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Art Fund_

"How Do We Remember?"

A HANDS-ON-TRAINING STUDENT WORKSHOP ON MURSHIDABAD-EDINBURGH CONNECTIONS



YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM, MURSHIDABAD

Workshop Coordinators:

Friederike Voigt, Principal Curator, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh

Dr. Sudipto Mukhopadhyay, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh, Murshidabad

9TH-14TH FEBRUARY, 2026 - 11:00 - 4:00 PM
 SEMINAR HALL, SCBC COLLEGE, LALBAGH
 SEMINAR HALL, LALBAGH



Organising Institutions:
*Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh &
National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh*
in collaboration with
Kandi Raj College, Kandi
Sripat Singh College, Jiaganj
Jalangi Mahavidyalaya, Jalangi
Dwijendralal College, Krishnanagar
Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College, Nabagram

Supported by:
National Museums Scotland & Art Fund, UK
Murshidabad District Museum, Jiaganj

A Short Description:

The theme for this workshop, "How do we remember?", responds to Murshidabad's significance as a historical site. With this workshop, we connect to an optional course on 'History as Representation: Theoretical Context and Practical Application', jointly organised by Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh and National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh which has been running since September 2025 (until January 2026). The course examines the memories of two men, Captain Archibald Swinton and Mirza Sheikh I'tisam-ud-Din, who were closely involved in the historical events that shaped the relationship between the Nawabs of Bengal and the East India Company in the 1760s.

In this week-long workshop, we will bring together the past and the present under the overarching theme of "How do we remember?" Participating students would take the comparative reading of the two men's diaries further to consider two questions:

- 1. How did Captain Archibald Swinton and Mirza Sheikh I'tisam-ud-Din remember the events through which they lived?*
- 2. How are these events remembered today?*

The students will be asked to produce creative works in response to these questions. The proposed exhibition on Saturday, 14 February, will display their artwork and reflective posters. A full day of events also includes a book presentation and panel discussion. Together with the exhibition, they will take the question of 'How do we remember' into the future by asking how we can create fruitful dialogues between Murshidabad and Edinburgh.

Inaugural Session (9th February, 11 am–1 pm):

Venue: Seminar Hall, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh

Lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries

Felicitations of Dignitaries

Inaugural Violin Recitals

Welcome address:

- *Janab Mohammad Ali, President, Governing Body, SCBC College*
- *Dr. Supam Mukherjee, Principal, SCBC College*

Address by Chief Guest:

Shri Nitin Singhania (IAS)

Hon'ble District Magistrate, Murshidabad

Address by the Special Guest(s):

- *Friederike Voigt, Principal Curator, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh*
- *Prof. Roger Jeffery, Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh, UK*

Address by the Guest-of-Honour:

- *Dr. Kamal Krishna Sarkar, Principal, Sripat Singh College*
- *Dr. Soumitra Kar, Principal, Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College*
- *Dr. Soma Datta, Principal, Kandi Raj College*
- *Dr. Archana Nandi, Teacher-in-Charge, Dwijendralal College, Krishnanagar*
- *Dr. Indranil Mondal, Principal, Jalangi Mahavidyalaya, Jalangi*

Musical Recital - A Unique Way of Bridging Divides and Sharing Emotions

Violin by Mr. Somnath Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Lalbagh College.

Accompanied in tabla by Debasish Sinha Roy.

Introduction to the Workshop (2 pm-4 pm):

Friederike Voigt, Principal Curator, National Museums Scotland

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

VENUE: SEMINAR HALL, LALBAGH - DATE: 10TH -14TH FEBRUARY - TIME: 11 AM-4 PM

Tuesday - Collecting Data

Wednesday - Answering Research Questions

Thursday - Developing an Exhibition Narrative

Friday - Creating Posters

Saturday - Hosting Public Event

Workshop Presentation & Exhibition:

Reviving connection between Murshidabad- Edinburgh - Through memoir and travelogue of Archibald Swinton and Mirza I'tisam-ud-din to be curated by participating students.

