

## CTR TEXTILE TOUR TO INDIA, October 13-24 2012



### October 13-15

On 13th October the CTR team departed from Copenhagen and traveled with Qatar Airways to Delhi via Doha. Arrival in Delhi 14<sup>th</sup> October early morning. During Sunday the team visited some of the major historical sites of Delhi such as the Jama Masjid, the principal mosque of Old Delhi, and the Sikh Temple Bangla Sahib which is one of the most famous Sikh houses of worship, known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru, Guru Har Krishan, and for the pond's holy water. The grounds include the temple, a kitchen, a large pond, a school and an art gallery. As with all Sikh temples, all people, regardless of race or religion, may eat in the temple kitchen where the food is prepared by devotees or volunteers. The tour included also the President's Palace, The Houses of Parliament and India Gate.

On the following day, the team caught the early morning train to Agra for a visit to Taj Mahal which was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved consort Mumtaz Mahal. This was followed by visit to a workshop where marble inlay is done in the same way as when Taj Mahal was constructed, and a visit to Kohinoor workshop to see the collection of silk embroideries made by Master Shams (Sheikh Shams Uddin) <http://shamsembroidery.com>

Visit to Agra Fort, a magnificent Moghul citadel with marble palaces, ornate alcoves and terrace pavilions. Agra Fort is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra\\_Fort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agra_Fort)

### October 16th Indo-Danish textile historical research seminar at JNU: Perspectives on Production, Trade and Cultural Interactions

Our colleague at JNU, professor Vijaya Ramaswamy, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, organized this joint seminars with colleagues from different research institutions and CTR colleagues.

#### *Programme:*

Welcome by Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

Welcome by Prof. Bhagawan Josh, Chairperson, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

Release of Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy's book *Song of the Loom*, (Primus Publishers, an imprint of Ratnasagar) by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sudhir K.Sopory, JNU. Introductory remarks by Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy

Ms. Laila Tyabji: *an overview of Indian Textile History and briefly on the significant role played by DASTKAR*

Prof. Marie Louise Nosch and Dr. Berit Hildebrandt: *India, Greece and Rome*, CTR/post doc, Harvard University

Dr. Mary Harlow: *Matrona and whore: walking the tightrope between social approval and condemnation*, Visiting professor, CTR

Dr. Ishrat Alam: *Textile Production and Technology in Medieval North India*, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi

Dr. Eva Andersson Strand: *Textiles and Textile production in Viking Age Scandinavia*, Senior researcher, CTR

Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy: *Culturalscape of Textiles in Medieval South India*, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

PhD. Fellow. Vibe Maria Martens: *Indian textiles in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth Century Denmark: Colonialism and the Rise of a Global Consumer Culture: preliminary findings*. CTR, PhD stipend at European University Institute, Florence

Dr. Arvind Sinha: *Indian Manufacturers and Global Consumers: French Sources on the Textile Trade, 1750-1800*. European History Specialist, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

PhD. Fellow. Martin Cizuk: *18<sup>th</sup> century Indian textiles in Swedish collections and the Indian influence on design of Swedish printed cottons*, School of Textiles, University of Borås, Sweden

Curator and keeper Kirsten Toftegaard, *The Tranquebar Tapestry in the collection of Designmuseum Danmark, 1740-46*, Designmuseum Denmark and CTR

Dr. Santosh Rai: *Many Madanapuras, Memories of Weaver Migrations*, Khalsa College, Delhi University

Vote of Thanks by Professor Arvind Sinha

CTR team was invited to submit papers for the Indian historical research journal.

