

Kabul Museum Projekt – Curator Training Seminar

Vienna 2010

From 31 May – 10 July 2010 a training seminar was held in Vienna for eight curators from the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul under the sponsorship of the Gerda Henkel Fund in Germany. This training seminar was held jointly at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and the University of Vienna and it encompassed training in the fields of art history, numismatics, database management and museology. It was the second training event of its kind after a very successful seminar held in New Delhi in 2008.

The following curators took part in the program:

Ms. Nasrin Balali	Bronze Age
Ms. Shazia Hamdard	Islamic Period
Mr. Ezatullah Shariti	Database
Mr. Mohammad Mansoor Alemy	Database
Mr. Mohammad Atiq Hamdard	Pre-Kushan Periode
Mr. Farhad Sediqy	Numismatics
Mr. Ajmal Yar	Kushan Period
Mr. Rahimulah Amani	Early Islamic Period



City tour, in front of the Karlskirche in Vienna

The curators were housed in two apartments near the Department of Art History. They were provided with three prepaid mobile phones and a daily per diem of € 25 for their meals and everyday needs.

An advanced knowledge of the English language was an essential prerequisite for the training in Vienna. Through financing provided by The Barakat Trust, all members of the Kabul Museum curator group received English-language training in Afghanistan prior to coming to Vienna. This training proved essential and very successful.

Art History Seminar

2.6.-30.6.2010

Univ.- Prof. Dr. Deborah Klimburg-Salter Ms. Shazia Hamdard
Dr. W. Luke Treadwell Mr. Mohammad Atiq Hamdard
Dr. Erika Forte Mr. Ajmal Yar
Dr. Matthew Savage Mr. Rahimulah Amani
Mag. Linda Lojda
Mag. Verena Ziegler
Mag. Susanne Novotny
Mag. Petra Müller
DI Uwe Niebuhr BA

The training took place at the Department of Art History in Vienna and was held in two-hour sessions in the mornings and afternoons.

The lecturers trained the curators in their own special fields, always concentrating on the connection to Afghanistan. Special focus was placed on the early Buddhist art and iconography of South and Central Asia. The knowledge gained at the training seminar in New Delhi was deepened and broadened. Two lectures focussed on Buddhist art from Afghanistan. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Klimburg-Salter also gave an introduction to Islamic Art.



Seminar training classroom at the Department of Art History, University of Vienna

Lectures:

2.6. und 7.6.2010: Univ.- Assistentin Mag. Linda Lojda: Origins of Buddhist Art of India I,
Origins of Buddhist Art of India II

8.6. und 9.6.2010: Mag. Verena Ziegler: Buddha and Bodhisattva depictions in Kushana Art I
Buddha and Bodhisattva depictions in Kushana Art II and The Life of
Buddha Sakyamuni in Indian and Afghan Art

10.6. und 11.6.2010: Dr. Erika Forte: Art of the Silk Road und Chinese Buddhist Art

14.6. und 15.6.2010: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Deborah Klimburg-Salter: Islamic Art und Bamiyan

15.6.2010: Mag. Susanne Novotny: The Art of Fondukistan

Islamic Art is of special interest to the curators. But because we did not have the possibility for a more specialised training in Islamic art here in Vienna, we were very happy to welcome Prof. Dr. Luke Treadwell from the University of Oxford as a guest lecturer in this field. From 28.6.–2.7.2010 Prof. Treadwell taught courses in Islamic art and numismatics to all eight curators at the Department of Art History and at the Kunsthistorisches Museum.

Prof. Treadwell furthermore gave two public lectures:

28.6.2010: Why did the Umayyads abandon figural coinage in favour of epigraphic coinage?

30.6.2010: Attitudes towards figural imagery in the pre-modern Islamic world.



Training session with Dr. Luke Treadwell, Department Art History

Numismatic Training Seminar

Univ.-Doz. Dr. Michael Alram

Mr. Farhad Sediqy

Dr. Klaus Vondrovec

Ms. Nasrin Balali

Dr. Matthias Pfisterer

Under the supervision of Dr. Michael Alram, Ms. Nasrin Balali and Mr. Farhad Sediqy took part in training courses in the field of Numismatics.

