



Art of Embroidery from South India and Preventive Care of Textile Collection

17th – 18th March, 2015

Conference Room, National Museum, New Delhi

Concept Note

Embroidery is the most artistic and creative expression of textile ornamentation. It has the ability to convey the social, cultural and personal aesthetics in a remarkable way.

Although the tradition of embroidery is prevalent throughout the country, those of south India are less popular. Apart from the Zari brocade and the Kalamkari traditions of South India, some of the popular embroidery forms of the region that showcase its age old existence are Toda (Tamil Nadu), Kausti (Karnataka), Banjara (Andhra Pradesh).

These beautiful embroideries were done for domestic, religious and commercial purposes – a trend that exemplifies its adaptability and geographical reach.

These embroidered artefacts also speak volumes about the makers and the users, reflecting the makers' thought processes and the users' aesthetic sensibilities.

Who were the Embroiderers? Who were the commissioners? Where were they used and traded? What drove them in choosing the styles and themes? The first day of the seminar discusses issues such as these regarding the embroideries of South India.

Being organic in nature, textiles encounter various conservational problems such as color fading, color bleeding, weakness of fibres, strains, etc. When displayed and stored in a museum environment, these issues require immediate attention, and appropriate preventive measures. A correct preventive regime enables a longer life span for textiles in a museum environment.

The second day of the seminar will focus on the conservative aspects of embroidered textiles. Issues such as preventive care, methods and practices of preserving textiles in a museum environment would be addressed.

The two-day symposium is organized by Decorative Arts Department and Conservation Laboratory of the National Museum, New Delhi.

Seminar Schedule

Tuesday, 17th March 2015

10:30 to 11:30 am

Opening Ceremony, Conference Room, First Floor

- Welcome : Dr. Anamika Pathak
Curator, Decorative Arts, National Museum
- Introductory Address : Dr. R. P. Savita
Director, Conservation
- Lamp Lighting : Dr. Venu Vasudevan, Dr. Anamika Pathak, Dr. R. P. Savita,
Dr. Choodamani Nandgopal
- Inaugural Address : Dr. Venu Vasudevan
Director General, National Museum
- Keynote Address : **The Impact of Material Culture on the Genesis of
Embroidered Art of South India**
Dr. Choodamani Nandgopal
Dean, Faculty of humanities & Social Sciences
Jain University Bangalore
- Vote of thanks : Mr. P. K. Nagta
Chemist, Head of Office and PRO
- 11:30 to 12:00 pm : Tea, Outside Conference Room
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Presentations (Conference Room, First Floor)

Session 1:

Chair: Dr. Lotika Varadrajan

- 12:00 to 12:40 pm : Dr. Nita Sengupta
*Embroidered textiles of South India from the collection of
Indian Museum*
- 12: 40 to 1:10 pm : Dr. Anamika Pathak
*Rare Embroidered temple hanging in the National Museum
Collection*
- 1:10 to 1:30 pm : Discussion
- 1: 30 to 2:30 pm : Lunch Break, Outside Conference Room

Session 2:

Chair: Dr. Choodamani Nandgopal

- 2:30 to 3: 10 pm : Dr. Simmi Bhagat and Dr. Rohini Arora
Embroidered Wall Hanging from South India: Stitch Analysis
- 3: 10 to 3: 50 pm : Dr. Vandana Bhandari
Stitches of Tradition: Embroideries of South India
- 3:50 to 4: 30 pm : Ms. Smita Singh
Use of Beetle wings in South Indian Embroidery
- 5:00 to 5: 15 pm : Tea, Outside Conference Room

Wednesday, 18th March 2015***Presentations (Conference Room, First Floor)***

- 10: 30 – 11: 30 am : Dr. R.P. Savita
Care and Handling of Textiles
- 11:30 – 12:00 pm : Tea, Central Rotunda, NM
- 12: 15 to 1:00 pm : Mr. R. C. Jain
Identification of fibres
- 1:00 to 2:00 pm : Lunch Break, Central Rotunda, NM
- 2:30 to 4:30 pm : Mr. Anand Kumar
Cleaning of Textiles/ Demonstration of Darning
- 5: 00 to 5:30 pm : Tea, Central Rotunda, NM
- 5: 30 pm onward : Performance by Hindustani Classical Singer Vidya Rao,
Auditorium, Ground Floor