

Volume 2. Issue 2. 2009
April - June

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
(formerly Prince of Wales Museum of Western India)



"..India could have been what she undoubtedly was, and could not have continued a cultured existence for thousands of years, if she had not possessed something very vital and enduring, something that was worthwhile."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Discovery of India

The Museum

NEWSLETTER - every quarter



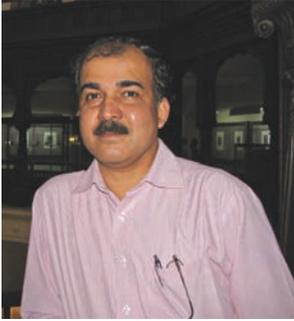
A performance by Symphony Orchestra of India
Organised in collaboration with National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA, Mumbai)

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Sabyasachi Mukherjee
Director, CSMVS

Greetings from the Museum

We are indeed happy to present the Volume 2, Issue 2 (April – June, 2009) of the Museum Newsletter- every quarter.

The past quarter was very exciting in terms of number of cultural and educational activities as well as initiation of several development projects. The most outstanding amongst all of these was the book releasing function of the Museum's first joint publication with the V&A Museum, London, a richly illustrated volume titled "Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists: paintings and drawings from the 17th to the early 20th century from the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London". The book was authored by Pauline Rohatgi and Graham Parlett, assisted by Shirley Imray & Pheroza Godrej and was released on 7th January by Dr. Pratapaditya Pal, Editor, Marg Publications. This occasion was most gratifying. We are pleased and proud to present here an appreciation letter about this publication received from the Honorable President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil for your record.

Like last year, this time also we had celebrated the 87th Anniversary on the Museum Day i.e. 10th January, with staff felicitation and a cultural event by the Museum staff. It has now become one of the major annual events of the Museum. We thank Shri B.G.Deshmukh, Chairman, Board of Trustees, for his support. The Museum had also organized another event - a Western Classical Concert by Symphony Orchestra of India created by NCPA, Mumbai in collaboration with the NCPA, Mumbai on 28th January 2009, under the great dome. It was well attended and a successful event.

Another most important and successful event of the past quarter which I would like to share with you was the inauguration of a permanent gallery on the Krishna theme, on 2nd February. The Gallery was designed from the modern lighting and presentation point of view. It was inaugurated by Shri Jawahar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and Dr. Ashok Vajpayee, Chairman, Lalit Kala Academy.

We are happy to present here all our past quarter activities under a separate Recap Section and also a project highlight under special project. They give you an overview and a visual record of all our activities.

We hope this issue of the Newsletter also proves informative about our activities and look forward to your valuable suggestions.