Nosch discussed with Dr. Rajat Datta, Dr Arvind Sinha, Prof. Bhagwan Josh and Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, all from Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, the perspectives of a joint master class for PhD and postdoc fellows on the theme of textiles and trade between Europe and India 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



### **October 17: Indo-Danish seminar on Textile Archeology and Conservations convened by CTR at the India International Centre, New Delhi.**

India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi, Lecture Room No.2

#### *Programme:*

Welcome address by Professor Marie-Louise Nosch, Director of CTR

Dr. Ulla Mannering: *Textiles and textile analyses*, CTR and National Museum

Dr. Eva Andersson Strand: *Textile tool analyses*, CTR

Dr. Karin Margarita Frei: *Strontium isotopic tracing within prehistoric textiles*, CTR

Ph.D. fellow Martin Cizuk: *Reconstructing patterns on Scandinavian archaeological silk textiles*  
Curator and keeper, Kirsten Toftegaard, *Museum storage practices in Designmuseum Danmark*  
Dr. Conservator Dr. Maj Ringgaard, *Museum Storage practices in a changing global climate: approaching a CO2-neutral storage*, CTR and National Museum  
Dr. Conservator Dr. Maj Ringgaard, *Experimental – the degradation or preservation of textiles and dyes in waterlogged soil*, CTR and National Museum  
Asst. Curator Subhra Devi: *Textile Dyeing in Assam: Need of a holistic approach for preservation*, Tezpur University, Assam (India)  
Dr. Jessica Hallett, *Textiles, Trade and Taste: A research project on the global circulation of colour*. Centre for Overseas History (CHAM), Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Universidade dos Açores, Portugal:  
Sh. Ved Prakash and K.S. Rana: *Restoration of textile: Ghara, Zeenat Mahal*, Archaeological Survey of India (Science Branch) 29, New Cantt. Road, Dehradun (Uttara Khand)



Nosch held meeting with our Indian publisher Mr B. N. Varma, Primus Books, about the distribution of our publications in India.

CTR invited the Indian colleague to submit papers for *Archaeological Textiles Report*, edited by CTR and with a forthcoming special issue on Indian archaeology, conservation and textiles

### **October 18th**

Lecture at National Institute for Fashion Technology, Delhi by Tove Engelhardt Mathiasen, Den Gamle By, on the theme of the India and Indian inspirations in the new exhibits of the 1970s in the open-air museum, Århus. We were kindly invited by prof. Vandana Narang. Nosch and Engelhardt Mathiasen met with NIFT dean professor Banhi Jha, Mrs Purva Khurana who is the course coordinator in Fashion design, as well as Prem Kumar Gera, the Director General of NIFT, India.

The CTR team visited the Delhi Craft Museum and its comprehensive collection of costumers. The teams was welcomed and guided by Dr. Achal Pandya.

In the afternoon, Nosch, Mannering, Andersson Strand and Harlow held a meeting with colleagues at ICHR, Indian Council for Historical Research with aim to define and frame a collaboration agreement. Indian colleagues present were ICHR Member Secretary Dr. Ishrat Alam, Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Centre for

Historical Studies, JNU, and head of ICHR prof. Basudev Chatterji. Nosch outlined the perspectives of a joint master class for PhD and postdoc fellows on the theme of textiles and trade between Europe and India 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. ICHR management also suggested exchange of senior scholars. Other common interests are the cooperation on documentation, translation and rendering public Indian archival material, as well as sharing the Danish public records of historical and colonial themes with our Indian colleagues.

Later Nosch, Mannering, Andersson Strand and Harlow held an editorial meeting with Dr. Lotika Varadarajan, Tagore national Fellow, national Museum, New Delhi, who is the co-editor of the forthcoming CTR anthology *Global Textile Encounters*, to be published in India (2013) and China (2014). Also other possibilities for collaborations were discussed.

### October 18th – 19th



The team took the night train to Varanasi and arrived in the next morning. The aim was to visit the Bestseller's Varanasi Weavers and Button Project and silk production centres

<http://www.bestsellerfund.com/projects/craft-and-culture/varanasi-weavers-and-button-project>

<http://varanasiweavers.org/>

The workshops under the umbrella organization **Varanasi Weavers** are located approx. 1 hour outside Varanasi. The team discussed with project manager Jitendra Kumar how to brand this excellent craft project and how to preserve the cultural heritage as well as sustainable occupations for the more than 20,000 local weavers of the region.

