

Chapter- V

Varendra Research Society and its Relation with the Contemporary Research Institutions of India

Despite the fact that the society was died out in 1963 and the post 1947 phase appeared like a sluggish period , the VRS & its museum set of profound connections and kept going the same till 1947 with the archaeological Survey of India, the parent body in archaeological field as well as the alike societies and museums of India. Even the institution had close contact with the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon and a few contemporary well-known institute of Europe. As a result the collection, particularly the library collection was turned out to be well off day by day. The museum of the VRS was too benefited owing to this. And because of this thoughtful cavernous relation the scholars of the VRS succeeded to spread their scholarly excellence all over India.

The relation was not one sided. It is not that the Society only just collected as present or bought publications and antiquities from other similar institutes. The other institutions also inured to collect publications of the VRS. Actually, exchange scheme was the basis of the relation. But at some point in time when the 4th chapter was fabricated all the publications of the VRS were as well brought up. For this reason the attention would be dogged here merely to highlight items collected by VRS from other similar organizations.

Relation with Archaeological Survey of India:

The Archaeological Survey of India was structured in 1861 with the purposes of investigation, excavation, conservation, and protection of the monuments and sites of national and international value. It would not be wide of the mark to cite that nearly since the occasion of its inception, the VRS in support of its own obligation set up superb relation with this

parent body in the field of archaeology. Because in 1911 while the survival of the Society was in jeopardy by reason of a wrangle with Indian Museum it had to appeal the Archaeological Survey of India to workout the same. And Sir John Marshall, Director of the Indian Archaeology was one of the adherents of the Society. It was Marshall who granted authorization to VRS in favour of excavation.¹ keeping in mind the activities in the sphere of excavation, Marshall made arrangement intended for the proper training in excavation to a scholar of VRS under the Department of Archaeology. As a result Ramaprasad Chanda, the secretary of VRS joined at first in the Department of Archaeology as a trainee and within the occupancy (1917- 1919) of his vocation Chanda lifted up inquisitiveness about the ancient and unknown history by organizing lists in text method of the relics which were revealed from the archaeological sites like Taxila, Mathura, Sarnath and of the objets d'art of Sanchi museum.² After the completion of Chanda's training, Marshall recommended his name and requested the Bengal Provincial Government to employ him as government remunerated assistant curator in the museum of VRS. Yet, the Provincial Government did not materialize the suggestion. Even in the subsequent years Marshall Facilated Nanigopal Majumdar, the curator of the museum of VRS in similar training. Nanigopal started his training in the eminent archaeological site of Mahenjodaro under, no other than, Sir John Marshall.³ Besides Marshall, K. N. Dikshit, the officer in command of the Paharpur and Mahasthan excavation permitted Nirodbandhu Sanyal, the curator of the museum of VRS to take practical training.⁴ Nirodbandhu Sanyal also learnt the scientific method of cleaning metal images and Muslim numismatics under the expert guidance of, no other than, Dikshit.⁵ The support and assistance of Archaeological Survey of India was not forgotten by the Society. In return, Marshall was nominated as the honorary vice president and honorary member of the VRS.⁶ Moreover, the Society recorded these encouraging aids in their annual reports.

Now it can be approached with the annual reports of the Society.

1925- 26 : In the year four putrefied copper plates of the museum were sent to the Archaeological chemist and received back at the advice of the director general of archaeology in India.⁷

1926- 27: In this year Archaeological Department presented their nine volumes to the VRS.⁸

1927- 28 & 1928- 29: In the first year the Archaeological Survey of India presented 66 photographs and in the 2nd year 34 photographs of the Paharpur excavation. Besides, it is already mentioned that on 11th October, 1828 K. N. Dikshit delivered a lecture on the paharpur excavations, with lantern slides.

1929- 30: In this year VRS took delivery of nine volumes and two silver rupees of William IV and Victoria as Treasure Trove finds. Moreover, three bronze images of Buddha of about the 12th century date, forming part of the Treasure Trove find from Negapatam(District Tanjore, Madras), were purchased, having been offered for sale at cost price by the Director general of Archaeology of India.⁹

1930- 31: The following volumes were obtained by the Society as presents:

A) Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India-

i) No- 37, *Tour in wazinistan and North Baluchistan*, Stein;

ii) No- 38, *Kushan- Sassanian coins*, Herzfeld;

iii) No- 42, *Tour in upper Swat and adjacent hill tracts*, stein;

iv) No- 44, *Exploration in Orissa*.