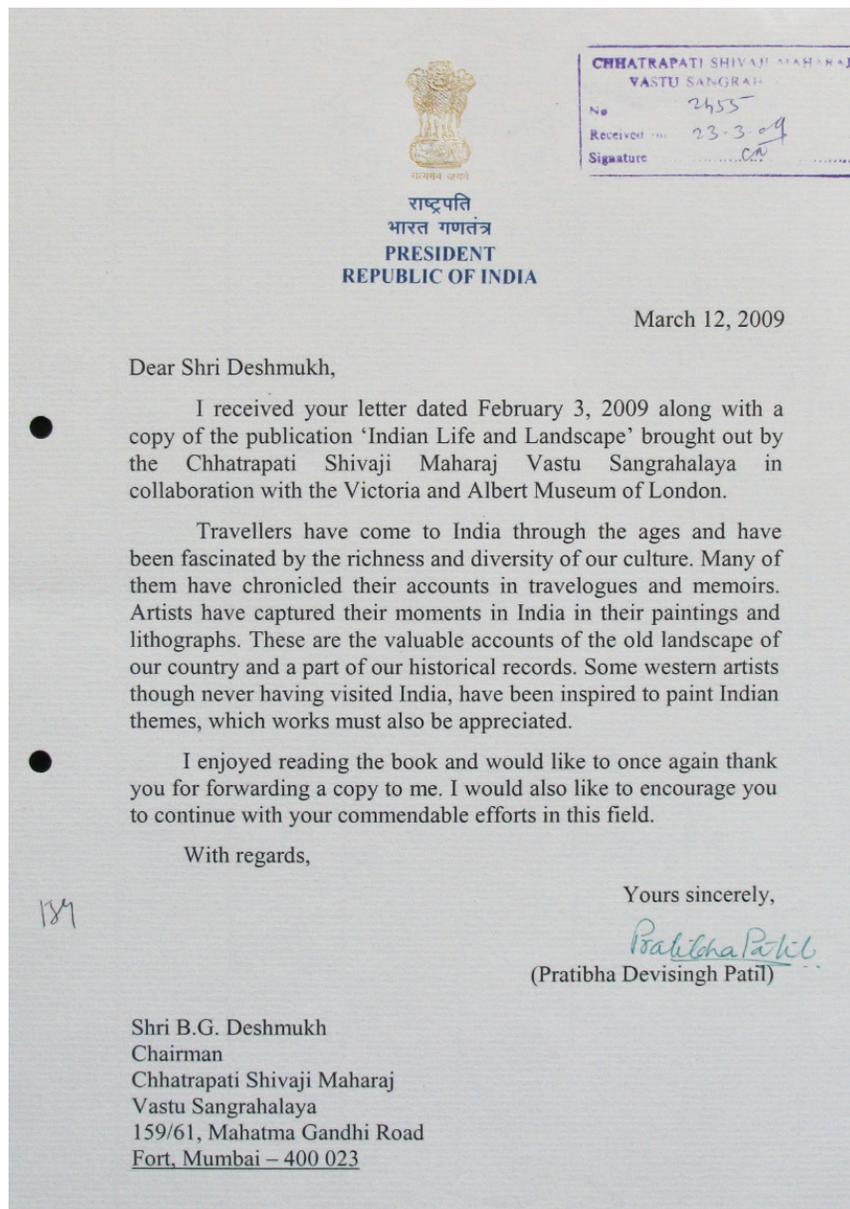
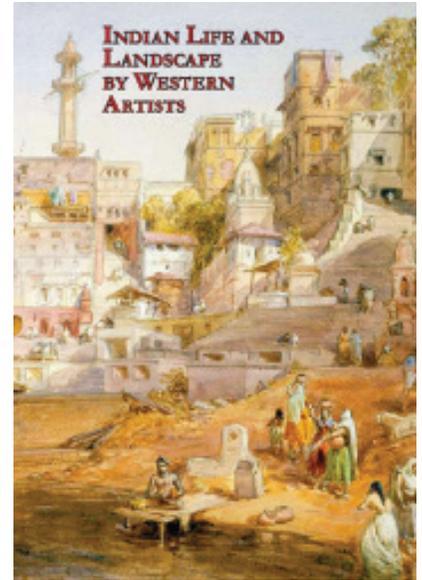
SPECIAL EVENT

Release of the Exhibition catalogue

“ Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists: paintings and drawings from the 17th to the early 20th century from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London ” to coincide with the exhibition.

The Book was released by Dr. Pratapaditya Pal at the Seminar Room on 7th January 2009.

**Letter from the Honourable President, Republic of India
Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil
12th March 2009**



CURATOR'S CORNER

A Jain Pilgrimage *Pata*

In any discussion on the Jain paintings in general, what we immediately recall are the miniature sized manuscript illustrations. However, there are other varieties of large sized paintings painted on paper and cloth that are preserved in the Jain Bhandaras and private collections. Such paintings are generally termed as the Pata Chitras.



Fig. 1, Tirtha Pata, Lacquered wood, Surat, c. 19th Century

Alike the murals, the tradition of Pata Chitras has a very long tradition. Its antiquity can be traced through a number of literally sources. The 6th century Jain work, written in Maharashtri Prakrit, Vasudevahimdi contains a reference to the narratives painted on a long piece of cloth– Patta graphically representing the important incidents from the previous birth of princess Sayampabha (Jamkhedkar, p. 150). A reference to the painted canvas (Pata) depicting the wheel of mundane existence (Samsara Chakra) appears in another Jain text: Kuvalayamala composed by Uddyotana Suri in AD 778-79 (Upadhye, vol. 1, p. 50). The term Yamapata, whose reference is met with in the famous Sanskrit play Mudrarakshasa by Vishakahadatta, is indicative of a painted canvas showing the various human karmas leading to the sinful world of hell or the blissful realm of heaven (Karmarkar, pp. 14-15); whereas the Yamapattika, the reference to which is found in the fifth Uchhvasa i.e. chapter of Harshacharita of Banabhatta, literally means the showmen of the Yamapata (Kane, p. 21). The tradition of Pabuji nu Phad painting of Rajasthan, which was famous until very recent time, is the vestigial counter part of the ancient Pata Chitra tradition.

