



IQAC
BAOSI BANIKANTA KAKATI COLLEGE
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Dr. Gopal Kumar Sarma,
Coordinator

Report on -

Field Trip to Sarthebari to study on Bell Metal Industry

28/09/2022

Today, the 28th of September, 2022 a the Resource Persons of the Distinguished International Lecture on ‘Folk Legends about Flying Churches in Serbia’ held on 28th Sept., 2022 in the college namely, Prof. Zoja Karanovic, Retd. Professor, University of Novi Sad, Serbia and Dragana Ratkovic, Principal Research Fellow, Serbian Language Institute of SASA, Serbia went on a joint field trip to Sarthebari to study how a lump of metal is converted to an object of art, mainly bell metal utensil. The international guests were accompanied by Dr. Gopal Kumar Sarma, coordinator of IQAC and Dr. Bhupen Rabha, Asst. Coordinator of IQAC.

Sarthebari has been known to the world since a long time for making different metal utensils, mostly out of bell metal. The guests talked to the craftsmen with the help of the faculty members as translators and observed their work. The team witnessed how bell metals were fabricated manually and made by using simple traditional technique that has been handed down from generation to generation. The group then moved to Assam Co-operative Bell-Metal Manufacturing Society Utensils Ltd. and spoke to the members of the co-operative society. They discovered that the raw material has been imported mainly from Pakistan and Bangladesh, since ancient times. The group also observed the preparation of metal for processing.

After the field trip to Sarthebari, Dr. Rabha and Prof. Zoja Karanovic prepared a joint paper on the topic “From a Lump of Metal to an Object of Art: Brief Notes from a Trip Around Assam” and published it in *Folkloristika* [Folkloristics], a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal of the Serbian Folklore Association – a large community of academic specialists, professionals, and postgraduate students.

The link to the paper: <https://folkloristics.org/pdf/7-2-2022/Rabha&Karanovic%20Folkloristika%207-2-2022.pdf>

Fig.1. Snapshot of Prof. Zoja Karanovic, Dragana Ratkovic and Dr. Gopal Kumar Sarma with the craftsmen of Bell Metal Utensil



Fig.2. Snapshot of craftsmen of Bell Metal Utensil at work



Fig.3 & 4. Snapshot of the rolling mill and the bell metal plates for processing



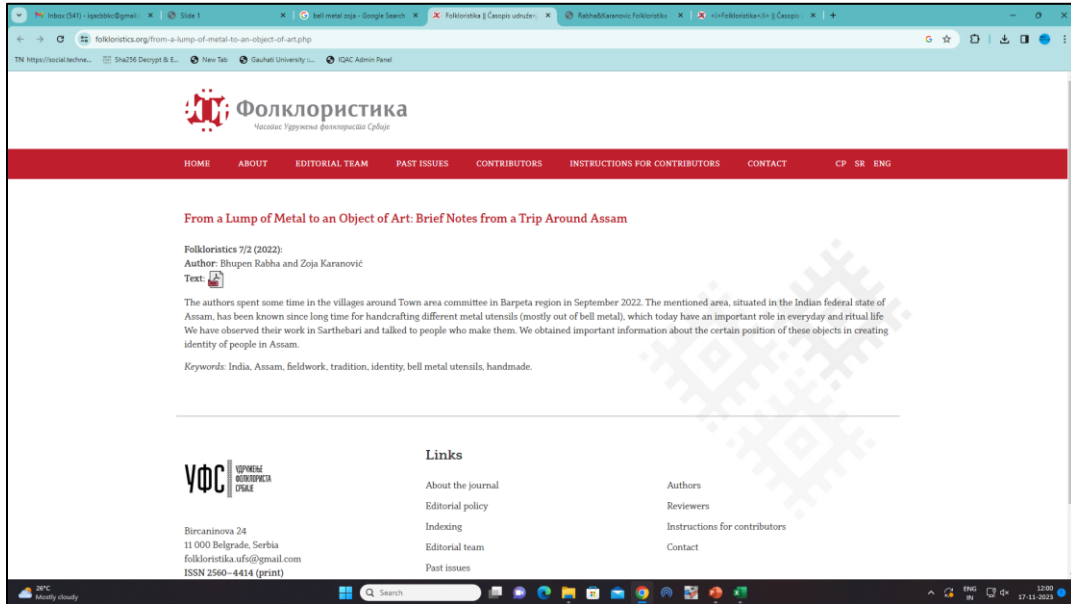
Fig.5. Snapshot of final products


Fig.6. Snapshot of Assam Co-operative Bell-Metal Manufacturing Society Utensils Ltd



Fig.7: Snapshot of the publication of the research paper in a Serbian peer reviewed journal.

Link to the paper in the journal: <https://folkloristics.org/from-a-lump-of-metal-to-an-object-of-art.php>




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