

A Report

TCRC Workshop on ‘Carpet and Floor Covering Restoration’

Department of Conservation, NMI on 4th-5th October 2017

A two-day workshop on “Carpet and Floor Covering Restoration” was organized by the Textile and Clothing Research Centre (TCRC), in collaboration with the Department of Conservation, National Museum Institute (NMI), New Delhi, on 4th and 5th October 2017.

It was inaugurated around 10.00 am by Mr. R.K. Mishra, Additional Director General, of the National Museum by lighting the lamp, in the presence of delegates of NMI, Dr. P K Sharma, (Registrar), Prof. Manager Singh, HoD (Conservation), Dr. Satish Pandey, Associate Professor (Conservation) and the participants of the workshop.

Ms Larah Rai, welcomed the guests. Her welcome address was followed by the inaugural speech by Dr B.R.Mani, Vice Chancellor of NMI and DG of the National Museum. He congratulated TCRC on the idea of conducting this workshop and hoped that it would be a great success. Following which, Dr Binoy Kumar Sahay concluded the inaugural function with his vote of thanks and with best wishes for the workshop.

The aim of this workshop was to touch upon some of the basic principles of conservation and restoration of carpets and floor coverings. It included talks and demonstrations by conservators, restorers, academicians and resource persons from the carpet weavers’ community. It was also intended to showcase ways in which skills can be combined with innovative techniques to achieve an aesthetic compensation for losses incurred over time by historic carpets and floor coverings. This event was intended to serve as a basic introduction to conservation techniques to provide the impetus to conduct more comprehensive workshops on this topic in the future.

This workshop was divided in series of lectures session, initiated after tea break by experts’ and practical sessions by our resource person and craftsman Mr. Saleem and his team. At 11.00 am, the first lecture on “Carpet and Floor Covering: Historical overview/ or Introduction of

Carpet and Floor Covering” was delivered by **Dr. Anamika Pathak, Curator, National Museum**. Dr. Pathak spoke about development of carpets and floor covering in Indian context. Dr. Sahay, Deputy. Curator, National Museum, shared his experiences with carpet makers and dealers, while he was in Srinagar.

Second talk was by Mr. **Dhruv Chandra (The Carpet Cellar)** and he talked about “Techniques of Making Carpets & Kilims” and also enlightened on their different types in the world. Third lecture was by **Mr. Ali Nasir** where he shared his experience of carpet conservation and techniques of carpet storage in Vienna at Institute of conservation, University of Applied Arts. The fourth lecture was by **Ms. Ruchira Agarwal (Assistant Prof., Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi)** on “Natural Fibres Sources & Properties” in which she explained about different types of fibres, their types, sources, properties and how to identify them. The next talk was by **Dr. Sheetal Chopra, (Assistant Prof., Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi)**, on “Natural Dyes, Sources and Properties”.

The second session of the workshop was all about practical learning and experiences. It was set forth after lunch at 2.00 pm. Mr. Shahbaz Ahmad, a carpet weaver from Jaipur demonstrated the making of a carpet loom and knotting techniques, where participants learnt about how to weave a carpet and how to mend an old and damaged carpet. It was concluded at 5.30 pm.

The second day of the workshop took off at 10.00 am. It was about practical exercises where participants were divided into two group (10 in each group) and they were taught the skills of stitching, mending, darning, retouching, finishing, cleaning etc. of carpet. Participants were also asked to make condition and documentation reports of the given samples of carpets, which they did very well.

On the second day, post lunch, a visit to Dhruv Chandra Carpet Cellar studio at Sultanpur, Delhi was conducted; where Mr. Dhruv showed the participants his huge collection of antique carpets and kilims from around the world. He also explained about different kinds of carpets/rugs and textiles from his personal collections. It was a wonderful experience for all the participants. All the participants were given certificates for attending the workshop.

Prepared By

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