

BANGLADESH NATIONAL MUSEUM

Object ID Record Sheet

1 Object ID Number:															
0	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
2 Name of the Museum: Bangladesh National Museum															
3 Name of the Department: Department of History and Classical Art															
4 Classification: Hindu Sculpture															
5 Date of Accession:										6 Accession Number:					
Day		Month		Year	0000			0	0	0	5	0			
7 Name of Object: An Image of Sarasvati															
8 Materials of the Object: Black Stone															
9 Measurements:															
Height or Length		Width		Depth		Diameter		Weight							
58.42	cm	27.94	cm	0	cm	0	cm								gm
10 Inscriptions/Markings:															
11 Distinguishing Features:															
12 Title:															
13 Subject: Classical Art															
14 How Acquired: Collection															
15 Received From: Address:															
16 Price Paid:								Estimated Price:							
17 Insurance Value:															
18 Date or Period: Second quarter of the 11th century A.D.															
19 Maker: Unknown															
20 Brief Description of the Object: Sarasvati is the Hindu goddess of learning. She sits on a lotus with her right leg pendant, the foot resting on a lotus. The goddess has four hands. Her normal hands play on the lyre. The other right hand holds the Rosary, and in the other left hand the goddess carries a Book. Below are carved some elaborate coils of lotus stakes. The swan, the vehicle of the goddess, appears inside the extreme right coil. A devotee with folded hands is depicted in the left extreme coil. Masses of tangled locks of the goddess are done into a braid, nicely carved and shown on the left side of her head. It is a beautifully carved image of Sarasvati. The goddess sits under a tri-folio arch, and the Krttimukha is depicted at the top of the sculpture.															
21 Place of Origin/Discovery:				The find-place of the image is noteworthy. Nalini Kanta referred to Vajrayogini as a big village in the southern part of the tract which anciently was the site of the city of Vikarampura. According to Bhattasali, this village comprised 27 hamlets, each known by a different name. Vajrayogini has yielded a number of Buddhist images. This fact, together with the name of the village, which is identical with that of a well-known Vajrayana goddess, marks the village out as an ancient seat of the Buddhists. The discovery of the Hindu goddess of learning in the ancient seat of the Buddhists is significant.											

22	Provenance/Acquisition History:	Village: Vajrayogini, District: Munshiganj			
23	Present Condition of the Object:	Good			
24	Location within the Museum:	Gallery No. 18, Room No. 218			
25	File Reference:				
26	Conservation/Restoration Record:				
27	Bibliographical Reference:	Nalini Kanta Bhattasali, <i>Iconography of Buddhist and Brahmanical Sculptures in the Dacca Museum</i> (Dhaka 1929, Reprint: October 2008), pp. 188-190, Plate LXIII.			
28	Comments:	This image of Sarasvati is a masterpiece of Bengal art.			
29	Date of Object ID Sheet:	10-Jan-2012			
30	Record Prepared by:				
31	Photograph(s):				

Registration Officer

Head of the Department

Director General