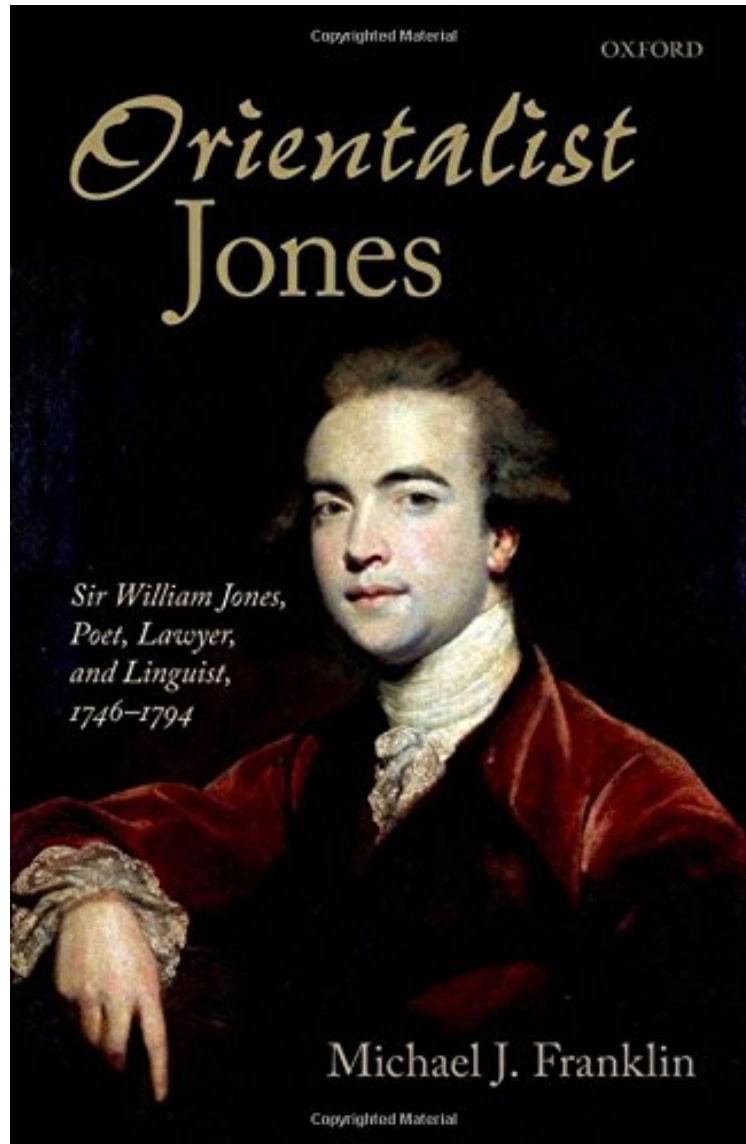


(Download) 'Orientalist Jones': Sir William Jones, Poet, Lawyer, and Linguist, 1746-1794

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Michael J. Franklin

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#2589368 in Books Franklin Michael J 2011-10-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.40 x 1.50 x 9.30l, 1.70 #File Name: 0199532001400 pages Orientalist Jones Sir William Jones Poet Lawyer and Linguist 1746 1794 | File size: 61.Mb