B) Annual Report of the year 1926-27.

1932- 33: In the year VRS got hold of the following items as presents:

- i) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume XIX, pts. 8.
- ii) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume XX, pts. 5, 6.
- iii) *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No. 24, Ghosh: *Rock Paintings of Prehistoric and Later Times*.
- iv) *Mahenjodaro and the Indus civilization*, No- 1, Chapter- 1 – XIX and plates- 1 – XIV.
- v) *Do Volume II*, Text, Chapters XX- XXXII, appendices and index.
- vi) *Do Volume- III*, Pl. XV- CIXIV.
- vii) Hamid Kuraishi, *List of Ancient Monuments protected under Act. VII of 1904 in the province of Bihar and Orissa*. ASI (N. I. S.), Volume LI.
- viii) *Medieval Temples of the Dekhan*, ASI (N. I. S.), Volume- XLVIII.
- ix) *Epigraphia Indo- Moslemica*, 1929- 30.
- x) Zafar Hossain: *Bibliography of Indo- Moslem history excluding provincial Monarchies*, *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*, No- 45.
- xi) *Cousens: Somnath and Other Medieval Temples in Kathiawad*, ASI (NIS), Volume- XLV.

1933- 34:

Presented:

- i) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume- XXI, pt. 1, 2 and 3 ; Volume XX, pt. 8.
- ii) Sir A.Stein, *Wall paintings from ancient shrines in Central Asia and Sistan*.
- iii) Annual Report (ASI) of the year 1928- 29.

iv) R. D. Banerjee, *Eastern Indian School of Medieval sculptures*, A. S. I., NIS, Volume- XLVII.

v) K. V. S Aiyer, *South Indian Inscriptions*(Texts), Volume- VIII, ASI, (NIS, volume- LIII).

1934-35:In the year Krishna Deva, a reserah scholar of the Archaeological Survey of India had come to Rajshahi to study the antiquities in the museum of the VRS for a short time ¹⁰.

Following publications were presented to the Society:

i) G.R. Kaye, *The Bakhshali Manuscript*, part. III(NIS, Volume – XLIII).

ii) D.R.Sahni, *Guide to the Buddhist ruins of Sarnath*.

iii) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume- XXI, No- 5 & 6.

iv) A.Foucher, *On the Iconography of the Buddhist nativity*, M. A. S. I., No- 48.

v) Hirananda Sastri, *A Guide to Eliphanta*.

1935- 36: obtained as presents-

i) *Epigraphia Indo- Moslemica*, 1931- 32 & 933- 34.

ii) F.H.Andrews, *Descriptive Catalogue of antiquities recovered by Sir Aurel Stein during his explorations in Central Asia, Kansu and Eastern Iran*.

iii) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume- XXVII, pts. 1, 2 and 3.

iv) Annual Report on the South Indian Epigraphy for the year ending in March, 1932.

v) B.C.Law, *Sravasti in Indian Literature*, M. A. S. I., No- 50.

vi) Annual Report (ASI) for the year 1929- 30.

vii) M.A. Hussain, *A Record of all the Quranic and non-historical epigraphs*, M. A. S. I. No- 47.

1936- 37: Presents-

i) B. Prasad, *Animal remains from Harappa*, M. A. S. I., No- 51.

ii) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume. XXII, pts. 4 – 7

XXIII, pts. 1- 4

XXI, pts. 7.

iii) Annual Report on the South Indian Epigraphy for the year ending in March, 1933 and March 1934.

iv) Annual Report, 1930- 34, pts. I and II.

v) Do , 1934- 35.

vi) M. Nazim, *Bijapur Inscriptions*, M. A. S. I., No- 49.

vii) K.V. Aiyer, Subrahmanya, *South Indian Inscriptions*(Texts), Volume- VIII.

viii) H.N.Wright, *The Coinage and Metrology of the Sultans of Delhi*, 1936.

ix) *A memoir on Kotla Firoz Shah*, Delhi, M. A. S. I.

x) Chas. Duroiselle, *Ananda temple at Pagan*, M. A. S. I., no- 56.

xi) *Epigraphia Indo- Moslemica*, 1933- 34, supplements.

