



2004

Taj Mahal: India's magestic tomb

AnnMarie Hamar

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Hamar, AnnMarie (2004) "Taj Mahal: India's magestic tomb," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 5 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol25/iss5/10>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Tagliaferro, Linda. *Taj Mahal: India's Majestic Tomb*. Bearport, 2005. ISBN 1597160040.
\$22.60. 32 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Taj Mahal (Agra, India)--Juvenile Literature; India--Juvenile literature; Book--Reviews;

Taj Mahal means "Crown Palace" and is the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal, the second and favorite wife of the Mogul ruler, Shah Jahan. Built in Agra, India by a team of thirty-seven architects from India, Persia, and other countries, it is constructed of white marble and decorated with jewels in its walls. Since the Mogul rulers were Muslim, religion influenced the architecture; for example, quotations from the Koran can be found on the inside walls. Shah Jahan used the gardens as a place to sit and honor his late wife's memory. In later years, the British rulers in India took a much different view of the Taj Mahal, holding large parties on the marble terrace and stealing jewels from the walls. One Governor of India, Lord Bentinck, even wanted to destroy the Taj Mahal so he could take the marble to England and sell it. In the 1900's, Lord Curzon, a great admirer of Indian art, helped restore the Taj Mahal to its former glory. Today this monument is open to the public.

Tagliaferro is an award-winning author; and, this is her seventeenth book for children. Her handling of Shah Jahan's love for Mumtaz Mahal is sweet. The minimal but informative text is complemented by crisp color photographs and reproductions of artwork. A "Just the Facts" section, glossary, timeline, and bibliography, with a list of some useful websites, are included at the end of the book. This is another book in the Castles, Palaces & Tombs series.