In the evening the team went to see the Aarti ceremony during which people gather to worship along the river Ganges. Early next morning, the team went by boat on the Ganges to watch the city, architecture and pilgrims at the river side

In the later morning the team visited the Benares University's campus and in particular the university museum which holds a small collection of historical textiles as well as Harappan period artifacts.

In the afternoon was transfer to the airport for flight via Delhi domestic airport, to Ahmedabad.



## **October 21-22**

Visit to the privately owned **Calico Museum**, the premier textile museum of the country, well known for its distinguished and comprehensive collection of textiles and artifacts. CTR had been in correspondence for one year with the museum management and was kindly received by Dr. Anuj Parikh after the visit. Museological perspectives and textile conservation issues were discussed with Maj Ringgaard and Dr. Anuj Parikh

[www.calicomuseum.com/](http://www.calicomuseum.com/)

Although a Sunday, and furthermore the days of the Ahmedabad annual dance festival, our Indian colleagues had arranged to meet in for several meetings and joint activities with the CTR team.

In the morning, Dr. Anna Haldrup met with the management and staff in the Indian Institute of Administration, a world-wide famous grass root organization rooted at IIA. The aim is to stimulate and sustain frugal and sustainable innovation by initiatives and framework programs and prestigious award to inventors and entrepreneurs as well as even prizes for innovative school kids.

In the afternoon, Nosch, Toftegård, Engelhardt Mathiasen and Mannering met with Swati Singh Ghai and her colleagues at the National Institute of Design. Themes were to incorporate young scholars at NID into an international master class by CTR and to promote mobility. A second theme of discussing with much potential is to intensify collaboration between Danish scholars in museology and conservation with NID's master education in exhibition design, coordinated by Tanishka Kachru. A possible joint initiative is to collaborate on Danish exhibition conceptualization and subsequently, after the opening in Denmark/Europe, to transfer the media and image designs to NID and let the students there conceptualize another exhibition, this time with a Gujerat/Indian perspective.

In the evening, the team was warmly received by the director of the city's other design school, NIFT Ahmedabad, and local students showed their exam projects and on-going projects in textile designs, often with an inspiration from the Indian cultural heritage of textile crafts. As a unique experience, the team was invited to join the city's dance festival and the NIFT student taught the team to dance the traditional festival dance.

## **October 23**

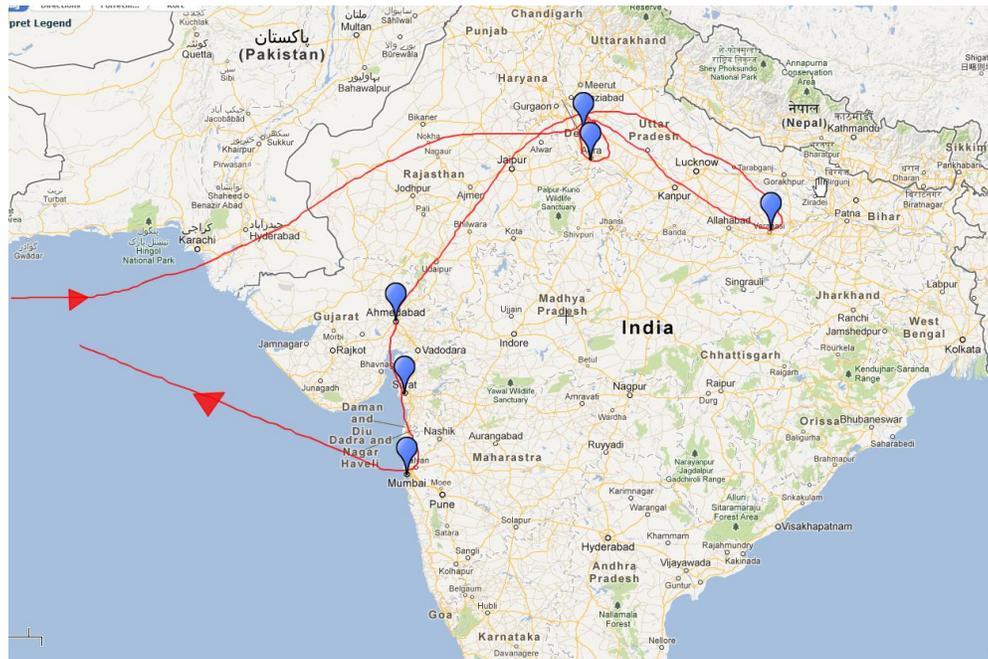
The team proceeded 6 hours by bus to Surat to visit the privately owned TAPI collection, named after the local river and also an acronym for Textiles of Ancient Peoples of India.

