



# NMI NEWS LETTER

**National Museum Institute**  
of  
**History of Art, Conservation and Museology**

Vol 1 No 4

July - Sept. 2003

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSEOLOGY

### Internship Programme

Under the internship programme, a group of five students namely, Moushumi Chatterji, Sanjib Roy, Nidhi Kamra, Shashi Bala and Valentina Dolley from Museology Department, National Museum Institute, Janpath, New Delhi, worked on a documemation project at the Kumaon Regimental Museum, Ranikhet.

The museum, located in the heart of Kumaon Regimental Center area, Ranikhet, Uttranchal, is one of the oldest defence museums of the country. It hosts a wide range of objects pertaining to the history of Kumaon Regiment. The Museum exhibits the valour, courage and strength of the Regiment. The collection includes medals, rifles, dress, documents, flags, banners, mementos etc.



*A view of the ongoing class of Museology at NMI*

**National Museum Campus, Janpath, New Delhi-110011**

The team undertook the work of classification and photo documentation. The work of preliminary cataloguing was completed in 12 days, starting from 1-12 August 2003. The total number of objects were approximately 1400. Tripartite numbering system was followed for the documentation. The range of materials included metal, wood, paper documents, dresses and other cloth materials.

This internship programme has been very enlightening and the students learnt practical knowledge related to the field of museology.



NMI Students working at the Kumaon Regimental Museum, Ranikhet, Uttranchal

### **Invited Lecture**

During the quarter, Dr. Amareswar Galla had a forum discussion with students. Dr. Galla, born and educated in India, is the Director of Studies, Center for Sustainable Heritage Development Programs, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University, Canberra and the International Technical Adviser for the implementation of Museum and Cultural Diversity Promotion at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden.

More recently, he worked with the UNESCO in the establishment of World Heritage Areas. He also worked in development and poverty alleviation projects at Ha Long Bay and Hoi An in Vietnam and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in India.

### **Placement**

**Mr. Noorul Hoda**, a research scholar of Museology department has been appointed as the Assistant Curator of the Supreme Court Museum. Mr. Hoda has graduated from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and subsequently did his Masters in Museology from the National Museum Institute. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Museology in this institute. He is also the recipient of the UGC Fellowship. Besides, he has worked for various major projects of this institute and has been instrumental in setting up various museums across the country. The Supreme Court Museum, located within the Supreme Court complex, traces the evolution and development of the judicial system in India from the ancient to the modern age. Various objects related to the judiciary are displayed here. Interesting among them are the various files containing some of the landmark judgements and several gift items received by the judges over the years. This museum is likely to be inaugurated very soon.

## **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

### **Academic Activities of the Department**

The new batch of students joined the Department and the academic activities began with the start of this quarter. The academic curriculum of first semester includes two core courses – *General Studies & Arts and Crafts*; two interdepartmental compulsory courses - *General History of Art & General Museology* and one seminar. Likewise the students of third semester are offered two core courses – *Deterioration of Objects & Conservation of Objects* and one seminar. Besides this, the Department is also offering one interdepartmental course on *General Conservation* to the students of History of Art and Museology.

### **Workshops/Seminars/Meetings on Conservation**

- A national workshop on '*Museums and Disasters: Planning, Preparedness and Management*' was organised at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003. The workshop was hosted



*Sh. T.M. Jacob, Minister for Tourism and Culture, Govt. of Kerala inaugurating the workshop on Museums and Disasters in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala*

in collaboration with the Department of Archives, Archaeology, Museums and Zoos, Government of Kerala. Shri T.M. Jacob, Minister for Tourism and Culture inaugurated it. The Vice Chancellor, NMI

Dr. R.D. Choudhury was Chief Guest in the valedictory function.

