

DOCUMENTATION REPORT

Visit of CRI Museum and Library

by the 1st year Students (2017-18) of Anthropology Department,

Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyapith

Date of visit: 11/09/2017



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A NOTE ON CRI

The Cultural Research Institute (CRI), a scientific and technical wing of the Backward Classes Welfare Department and Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, was established in May, 1955. The Institute is presently functioning from Ambedkar Bhavan at P-1/4, C.I.T. Scheme-VIIM, V.I.P. Road, P.O. Kankurgachi, Kolkata – 700 054. It is performing its activities through various sections viz. Research & Planning, Statistical, Library, Audio-Visual, Museum, Training and Publication.

Cultural Research Institute today, is actively engaged in providing planning inputs to the State Government, for conducting Research and Evaluation studies, Collection of Data, to identify challenges in the field of Socio-Economic Development of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. CRI is also involved in understanding, preserving and promoting their cultural heritage.

Cultural Research Institute has one old Ethnographic Museum. The Museum of this Institute is holding nearly five hundred composite types of specimens for display in the showcases. Most of the specimens are bio-degradable, which requires more attention and appropriate care. Specimens of the Museum are covering a panoramic view of tribal we style of West Bengal. A Boat Museum, a Museum for Bengal Kantha and a Museum for Bengal Puppets have been set up recently.

The Library of the Institute, mainly utilized for in-house Research, Study & Reference purposes, currently has an approximate collection of above eight thousand five hundred books and journals of National and International repute. The panorama of the books include different aspects of tribal life and associated factors. The library also contains a small Reading-Room.

A Quarterly Bulletin of the Cultural Research Institute is published since 1962. The Institute has also published a number of Books and Monographs on the Scheduled Castes of West Bengal and another on the Scheduled Tribes of West Bengal for ready official reference of the Department & its linked offices.

The Institute organizes and actively participates in Seminars/Workshops on the different problems and development initiatives for the SC/ST/OBCs both at the State and National level.

Suchismita Sen Chowdhury

DOCUMENTATION OF ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM



The Ethnographic Museum of CRI presents a systematic profile of the tribal communities and attempts to preserve indigenous artifacts under various categories, specially on food-gathering, hunting, fishing, agriculture, pottery, basketry, domestic utensils, dress and ornaments, paintings, arts and crafts etc. for facilitating research on techno-economic aspects. Collection and display of artifacts and models of different tribal groups of West Bengal could be found in the ethnographic museum, which have been documented in a systematic way.

Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
1	BASKET(1)	SANTAL	Made of grass strand of bamboo slits and are used for household & other purposes.
2	STRAINER (Haria chala) (1)	SANTAL	Made of bamboo slits & is used to separate the dirt from the seeds and grains.
3	BROOM(1)	SANTAL	Brooms are made up of grass strand and are used for cleaning or sweeping purposes.
4	CHALI(1)	SANTAL	Strainer for making haria
5	MEASURING POT (1)	SANTAL	Made of wood and used for measuring grains.
6	DHARA (1)	SANTAL	Thread making instrument
7	SNAKE BASKET(1)	SANTAL	Made of twigs or processed bamboo & used for keeping snakes inside.
8	MEASURING CUP(1)	SANTAL	Made of wood & used for measuring grains.
9	BASKET BOX (1)	SANTAL	Container
10	PLATED LEAF FOR MAT(1)	SANTAL	Container
11	PAINTED BOWL(1)	SANTAL	Container
12	BAMBOO CONTAINER(1)	SANTAL	Container
13	DUSTER (1)	SANTAL	Made of jute fibre & cotton & is used for cleaning floor of the houses.
14	HARIA CHALA(1)	SANTAL	Strainer for making haria
15	ROUND BASKET(1)	SANTAL	Container
16	TASA (1)	SANTAL	Container
17	WINNOWER FAN (HATAK) [1]	SANTAL	Made of bamboo splits. The fanning with winnowing fan for removing dirt is a traditional process.

Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
18	VIOLIN (1)	SANTAL	Made of bamboo stick, coconut shell & string & used as musical instrument.
19	BED COVER (PARKUMATE) [1]	SANTAL	These are productions of santal trainees of training cum production centre/cotton/though these are bed covers, yet at times are used for wrappers.
20	COMB (KAKRI & NAKIC)[1]	SANTAL	Made of wood and used for hair dressing.
21	HAT (TOKA) [1]	SANTAL	Made of bamboo slits & is used to protect the head from sun during agricultural works.
22	CARPET(1)	SANTAL	
23	DHAMSA(2)	SANTAL	
24	ROPE(KONGAT BABER)[1]	SANTAL	Made of sisal fibre & used for various purposes.
25	PEACOCK FEATHER(MOHUA PINCHER)[1]	SANTAL	Made of feather of peacock. The dancers use it for decorating their heads.
26	SANTAL LEAF(1)	SANTAL	They are processed dry leaves.
27	NECKLACES(6 pcs) (HARHARA & HANSLI)	SANTAL	Made of silver. Though they are not colourful still due to their fascinating and appealing designs they seek attention. These extraordinary ornaments depict a vivid blend of tradition and culture of santal.
28	EARNINGS (6 pcs)	SANTAL	Made of brass and are used as ear ornaments.
29	BRACELET(2 pairs)	SANTAL	Made of brass, silver & other metals and are used in arms.
30	BANGLES (i) DUD BALA[1] (ii) SILVER BANGLES(1)	SANTAL	(i)Made of iron and mainly worn by the people Jhalda and Purulia. (ii)Made of silver. These are appealing and used as ornaments.

Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
31	HAIR PIN (PAN PATA & SOLOK)	SANTAL	Made of silver and worn to enrich the beauty of coiffure.
32	ANKLE ORNAMENTS(LIPUR, BANKI & PAGAM) [5 pairs]	SANTAL	Made of brass and used mainly by the newly married woman as ornament of ankle. At present, these are rarely used.
33	ARMLET(BAJU) [1pair]	SANTAL	Made of brass and used as an ornament of upper arm.
34	SARI (1)	SANTAL	Made of coarse cotton cloth and used as female dress.
35	BATTLE AXE(KAPI)[1]	SANTAL	Made of iron blade and wooden shaft and is used for killing bigger animals.
36	CHARM BOX (1)	BHUTIA	Made of copper, stone and colour beads. It is kept to drive away devils.
37	TREE DEPICTING LIFE CYCLE(1)	BHUTIA	The carving has been done on a flat piece of wood which expresses some religious belief of the people.
38	BHUTIA BOX(1)	BHUTIA	
39	DRIED MILK	BHUTIA	
40	LAMP STAND(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and brass. It is used for placing lamp at the time of worship.
41	BUDDHA IN TIBETAN FRAME	BHUTIA	Made of copper and paper. It is placed in worshipping place in the house.
42	WOODEN PRAYER BLOCK(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and used for printing prayers on prayer flags, papers, etc.
43	BELL(1)	BHUTIA	Made of brass. Ringing of bell during worship is a common practice.
44	4 TYPES OF HATS (SHAMN)	BHUTIA	Made of fur, wool and golden thread. Used to protect head from cold.
45	CARPET(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wool and used as seat.
46	BAG(1)	BHUTIA	Made of cotton and leather. Used to carry commodities.

Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
47	FLOWER VASE(1)	BHUTIA	Made of buffalo horn and coloured stones. Used for decoration purposes.
48	ASH TRAY(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and buffalo horn. It is used as ash tray.
49	TRAY(SERGED)(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and used for serving drinks and other food items to guests.
50	SPOON(1)	BHUTIA	Made of silver and used for serving pickles and such other food items.
51	FEMALE DRESS(CHUBA)[1]	BHUTIA	Made of wooden cloth and used as female dress.
52	SHOE (1 pair)	BHUTIA	Made of leather and coarse wooden cloth. Used to protect the feet from the dirt of the roads and also from the biting of cold.
53	SCROLL PAINTING(1)	BHUTIA	Made of paper and coloured textile. It relates to some religious beliefs of the people.
54	DRUM(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and animal skin. Used as musical instrument.
55	TRUMPET(1)	BHUTIA	Made of copper and brass. Blown mainly for religious purposes.
56	KANCHANJANGHA GOD(1)	BHUTIA	Made of brass.
57	PEN STAND(1)	BHUTIA	
58	RELIGIOUS ITEM(1)	BHUTIA	Made of metals.
59	TEA CUP(1)	BHUTIA	Made of brass and copper. Used for drinking tea.
60	DRINKING JUG(PAKHI-CHYAN)[1]	BHUTIA	Made of wood and used for keeping and drinking water.

