

First Seminar titled “Threads for Adornment” was organized by Textiles and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC) at India International Centre, (IIC) New Delhi, on 10 – 11 February, 2018

In the beautiful embodiment of naturally gifted IIC, New Delhi, TCRC’s first two-day seminar was organized in the full-fledged gathering of stalwarts, professionals, amateurs and enthusiasts alike. The two days program of seminar included a welcome keynote speech, 3 technical sessions and a workshop followed by valedictory session and a general body meeting.

The first session was initiated with a key note address by Ms Chandra Mani Singh from Jaipur, the well-known scholar in the textile field. She thrust upon the importance of literary account, which should be studied along with other art forms of India to understand the textiles of that period.

First session focussed on Conservation and was chaired by Mr B.V. Kharbade, Director General, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow. The importance of understanding the environment, Indian traditional methods of preservation and the new researches carried out by NRLC were discussed. In this session four speakers presented their research papers: -

Ms. Smita Singh, textile conservator spoke about “The conservation work carried out by her in the recently planned exhibition titled, ‘Peacock in the Desert- The Royal Arts of Jodhpur’ form Jodhpur collection to be mounted at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA. Though this paper she explained the diverse aspects and challenges associated with conservation and technical documentation of the textile objects selected as exhibits.

Mr. C.B. Gupta, former conservator, National Museum, New Delhi and Ms. Karishma Aggarwal, textile conservator, Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), in their presentation titled “Challenges in conservation of embroidered flags: A case study” explained the conservation process of flags including causes, effects and measures taken.

The next paper by Mr. Rohit Kumar, textile conservator, from National Museum, New Delhi, was on “Preventive care of Indian embroidered textiles in museums.” He discussed the general outlines for taking care of Textile objects in museum surrounding.

The last presentation was by Ms. Divya, Ph.D. scholar, and Dr. Simmi Bhagat, Associate Professor, Lady Irwin College, Delhi University, Delhi on “Chemical cleaning of metal threads in textiles: Some experiments” A variety of metal threads available and used in Indian textiles, their maintenance and cleaning was discussed in the presentation.

This session was followed by Lunch.

Next session chaired was Ms. Jasleen Dhamija, where she beautifully explained the importance of Indian traditional textiles and expressed her happiness to see the dialogue, changes, new

interpretation of traditional Indian textiles. In this session, six speakers presented their - research papers focussing various interesting aspects of embroidery.

First paper of this session was by Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Professor, NIFT, Delhi, in her presentation titled, “Embroidery- The New Narrative Art” expressed ‘Embroidery’ as a medium of varied nature of narratives stitched on the historical textile of different geo-political contexts taking examples from India and West.

The presentation of Dr. Santosh Kumar Rai was on “Needling a dream: Some aspects of embroidery industry in colonial United Provinces”. He highlighted the dim and meagre line of the destiny of loom workers working on loom embroidery besides raised larger concerns like identity crisis and surrounding issues of workers’ role in the (re) production of culture of production of brocade in given space and time.

The third research paper was by Ms. Janaki Turuga, independent researcher, on “Ritualistic folk-art embroidery: A new thematic category which is, ritualistic folk art of Pahari embroidery, was examined across different genres, that ranged from pada puja/Harihara, kauharas- connubial wall paintings, floor art, mud wall painting, votive offerings, Naga mandala etc. These were examined in the conceptual framework of both local-regional and pan- Indian contexts.

Ms. Saswati Chaudhuri paper was on “Kantha embroidery: symbol of love and affection”. Historical and social background of Kantha that is one of the oldest forms of needlework of Bengal was expressed through the paper; Now a day’s commercial value of the embroidery has enhanced by its varied use in costumes also.

Mr. Indrajit De and Saumya Pandey discussed about, “The Sujanis of Kishanganj”, which is lesser known embroidery resembling looks like woven. This is one of the forms of Sujani practiced in Bihar. Beautiful embroidered textiles were also shown during the presentation.

The last paper presented in this session was titled as “Quintessential embroideries used in Hindi films for enhancing the Costumes” by Vandana Jaglan and Vandana Bhandari. Here they canvassed the inter-relation of the costumes and the usage of traditional crafts in a film to its suitability for supporting the storyline and character portrayal through study of selected films.

The session ended with the Tea.

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The 3rd session was chaired by Ms Ritu Sethi, President, Craft Revival Trust, New Delhi with her opening remarks on contemporary practices on tradition line, this session. Six researchers’ papers presented their papers in this session.

The first paper was on “Phulkari, eternal romance with silk floss –A timeless expression of aesthetics” was presented by Ms. Purva Khurana. It was an attempt to gauge the evolution and

development of the period textile, namely Phulkari - flower embroidery hailing from Punjab and passed over through generations.

Ms. Monika Gupta and Ms. Ruhee Das Choudhary presented on “Embroidering Identity: Kantha”, where the identity of Kantha Artisans and the historic trend of using kantha as a canvas for self- expression was discussed in detail.

Next paper was the contribution of three scholars from Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University, Delhi; Deepti Sethi, Amita Walia and P. Magu on, “A Comparative study of Danke-ka-kaam and Lappe-ka-kaam”. This study unfolds the reasons behind decline of these two crafts.

Dr. Rohini Arora, Assistant professor at G.G. S Women college Chandigarh explained the “Design directory of traditional motifs: A Sustainable Approach” in reference to Chamba Rumal. This study of traditional design and motifs are the symbolic belief of the community and have deep rooted cultural significance.

Ms Garima Sharma and Simmi Bhagat from Lady Irwin College, Delhi University, Delhi made the presentation on “Revival of Toda embroidery- Needlecraft of Nilgiris.” The paper revealed nuances of traditional craft done by womenfolk of Toda community which provides employment opportunities to the local women.

Ms. Samita Gupta and Ms. Suchismita Adhikari, Assistant Professor and M.Sc. Student, J,D, Birla Institute, Kolkata, discussed “A study on Sujani embroidery of Bihar and modification in its designs and technique for revival”. In this paper traditional craft of Sujani was discussed in the light of modern technology and its present status.

After tea a **Workshop, titled as “Stitches used in Conservation”** was conducted by Ms. Radhana Raheja, Assistant Professor, Delhi University. The session comprised of a presentation and demonstration of conservation stitches by her and it was followed by hands on session.

Post lunch was the Valedictory Session, where organizers thanks to all the sponsors; IIC for the venue and its overall support; IICD, Jaipur for sponsoring the seminar kit and Taneira for food. Seminar concluded with great enthusiasm amongst the participants.

General Body Meeting of TCRC Members was held at 4.00 pm in IIC after the seminar. It was attended by the founder members and other members of TCRC. Many points of working of TCRC was discussed and few decisions were taken up like; organizing the TCRC seminar in 2 years, in between lectures, and workshops will be arranged to keep going the momentum in the field of textiles.

PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Toolika Gupta welcoming all participants



Presenting a Shawl to Ms.Chandramani Singh by TCRC Chairman
Dr.Anamika Pathak



Ms.Chandramani Singh sharing her opinion with Mr B.V. Kharbade, Director General, NRLC, Lucknow.



Participants



Dr. Bijan B Pal, Textile technology specialist with other participants



Ms Jasleen Dhameeja, veteran Indian textile art historian, crafts expert and former UN worker graced the occasion



Ms Janaki, founder member of TCRC during a Q & A session



Dr. Binoy Sahay, Joint Secretary of TCRC, during one of the Q & A session



Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan sharing a moment with Dr. Anamika Pathak TCRC Chairperson



A Group Selfie of TCRC 1st Seminar participants