The workshop was attended by a large number of participants from different organizations/institutions from across the country. The students of the Institute also participated in it and discussed various issues related to disaster management. The Workshop provided a forum to the participants for discussion on the current situation of various types of disasters and potential risk to the cultural heritage. Mr. Satish C. Pandey, Assistant Professor in the Department presented an integrated plan on disaster management in museums and cultural institutions. The working groups of the workshop have formulated the recommendations to be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.

## **Educational Tour**

An educational tour for the students of all the three disciplines was organised during the national workshop at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The students visited various museums, cultural and historical monuments and sites in Thiruvananthapuram

and Cochin, including the Naval Museums in the base headquarter at Cochin. The students discussed various aspects involved in Museology, Conservation and issues of Art History with staff members and custodians.



*Educational tour group*



Dr. R.D. Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, NMI delivering Valedictory speech

- An international workshop on 'Protection of Cultural Heritage in South Asia' was organised by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka from 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2003. Dr. M. V. Nair, Head of Department and Dean of Academic Affairs participated in the workshop and co-facilitated a session on Documentation and Inventory. The workshop aimed at finding out ways and means to curb illicit trafficking and looting of cultural heritage and damage caused to the cultural heritage due to natural catastrophes in South Asian countries.
- Dr. M.V. Nair, Head of the Department and Dean of Academic Affairs attended the meetings of National Mission for Manuscripts held at Thiruvananthapuram and New Delhi and chaired the sessions on preservation of manuscripts.

### Special Lectures

Mr. Vinod Daniel, Head of Research Centre for Material Conservation and the Built Heritage, Australian Museum, Sydney delivered a special lecture on 'Issues involved in conservation of Tangible and Intangible Heritage' during his visit to India. He also discussed with students about other current issues involved in conservation and heritage management.

### Forthcoming Events

The department is planning to organise a workshop in Mizoram under the North East development and

awareness programme tentatively in the first week of February 2004. The exact dates and venue of the workshop will be finalised in due course.

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART

### Academic Activities of the Department

This quarter saw the coming of the new batch of students, bringing with them fresh enthusiasm, new approaches and ideas. For the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester students, a wide range of courses pertaining to Indian as well as Global Art and Architecture were available. Courses on offer this semester included *Art and Architecture of South India (6<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. A.D.)*, *Mughal Art*, *Colonial and Post-Colonial Painting in India*, *Chinese Art*, *Egyptian Art* and *Greek Art*. As an inter-departmental bridge course, a course in *General History of Art* was offered to the students of the departments of Conservation and Museology. The busy teaching schedule including such a wide regional and temporal coverage was possible due to the cumulative expertise of the faculty members of the department. This includes both the core as well as the visiting faculty of the Department: Dr. A. Sengupta (Head, Associate Professor), Ms. Parul Pandya Dhar (Assistant Professor), Dr. Anupa Pande (UGC Research Scientist), Dr. Neeru Misra, Dr. Sampa Biswas and Ms. Roobina Karode (Visiting Faculty).

### UCEAP Semester Abroad Programme: Course in Indian Art and Architecture



Students of California University attending the class at NMI

The Department of History of Art is currently conducting a course in Indian Art and Architectural History for the students of the University of California under the Semester Abroad Programme. The course, stretching over twenty lectures and site visits from August through November, offers an overview of the landmarks in Indian Art and Architecture from ancient through medieval to modern times. The lectures are being delivered by the core and visiting faculty members of the Department of History of Art. A very popular course with the foreign students, it has now become an annual feature at the National Museum Institute.

### **Three Public Lecture Series: Art Appreciation, India - Art and Culture and *Bharatiya Kalanidhi***

For several years now, the three public lecture series conducted by the National Museum Institute have gained wide acclaim and have been very well attended by art lovers and students of art and architecture. The series aims to include people from all walks of life who may have nurtured an interest in art and Art History but may not have got an opportunity to pursue it at length. It is also meant for those in related fields like tourism and heritage management. Upon successful completion of the series, participants are awarded a Certificate of Participation. Two of the courses, Art Appreciation and India-Art and Culture, are conducted in the English medium, whereas lectures for the *Bharatiya Kalanidhi* course are delivered in Hindi. The Course Director, Dr. P.K. Sharma ensured the quality and standard of lectures by bringing in galaxy of experts to deliver lectures: Dr. S.P. Gupta, Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Dr. Anupa Pande, Dr. P.K. Sharma and Ms. Parul Pandya Dhar were some of the scholars who gave illustrated lectures.