The goal of the training was to improve the competence of the curators in their daily work with coins. Focus was placed on the practical application and administration of coin stocks. The coins of the Kabul Museum served as objects of study and were made available in the form of partially annotated photo files. Under the guidance of Dr. Klaus Vondrovec and Dr. Matthias Pfisterer, data from the Kabul stock were uploaded into the existing database which in the future will be used for administration purposes in the Kabul Museum. Special importance was therefore placed on standardized and accurate cataloguing of information as a basic requirement for the proper functioning of electronic data processing.

In addition, the existing information on the coins was reviewed and when necessary corrected.

In conclusion, both curators taking part in the numismatic training made very good progress and we are convinced that our work here was successful.

Computer and Information Technology Training Seminar

DI Seán Mc Allister
Mag. Daniel Terkl
Mag. Matthias Noë

Mr. Ezatullah Shariti
Mr. Mohammad Mansoor Alemy

See attachment



Department of Art History, University of Vienna, IT-training

Museology training

Graz

23.6.2010 – 25.6.2010

Dr. Wolfgang Muchitsch (Director of the Landzeughaus)
Mag. Sabine Fauland
Mag. Jörg Eipper Kaiser (Editor)
Bettina Kindermann (Marketing and public affairs)
Mag. Christoph Pelzl (Assistance)
Dr. Barbara Porod (Head of the Archaeological Collection)
Mag. Karl Peitler (Head of the Coin Cabinet)

During a three-day trip to Graz, the curators visited and worked in the Universalmuseum Joanneum. Training started with a presentation on the history and organisation of the museum.



Joanneum Graz, presentation by museum staff

Focus was also placed on learning about the marketing strategies and techniques of the museum. In an afternoon session, the marketing department discussed its tasks and activities. In the Archaeological Museum and the Coin cabinet the curators were guided by Dr. Barbara Porod (Head of the Archaeological Collection) and Mag. Karl Peitler (Head of the Coin Cabinet).

In addition, the following collections and museums were visited:

Landzeughaus, Schloss Eggenberg, Kunsthaus Graz, Völkerkunde Museum



Joanneum Graz, left: Schloss Eggenberg with Mag. Sabine Fauland, right: Kunsthaus Graz

