

Prospectus

Refresher Course on Care of Museum Objects with special reference to Manuscripts

Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory (CCRL), Government Museum, Chennai 600 008.

Aim of the Course

The Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory of the Government Museum, Chennai was established in 1930 to preserve the bronze icons in the museum. Later it enlarged its scope to other antiquities. Through conservation training and consultancy services, it disseminates its expertise in a small way. As there were many requests for training the personnel from other institutions, the refresher course on Care of Museum Objects was started in 1974 in order to teach the basic measures to be taken for the preservation of objects of art and other antiquities. This laboratory has established a Conservation Gallery in order to educate the visiting public to create awareness on conservation of art and cultural heritage. Thousands of antiquities and art objects have been preserved by this laboratory in TamilNadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Duration of the Course

The duration of the course is **one month**. The 37th course is from 1st to 30th June 2011. The candidates selected should attend all the days of the course.

Venue

Both lectures and practical classes will be conducted in the Chemical Conservation and Research Laboratory (CCRL) of the Government Museum, Chennai.

Eligibility

This course is open to persons working in departments like museums, handicrafts, archaeology, temple endowments, education and students of museology, fine arts, history and other related subjects. Others with special interest in the subject of the course also will be considered, if possible. Since conservation training needs close attention by trained staff and in order to provide better training, admission is restricted to only twelve persons.

Application

Application duly filled in should be sent to the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Museums, Chennai 600 008, so as to reach him on or before 20th May 2011. Applications received after 20th May 2011 will not be considered. Candidates sponsored by museums or related institutions will be given preference. Candidates who are not employed should get introduction letter from reputed academicians for the credibility of the candidates.

Course Fee and Others

Selected candidates need to pay **Rs. 2000/- as course fee** in the museum office. All expenditure towards the travel, stay for the purpose of attending the course, books and field trips would have to be borne by the participants.

Certificate

The participants will have to submit a dissertation for at least 10 pages at the end of the course in English. The participants will be evaluated through a written and also an oral examination. Mark sheet and certificate will be awarded to the participants at the end of the Course, if found successful.

Field Trips

The participants will be taken to Mahabalipuram, Kanchipuram, Central Leather Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Archives, Theosophical Society, University Museum, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Chemical branch of the Archaeological Survey of India at Chennai, at their own cost in order to observe the various activities pertaining to conservation and restoration carried out in the respective areas. The field visits are compulsory.

Syllabus

The following topics will be covered during the course

1. History of Museums, Conservation and Conservation Laboratories
2. Classification of Museum Objects and Manuscripts
3. Preventive Conservation
4. General Methods of Preservation
5. Atmospheric Factors Affecting Museum Objects and Manuscripts
6. Bio-deterioration
7. Integrated Pest Control Measures
8. Authenticity and Dating of Antiquities
9. Care of Organic Objects
 - a. Wooden Objects
 - b. Manuscripts of all kinds
 - c. Archival Materials
 - d. Textiles
 - e. Leather objects
 - f. Feather Objects
 - g. Bone and Ivory Objects
 - h. Synthetic Materials
10. Care of Inorganic Objects
 - a. Stone Objects
 - b. Terracotta Objects
 - c. Glass Objects
 - d. Excavated Objects
 - e. Objects at the excavation Site
 - f. Ceramics
11. Care of Metals
 - a. Copper Objects
 - b. Gold Objects
 - c. Silver Objects
 - d. Objects Made of Alloys
 - e. Iron and Steel Objects
 - f. Lead Objects
 - g. Tribal Metal Objects
12. Care of Painting
 - a. Canvas Paintings
 - b. Paintings on Paper
 - c. Panel Paintings
 - d. Painting on Glass, Ivory etc
 - e. Wall Paintings
 - f. Photographs, Video-cassettes, Floppies, Compact Disks etc
13. Care of Monuments
14. Care in Display and Exhibitions
15. Care in Storage
16. Documentation in Conservation
17. Care in Handling, Packing, Transportation and Insurance of Museum Objects.
18. Disaster Management

Experts in the respective subjects will handle the theory and practical classes. The participants shall organize an exhibition on “Care of Museum Objects with special reference to Manuscripts” on the last day of the course with the objects conserved by them during the course. Ms.J.M.Gandhimathi, Curator, Chemical Conservation section will be the Course Director.