1938- 39: In this year, T. N. Ramchandran, the superintendent of Archaeological Survey, Eastern circle, instructed the Society to depute their curator for appropriate training in preservative treatment under the guidance of the Archaeological Chemist at Dehra Dun.¹¹ Actually it was not viable for the Archaeological Chemist to undertake preservative action of antiquities of all the Museums in India. On the other hand, it was necessary to prevent the antiquities from corrosion. Therefore the curator of the Museum of VRS was sent to Dehra Dun for one month and at the Indian Museum at Ccutta for same duration.

In this year too the Society received some volumes from the A. S. I. –

i) *Epigraphia Indica*, Volume- XXI, pt. 8.

XXIII, pts. 5, 6 & 7

XXII, pt. 8

XXIV, Pts. 1 & 2

ii) Annual Report on the South Indian Epigraphy for the year ending in March, 1933 and March 1935.

iii) A. H. Longhurst , *The Buddhist antiquities of Nagarjunakonda*, Madras, M. A. S. I., no- 54.

iv) Ross, S.C. Alan, *The Numeral Signs of the Mahenjodaro script*, M. A. S. I. no- 57.

v) Annual Report for the year 1935- 36(ASI).

vi) E. J. H. Mackay, *Further Excavations at Mahejodaro*(between years 1927- 31), volume- 1, Text Delhi, 1938.

Archaeological Survey of Pakistan:

Subsequent to the liberation and partition of the Indian sub- continent, the VRS developed akin contact with that of the Archaeological Survey of Pakistan. Accordingly the Archaeological Survey of Pakistan rendered support in a number of occasions. In support of this, mention may be made of a stone image of Chamunda representing a new variety of Rudra- Chachika was supplied to the hold of the Society on permanent loan by the Archaeological Survey of Pakistan.¹² Moreover, the parent body sanctioned money for the construction of the new building of the library which is already jotted down. And the cost (Rs. 10000) of the publication of *Inscriptions of Bengal, Volume IV* was also paid by the grant of the Archaeological Survey of Pakistan.¹³

It is amazing to note that the Department of Archaeology(Pakistan) selected twelve sculptures of VRM for special exhibition in Japan, West Germany and the Netherlands at some point in 1961- 64. ¹⁴ And Mukhlesur Rahman, the then curator of the VRM graced with his presence in the opening of the ‘500 years of art in Pakistan’ at Bonn, West Germany.

Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti:

The title itself of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti (which was formed in 1912) is a sign of unfathomable relation between this and the Vrendra Resaerch Society (Varendra Anusandhan Samiti). To be fair enough to utter that the foundation of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti was directly instigated by the knock of the VRS. In the words of Tarun Chandra Bhagabati¹⁵, “ It is a fact that establishment of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti was inspired by the formation of the Varendra Anusandhan Samiti.” ¹⁶ More to the point, Padmanath Vidyabinod, one of the key founders of Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti was the close friend of Ramaprasad Chanda and Akshaya Kumar Maitra. One interesting thing can be brought to light here that Sasadhhar Ray who proposed Sarat Kumar Ray, Akshaya Kumar Maitra and Ramaprasad Chanda to form VRS, happenstancelly, the same person presided over

the Uttarbanga Shahitya Sannelan (North Bengal Literary Conference) held in 1912 at the premises of the famous temple Kamakhya in which the proposal of the establishment of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti cropped up.

Regardless of the similarity of their title, the method of activities of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti had to be quite different. Bhagabati unsatisfactorily remarked, “ We did not have here a personage of the stamp of Kumar Sarat Kumar Ray who would ungrudgingly bear every item of expenditure, however high that might be, for the Samiti; and there was none here like Babu Akshaya Kumar Maitra, who could guide the affairs of the Samiti with confidence.”

It is clear that the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti ascertained bottomless relation with the VRS for their own inevitability. For that reason the VRS received almost all the items of Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti as presentation. Accordingly a valuable work of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti came under the disposal of VRS as presents. In the subsequent years the title of the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti altered to Assam Research Society and from that moment started to publish their journal. Unsurprisingly, the Assam Research Society sent its journal from its very first issue.

1933- 34: *Journal of the Assam Research Society, Volume – I, No- 1.*

1934- 35: *Journal of the Assam Research Society, Volume – I, Nos- 2- 4.*

Volume- II, Nos- 1- 4.

1935- 36: *Journal of the Assam Research Society, Volume – III, Nos- 1, 2, 3 & 4.*

1936- 37 & 1937- 38: *Journal of the Assam Research Society, Volume – IV, Nos- 1, 2 & 4.*

Volume V, Nos- 1- 3.

1938- 39: *Journal of the Assam Research Society*, Volume – IV, No- 3.