Poster design

17.6.2010 - 22.6.2010

Univ.- Prof. Dr. Deborah Klimburg-Salter

Dr. Matthew Savage

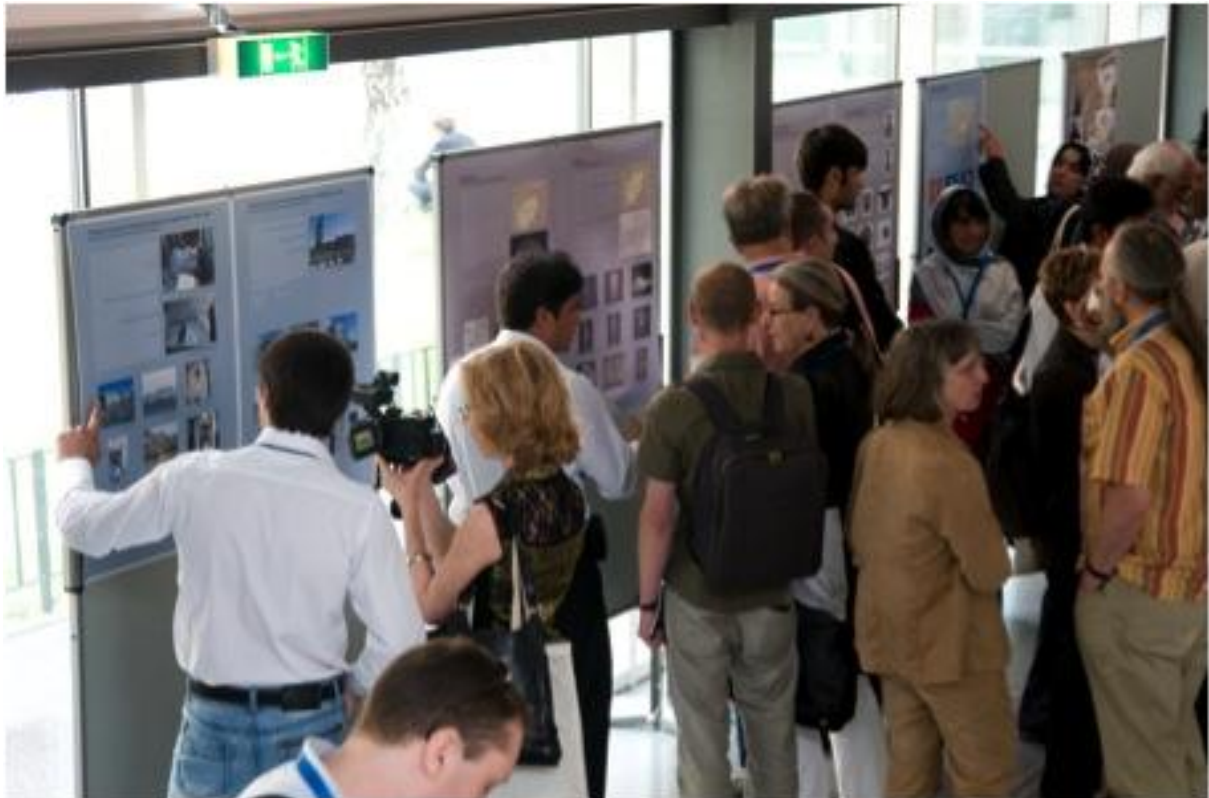
DI Uwe Niebuhr, BA

Mag. Petra Müller

Monica Strinu

The curators learned about the design, formatting and presentation of scientific and museum posters. Six of the curators also designed their own posters for the EASAA Conference with our assistance. They individually developed concepts for presenting their respective departments in the Kabul Museum, and they formulated texts and selected images for their posters.

The subsequent presentation of the curators' posters at the EASAA conference was very successful. During a special poster presentation session, the curators explained and discussed their work with the other participants.



EASAA Conference, Afghan Poster Session

EASAA Conference

4.7.2010 – 10.7.2010

The 20th EASAA Conference (European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art) took place in Vienna from 4-9 July. The event marked the 40th anniversary of the EASAA. The curators joined the Conference and also took an active role in presenting their posters during the Afghan Poster Session.



EASAA Conference, University Campus, Lecture hall C1

At the Conference, the curators heard lectures and presentations on a broad range of topics, and they were able to talk to and make contacts with international specialists.



At the close of the EASAA Conference

Excursions

- 4.6.2010 Carnuntum: visit to the excavations of the Roman settlement with Dr. Matthias Pfisterer und Dr. Klaus Vondrovec
- 11.6.2010 MAK: Guided tour of the depot of the Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna
- 18.6.2010: Reception at the Afghan Embassy in Vienna
- 22.6.2010 Liechtenstein Museum: Tour of the palace and the collection of the museum.

- 26.6.2010 Leoben: exhibition “Alexander der Große“ at the Kunsthalle Leoben. Several objects from the Kabul Museum were on display in the exhibit.
- 30.6.2010 KHM: Tour of the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna
- 2.7.2010 Völkerkundemuseum: Tour of the depot as well as the Afghan collection, with Dr. Axel Steinman
- 2.7. NHM: Tour of the Botanic Department of Dr. Ernst Vitek
- 7.7.2010 Klosterneuburg: Tour of the monastery



Afghan embassy, Vienna

Extracurricular activities

- 3.6.2010 Vienna Sightseeing: Bus tour
- 5.6.2010 Vienna Sightseeing: City walk
- 8.6.2010 Schloss Schönbrunn: Concert for Europe
- 13.6.2010 Stephansdom: Joseph Haydn's Missa sancti Bernardi von Offida in B-flat major, Hob. XXII:10