Jain Patas broadly has two categories viz. tantric and non-tantric. The first category depicts diagrams i.e. the Yantras along with the chants i.e. Mantras and the images of deities. Such paintings

were considered to be the means of the 'direct path' to enlightenment and were used in the tantric rituals (Andhare, p. 78). The second category encompassed the paintings that depicted the religious contents but were not said to be used during the tantric rites and represented a wide variety of subjects that were both narrative and didactic in nature. These are said to be contemporary and painted in a regional styles. The paintings representing the Jain cosmology and cosmography and variety of banners such as the letter of invitation (Vijnaptipatra), letter of pardon (Kashamapanapatra), pictorial poetry (Chitra Kavya) and the pilgrimage picture (Tirtha Pata) (Andhare, p.78).

The accompanying picture (Fig 1) is of a pilgrimage pata painted in opaque water colours on a wooden panel of 70 x 58 cm (27 9/16" x 22 12/16") size and it's a recent addition to the Museum's collection. The panel depicts a Jain temple housing three Tirthankaras or a Tritirthi, inside a sanctum having a parikar with gates on three sides and the bastions on four corners. The Parikara of temple has 52 Jinalayas enshrining the Jinas. In this Parikara, some devotees and a donor couple are also shown. Around the Parikkara there are lot devotees, donors who have gathered this pilgrimage centre, shopkeepers at the right busy selling milk and a man near the shop can be seen carrying a jhari (a spouted vessel) of milk. According to Jain tradition, the pilgrims carry a jhari filled with milk and water while climbing the hill. Above the Shikhara of the main temple, there are flying angels on either side which suggest the colonial influence. The painting has a floral border on all the four sides and the background is painted in lacquered red colour which is considered to be auspicious.

All the architectural elements, the images of the Tritirthi and that of the Jinas enshrined in the Jinalayas are slightly projected as in relief and probably painted with the golden colour and embellished with the white dots (Fig 2). This is one of the predominant features of this painting which is reminiscent of the Tanjore paintings in which some parts of painting showing the jewels, drapery, architectural elements are represented in low relief and gilded with gold leaf and studded with precious and semiprecious stones.

CURATOR'S CORNER

The Jains regard pilgrimage as a rite of commemoration and the places of pilgrimage have been associated with the events in the lives of Jinas: the extraordinary individuals who attained perfect knowledge, taught the Jain doctrine, and achieved liberation from the cycle of rebirths. The Shvetambara Jains hold five places that are all located on mountains to be most sacred. The five pilgrimages are Shatrunjaya, Girnar in Saurashtra, Abu in Rajasthan, Sammeda in Bihar and Ashtapada located in the Himalayas (Granoff, pp. 63, 65).

The style of the painting greatly resembles the illustrations of manuscript Shripalārāsa, painted at Surat and dated as circa AD 1829 (Shah, colour plate J, black & white plates 117-120). On this basis, one can assume that the panel under discussion may have been painted at Surat during c. 19th century as Surat is known as the manufacturing center of the Jain artefacts. We are aware of a number of wooden Patas painted at Surat in the past.

Every Jain is expected to visit one of these pilgrimage centers once in his lifetime. Those, who are unable to make it, can derive the spiritual merits of pilgrimage by personally viewing the cartographic overviews of the pilgrimage. The topographical representation appears to be a basic formula for all the pilgrimage pictures. Every year on the full-moon day of the bright half of the month of Karttika (October-November) such pilgrimage pictures are hung in the direction of Shatrunjaya in the vicinity of a temple or at a prepared location for the devotees to worship (Andhare, p. 84).

As a tradition, such pictures and the Patas were usually painted on big sizes to enable the viewers to see all the details without much difficulty however, this particular example of the pilgrimage Pata wood and may have been used in a house-shrine of a wealthy Jain Shresthi or a smaller Jain temple



Fig. 2, Jain Temple Housing Tritirthis detail of Fig.1.

