



Professor Suchandra Ghosh

Suchandra Ghosh is presently Professor in the Department of History, University of Hyderabad. She was formerly Professor in the Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta. She specializes in epigraphy and numismatics. Her areas of interest include Politico-Cultural History of North-West India, Early India's linkages with Early Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean Buddhist and Trade Network and the history of Everyday Life. She is the recipient of several fellowships. She was awarded the Savitri Chandra Shobha Memorial Prize of Indian History Congress, for the book *From the Oxus to the Indus: A Political and Cultural Study* in 2017. She acted as Sectional President, Ancient India Section for the 80th session of Indian History Congress and Regional History Congresses in West Bengal and Punjab (2019). Apart from a number of essays published in peer reviewed, national and international journals and edited volumes, she is also one of the editors of *Revisiting Early India: Essays in Memory of D.C.Sircar* (2013) *Inscriptions and Agrarian Issues in Indian History, Essays in Memory of D.C.Sircar* (2017), *Subversive Sovereigns Across the Seas, Indian Ocean Ports –of-Trade From Early Historic Times to Late Colonialism* (2017), *Early Indian History and Beyond: Essays in Honour of B.D.Chattopadhyaya* (2019). *Cross Cultural Networking in the Eastern Indian Ocean Realm, C.100-1800 CE* (2019), *Exploring South Asian Urbanity*, (2021) and *The Economic History of India, Historiographical Issues and Perspectives: Essays in Honour of Professor Ranabir Chakravarti*.



Dr. T.S. Ravishankar

Dr. T.S. Ravishankar was a Former Director (Epigraphy), Archaeological Survey of India, Mysore. He is the Chairman of the Epigraphical Society of India, Executive Member of the Place Names Society of India, and Vice-President of the South Indian Numismatic Society. Dr. T.S. Ravishankar has established his expertise in deciphering Sanskrit Inscriptions and early coins, and presently edits the Annual Reports on Indian Epigraphy, the departmental publications. He has worked as an expert Numismatist from the Archaeological Survey of India at the Delhi Customs office to examine the coins. For more than 25 years, he has taught the Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology students at the Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi. He has coordinated and conducted many workshops on Paleography, Epigraphy and Numismatics. He was General President of the Epigraphical Society of India held at Dharwar, 2016. He has also participated in many important archaeological excavations at different places, especially at Ayodhya. Recently, he delivered a lecture at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and at IITKharagpur on Epigraphy.

About the Workshop

The Indian subcontinent is very rich in Epigraphical wealth. Extensive and intensive Epigraphical survey has yielded hundreds and thousands of inscriptions, which are found throughout the length and breadth of the country, including Himachal Pradesh, written in various scripts and languages, belonging to different dynasties. The whole workshop intends to give a comprehensive picture of Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies in India. There is a great need to create awareness among the faculties, students, community and the public about our rich Epigraphical Heritage, its conservation and preservation, and also as a primary source to understand our past. Since the tribe of Epigraphists is dwindling at a fast pace, there is a great need to create a second and third line of Epigraphists.

The singular aim of the workshop will be to make the participants focus on the practical aspects of decipherment of inscriptions and writings on seals and sealings, coins, manuscripts and other inscribed materials. The participants will be trained in Brahmi Script and its derivatives, including the Sarda Script with its own derivatives. These traditional scripts have a long history, clearly attested from the 3rd century BCE, and is the earliest writing system developed in India after the Indus script. The study of Brahmi and its derivatives is limited not only to the paleographical aspects of inscriptions in these scripts, but are a store house of information about our tradition, culture, history and ancient wisdom. The end-goal of the workshop is expected to be the enkindling of the interest of the participants in the structure, syntax and the epigraphical as well as paleographical aspects of the Brahmi script and its derivatives. The Workshop would also include a session on the Epigraphical Heritage of Himachal Pradesh.

