

BANGLADESH NATIONAL MUSEUM

Object ID Record Sheet

1 Object ID Number:															
0	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	9	8	6	0	3	8	6	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	1986					0	3	8	6	0	
7 Name of Object: An Image of Nilakantha															
8 Materials of the Object:															
9 Measurements:															
Height or Length		Width		Depth		Diameter		Weight							
132.08	cm	0	cm	0	cm	0	cm							gm	
10 Inscriptions/Markings:															
11 Distinguishing Features:															
12 Title:															
13 Subject: Classical Art															
14 How Acquired:															
15 Received From:															
Address:															
16 Price Paid:										Estimated Price:					
17 Insurance Value:															
18 Date or Period: 11th Century A.D.															
19 Maker:															
20 Brief Description of the Object: <p>Nilakantha is a form of Siva, the Hindu god of destruction. The god stands on a lotus and has four hands. He wears matted locks and the resplendent crescent. He holds by his four hands the Rosary, the Trident, the Skull and the Khatvanga. The god has an umbrella at the top, below which Kartikeya and Ganesa, the two sons of Siva, are represented. Nilakantha is flanked by Ganga and Gauri, his two wives, the former on the right on a dolphin, and the latter on the left on a lion. Both the wives have a lotus in their left hands and the Abhaya Mudra in their right. The Bull, the vehicle of Siva, is crouching at the bottom and looking wistfully up at its Lord. The prominent Urdhva Linga, which is a sure index to the images of Siva in Bengal, should also be noted. The god has a pleasing smile on his face, which gives credit to the sculptor.</p>															
21 Place of Origin/Discovery: This Hindu god was discovered at Kasipur, a few miles west of Barisal, where it was being worshipped. The god was commonly known as the Virupaksa of Kasipur.															

22 Provenance/Acquisition History:	<p>Images were being stolen from temples throughout East Pakistan in 1970. Reports of these thefts were being published in newspapers. One day Mr. Shah Mohammad Salahuddin, a collector, informed Mr. Enamul Haque, Director, Dhaka Museum, that Jamalgam Curio Centre, a shop on Mymensingh Road (near the then Hotel Intercontinental), Dhaka, approached him to sell an image of Nilakantha. Mr. Enamul Haque, Director, Dhaka Museum, then sent Firoz Mahmud to Kasipur to know whether the image of Nilakantha was still there or not. Firoz Mahmud found that the image had already been stolen from the temple at Kasipur. He learned from the owner of the temple that it was stolen a few days ago and that he had reported the theft to the local police. The Dhaka Museum authority used the service of Mr. Shah Mohammad Salahuddin to locate the image. Mr. Salahuddin went back to Jamalgam Curio Centre and expressed his desire to purchase the image of Nilakantha. The principal owner of the shop took him to his house and showed him the image. The price was negotiated at Tk. 26,000. Mr. Salahuddin told the principal owner that he would come back in a day or two with the amount. As Mr. Salahuddin confirmed the whereabouts of Nilakantha, the Dhaka Museum authority contacted the then Minister for Home Affairs the next. The Ramna Police and the CID were directed to raid the house of the said owner and the house of his partner. The police recovered 63 images from the two houses on 4 May 1970. Nilakantha and most of the other images were recovered from the house of Abdur Rashid, the principal owner of Jamalgam Curio Center. A few images were</p>				
23 Present Condition of the Object:	Excellent				
24 Location within the Museum:	Gallery No. 18, Room No. 218				
25 File Reference:					
26 Conservation/Restoration Record:					
27 Bibliographical Reference:	<p>Nalini Kanta Bhattasali, <i>Iconography of Buddhist and Brahmanical Sculptures in the Dacca Museum</i> (Dhaka 1929, Reprint: October 2008), pp. 116-117, Plate XLVI.</p>				
28 Comments:	This image of Nilakantha is a masterpiece of Bengal art.				
29 Date of Object ID Sheet:	10-Jan-2012				
30 Record Prepared by:					
31 Photograph(s):	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 25px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> </table>				

Registration Officer

Head of the Department

Director General