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Prasanna Mangrulkar
Asistant Curator

SUBSCRIPTION

For subscribing to the Museum Newsletter Quarterly Issue, kindly post / hand deliver / email the following information with payment of subscription fees by Cheque / DD / Cash to the Museum address :
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MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Recap

January



Release of the book " Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists: paintings and drawings from the 17th to the early 20th century from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London " to coincide with the exhibition of the same title.

The Book was released by Dr. Pratapaditya Pal at the Seminar Room on 7th January 2009.



" 87th Anniversary Celebrations "

Cultural Programmes organised by the Staff of the Museum on the Museum Lawns on 10th January 2009



" Symphony Orchestra of India "

Musical Director: Marat Bisengaliev

An orchestra organised in collaboration with the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai in the Key Gallery of the Museum. 28th January 2009.

MUSEUM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

February



Inauguration of the “Krishna Gallery”

A permanent gallery of art objects related to the ‘Krishna’ theme was inaugurated by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, followed by a musical performance by Pandit Arvind Parikh and students at the Key Gallery. 2nd February 2009.



Seminar: “Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists”

Organized in collaboration with the Museum Society of Bombay 5th and 6th February 2009 at the Coomaraswamy Hall and Seminar Room

Speakers:

1. Dr. Saryu Doshi
2. Dr. Arunachalan
3. Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar
4. Mr. Anupam Sah
5. Ms. Pheroza Godrej
6. Ms. Pauline Rohatgi
7. Ms. Divia Patel
8. Ms. Anne Buddle

SPECIAL PROJECTS

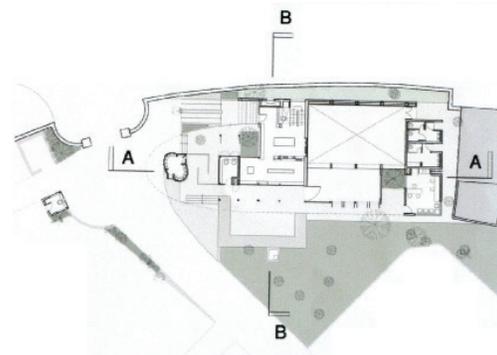
Redevelopment of the Children's Creative Centre

Part of the Museum Modernisation Project

- Renovation of ticket and left baggage Counter
- Toilets
- Modern security booth
- Children's creative center
- Museum shop

We have undertaken a plan to renovate the Children's Creative Centre with a view to provide much better facilities to our visitors by reorganizing the ticket and luggage counters and modernizing the security booth which is of utmost urgent need in the present circumstances. Besides these, renovation of the Children's Creative Centre, which will be better equipped for carrying out educational activities of children and holding lectures. The renovated Children's Creative Centre would provide some space for the sale of publication of art works, replicas and other art-related material.

Expected Completion March 2010



Forthcoming

April, May, June

17th and 18th April 2009

A two day workshop on

“HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Organised by

Board of Studies in Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology, University of Mumbai, in collaboration with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
Dept. of Ancient Indian Culture, St Xavier's College
Museum Society of Bombay

Dept. of Ancient Indian Culture, Sathaye College, Mumbai
Venue:

17th April: Convocation Hall, University of Mumbai,
Fort Campus. 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

18th April: Seminar Hall, 1st floor, Museum.
10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

15th May 2009

Karl Khandalavala Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Dr. Kirit Mankodi