Volume V, No- 4.

Volume VI, Nos- 1- 4.

1939- 40: *Journal of the Assam Research Society*, Volume – VII, Nos- 1- 3.

Asiatic Society of Bengal:

Since the Asiatic Society of Bengal was the source of enticement of the VRS, naturally it tried to make good connections with the same. Even the library of the VRS started its movement in association with the archaeological publications and journals of the Asiatic Society which were came from the private collections of Sarat Kumar Ray. Sarat Kumar Ray himself was the member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. In the initial stage the VRS used to get volumes of the Asiatic Society through Sarat Kumar. On some occasions the VRS directly purchased some important publications.¹⁷ But it can be differentiated that the barter system became customary between these two organizations from 1933. The presidential address of S. K. Ray shows that the Asiatic Society decided to publish two manuscripts, *Vashavritti* of Purushottamdeva and *Tattika* of Sristidhar Birochita, which were the collected works of the VRS.¹⁸

1933- 34: In this year the VRS was invited to send their delegate to the gathering of the 150th centenary celebrations of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Girijasankar Bhattacharyya, the then secretary of the Society was chosen to represent the Society. And the Society received in exchange in the year-

Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Volume- XXVII, No- 4, 1931.

1934- 35: *Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Volume- XXVIII, Nos- 1 and 2, 1932.

Volume- XXIX, Nos- 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1933

Volume- XXX, Nos- 1 and 2, 1934.

1935- 36: Sewell, R. B. S., *Geographic and Oceanographic Researches in Indian Waters*, Memoirs of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Volume- IX, No- 7.

Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Volume- XXX, No- 8

J. A. S. B. L. - Volume- 1, Nos- 1 and 2

J. A. S. B. Sc.- Volume- 1, Nos- 1 and 2

Y. B. A. S. B. Volume- 1

1936- 37 & 1937- 38:

Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Volume- LXXV, pt. 5.

J. R. A. S. B. L., Volume- I, No- 3

J. R. A. S. B. L., Volume- II, Nos- 1- 3

J. R. A. S. B. Sc., Volume - II, Nos- 1-2

1938- 39 :

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal:

J. R. A. S. B. L., Volume- III, Nos- 1- 2

J. R. A. S. B. Sc., Volume – III

Year Book- Volume- II, 1936

1939- 40:

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal:

Letters, Volume- IV, Nos- 1- 4

Science, Volume- IV, Nos- 1- 4

Year Book, Volume- III, 1937

Volume- IV, 1938

Volume- V, 1939.

As a final point it may be noted here that while Nanigopal Majumdar, the curator of the museum of VRS began his academic pursuit with the compilation of *Inscriptions of Bengal , Volume III*, the Asiatic Society provided on loan the half tone blocks of the Belava plate of Bhojavarman and the Dacca Image Inscription of Lakshmanasena.¹⁹

Woodbourn Public Library, Bogra:

The duration of relationship between Woodbourn Public Library and VRS was not so extended. But within this short time the stuffs received by VRS from Woodbourn Public Library was far-fetched. The Woodbourn Public Library presented seventeen stone sculptures (Museum Nos- 685 – 701) in 1926 to the disposal of the VRS. In the transmission of these precious sculptures, Satyendra Nath Das, Prabhas Chandra Sen and Baidyanath Sanyal played a crucial role of intermediary.²⁰ Additionally, a fragmentary Jaina image from Mankhali- dhap in Mahasthan was received through the authorities of this library.²¹

Bihar and Orissa Research Society:

This Eastern Indian institution of same category frequently exchanged their publications with VRS. All the copies of the journals published from 1915 to 1936 of the Bihar & Orissa Resaerch Society got to the bookshelf of the library of VRS. Yet, every single journal was not come all the way through exchange. In reality, most of those came through Jadunath Sarkar, one of the celebrated sons of the soil of Rajshahi and honorary vice- president of VRS. Because, Bihar was not only the working place of Jadunath, the recognition, reputation and authority that he held- all originated from the same place. On the other had, some scholars of VRS contributed their article in the journal of the Bihar & Orissa Resaerch Society.

For instance it can be cited the name of Binod Bihari Ray, the member of the VRS, who contributed one of his superlative article, *Harappa and Vedic Hariyupiya* in 1928.²²

Andhra Historical Research Society:

This important research institute of South India made connections with the VRS. Thus it can be seen in the annual reports of the VRS that from 1933 to 1940 both the societies exchanged their publications. The volumes obtained by VRS are as follows-

1933- 34:

Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society

Volume-I,	Volume- II
Volume-III,	Volume- IV
Volume- V,	Volume- VI
Volume- VII,	Volume-VIII, pt. 1.

