

BANGLADESH NATIONAL MUSEUM

Object ID Record Sheet

1 Object ID Number:															
0	1	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	6	0
2 Name of the Museum: Bangladesh National Museum															
3 Name of the Department: Department of History and Classical Art															
4 Classification: Water-Color Painting															
5 Date of Accession:										6 Accession Number:					
Day		Month		Year	0000					0	2	8	6	0	
7 Name of Object: Dhaka Water-color Paintings															
8 Materials of the Object: Paper and Water Color															
9 Measurements:															
Height or Length		Width		Depth		Diameter		Weight							
60.96	cm	45.72	cm	0	cm	0	cm							gm	
10 Inscriptions/Markings:															
11 Distinguishing Features:															
12 Title:															
13 Subject: Decorative Art															
14 How Acquired: Gift															
15 Received From: Khan Shaheb Abul Hasnat Ahmad Address:															
16 Price Paid:										Estimated Price:					
17 Insurance Value:															
18 Date or Period: 19th century A. D.															
19 Maker: Unknown															
20 Brief Description of the Object: A series of 39 water colour paintings showing ceremonial Id and Muharram processions are of special interest. These paintings, drawn in Dhaka in the early part of the nineteenth century A.D., are among the earliest surviving paintings in water-colour from Bengal. Each of the 39 paintings which together constitute the series is, on an average, 60.96X45.72 cm in size done on country-made paper with liberal use of red, green, yellow, brown and black. These paintings depict a wide range of social life in nineteenth-century Dhaka. Very vividly represented in the paintings are different sections of people, their costumes and customs, landmarks and buildings of the then city of Dhaka, some of which have survived even to this day. So realistic are the paintings that even beggars, dogs or snake charmers on the streets did not escape the attention of the painters, of whom Alam Musawwar was one. The paintings representing an assimilation of the Mughal and European styles, may be classified as belonging to the Company School yet different.															

21 Place of Origin/Discovery:	Local traditions mention that the paintings were drawn under the patronage of Intezem al-Daula Nasir al-Mulk Nawab Syed Ali Khan Bahadur Nusrat Jung (1796-1823), the <i>Naib Nazim</i> of Dhaka. But, in fact, these may be of a later date around the middle of the nineteenth century. It may be mentioned here that Nusrat Jung has been represented in some of the paintings. This may be a recapitulation of his likeness done in memory of his popularity.						
22 Provenance/Acquisition History:	The series were in the collection of Khan Shaheb Abul Hasnat Ahmad just before they were acquired by Dhaka Museum. Ahmad Hasan Dani, the then Curator of Dhaka Museum, convinced the donor to present the series to the Museum. It is worth mentioning here that the donor was one of the distinguished members of the Dhaka Museum Committee.						
23 Present Condition of the Object:	Good						
24 Location within the Museum:							
25 File Reference:							
26 Conservation/Restoration Record:							
27 Bibliographical Reference:	<i>Catalogue of the Special Exhibition of Islamic Art in Bangladesh</i> in Dacca Museum April 3-28 1978, pp. 22-23.						
28 Comments:	The series are of considerable historical and documentary value for a study of social life in Dhaka in the nineteenth century A.D. All the 39 pieces of painting have been recorded under the same Accession No. 2860.						
29 Date of Object ID Sheet:	10-Jan-2012						
30 Record Prepared by:							
31 Photograph(s):	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>						

Registration Officer

Head of the Department

Director General