Panel Discussion

14th February, Venue: Seminar Hall, Lalbagh

Delegates:

- Friederike Voigt, Principal Curator, South Asian Collections, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh
- Prof. Roger Jeffery, Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Prof. Bashabi Fraser, Professor Emerita, Edinburgh Napier University & Director, Scottish Centre for Tagore Studies, Edinburgh
- Shaktinath Jha, scholar and author, Murshidabad
- Tarat Begum, Local Custodian, Murshidabad

Moderators:

- Dr. Rajarshi Chakrabarty, Associate Professor, Dept. of History, University of Burdwan.
- Sujay Mukherjee, Asst. Professor, Graphics-Printmaking, Rabindra Bharati University.

Book Presentation:

“Perceptions of Empire: Edinburgh’s Engagement with India” (2026),

Prof. Roger Jeffery & Friederike Voigt (Editors)



Bio Notes:

Roger Jeffery is Emeritus Professor of Sociology of South Asia at the University of Edinburgh, where he worked from 1972 to 2024. He has written widely on north Indian society, based on intensive fieldwork in villages north-east of Delhi, as well as on health policy in South Asia. His edited collections include volumes on social forestry, women's education and fertility, contemporary Uttar Pradesh, and the marginalisation of ethnic and religious minorities in India. He co-founded Edinburgh University's Centre for South Asian Studies in 1987 and is Associate Director of its Edinburgh India Institute, which he founded in 2012. Since 2015, he has been researching the 'footprint' of India in Edinburgh. He edited *India in Edinburgh, 1750s to the Present* (New Delhi: Social Science Press, 2019 and Abingdon, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2020).

Friederike Voigt is Principal Curator of the West, South and Southeast Asian collections at National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh, which she joined in 2008. She is fascinated by how museum collections encapsulate human thinking and concepts. Her research investigates the perspectives of individuals involved in the British Empire in India in relation to the objects they contributed to these collections. Her scholarship has informed special exhibitions, permanent galleries and partnership work with South Asian communities. Believing that museums play critical roles in the shaping of society, she uses her curatorial expertise to diversify the voices represented in them. Currently, she leads on a multidisciplinary study of historical paintings from eighteenth-century Murshidabad, Bengal. The project sheds new light on interactions between local artisans and European customers and involves collaborations with communities in India and Scotland.

Organising Committee:

Patrons:

- *Janab Mohammad Ali*, President, Governing Body Member, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College
- *Dr. Supam Mukherjee*, Principal, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College
- *Dr. Kamal Krishna Sarkar*, Principal, Sripat Singh College
- *Dr. Soumitra Kar*, Principal, Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College
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- *Dr. Archana Nandi*, Teacher-in-Charge, Dwijendralal College
- *Dr. Indranil Mondal*, Principal, Jalangi Mahavidyalaya

Convener:

Dr. Sudipto Mukhopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh

Co-conveners:

- *Dr. Subarna Bandopadhyay*, Assistant Professor, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh
- *Dr. Mousumi Banerjee*, Curator, Murshidabad District Museum, Jiaganj
- *Dr. Basundhara Ganguly*, Assistant Professor, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh
- *Abhijit Bhattacharya*, Assistant Professor, Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College, Nabagram
- *Dr. Sagar Simlany*, Associate Professor, Sripat Singh College, Jiaganj
- *Dr. Abhishek Basu*, Assistant Professor, Sripat Singh College, Jiaganj
- *Pankaj Kumar Das*, Assistant Professor, Kandi Raj College, Kandi
- *Md. Dilwar Hossain*, Assistant Professor, Dwijendralal College, Krishnanagar
- *Shameek Ghosh*, Assistant Professor, Jalangi Mahavidyalaya, Jalangi

Technical Assistance: Arup Sarkar, Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College, Lalbagh

This project was made possible with Art Fund support



Picture Description:

Nawab Siraj al-Dawla Bahadur (r. 1756–1757) on horseback in a private procession with the state retinue in the background.

By an unknown Murshidabad artist, Murshidabad, West Bengal, India, 1756–1757.

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