

existence of these techniques while natural scientists (physicists, chemists and material scientists) are not necessarily familiar with the needs that concern the study, preservation and conservation of museum objects. Second, many of the research instruments and analytical facilities are located in specialized research institutes, as they require very specific expertise'. Therefore, the intention of Europeans is to create: '(i) an environment that enables the co-operation and interaction between museums and natural scientists; and (ii) to achieve a better preservation and conservation of European cultural heritage by increasing the knowledge in museum objects through non-destructive analysis and testing by improving the synergy between art historians, archaeologists, conservators and natural scientists'. The expected benefit is first, the capability of answering questions (related to museum objects), which

cannot be readily solved now, will be enhanced. In addition museums and similar institutes, art historians, archaeologists and conservators will get easy access to universities and research facilities that provide such techniques. The natural scientists can exchange knowledge relevant for the study, preservation and conservation of museum objects.

Getting back to our book, one finds that this book can serve a very useful purpose to the community at large (including the scientific community) if a broader view is taken by including other techniques that are available in India in *IGCAR and elsewhere* and discuss as to how they can be of help in finger printing icons of India. The European approach is adaptable to India as a number of institutions exist across the country.

A general observation is that there is much variation in style from chapter to chapter giving an impression that the

book needs to be referred as an edited book rather than as a co-authored one. The authors must have been conscious of this, as it is also explicitly indicated in the book. Uniformity in style is desirable. There is no need for having the boxed items; contents of these could have formed parts of running text.

By taking care of grammatical, syntactic, type-setting and other errors and by augmenting and updating the text with more technical information, a future edition can fulfil the needs of a good reference text, to be of greater use to museum curators, archaeologists, etc. in the Indian context.

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