### **Papers Presented at Seminar on Portraiture in Indian Miniatures**

At a National Seminar on Portraiture in Indian Miniatures organized by the National Museum, Dr. A. Sengupta, Associate Professor and Head, Department of History of Art, presented a paper on *Cross-Cultural Links in Indian Portraiture* Ms. Rajeshwari Shah of the

Department of History of Art presented a paper on *Portraiture Traditions in Bundelkhand*.

### **Seminar on Feminine Beauty in Indian Art**

A special seminar on "Feminine Beauty in Indian Art" was held at Saugor in collaboration with the Indian Art History Congress and Saugor University, Saugor (Madhya Pradesh) from 12th to 14th July, 2003. It was inaugurated by Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission.

### **Guest Lectures**

The Department of History of Art arranged special lectures by visiting scholars of eminence during this quarter. Dr. Stacey Prickett from the United Kingdom spoke on *Dance Movements in the West*. Dr. Manjushree Rao from Bhopal spoke on the *Heritage of Sanchi* and also on *the Art in the Bhopal Museum*.

### **Workshop cum Study Tour to Kerala**

The students of National Museum Institute went for a study tour to Kerala in September-October. After attending a workshop on Museums and Disasters: Planning, Preparedness and Management, the students toured various heritage sites and museums in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and other places of interest in Kerala. They were guided and supported by Dr. M.V. Nair, Dean, Academic Affairs and Shri Satish Pandey, Assistant Professor, Department of Conservation.



*A view of the Art History class at NMI*

## Forthcoming Seminars

The History of Art Department is actively involved in preparing for two important National Seminars. The first is the XIIth session of the Indian Art History Congress to be held in the second week of November at the Indian Museum Calcutta. The Second is a National Seminar on the Art and Architecture of the North-East of India being hosted by the National Museum Institute in collaboration with the Kamarpura Anusandhan Samiti, Guwahati, in the first week of December.

## GENERAL NEWS

Dr. R.D. Choudhury, VC, attended the North-Zone Vice-Chancellor's Conference hosted by the University of Kashmir at Srinagar on 22-23 September, 2003. The Conference was inaugurated by the H.E. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S.K. Sinha, PVSM, the Governor of J & K.

DG, NM & VC, NMI called on Dr. D. Venkatasubramanian, Member, Planning Commission on 6th October, 2003 and discussed the issues related to development of the NMI as centre of excellence.

## Painting Exhibition



*Dr. (Smt) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha inaugurating a painting exhibition entitled 'Feeling - An Exhibition of Paintings' by Dr. P.K. Sharma, Shri. Anindya Kanti Biswas and Miss Mani Sharma at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi*



*Sh. Keshav Malik interacting with the artists (L to R) Ms. Mani Sharma, Dr. P.K. Sharma and Mr. Anindya Kanti Biswas*

A painting exhibition entitled 'Feeling-An Exhibition of Paintings' by Dr. P.K. Sharma, Registrar i/c and two students of the National Museum Institute namely Shri. Anindya Kanti Biswas and Miss Mani Sharma, was displayed at Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi. Inaugurated by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, the week long exhibition remained open from 18th to 24th July, 2003. Many dignitaries were present at the inaugural session.