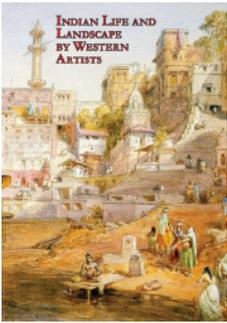
Venue: Coomaraswamy Hall

Museum Library

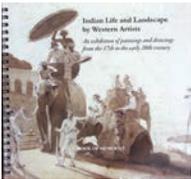
- **Archaeology of Fatehpur Sikri - new discoveries**
Sharma, D. V.
- **Dhurries - History, Technique, Pattern, Identification**
Chaldecott, Nanda
- **Encyclopedia of Indian architecture - Vol. 1 Hindu, Vol. 2 Buddhist**
Nagarch, B. L. & others. Eds.
- **Garden & Cosmos. The royal paintings of Jodhpur**
Debra, Diamond & others.
- **Garuda in Asian art**
Yamamoto, Etsuo & Sharma, D.P.
- **Hindu and Buddhist monuments and remains in South-east Asia**
Khanna, Amar Nath
- **Kumbhalgarh - The pride of Maharanas of Mewar**
Dorje, C. and Dimri, D.N.
- **Oil paintings in public ownership in the Victoria and Albert Museum**
- **Rajput painting - romantic, divine and courtly art from India**
Ahluwalia, Roda
- **Reminiscences of an archaeologist**
Rao, S.R.

Museum Shop

NEW RELEASES



"Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists" Exhibition Catalogue by Pauline Rohatgi and Graham Parlett assisted by Shirley Imray & Pheroza Godrej (Size: 9.5 x12.5 inches. 372 pgs. 313 colour and 52 b&w illustrations, 25 line drawings) Rs. 2500/-



Book of Memories (Diary)
Rs. 175/- each



Mugs (2 designs)
Rs. 150/-each



Krishna
Book related to the Krishna theme by Vandana Prapanna and Manisha Nene (Size: 9.5 x12.5 inches. 372 pgs. 313 colour and 52 b&w illustrations, 25 line drawings) Rs. 2500/-



Exhibition Paper Bag
Rs. 75/- each

The Museum Shop contributes towards the promotion of Indian culture through different art materials. There is a wide range of books, published by the Museum as well as renowned publishers. The Shop also displays different articles such as greeting cards, posters, brochures, folders, letter- paper sets, gift- wrapping papers and bags inspired by the design/ details of the art objects from the Museum collection. Bead necklaces, repousse copper plates, embroidered silk scarves, purses and table pieces are among other articles available in the Shop. Our visitors take these as small mementos of their visit to the Museum. Informative educational trails and kits are available for students, which help increase their interaction with the Museum.

Buy and Help us Preserve our National Heritage!

MUSEUM COLLECTION

The Museum has a representative collection of various forms of art from India and to a certain extent, Far-Eastern art, Nepal and Tibet. The Natural History section is a major attraction for children.

Ancient Indian art is represented by the Stone Sculpture gallery with sculptures from Elephanta and other important sites especially from Western India. The Indian Miniature Painting collection represents one of the best collections of miniatures in the country. The Museum also has a magnificent collection of Decorative Art objects in jade, wood, ivory, metal as well as textiles. The Nepalese and Tibetan artefacts are ascribed to important religious and artistic phases of these regions. The Numismatic collection, acquired from various well-known hoards and also from individual collections, covers an entire range of important issues. The Museum also houses an interesting collection of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, metal and ivory objects and embroidery. European Oil Paintings and Indian Arms and Armour also form an important part of the collection.

The Museum collection comprises purchased artefacts as well as gifts by generous donors like Sir Ratan Tata and Sir Dorabji Tata. The major section of the European and Far-Eastern art and also representative examples of Indian art belongs to this collection. The priceless artefacts from the Buddhist site of Mirpurkhas, excavated by renowned archaeologist Henry Cousens in 1909, are an important part of the Museum collection. Seth Purushottam Mavji's collection of antiquities and miniatures along with a multitude of other collections such as those of Sir Akbar Hydari, and Karl and Meherbai Khandalavala as well as antiquities acquired from the Archaeological Survey of India have contributed largely towards the grand collection of the Museum.

MUSEUM SOCIETY OF BOMBAY

The Museum Society of Bombay, in the last quarter of 2008, held the following programmes for its members:

The Museum Society of Bombay commemorated its 45th year with a talk by Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) on 17th September 2008. Entitled "The reconstruction of a Buddhist Stupa at Mirpurkhas", his presentation of the architectural skills used in the reconstruction of the magnificent heritage structure of the stupa, was well appreciated for its educational content.

The much-appreciated annual Coomaraswamy Memorial Lecture, jointly organized with the Museum was held on 18th and 19th September 2008. Entitled "Making Sense of Musical Instruments: The Indian Experience", the lecture was delivered by Dr. Ashok Ranade, eminent musicologist and composer.