Michael J. Franklin : 'Orientalist Jones': Sir William Jones, Poet, Lawyer, and Linguist, 1746-1794 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 'Orientalist Jones': Sir William Jones, Poet, Lawyer, and Linguist, 1746-1794:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It's probably a very good book. At that price I'll never know. Update: I got the book from interlibrary loan and it is very good. The author has an excellent writing style. Deals with super-complex topics easily. 11 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Review of a Book Unread By Peter Just I hope I will be forgiven for submitting a review of a book I haven't read, but the substance of this "review" is to complain about why I haven't read it. Of all the great polymaths of the 18th century, Sir William Jones must certainly number among the most fascinating and the most admirable. A linguistic prodigy of modest social origins, Jones was educated at Oxford and rose to be entrusted with the creation of the colonial judicial system of Bengal. Amazingly for an Englishman of his times, Jones thought to ask (Hindu) Bengalis about the sources of their legal traditions. He ended up learning Sanskrit and translating the Laws of Manu into English, essentially founding the western discipline of Indology. Moreover, Jones acutely observed the similarities in vocabulary and grammar among Sanskrit, Persian, Gothic and Celtic languages, brilliantly coming to the conclusion that they must have each evolved from a common ancestor, thereby also founding the discipline of historical linguistics. I would love to read a biography of this fascinating man. The good news is that Michael Franklin appears to have written one and seems to be very well qualified to do it. The bad news is that Oxford University Press offers no paperback edition and wants \$65 for the hardcover edition. More absurdly, they think we ought to be willing to pay \$40 for the ebook. I, for one, refuse to be gouged in this way and I note that from the book's sales ranking of 1,723,108 pretty much everyone else in the world does, too. How foolish of OUP! What a disservice they do to Michael Franklin, to the readers of the world, and to poor, old Sir William Jones!

Sir William Jones (1746-94) was the foremost Orientalist of his generation and one of the greatest intellectual navigators of all time. He re-drew the map of European thought. 'Orientalist' Jones was an extraordinary man and an intensely colourful figure. At the age of twenty-six, Jones was elected to Dr Johnson's Literary Club, on terms of intimacy with the metropolitan luminaries of the day. The names of his friends in Britain and India present a roll-call of late eighteenth-century glitterati: Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Priestley, Edmund Burke, Warren Hastings, Johannes Zoffany, Edward Gibbon, Oliver Goldsmith, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Charles James Fox, William Pitt, and David Garrick. In Bengal his Sanskrit researches marked the beginning of Indo-European comparative grammar, and modern comparative-historical linguistics, of Indology, and the disciplines of comparative literature, philology, mythology, and law. He did more than any other writer to destroy Eurocentric prejudice, reshaping Western perceptions of India and the Orient. His commitment to the translation of culture, a multiculturalism fascinated as much by similitude as difference, profoundly influenced European and British Romanticism, offering the West disconcerting new relationships and disorienting orientations. Jones's translation of the Hindu myth of Sakuntala (1789) led to an Oriental renaissance in the West and cultural revolution in India. Remembered with great affection throughout the subcontinent as a man who facilitated India's cultural assimilation into the modern world, Jones helped to build India's future on the immensity, sophistication, and pluralism of its past. Michael J. Franklin's extensive archival research reveals new insights into this radical intellectual: a figure characterized by Goethe as 'a far-seeing man, he seeks to connect the unknown to the known', and described by Dr Johnson as 'the most enlightened of the sons of men'. Unpublished poems and new letters shed fresh light upon Jones in rare moments of relaxation, while Franklin's research of the legal documents in the courts of the King's Bench, the Carmarthen circuit, and the Supreme Court of Bengal illustrates his passion for social justice, his legal acumen, and his principled independence.

"In *Orientalist Jones, Sir William Jones, Poet, Lawyer, and Linguist, 1746-1749*, Michael Franklin has written an engaging, sympathetic, and definitive new scholarly biography of the first great British orientalist, Sir William Jones. Franklin's biography is an impressive achievement, as sure-footed in its understanding of Jones's place in British society as in its depiction of the complex intercultural encounters of Bengal. It is a work of tremendous empathy and understanding, detailed and authoritative. It is the definitive study of Jones's life and work and should become the starting point for all those wishing to voyage in the complicated ways of British orientalist writing." --The Wordsworth Circle
About the Author Michael J. Franklin is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at Swansea University. His main current area of interest is the study of colonial representations of India and their various interfaces with Romanticism, and he has published widely on this subject and on the work of Sir William Jones, including the critical biography *Sir William Jones* (1995), and (as editor) *Sir William Jones: Selected Poetical and Prose Works* (1995), *Representing India: Indian Culture and Imperial Control* (2000), and *The European Discovery of India: Key Indological Sources of Romanticism* (2001). His most recent books are an edited collection of essays, *Romantic Representations of British India* (2006), and a scholarly edition of Phebe Gibbes, *Hartly House, Calcutta* (2007), also published by Oxford University Press.