## Special Lecture

Prof. Ramesh Chandra Pandey from Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapitha, New Delhi delivered a special lecture on 21st July 2003 in the conference room of the National Museum Institute on the following topics

1. Guru Shishya Parampara
2. Ancient Indian Educational System

## Term completed



*Dr. B. Venugopal*

Dr. B. Venugopal, Registrar of the National Museum Institute completed two years of his deputation on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2003 and went back to his parent department i.e. National Museum of Natural History, Barakhambha road, New Delhi.

Dr. P.K. Sharma, Assistant Registrar (Academic) has been given the additional charge of the post of Registrar.

## Retirement



*Prof. A.K. Das*

Prof. A.K. Das, Maulana Azad Chair Professor in Department of Museology retired on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Prof. Das joined the Institute in 1996 and served NMI for long time. He was actively involved in academic and professional activities of the Institute.

## New appointment



*Prof. R.C. Agrawal*

Prof. R.C. Agrawal joined as Dr. Maulana Azad Chair Professor in the Department of Museology on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Prof. Agrawal has served Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) as a Member Secretary and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for two decades in various capacity.

## Certificate distribution for the students of Art Appreciation, India: Art & Culture



*Dr. S.S. Biswas, Ex VC, NMI, Dr. P.K. Sharma Registrar I/c and Dr. R.D. Choudhury, VC, National Museum Institute during the Certificate distribution programme for the short term courses*

The students, who had passed the courses of Art Appreciation, India: Art & Culture were given certificates. These Certificates were given away by Dr. S.S. Biswas, Ex. Director General of National Museum and Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute, New Delhi.



*A Student receiving certificate for short term course from Dr. S.S. Biswas former Vice-Chancellor National Museum Institute*

## PH. D. DEGREE AWARDED BY INSTITUTE

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	Topic/Area of the Research	Degree awarded in	Department
1.	Mr. Amir Hossein Zekrgoo	The Evolution of Islamic Calligraphy during Shahjahn period	2nd convocation 1993	History of Art
2.	Ms. Mandana Barkeshli	Scientific study of the materials of miniature paintings of India and Persia	5th convocation 1997	Conservation
3.	Ms. Anupama Nigam	New Museology	5th convocation 1997	Museology
4.	Mr. S.C. Sharma	Paristhitic Sangrahalya ke paripekshya mein shailchitra wa Korku Sanskriti	6th convocation 2000	Museology
5.	Mr. Swapan K. Biswas	Bangaldesh National Museum: A New Dimension in Museum Development	6th convocation 2000	Museology
6.	Ms. J. Kedareshwari	Colonial Calcutta (1957-1911): A Socio-Cultural Artistic study	7th convocation 2002	History of Art
7.	Ms. Pallavi Sharma	Krishnalila Text, Performance and Paintings-A Study in Comparative Narratology in Braja Bhumi as a problematic of inter-relationship	7th convocation 2002	History of Art
8.	Ms. Hussein Mehroupya	Critical study of Mughal & Sur Inscriptions in Northern India (Delhi, Haryana & Punjab)	7th convocation 2002	History of Art
9.	Ms. Anu Jindal	Nature in Japanese Art	7th convocation 2002	History of Art
10.	Ms. Maeng Joo Son	The Rise of Delhi as Centre of contemporary Indian Art since Independence	7th convocation 2002	History of Art

All the suggestions/informations for the improvement of the 'NMI Newsletter' are welcome & the same may be sent directly to the Editor by post or e-mail on [byanktesh\\_n\\_singh@hotmail.com](mailto:byanktesh_n_singh@hotmail.com)

**Edited and Compiled by :** Byanktesh Narain Singh, Slide Librarian, National Museum Institute. Phone : 011-23012988 Telefax : 237942249

**Published by :** Dr. P. K. Sharma, Registrar, I/c, National Museum Institute (Deemed University), Janpath New Delhi-110011, Website : [www.nationalmuseumindia.org](http://www.nationalmuseumindia.org)

Photographs : Sh. Tejvir Singh, National Museum  
Printed by: Creative Offset, New Delhi, Tel : 35344725