1934- 35:

Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society-

Volume- VIII, pts.- 2, 3 & 4.

1935-36:

Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society-

Volume- IX, Pts.- 1, 2 & 3.

1938- 39:

Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society-

Volume – XI, pts. 1, 2, 3 & 4.

1939- 40:

Journal of the Andhra Historical Research Society-

Volume-XII, pts. 1- 3.

Karnataka Historical Society:

The VRS received the following volumes from the Karnataka Historical Society-

1933-34:

Karnataka Historical Review-

Volume- II, pt. 1.

1934-35:

Karnataka Historical Review-

Volume- II, pt. 2.

1936- 37:

Karnataka Historical Review-

Volume- IV, Nos- 1- 2.

1937- 38:

Karnataka Historical Review-

Volume- III, Nos- 1- 2

Archaeological Department of H. E. H. the, Nizam of Hyderabad:

This archaeological department of Hyderabad presented a number of volumes to the VRS. Most of them were annual reports. Apart from the annual reports, there were a few other important volumes-

i)H. Sastri, *Shitab Khan of Warangal*, Hyderabad Archaeological Series, No- 9.

ii) R. L.Turner, *The Gavimath and Palkigundu inscription of Asoka*, Hyderabad Archaeological Series, No- 10 , and

iii) C. R. K. Charlu, *The Kannada inscription of Kopbal*, Hyderabad Archaeological Series, No- 12.

Bhandarkar Oriental Institute of Poona:

The relation between VRS and the Bhandarkar Oriental Institute of Poona was fantastic. They used to swap over their publications with each other. Consequently, the annals of Bhandarkar Institute were massed in the library of VRS. More to the point, the Bhandarkar Oriental Institute invited VRS to send its delegates on the events like the Twelfth Anniversary Day of Sir Ramkrishna Bhandarkar. ²³

Visva Bharati University:

The VRS ascertained its relation and connection with different contemporary universities. Among them the name of Bisva Bharati University would be the first in listing. A huge numeral of Visva Bharati news, Bisva Bharati quarterly and Bulletin were stockpiled in the library of VRS.

Annamalai University:

This University started to issue its journal from 1932.²⁴ And from 1932 to 1940 all the Journal of the Annamali University assembled in the library of VRS either as presents or in exchange.

Calcutta University:

It is known that the VRS had some sort of connection with the Calcutta University. The VRS conducted its Paharpur excavation with the helping hand of the Calcutta University. Not only that, both the organization exchanged their publications. As a result the VRS received the following volumes-

1930- 31:

Journal of the Department of Letters, Volume- XIX, XX.

1931- 32:

Journal of the Department of Letters, Volume-XXI.

1932- 33:

Journal of the Department of Letters, Volume-XXII

1933- 34:

i) *Journal of the Department of Letters*, Volume-XXIII.

ii) Ray, H. S., *The Dynastic History of Northern India* (Early Medieval period).

1934- 35:

Journal of the Department of Letters, Volume-XXIV.

1935- 36:

Journal of the Department of Letters, Volume-XXV, XXVI, XXVII.

1936- 37 & 1937- 38:

i) *Journal of the Department of Letters*, Volume-XXVIII, XXIX.

ii) Nag, Kalidas, *Art and Archaeology Abroad*, Calcutta, 1937.

iii) Goswami, Kunjagovinda, *Pragaitihasik Mahenjodaro*, 1936.

1938- 39: *Journal of the Department of Letters*, Volume-XXX.

1939- 40: *Journal of the Department of Letters*, Volume- XXXI, XXXII.

Watson Museum, Rajkot:

The VRS not only made contact with a variety of research institutions and universities. It got in touch with a number of contemporary museums of different parts of India. One of them was Watson museum of Rajkot. The items presented from this museum were barely Annual Reports (till 1940).

United Province Provincial museum:

This museum of U. P. as well exchanged its Annual Reports with the Varendra Research Society.