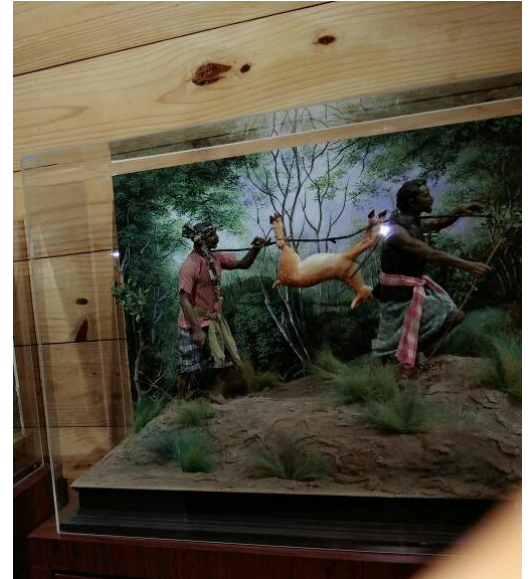
Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
61	BASKET(2)	BHUTIA	Made of cone splits and used as Tiffin box.
62	WOODEN BOWL(1)	BHUTIA	Made of wood and brass plate. Used to keep ornaments.
63	FINGER RING (CHIGO)[1]	BHUTIA	Made of brass and stone. Worn for the decoration of finger.
64	BRACELET(1)	BHUTIA	Made of brass and as ornaments of arm.
65	GARLAND(1)	BHUTIA	Made of coloured beads and tread. It has some religious value and also used as ornament.
66	RIBBON(TOPSLA)	BHUTIA	Made of synthetic threads and used for hair decoration.
67	BONE ORNAMENT	BHUTIA	Made of ivory. Used as bangles.
68	CHILLI POWDER(SUNG KAUR CHAK BOO)	LEPCHA	Made of wood and used for pounding chilli and such other spices.
69	LADLE AND SPOON	LEPCHA	Made of gourd shell and bamboo. Used for sieving food.
70	BAMBOO BASKET(TANG-GRYON)	LEPCHA	Made of bamboo splits generally used as container for carrying and storing agriculture products.
71	CAP(JHYAK-JUK)	LEPCHA	Made of wooden cloth, silk cloth and beads. Used for the decoration of head as well as protection against cold.
72	BELT(NAM-ROK)[1]	LEPCHA	Made of leather and brass plate. Used for tightening the clothing's at the waist.
73	SEIVE (SHYOR)[1]	LEPCHA	Made of bamboo splits and is used for separating dirt from grains.

Sl. No.	Name of the artifact	Community associated	Description of the artifacts
74	SWORD(BAN)[1]	LEPCHA	Made of iron and is used for different purposes.
75	FEMALE DRESS(DOMBYAN)	LEPCHA	Made of cotton and used as female dress.
76	MALE DRESS(DOMPRA)[2]	LEPCHA	Made of cotton and used as male dress.
77	PETTICOAT(1)	LEPCHA	
78	FISH TRAP(FITH)	LEPCHA	Made of bamboo splits. It is used to trap the fishes in streonlets.
79	FISHING NET(PALIK)	LEPCHA	Made of cotton and iron blades. Fishes of larger size are caught with this net.
80	FISH BASKET(CHAPA)	LEPCHA	Made of bamboo splits. It is used for keeping fishes.
81	BASKET(CHARRANG AND PATHANG)	TOTO	Made of bamboo splits and used for keeping domestic articles.
82	BARK OF TREE(1)	TOTO	Made of bank and raw materials of the rope they make.
83	LADLE(TALIT)[1]	TOTO	Made of gourd shell and used for serving food.
84	COMB(2)	MUNDA	
85	SMOKING PIPE	RABHA	Made of brass and wood. Used for smoking purposes.
86	LADIES ORNAMENTS(1)	RABHA	

MODELS

- MAHALI – CRAFTS WOMEN MODEL (1)
- SANTAL – BAHA FESTIVAL MODEL (2)
- SANTAL – HUNTING FESTIVAL MODEL (3)
- SANTAL – DHAMBA
- SANTAL – PLOUGH
- ORAON – PLOUGH
- SANTAL – CHADA BADAR (PUPPET)

Models at Museum



Students associated with documentation of Ethnographic Museum:

1. Haimontika Majumdar
2. Pramil Biswas
3. Priyosmita Das
4. Susmita Pramanik
5. Swapna Das

Ethnographic Museum Visit



DOCUMENTATION OF PUPPETS OF BENGAL

- ❖ **ROD PUPPET:** -The 24 Parganas region of Bengal is the place where the art of Rod puppet did originate. Since wooden rods are used to create these puppets, these puppets have become famous as Rod puppet, each puppets weight around 20-25 kilograms. Most of the puppet shows involve traditional Hindu mythological and historical tales such as Behula -Lakhindar, Sanaidighi and Harishchandra.