It was a fun-filled day with a French Experience for a varied group of 83 children (including the underprivileged, privileged and challenged) and 25 adults on 15th October 2008. Sunil Chhabra and Marina Dutta conducted the event, taking them on a charmed journey to France, with an illustrated talk, mouth-watering Gallic cuisine and cinnamon bread to take home! Some made beautiful collages of French landmarks.

On 20th October 2008, Shri Jagdish Gandhi delivered a slide-illustrated talk on a Spiritual-Scientific inquiry journeying to Kailas Manasarovar. It promised to be an inspired experience – to an audience drawn by the call of a mystical, divine Abode of the Gods.

The highlight of the quarter was a one-day excursion on Sunday, 30th November 2008 to the Lonad Caves and the Siva temple at Ambernath. Smt. M. K. Maheshwari, our member, arranged for a visit to the Birla Temple at Kalyan, followed by a sumptuous lunch at the guest house of Century Rayon. Art historian and long-time researcher in the field Dr. Kumud Kanitkar led the group along with Indologist-Archaeologist, Dr. Suraj Pandit. Sharing their extensive knowledge of these areas, made this outing exciting, as well as educational.

On 8th December 2008, the exhibition "Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists" was inaugurated at CSMVS. It showcases 30 western artists from the Victoria & Albert Museum collection, as well as some who showed from their own

collection, as well as some who showed from their own personal collection. The exhibition will be on view till 22nd February 2009.

Dr. Rosemary Crill, Senior Curator, South Asia, Asian Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, gave a most interesting slide-lecture on "Indian Textiles for Trade with Europe" on 11th December 2008. She described how the revolution in dress and furnishing transformed Western style with the huge trade in chintz, muslins and Kashmir shawls, from the 17th century until the end of the 19th century.

On 15th December 2008, Dr. A.P. Jamkhedkar, Former Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra inaugurated "Indian Encompassed" – an exhibition of early printed maps of India. He introduced an important aspect of the role of Indian maps and India literature, pointing out to the audience, the skills of our ancient people to observe and record the topography of our land.

On 17th December 2008, 25 students from the Happy Home and School for the Blind sang Christmas Carols in a choir, accompanied on the keyboard by Shirin Irani and Nitesh, and on the tabla by Vijay Ambre, also from Happy Home. The audience was delighted and the spirit of the Season was ushered in with peace, hope and joy.

Forthcoming Programmes

January, 2009

Two children's workshops will be held at the Museum and will be conducted between 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. by Marina Dutta and Sunil Chhabra

On Saturday, 17th, "British Experience: India through the eyes of Western Artists: 17th till the early 20th century"

On Saturday, 31st, "Workshop for young Cartographers". Make your own map on the Museum and its precinct.

February, 2009

5th & 6th: Seminar: Indian Life and Landscape, organized jointly by the Museum Society of Bombay and the CSMVS.

End-Feb.: Lecture by Mandakranta Bose on the "Feminist Perspective of the Ramayana", in collaboration with the Asiatic Society, Mumbai and the Chavan Centre.

March, 2009

Dilip Ranade, Senior Curator of CSMVS, to conduct a guided tour around the European paintings gallery of the CSMVS.

The Karl Khandalavala Memorial Lecture, organized jointly with the CSMVS.

(Dates to be announced.)

MUSEUM FACILITIES

for Exhibitions, Seminars and Educational Activities



• **Coomaraswamy Hall**
The space is used for lectures, seminars, temporary exhibitions and art shows



• **The Museum Gallery**
For contemporary art shows



• **Premchand Roychand Gallery**
For national and international travelling exhibitions



• **Seminar Hall**
Meant for lectures, seminars and audio-visual presentations



• **Curators Gallery**
Besides temporary exhibitions we intend to showcase exhibitions conceptualised by curators



• **Children's Creative Centre**
For educational activities



• **Museum Activity Centre**
Activities meant for underprivileged children.