Madras Government Museum: The Madras Government Museum supplied to the VRS a number of its Bulletins which enclosed an assortment of precious articles. They were-

1934- 35:

i) T.N. Ramchandran, *Buddhist Sculptures from a Stupa near Goli village , Guntur District*, Volume 1, part- 1.

ii) F.H.Gravery, and T.N. Ramchadran, *Catalogue of the South Indian Hindu metal images in the Madras Government Museum*, Volume- 1, Part- 2.

iii) T. N.Ramchandran, *Tiruparuttikunram and its temples: with appendices on Jain units measurement and time, cosmology and classification of souls*, Volume- 1, part- 3.

iv) S.Zuckerman, *The Adichanallur skulls*, Volume II, part- 1.

v) P.Sambamoorthy, *Catalogue of the musical instruments exhibited in the Government Museum, Madras*, Volume- II, Part- 3.

vi) K.Rangachari, *The Srivaisnava Brahmanas*, Volume II, Part- 2.

vii) F. H.Gravery, and T. N.Ramchadran,*The three main styles of temple architecture recognized by the Silpa- Sutras*, Volume III, part- 1.

1936- 37 & 1937- 38:

i) A. Aiyappan, *Social and physical Anthropology of Nayadis of Malabar*, Volume- II, Part- 4.

ii) F. H.Gravely, *An outline of Indian temple architecture*, Volume – III, part- 2.

1938- 39:

T. G.Aravamuthan, *Catalogue of venetian coins in the Madras Government Museum*, Volume-III, Part-2.

1939- 40:

i) *Guide to archaeological galleries*, Madras Government Museum, 1939.

ii) *Illustrations of Indian sculpture for use with the guide to the archaeological galleries*, Madras Government museum, 1939.

Not only had the literary items, the VRS and Madras Government Museum also exchanged their sculptural specimens. In point of fact, the Madras Government Museum arranged to exhibit sculptures of the Northern schools to furnish a scope for comparative study and furthermore to facilitate students of Indian history and culture to glimpse at least a few authentic sample of various schools of art in a place readily available to them. The authority of the Madras Museum were thus in want of some Pala and Sena sculptures and expected an exchange of a metal set of Natesa and his companion Kamasundari of late Chola period with the following five distinguishable stone sculptures of VRM. ²⁵

No	Description	Size (in inch)
1555	Surya from Niyamatpur (Rajshahi)	29 x 14
1572	Uma- Maheswavara from „ „	20 x 14.5
1578	Dancing Ganesa from Manda (Rajshahi)	17 x 11
1579	Brahma From Manda (Rajshahi)	23.5 x 11.5

Seeing that the Natesa icons were not common particularly with Sivakamasundari and were very much in demand, the proposal was happily accepted by the board of supervision of the VRM and a very fascinating addition was thus made to its(VRM) assortment.²⁶

Curzon Museum of Muttra(Gujrat) was also in touch with the VRS. Naturally there was exchange of annual reports between these two institutions. And it is because of the stimulation of the local archaeological laboratory of this museum; the VRS decided to establish such a lab within its premises and accordingly boosted their curator to take training in the concerned aspect.²⁷

All India Oriental Conference:

VRS was the sensible associate of this Conference. For the reason, that copious scholars of VRS had preferred it the same as the medium to demonstrate their scholarly handiness in all India milieu.

In accordance with the annual report of VRS, two members, to be exact, Kshitish Chandra Sarkar and Brajendra Mohan Maitra represented the Society in the Oriental Conference held in November, 1928 at Lahore in which Sarkar read a paper on “*Some Aboriginal Custom*” and Nirodbandhu Sanyal as well sent a paper on “*Mother and Child image*” to the conference.²⁸

For the duration of Christmas of 1930, the Sixth Oriental Conference was held at Patna. Kumar Sarat Kumar Ray, Brojendra Mohan Maitra, Bijaynath Sarkar, Nirodbandhu Sanyal, Dharani Mohan Maitra, Sarasi Kumar Saraswati, Upendra Nath Ghosal, Radhagovinda Basak, Sivaprasad Bhattacharyya, Kshitish Chandra Sarkar and Kalidas Dutt

were designated for the Conference. However, just six of them were able to grace with their presence and presented following papers-²⁹

