

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



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Ark of India:
An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia
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A young Roderick MacKenzie, center, while studying art in Boston, circa 1885.
History Museum of Mobile.



MacKenzie spent three years (1893-96) depicting scenes of big game hunting in central and northeast India as part of a commission with an art dealer in Calcutta. This photograph, taken by the artist, shows a line of hunters riding elephants during a tiger hunt. *History Museum of Mobile.*



When his commission ended in 1896, Mackenzie decided to remain in India and depict the people of the country, particularly their daily lives. He traveled extensively throughout the subcontinent, drawing, painting, and photographing scenes like this one, a guru reading to a young pupil. *History Museum of Mobile.*

History is our mission ... to illuminate and preserve.

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This simple sketch by the artist depicts two participants in a religious ceremony, likely in the city of Agra. *History Museum of Mobile.*



MacKenzie produced several paintings of the Taj Mahal. This is one of the reference photographs taken by the artist. *History Museum of Mobile.*



MacKenzie spent a great deal of time in Benares, the holiest city in India, located along the Ganges River. The artist was in the city during the solar eclipse of 1898, which the Hindus viewed as a religious event. Here, MacKenzie observes the daily ritual of bathing in the sacred Ganges. *History Museum of Mobile.*



In Benares, the artist painted from atop a house boat. He described the floating studio for *Century Magazine*: "It is rowed by six men, and makes a delightful studio, just high enough from the water, and with absolutely nothing to interfere with the view" *History Museum of Mobile.*



MacKenzie in his London studio, circa 1905. The unfinished Durbar mural is behind him. The artist returned to America in 1913 and lived in Mobile for the rest of his life. He died in 1941 and is buried in Magnolia Cemetery. *History Museum of Mobile.*

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