Deoli, Rajasthan. All of them were accused of being spies, but not a single charge has ever been proven.[58] In 1964, many internees were forcibly and arbitrarily deported, resulting in the breakup of many families.[58] The rest were released starting in 1965. The last internees were released from Deoli in mid-1967, after four and half years of captivity.[58] [WIKIPEDIA]

### 4. TOWN HALL, 1813 [houses the Kolkata Museum?]