I) Dinesh Chandra Bhattacharyya- i) *Mandana, Suresvara and Bhavabhuti: the Problem of their Identity.*

ii) *The Lost Kingdom of Harikela.*

II) Sivaprasad Bhattacharyya- i) *The Dhavanyaloka and the Text of the Dhvanikarikas.*

ii) *The Vrindavana Kavya and its author.*

III) Upendra Nath Ghosal- i) *New Light on the Gupta Administration.*

IV) Kshitish Chandra Sarkar- i) *The Capital of the Pala Empire.*

ii) *A new Specimen of Surya From Varendra.*

V) Nirodbandhu Sanyal- i) *Aghora- Rudra.*

VI) Bijay Nath Sarkar- i) *Finger- posts of Bengal History.*

The Seventh Indian Oriental Conference was held in Baroda in Dec, 1933. And Sarat Kumar Ray, Nirodbandhu Sanyal, Sarasi Kumar saraswati, Jitendra Kumar Chakravarty, Anil Chandra Chaudhury, kshitish Chandra Sarkar, Bijay Nath Sarkar and Amitabh Ray were elected as delegates of the society.³⁰

The VRS was also sent its representatives to the functions of the –

i) 8th All India Oriental Conference, Mysore, 1935.³¹

ii) 9th All India Oriental Conference, Trivandrum, 1937.³²

iii) 10th All India Oriental Conference, Hyderabad, 1939. ³³

Relation with Overseas organizations:

The Varendra Research Society spread out its contact with some abroad institutions. It built up its connections with the archaeological Survey of neighbouring Ceylon as well a few comparable institutions of Europe.

Archaeological Survey of Ceylon transported the following volumes on the basis of exchange-

i) Annual Report on the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon, 1933.

ii) Annual Report of the archaeological Survey of Ceylon, 1934.

iii) Annual Report of the archaeological Survey of Ceylon, 1935, 1936.

iv) S. Paranavitana, 'The Excavations in the Citadel of Anuradhapur,' *Memoir of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon*. Volume III.

v) Annual Report of the archaeological Survey of Ceylon, 1937.

vi) Annual Report of the archaeological Survey of Ceylon, 1938.

Museum Association of London:

It is remarkable that the Museum Association of London intended to carry out a survey of the museum of VRS. Accordingly, Markham, the Empire Secretary of the Museum Association of London, visited the the museum of VRS in January last 1935. The Empire Secretary became pleased about the display and remarked that "This museum will be on the first rank of the smaller museums of Asia." ³⁴

Boston Museum of Czechoslovakia too had connections with the VRS. Of course, the VRS exchanged its items with this museum but in few occasions the Boston Museum presented its volumes to the library of VRS.³⁵ The recorded *Fine Arts Bulletin* of the Boston Museum are-³⁶

1930 -31-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 166 to 171.</i>
1932- 33-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 178 to 183.</i>
1933- 34-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 184 to 189.</i>
1934- 35-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 190 to 195.</i>
1935- 36-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 196 to 201.</i>
1936- 37 & 1937- 38-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 202 to 213.</i>
1938- 39-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 214 to 219.</i>
1939- 40-	<i>Fine Arts Bulletin Nos- 220 to 225.</i>

The Kern Institute, Leyden, Holland:

The accessible documents confirm that the relation between the Kern Institute and the VRS was developed in and around 1928. The Kern Institute published the Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology more or less on a regular basis. And all the volumes (till 1937) of the Annual Bibliography were given off to the library of VRS in exchange of the publications of the latter. The annual bibliographies were as follows-

i) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- I, 1926.

- ii) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- II, 1927.
- iii) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- III, 1928.
- iv) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- IV, 1929.
- v) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- V, 1930.
- vi) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- VI, 1931.
- vii) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- VII, 1932.
- viii) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- VIII, 1933.
- ix) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- IX, 1934.
- x) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- X, 1935.
- xi) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- XI, 1936.
- xii) Annual Bibliography of Indian archaeology, Volume- XII, 1937.

It is to be mentioned that for the study of the Indian art and culture there was a need of a collection of photographic prints of Indian antiquities. In request of J. Ph. Vogel, one of the administrators of the Kern Institute, the VRS sent out 40 photographic prints of Brahminical and Buddhist images of their museum.³⁷

Exclusive of the aforesaid investigating institutions and museums of different parts of India and abroad, there were few more establishments with which the VRS had some direct or indirect relation. In the first list of this category the name of Bangiya Sahitya Parisad, Indian Museum,³⁸ Dacca Museum, Rangpur Shahitya Parisad, Patna Museum and Cooch Behar Shahitya Sabha³⁹ should be included. They(first list) should be followed by recording the name of Archaeological Museum of Gwalior, Maha- Bodhi Society of India, Greater

India Society, Archaeological Survey of Mysore , Archaeological Department of Jaipur, Prince of Wales Museum of W. India, Archaeological Department of Baroda and the overseas bodies like German Oriental Society and British Mahabodhi Society(London).

