



**NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

centre for

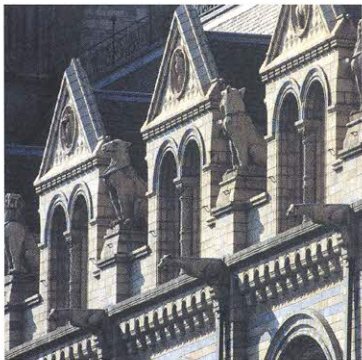
Arts + Humanities

research

newsletter

Issue 2 Spring 2013

CAHR's mission is to promote and explore the cultural, historical and economic value of the Natural History Museum's vast collections.



FELLOWSHIP IN PICTURES

This academic year, we are delighted to host Dr John Holmes (English Department, University of Reading) whose project analyses how pre-Raphaelite principles shaped the architectural design and decoration of Victorian museums of natural history.

BIODIVERSITY IN INDIA

Following CAHR's "Wallich and Indian Natural History" project, CAHR's Zara Naghizadeh was invited by Dr Bhargavamma Venugopal (Director, National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) to present a paper at the "International Conference on Biodiversity" in Hyderabad, India. The paper highlighted the historicity of scientific material and how CAHR projects have managed such research and inquiry into the Natural History Museum's collections.

This conference ran alongside the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting, serving as a platform for discussion on planning a museum on Indian biodiversity. Conference organisers recognised the need to bring together practitioners and researchers across the disciplines, resulting in an acknowledgment of the sciences, arts and humanities as interwoven rather than as disciplinary silos. This stimulated approaches to representing biodiversity, where traditional and cultural knowledge – exchanged through word of mouth and the printed word – are considered an operative part of India's environmental protection and care. A number of talks used traditional knowledge as a springboard for discussion on how to manage and curate botanic gardens and museums.



Voodoo lily, *Typhonium venosum*, watercolour, 1796, Thomas Hardwicke collection



Golkonda, Hyderabad



The conference ceremony

Images of India

The NHM's Images of Nature Gallery displays some of the Museum's most beautiful artworks of nature in its collection, and now casts its eye on India. It includes an installation by Sunoj D, 2012 artist in residence at the Natural History Museum. He also participated in a residency programme in New Delhi, where he created an installation addressing environmental issues entitled *When you watch them grow...2*. <http://sunojd.wordpress.com>



Zara Naghizadeh, CAHR and Raneek Prakash, Curator of Flowering Plants, in Hyderabad

Further reading

Under UNESCO guidelines, the 'arts and humanities' in museums are termed 'intangible natural heritage'. The current textbook for this subject area is: Dorfman, Eric (ed.) *Intangible Natural Heritage: New Perspectives on Natural Objects*, Routledge, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS

October 2012

Biodiversity and Historicity, Dr Zara Naghizadeh in the "International Conference on Biodiversity", Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, India

November 2012

The influence of Mark Catesby on Linnaeus's concepts of plants, Dr Charlie Jarvis in the international conference "Mark Catesby's Third Centennial in America - Celebrating his Impact on our World", Washington DC, Richmond (Virginia) and Charleston (South Carolina)

December 2012

The Herbaria of Paul Hermann and Hans Sloane, Dr Zara Naghizadeh in the "Botanical and Meteorological Records of India 1600-1900" Network, Sussex University, Brighton

Invited participant, Dr Charlie Jarvis at the AHRC-funded workshop series "Curiously-drawn: Early Modern Science as a Visual Pursuit" organized by Dr Sachiko Kusakawa (University of Cambridge), Cambridge and the Royal Society.

February 2013

Organiser of a workshop on selected parts of Hans Sloane's botanical collections (collected by Georg Kamel, Samuel Browne and Edward Bulkley) and associated mss and drawings, Dr Charlie Jarvis, Natural History Museum.

March 2013

"Of Embryos and Cockleshells": Singular duplicates in the eighteenth-century, Dr Zara Naghizadeh in the conference "Gothic: Culture, Subculture, Counterculture", Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

Working in Museums, Dr Zara Naghizadeh in the "Creative Week Series", Royal Holloway College, University of London, London