CTR had been in correspondence with the owners, Mr Praful Shah and Mrs Shilpa Shah who kindly had granted access to the exquisite collection of ancient textiles. Of particular interest were both examples of Gujarat textiles of 14th century exported to Egypt and to Indonesia, as well as later historical textiles aimed at markets in Europe and Asia. The state of preservation and the conservation at TAPI is admirable. The CTR was welcomed by managing Coordinator Munira Akikwala.

[www.tapicollection.com](http://www.tapicollection.com)

## **24 October.**

Departure from Surat, 8 hours drive to Mumbai and departure via Doha, to Copenhagen.



Total km travelled: 16,984 km

Total km travelled in India: 2740 km

### CTR team scholars

**Marie-Louise Nosch.** Director of CTR. Historian, specialized in ancient Greek history.

**Ulla Mannering.** Associate Professor. Archaeologist, specialised in North European textiles and costumes. She received her Ph.D. in Prehistoric Archaeology from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Areas of research include Scandinavian and Roman textile and costume traditions, the use and production of prehistoric plant fibre materials, especially nettle and flax, and study of costume from iconographic sources. She is manager of the *Textiles and Costumes from Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Danish Collections* research programme at CTR.

**Eva Andersson Strand.** Associate professor. Archaeologist specialised in north European archaeology and experimental textile archaeology. Her special area of study is textile production during the Iron and Viking ages, in Scandinavia and Bronze Age Aegean. She is a scientific project manager of the Tools and Textiles – Text and Context program at CTR.

**Mary Harlow.** Dr, Senior lecturer at University of Birmingham and Guest professor at CTR. Research interests are Roman social history, late antiquity, life course studies, dress history and gender studies.

**Maj Ringgaard.** Textile Conservator. Post doc at CTR and National Museum, Denmark. Her post doc is part of the HERA project “Fashioning the Early Modern” and considers the creative tradition of knitting in Europe between 1500-1800.

**Karin Margarita Frei.** Post doc at CTR. Geologist. Current research includes method development and applications for provenance investigations of organic materials with the focus on textiles by using strontium isotope analysis that she has developed during her PhD.

**Vibe Maria Martens.** Historian, research assistant at CTR. She is interested in the Danish trade in Indian cotton textiles in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries between India, West Africa, the West Indies and Denmark.

**Kirsten Toftegaard.** Curator and keeper Design Museum Denmark. Historian and expert on printed textiles from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Has curated numerous exhibitions about textiles and costume.

**Toolika Gupta.** Former lecturer at National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi, currently PhD fellow at University of Glasgow, with a project on the European influence on Indian clothing in the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

***Further CTR collaborators travelling with the team:***

**Tove Engelhardt Mathiasen.** Anthropologist and textile curator, open-air museum The Old Town, Århus. Expert of costumes in Europe in the 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Berit Hildebrandt.** Postdoc fellow at Harvard and Hannover University. Expert on silk trade between Rome, India and China in antiquity.

**Anna Haldrup,** Head of Innovation, University of Copenhagen

**Martin Ciszuk,** PhD fellow, Borås University College. Handweaver and expert on weaves, silks and textile trade and consumption in 19<sup>th</sup> century Sweden

**Richard Firth,** Bristol, CTR collaborator in TEMA and TexOrMed. Expert in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium textile production in the Aegean and ancient Near East.

**Susanne Lervad, CTR.** PhD in textile terminology, with special focus on Danish and French textile terms.