The chapter would be incomplete if two- three significant points are not attached here-

i) The Varendra Research Society assigned their curator Nirodbandhu Sanyal to study the different museums, on the whole the North Indian museums since the cultural legacy of Bengal is linked up closely with the rest of India. ⁴⁰

ii) Chikyo Yamamoto, a Japanese State Research scholar at the International Academy of Indian Culture, Lahore executed a in-depth study of the exhibits in the VRM for a number of days. ⁴¹

iii) The Society attained a commemorative volume from Cairo(Egypt) on the centenary of Ibrahim Pasha, the idol of Egypt. ⁴²

iv) Mukhlesur Rahman, the curator of VRM graced with his presence the all Pakistan History Conference at Rajshahi in 1960 and at Karachi in 1961 and the All Pakistan Museum conference held at Dacca in 1961. ⁴³

Notes & References

1. *Annual Report for the year 1927- 28.*
2. Saiffuddin Chowdhury, and Tasikul Islam(ed.), *Rajshahi Pratibha*, Rajshahi Association, 2000, p.44.
3. *Annual Report for the year 1925- 26.*
4. *Annual report for the year 1927- 28 & 1928- 29.*
5. *Annual Report for the year 1929- 30.*
6. *Annual Report for the year 1930- 31.*
7. *Annual Report for the Year 1925- 26.*
8. *Annual Report for the year 1926- 27.*
9. *Annual Report for the year 1929- 30.*
10. *Annual Report for the year 1934-35.*
11. *Annual Report for the year 1938- 39.*
12. N. B. Sanyal, *Recent Acquisitions to the Varendra Research Museum*, 1949 (Attached with the Report of the VRS, 1949).
13. *Report of the Working of the VRM* (from August 14, 1947 to June 30, 1969), University of Rajshahi, 1969, p. 13.
14. *Ibid.* p. 35.
15. Tarun Chandra Bhagabati- He worked and completed his P. hD. Degree on Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti.

16. Tarun Chandra Bhagbati, *The Kamrupa Anusandhan Samiti in historical perspectives (1912 A. D. – 1993 A. D.)* Unpublished thesis, P.116.
17. *Annual Report for the 1930- 31.*
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19. Nanigopal Majumdar, *Inscriptions of Bengal, Volume- III*, VRS, 1929, p. vii.
20. *Annual Report for the year 1926- 27.*
21. *Annual Report for the year 1928-29.*
22. *Monographs No- 8*, VRS, p. 2.
23. *Annual Report for the year 1936- 37 and 1937- 38.*
24. *Annual Report for the year 1932- 33.*
25. *Annual Report for the year 1939- 40.*
26. *Ibid.*
27. *Annual Report for the year 1936- 37 & 1937- 38.*
28. *Annual Report for the year 1928- 29.*
29. *Report of the delegates of the Varendra Research Society to the Sixth Oriental Conference held at Patna, December, 1930.*
30. *Annual Report for the year 1933- 34.*
31. *Annual Report for the year 1935- 36.*
32. *Annual Report for the year 1936- 37 & 1937- 1938.*

33. *Annual Report for the year 1938- 39.*
34. *Annual Report for the year 935- 36.* See also S. F. Markham & H. Hargreaves, *The Museums of India*, London, 1936.
35. See *Annual Report for the year 1925- 26 to 1939- 40.*
36. See *Annual Report for the year 1930- 31 to 1939- 40.*
37. *Annual Report for the year 1939- 40.*
38. Though the Society had some dispute with the Indian Museum in the initial stage, in the subsequent years, the former sent its curator to the latter to take proper training in the method of archaeological object cleaning.
39. The available record(*Annual Report*1932- 33) shows that the Cooch Behar Shahitya Sabha presented some of their valuable publications- i) *Gitavali*, Volume- I, ii) *Kriyayogasara*, Volume- II, iii) *Upakatha*, Volume- III & IV, iv) *Ramayana* (sundara Kanda), Volume- V, v) *Beharodanto*. The king Of Cooch Behar also presented the copy of *Cooch beharer Itihas*, Volume- I(of Khan Choudhury Amanatulla Ahmad).
40. *Annual Report for the year 1935- 36.*
41. *Annual Report for the year 1938- 39.*
42. *Report of the Varendra Research Society*, 1949.
43. *Report of the working of the Varendra Research Museum, from August 14, 1947 to June 30, 1969*, p.35.