Types of rod puppets displayed at the museum:

1. Village woman
2. Kabigaan Singer
3. Baul
4. Aur
5. Nachni

- ❖ **STRING PUPPET:** -These are the puppets that are pulled with string has come about, the English phrase “pulling the strings” may well have originated from the String puppet shows. The String puppets can mainly be seen in districts of Bengal such as Nadia, Malda, Birbhum, Hooghly, Bankura, Howrah, Coochbehar, 24-porganas etc.

Types of string puppets displayed at the museum:

1. Bhnar
2. Rupaban Kanya
3. Tiget
4. Bon Bibi
5. Dakshinroy
6. Wood worker
7. Boat maker

- ❖ **GLOVE PUPPET:** - The puppet did originate during the British colonial period in kantha region of Midnapore district. These puppets are also known as “Beniputul” or the “puppets with long hair” in Bengal.

Types of glove puppets displayed at the museum:

1. Boat man
2. Fisher man
3. Baul

- ❖ **TRIBAL PUPPET:** -Chadarbadar also known as Santal puppet, it is a tribal performing art of the Santal people, mainly found in Indian states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odessa, Bihar and Assam. Chadarbadar is performed with the assistance of wooden puppets hung inside a wooden box open on three or four sides with curtains. The performer narrates stories by words and verse from ancient santhal culture using the puppets accompanied by tribal musical; instruments. The painted puppets are 5-9 inches tall, has movable limbs, manipulated by the performer, using strings attached to them.



Students associated with documentation of Puppet and Kantha Museum:

1. Amlan Chattapadhyay
2. Keya poddar
3. Sarika Yasmin
4. Shuvendu Kumar Dhar

DOCUMENTATION OF KANTHAS OF BENGAL



Item no.	Name	Circa	Source	Description
1	Nakshi kantha, (shujni kantha)	Late 19 th century	Nanoor, Birbhum	Generally was made by the women of village and was given to a newlywed bride by her parents as a wedding gift.
2	Nakshi kantha	Late 19 th century	Nanoor, Birbhum	Women used to make this type of kantha for their husbands who were merchants called Saudagars and used to travel via merchant ships. Usually, these trips mean a long separation from their wives may be for a year or so, and so, these women pour all their love and devotion for their husbands, which have been reflected through these kantha.
3	Nakshi kantha	Late 19 th century	Nanoor, Birbhum	Life in a forest with deer, flowers, turtles and fish living in a lake, birds living in a tree, and there is a circular pattern in the middle of the kantha.
4	Nakshi kantha	Early 20 th century	Nanoor, Birbhum	Once there was village woman who had two sons, and a daughter. One day during the Durga puja, a musical theatre was being held at night in a different village. The three children went to participate in the musical theatre without the permission of their mother. This made the mother very angry and she asked another girl to takes her to that theatre. When she heard her children are singing she forgot her anger and her heart filled with happiness and pride. They came back home via a boat.

Item no.	Name	Circa	Source	Description
5	Nakshi kantha	Early 20 th century	Nanoor, Birbhum	This kantha is covered in pattern of items used by old kings of Bengal. These include khan jar(a type of weapon), the kings turban, the throne in which the king used to sit and smoke his Hookah, palanquin in which the queen used to travels, wooden sandals that they used, “ duli” etc. Other patterns include a farmer’s umbrella made of palm leaves, the fish nets that a fisherman used to fish with, the village girls using a container called “Dhenki” to clean rice, village girls travelling in or carts, children watching a bioscope in the fields beside the village as well as elephants in jungles located far from the villages.
6	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	Tradition and culture of rural Bengal with the symbols.
7	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	Life of a wood carver with his instruments to carve wood, wooden dolls.
8	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	Democracy in India with the symbols (32 spoke of Ashokachakra, parliament, constitution, supreme court, panchayat, newspaper etc.)
9	Nakshi kantha, (kabigan)	21 th century	Birbhum	Kabigan (rural musical instruments, folk singers and listeners), a form of Bengali folk performance wherein folk poets sing and perform. The description of performance with its instruments like Dhol, Kashi, Harmonium, the audience sitting at one side.
10	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	The natural beauty of rural Bengal with its flowers, trees and animals.
11	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	Bhatiyali, a form of folk music in West Bengal and Bangladesh. Bhatiyali is a boat song, sung by boatmen while going down streams of the river, as the word Bhatiyali comes from bhats meaning ebb or downstream.
12	Nakshi kantha	21 th century	Birbhum	1873 movement for dignity and equality before law.

