

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR ATUL CHANDRA BHOWMICK
(7th January 1940-30th July 2023)



Prof. Atul Chandra Bhowmick was a renowned Museologist of our country. He was born on 7th January in the year 1940 at Pihar village in Comilla district of the undivided Bengal (at present in Bangladesh). He passed Master of Science in Anthropology in 1962 from the University of Calcutta with specialization in Palaeoanthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology. He received Certificate of Art Appreciation in 1965 and also completed two years Post Graduate Diploma in Museology in 1966. He also completed Master of Arts in Ancient Indian History & Culture in 1969. All these degrees were from the same University. Dr. Bhowmick was awarded Ph.D (Science) in Anthropology in 1974 from the University of Calcutta. He was awarded the Centenary Exhibition Gold Medal by the University of Calcutta in 1974.

Dr Bhowmick was appointed as the Curator of the Ethnographic Museum of the Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta from 1972 to 1976. Then he joined the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta as a Lecturer in 1976, from where he retired on 31st January 2005 as a Professor. He was an eminent museologist as well as anthropologist. Prof. Bhowmick supervised a number of Ph.D. scholars in Museology. His students are now posted in different academic and research institutes all over the country. After retirement he was also attached with the Department of Museology, Calcutta University in different academic programmes and teaching. He was also invited lecturer in Museology in the Rabindra Bharati University from 2005 to 2013 and Visiting Fellow in the Department of

Anthropology, Dibrugarh University. He was also attached with the Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University as guest faculty. Prof. Bhowmick frequently took classes in Refresher and Orientation courses in UGC- Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), University of Calcutta and also in other Universities.

Prof. Bhowmick carried out research projects under UGC Schemes and the Nehru Trust Research Grant from 1995 to 1966. These grants helped him a lot to develop interest in documentation of tribal art, their society and culture as well as their relation with other indigenous art of different parts of the country. Professor Bhowmick published about 165 research papers on diverse areas of Anthropology, Museology, Archaeology, Ethnography, Folk Art & Craft, Indian Prehistory, Textiles, Tribal Culture, conservation and preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in reputed Journals and other felicitation and special volumes. He simultaneously attached with the academics as well as problem and prospective of museum policies, development of different museums after independence, conservation and preservation strategies of artifacts and monuments. He published the book entitled “Anthropological Discourses: A Collection of Essays on Culture & Heritage” in 2022. This book is an excellent document which covers a wide area of stone-age to the present socio-cultural scenario of tribal life with focus on eastern India in specific and Indian sub-continent in general. Prof. Bhowmick was actively involved in many museums as Development Committee members, like the Ananda Niketan Kirtishala, Bagnan (1982), P. C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archive, Indian Statistical Institute (1992), Central Museum of Anthropology, Anthropological Survey of India (2008), Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Museum, Kolkata (2013, 2015). He was member of many organizations and learned societies like Life Member of the Museums Association of India, Indian National Committee of ICOM (1991), Council of the Indian Anthropological Society (1994- 95), Sasanka Sekhar Sarkar Society of Human Sciences (1995), Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (2004) and Joint Secretary of the Museums Association of West Bengal (1971).

Professor Bhowmick was also member of Editorial Board and Reviewer of different renowned and reputed Journals including the Journal of The Department of Museology, University of Calcutta. Prof. Bhowmick delivered a number of endowments, memorial and invited lectures in academic and research institutions like Ramakrishna Mission Institute of

Culture, Rarh Samskriti Sangrahalaya at Bidisha, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya. He was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the Museums Association of India in 2016. He received the Eminent Teacher Award from the University of Calcutta in 2020.

After a long journey he breathed his last on 30th July 2023. We humbly pay homage to the sanctified memory of Professor Atul Chandra Bhowmick, an academician and scholars of great quality, humanity and caliber. He will respectfully remain in the memory of the students, scholars and colleagues for his contribution in the field of museology, anthropology and related disciplines.

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