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The Thirteen O'Clock News

Pip Pip, today's feature for Monarchy Month is the first Indian knighted, in 1842. His name is Sahib Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy. But why was a Queen keen to knight a native?

The answer lies with the man in a red 'phone-box', the Arch Liberator, the Truth-Sleuth, you know him as every lady's Tonk-Honker: Johhhn Simpsonian!!!

O John Simpsonian, do you Zoom Boom for us?
*Pip Pip... our connection is scrambling... I'll be brief...
This self-made good chap had a chequered mid-life...*

*It seems that in Opium Wartime Jeejeebhoy ran
the speediest clippers bound for China... As you see,
I've landed at the port... at the Yangtze Gorge...*

*Those hordes of mango wood boxes are Jamsetjee's...
And the men with machetes are unloading each box
with brown balls inside as big as a comely lady's breast...*

O John Simpsonian, through gyres and galaxies,
you're the boldest Zoom Boomer! *If I may sum up,
in this dim droopy night... the love-sick mass of men*

*lined along the bank... as though a whole nation
of John Chinamen and Shangrilanders sleepwalking
for a toke, a cut, a suck of the dream of empire...*