Museum Memories



BharatRatna Smt. Lata Mangeshkarji and Pandit Jasrajji
On the occasion of inauguration of an exhibition
5th September 2008

Trustees on the Board of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (Management Committee)

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Dean, Sir J. J. School of Art
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The Curatorial Staff

Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Director)
Usha Toraskar (Assistant Director, Galleries)
Dilip Ranade (Senior Curator, European Painting)
Manisha Nene (Senior Curator, Collection Management and Art Section)
Vandana Prapanna (Curator, Miniature Painting and Numismatics)
Renu Jathar (Assistant Curator, Art section)
Prasanna Mangrulkar (Assistant Curator)
Aparna Manave (Sr. Curatorial Assistant)
Amol Mohite (Sr. Curatorial Assistant)
Shobha Kadam (Textile Conservator)
Manoj Chaudhari (Sr. Curatorial Assistant)

MUSEUM INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

• Location and Parking

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is located at 159/61 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 023. The museum is a major landmark in the Kala Ghoda Art Precinct, along with the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), the Jehangir Art Gallery and Regal Cinema. Parking is available in the pay and park lots at Hutatma Chowk and Kala Ghoda.

• Transport

Bus or Taxi from the nearest stations, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus CST (Central Railway) and Churchgate (Western Railway).

Bus Numbers from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus: 14, 65, 69, 101, 130

Bus Numbers from Churchgate: 70, 106, 122, 123, 132, 137

• Visiting Hours

Tuesday to Sunday - 10:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mondays Closed

The Museum remains completely closed on following days:

• January 26 • May 1 • August 15 • October 2

• Admission (free for disabled visitors)

Type of Visitor	Amount
Visitors above 12 years of age	Rs. 15/-
College Students bearing their college identity card	Rs. 10/-
Child visitors (between 5 to 12 years) and Students coming through schools	Rs. 05/-
International Visitors above 12 years of age (includes complimentary audio guide)	Rs. 300/-
International Students bearing school / college identity card	Rs. 10/-
International Child Visitors between 5 to 12 years of age	Rs. 05/-

• Camera

Cameras may be used for photography and video recording by obtaining permission at the publication counter and on payment of charges. Only hand held equipment without flash and tripod is permitted. Still Camera and Mobile phone- cameras – Rs. 200/- Non-professional Video camera – Rs.1000/-

• Audio Guide

Available at the entrance

English/French/German/Japanese/Spanish :

Individual – Rs. 150/

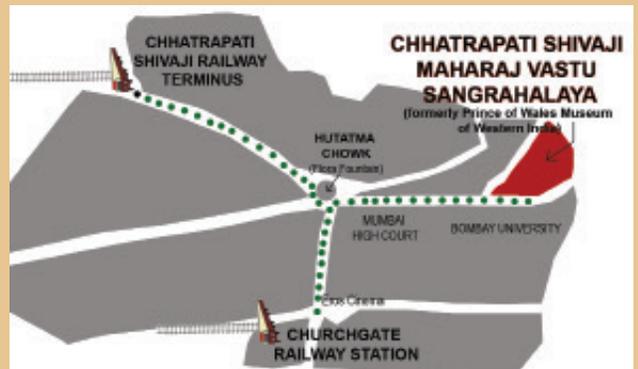
Family (2 adults & 2 children) – Rs. 400/

Marathi/Hindi : Individual – Rs. 75/-, Family – Rs. 200/-

International visitors – complimentary with the ticket

• Facilities of wheel chairs, ramp and elevator are available

• On Tuesdays all children and students (after producing identity cards) will be admitted free



The Museum Newsletter is supported by the Museum Society of Bombay.

The Museum Society of Bombay, founded in 1963, is a membership organization, located in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum of Western India) Mumbai. Under its banner a variety of interesting programmes are organized. These include, lectures by Indian and visiting specialists from abroad; seminars and workshops on subjects of cultural and historical interest, and guided tours to historical sites within and around Mumbai and group tours to places of interest within India and abroad. Special programmes are also conducted for various categories of children.

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Editor: Sabyasachi Mukherjee

Editorial team: Dilip Ranade • Manisha Nene • Vandana Prapanna • Renu Jathar • Prasanna Mangrulkar

Co-ordination and Assistance: Usha Toraskar, Omkar Kadu.

Newsletter Design and Layout : Prachee Sathe

THE MUSEUM



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya

उच्चरि शिवजी महाराज वस्तु संग्रहालय

M U M B A I