

Abstract

Henry Montgomery Lawrence (1806-1857) is an underrated writer. His only novel *Adventures of an Officer in the Service of Runjeet Singh* (1845) has largely been forgotten. Victorians dismissed it as it did not align with the ideals promoted by the British Raj. In the post-colonial discourse, critics have stayed away from the text due to Lawrence's distinguished political career and his death in the 1857 violence. However, this research highlights the merits of Lawrence as an original writer, who was in love with Punjab and its people. He had in-depth knowledge about native culture, history and their vernacular. Resultantly, his portrayal of the East and its peoples is positive. His approach towards the East-West divide is mostly balanced and sometimes even in favour of the natives. When viewed from the lens of Edward Said's *Orientalism*, Lawrence comes out as a writer who is neither racist, nor reliant on stereotypes. The novel contains positive portrayal of the Punjab and its inhabitants. The East is shown to be powerful and equal to the West.