One-week International Workshop

on 'Brāhmī Script'

November 22 – 28, 2023



Organized by
Govt. Degree College Dhamsi
at 16 Miles, Shimla, H.P



in collaboration with

Himachal State Museum, Shimla-4

Sponsored by: Department of Language & Culture, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

Resource Person

Dr. T. S. Ravishankar
Former Director (Epigraphy),
Archaeological Survey of India, Mysore

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Richard G. Salomon
Professor, Asian Languages (Sanskrit) Emeritus,
University of Washington

Prof. Suchandra Ghosh
Department of History,
University of Hyderabad



Professor Richard G. Solomon

Richard G. Salomon is a Professor Emeritus of Asian Languages (Sanskrit) at the University of Washington. He joined the University of Washington as an Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Literature in 1981, advancing to an Associate Professor in 1986, then a Professor in 1994 within the same field. He



received his Ph.D. in Sanskrit (with distinction) at the University of Pennsylvania in 1975. His research fields are Sanskrit and Middle Indo-Aryan (Prakrit) languages and literature; Gandhāran Studies and Gāndhārī language and literature; Indian Epigraphy and Paleography, Buddhist Sanskrit and Middle Indo-Aryan languages and texts, Sanskrit Poetry (kāvya), Ancient Indian History, World History of Writing. Since his Ph.D., Salomon has published over 130 documents. His most renowned work is on the Gandhāran Buddhist texts, the oldest Buddhist manuscripts ever discovered, which date from the 1st century B.C.E. to the 3rd century C.E. One of the birch bark manuscripts was acquired by the University of Washington Libraries in 2002 and has contributed to the ongoing Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project shared with the British Library. Recent accomplishments include his election as President of the American Oriental Society (April 2014), being selected to hold the William P. and Ruth Gerberding University Professorship after recognition of “exceptional contributions and accomplishment” within his field (July, 2015), and the Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa awarding Salomon with the Humanities Achievement Award for research on the Gandhāran manuscripts (2016). He is also the author of numerous studies on Sanskrit and Prakrit language and literature, Indian epigraphy and palaeography, and early Indian History. He knows about Fourteen languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Gāndhārī, German, French, Hindi, Bengali, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Russian, classical Chinese and Tibetan.

SCHEDULE OF THE WORKSHOP

There will be two daily sessions (Morning Session, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and evening Session, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm). The certificate will be awarded only to those participants who will attend all the workshop sessions.

Day - 1, November 22, 2023

11:00 am to 12:30 pm: Inaugural Session

Keynote Address: *Use of Brahmi Script in South Asia and Beyond: Historical Implications*
by Professor Suchandra Ghosh, University of Hyderabad.

Introduction to Epigraphy and Paleography
by Dr. T. Dr. T. S. Ravishankar, Former Director (Epigraphy), ASI, Mysore.

1st Session: 12:30 am to 2:00 pm
The antiquity of writing in India
Epigraphy as a primary source of History

Lunch: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

2nd session: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Brahmi and Kharosthi: Origin and Development
Palaeographical study of Aśokan Brahmi

Day - 2, November 23, 2023

Keynote Address: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Professor Richard G. Salomon, Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit, University of Washington.

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Epigraphical studies: Multidisciplinary approach
Scripts and Languages
Forms and format of the inscriptions

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Decipherment of Aśokan Brahmi inscriptions
Sunga and Kushana inscriptions: Palaeographical study

Day - 3, November 24, 2023

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Epigraphical explorations and copying of inscriptions.
Decipherment of Sunga and Kushana inscriptions

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Inscriptions on other materials
Palaeography of Kshatrapa inscriptions
Comparative study of Maurya, Sunga, Kushan and Kshatrapa inscriptions

Day - 4, November 25, 2023

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Brahmi Numerals
Dates and Eras
Seals and sealings

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Palaeographical study of Gupta inscriptions

Day - 5, November 26, 2023

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Prakrit and Sanskrit inscriptions

Paleographical Study of Satavahana and Ikshvaku inscriptions

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Box head and Nail head characters
Shell character inscriptions
Siddhamatrika characters

Day - 6, November 27, 2023

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Palaeographical study of Early Nagari, Sharada and proto-Bengali inscriptions

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Editing of inscriptions
Use of Diacritical marks

Day - 7, November 28, 2023

1st Session: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Practical training: decipherment of the inscriptions.
Interaction with the participants, Q/A session

Lunch: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

2nd session: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Validatory Session

Closing of the workshop
Distribution of Certificates to the participants.

Registration Details

Registration Fee (For the entire seven-day workshop)
Academicians and Faculty: Rs. 1000/-
Students and Research scholars: Rs. 500/-



QR code for payment of Registration Fee

Arrangements for stay and food will be made by the participants themselves.

(Only lunch will be provided by the organizer)
Register before November 15, 2023 through link:
<https://forms.gle/4V6zMM2uzrcpCW6o9>

Maximum Registration limit: 50 only

For further queries, Contact Dr. Kishori Lal Chandel
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