DOCUMENTATION OF BOAT MUSEUM



Boat is one of the oldest vehicles for water transportation in India. Besides transportation, boats are used for fishing purposes and maritime trade. Depending on the purpose and water ways, boats are prepared. Its shape, size and material depend on the requirement. The main material for boat is wood. There are specialised boat makers in parts of India.

Boats have been an integral part of Bengal history and culture and it has been portrayed in Bengal mythologies like *Mangalkavyas*. The Boat Museum of CRI is an unique presentation by the Backward Classes Welfare Department, West Bengal, inited in the year 2014. The Boat Museum contains 46 scale models of boats and ships dating back to the days of Indus Valley Civilization and covering areas from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Bangladesh. Following are the description of the boats found in CRI Boat Museum.

Item no.	Name	Location	Purpose
1.	Kaile Bachhari	Gopalganj district, Bangladesh	Boat race
2.	Khela or Loll Dingee	—	—
3.	Boat of Karnafuli River, Bangladesh	Karnafuli River,Bangladesh	Cargo
4.	Malo Bachhari/Jele Bachhari	Gosaba,South 24 Parganas	Fishing
5.	Kosa	Northern districts of W.B.	Fishing
6.	Salti	East Kolkata	fishing
7.	Pausi	Rosik bill of Jalpaiguri	fishing

Item No.	Name	Location	Purpose
8.	Trawler	Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas	Coastal fishing
9.	Pavkhia	Digha, Bacharwari district Purba Medinipur	Coastal fishing
10.	Chhip	Chhator, Murshidabad	Boat race
11.	Jele dingi	Hoogly River	fishing
12.	Jellee-A Dingee	-----	-----
13.	Sampan	Chattaganj, Bangladesh	ferry
14.	Barki	Bolla Ghat, Sylhet, Bangladesh	fishing
15.	Padma boat of Rabindranath Tagore	-----	travelling
16.	Baawale-A	-----	-----
17.	Talai	River Ganga, Kolkata	fishing

Item No.	Name	Location	Purpose
18.	Kerala Boat	Backwater of Kerala	Pleasure boat
19.	Dingee	-----	-----
20.	Bhedi	Hans-khaola ghat of Coach Bihar	cargo
21.	Balam	Barishal ,Bangladesh	Cargo(rice)
22.	Kosa	Dhaka,Bangladesh	Kheya i.e. ferry
23.	Masula	Gopalpur,Orissa, Mamallapuram, Tamil nadu	Backwater fishing
24.	Kosa(kargo)	Northern district of W.B.	Cargo, fishing
25.	Moor-punkee	-----	-----
26.	Chhot	Jhumjhumi,Howrah & Junput, Purba Medinipur	Coastal fishing, cargo
27.	Dingi	Murshidabad	fishing

Item No.	Name	Location	Purpose
28.	Pansi	Ghusuri,Howrah	cargo
29.	Dingi	Howrah	Household cargo
30.	Dunga	Subarnarekha river of Mahapal, West Medinipur	Fishing in shallow waters
31.	Khorokisti	Geonkhali,Purba Medinipur	Cargo(straw)
32.	Goloiya	Sankortolaghat,Manikchak	Cargo
33.	Kheya	Sankartola ghat, Malda	Passenger carry
34.	Barki	Bollaghat,Sylhet	Cargo(Mud,Brick,stone)
35.	Sultani	Geonkhali,Nurpur	Cargo like stand brick, tiles,fruits,vegetables
36.	Tabure	Basirhat, North 24 Parganas	Water tai
37.	Pinnace(Ship's boat)	-----	Carried aboard merchant and war vessels in the age of sail to serve as a tender.
38.	Khorosalti	Karanjali,South 24 Parganas	cargo
39.	Dinga(balagarh)	All over Gangetic Delta of W.B.	multipurpose
40.	Muga-chara	-----	---
41.	Chhot-salti	Rasulpur,Purba Medinipur	fishing
42.	Dholai	Sundarban	cargo
43.	Patia	Digha	Coastal fishing
44.	Feal-chara	---	-----

Students associated with documentation of Boat Museum:

1. Ayesha Khatun
2. Priyanka Sarkar
3. Sahil Chakraborty
4. Somenath Ghosh

LIBRARY VISIT BY THE STUDENTS



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SL.No.	First Year Students (2017-2018) Department of Anthropology
1	Amlan Chattapadhyay
2	Ayesha Khatun
3	Hhaimontika Majumdar
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5	Promil Biswas
6	Priyosita Das
7	Priyanka Sarkar
8	Sahil Chakraborty
9	Sarika Yasmin
10	Swapna Das
11	Somnath Ghosh
12	Susmita Pramanick
13	Shuvendu Kumar Dhar