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## Networks of Empire and the Representation of the ‘Queen of Sheba’ in W.H. Angel’s *The Clipper Ship ‘Sheila’*

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### Abstract

“Her earnings are worn on her person, the silver coins melted into ornately wrought jewellery made in the style of villages in India, where the goldsmiths in the southern towns had learned their craft” (Espinet 2003, 249).

Captain Angel’s *The Clipper Ship Sheila* (1921) charts the launch, preparations, outward and return journey of the ship which brought more than 600 indentured labourers to the Caribbean in 1877. This article analyses the representation of indentured migrants, Indian subjects, passengers, and other subjects on the periphery of indentureship; these are considered in terms of the overarching theme of the author’s imaginative relations to his surroundings. The article begins by providing some examples of Angel’s world outlook and how his text includes elements of the network of systems behind Britain’s global imperial presence; it is within this context that any other representation in the text should be viewed. The central focus of the paper is an extended analysis of Angel’s perspective of one particular subject, whom he chooses to single out and elaborate on in his text.