



# OBJECTS AS HISTORY



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## **Coin of Chandragupta II Strategic Design Management**

Chandragupta II (c. 375 CE - 413/14 CE) was the next great Gupta emperor after his father Samudragupta (335/350 - 370/380 CE). He proved to be an able ruler and conqueror with many achievements to his credit. Chandragupta continued issuing most of the gold coin types introduced by his father Samudragupta, such as the Sceptre type (rare for Chandragupta II), the Archer type, and the Tiger-Slayer type. Chandragupta's various gold coins depict his martial spirit or peacetime pursuits

The above image is of the Archer-type coin, that shows an inscription of emperor Chandragupta releasing an arrow. Today, this coin can be found in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralaya.

During the reign of Chandragupta, caste system was a prevailing condition and their only way of making a system among their subjects. The Varna system in Dharma-shastras divides society into four varnas (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudras). Those who fall out of this system because of their grievous sins are ostracised as outcastes (untouchables) and considered outside the varna system.

The another thing that these coins could be used for, is to be used as a means of identity.

The backside of the coin could be inscribed by the class the person belongs to, and while attending a court or an essential meet, just showing a coin would serve the purpose of legitimating the identity of a person or a family. The coins would stand as a proof of the social status of a person, based on the inscription on the backside of the coin.



## **Caligae – Roman Footwear Fashion Communication Design**

Caligae are heavy-soled hobnailed military sandal-boots known for being issued to Roman legionary soldiers and auxiliaries throughout the Roman Republic.

Caligae were heavy-duty, thick-soled openwork boots, with hobnailed soles. Caliga comes from the Latin callus meaning hard, as hobnails were hammered into hard leather soles before being sewn onto a softer leather lattice.

They were worn by the lower ranks of Roman cavalymen and foot-soldiers, and possibly by some centurions

Although Caligae have hobnails at their sole, another feature these war footwears could've had is having spiked edges to their shoes on all sides. In this way when the soldiers are in a life or death situation, when an enemy is rounding up on him, he can buy time for himself in a way of self defence by thrusting the shoe into the enemy's leg.

The spikes could be made of a poisonous material, so that when the spikes pierce the enemy's skin, the poison would enter the bloodstream making him defenceless gradually. These spikes should have a covering of any other thin material, that hides these spikes from the enemy, in a way that the enemy would not know the strength of the soldiers beforehand, and could only be unleashed when in a very critical situation.



## **Talwar (sword) Product Design**

A sword is a weapon used by the soldiers in ancient times to fight their enemies in war. This sword was found in the Mysore area and is believed to be made in 1740 CE. It has a steel blade and has a damascened hilt and is 96.3 cm long. The hilt has depictions of animals like the tiger and snake and appears to have some inscriptions on it. Today, it can be seen in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vaastu Sangrahalay.

Although this sword is beautiful and fulfils its purpose, there can be a few things that can be done to increase its effectiveness. For instance, the blade itself can be made out of an alloy of steel and mercury. The steel would ensure that the sword is strong enough and the little amount of mercury would make the sword poisonous. In combat, even if a soldier doesn't die from bleeding out of his wound, he would die from mercury poisoning. The grip of the hilt could also be improved for better precision and optimum results. The shape of the hilt could have indentations so that the fingers fit in that space. The pommel of this sword could also be a bit wider to avoid the hilt from sliding out of the hand. The gold on the hilt could be replaced with silver to make the sword lighter as heavier weapons won't be preferred for combat. Lighter sword would be fast and work in the soldier's favour.



## **Miniature Painting Communication Design**

This miniature painting was done by an artist named 'Chokha'. It was found in Mewar, Rajasthan. It is believed to be made in 1811 CE. Its dimensions are 22.7 cm x 33.2 cm along with the border. The purpose of paintings was to tell stories and reflect the state of those times. This painting depicts a war. It shows two men trying to capture an elephant by tying its legs with chains. It also shows horses, chariots and some more men in action. The overall colour scheme of this painting gives the feeling of uncertainty, unease and destruction that is felt during a war.

While it is impressive to have expressed so many elements in a canvas this small, it can be made better by using a bigger canvas. This would allow the painter to illustrate more elements. A bigger canvas would also allow the viewers to connect better with the painting and understand what story it is trying to tell them. As time passes by, the paints on the canvas also start to fade away which appears to be the case with this painting as the illustrations are not very clear and can only be seen when looked at from a close distance. This happens due to humidity and heat. They should hence be kept away from those elements. It could also have an exterior coating of a resistant to avoid the paints from fading. This would ensure that the painting could be enjoyed by people for many more years to come.



## **Sculptures Interior Design**

The Buddha Statues, have different meanings according to hand gestures, poses and style of presentation. Common characteristics among Buddha statues include the Buddha standing, sitting or lying down. The protection Buddha is a depiction of a seated Buddha with the right hand raised, it may represent a shield or overcoming Fear. Another of the more common figures is of the Buddha in Meditation. This statue is for people who are either looking for peace and clam in their lives, or for those who wish to improve their own meditation skills. the laughing Buddha is probably the most widely recognisable and used. It depicts Buddha in his later years as happy and with a large belly from an abundant lifetime. The Buddha statues are made using various different materials such as, stone, wood, metals, gold plated etc. These sculptures were made years ago and can be really difficult to preserve for the coming generations as each material has its own individual properties. These characteristics of materials may be influenced by many factors such as environmental, physical or chemical. for example, stone sculptures are very prone to environmental decay due to weather, pollutants, salts, and repeated wetting and drying. Ceramic and glass sculptures may have unstable glazes that may react to changes in weather and cause cracks to develop on the surface of the piece. As a solution to these issues, there are products out there like CorTen steel that are designed to produce a layer of rust when exposed to the environment that actually protects the sculpture from further corrosion, which you can later easily wipe off. Clay sculptures must be preserved in a very specific room temperature based on the type of clay used, so that it does not disintegrate. Wood polish can also be used to protect the wooden sculptures from wetting rust. These solutions can be very useful to protect the heritage and art of sculpting of our country, and give a chance to the coming generation to witness this beauty.



## Textiles Fashion Design

The Natural dyes, as the name suggests, come from sources found in nature such as plants, animals, fruits, insects, and minerals. Until the mid-19th century plants were the primary source of dye. The process of natural dyeing became obsolete with the discovery that dye pigments could be produced through modern chemistry. Dyes produced by chemical means are more easily transferred to fibers, do not require as much time in preparation, and stand up better to repeated washing and exposure to sunlight. These dyes are used on fabrics which are made for sarees, bed sheets, curtains etc. Today natural sources of dyes are used by artisans and crafters. Natural dyes are desirable mainly because of the quality of color that can be created with them. Dyes extracted from plants contain many different pigments, and thus are not the “pure” forms of pigment used in today’s chemical dyes. These impurities create rich and sometimes unexpected color, that can never be duplicated. But in using these natural dyes, there are some disadvantages, such as color pay-off from natural dyes tend to fade quickly. More so, quality may not be as consistent than what synthetic dyes can deliver. Another issue with natural dyes is their availability. It can be difficult to produce because the availability of raw materials can vary from season to season, place, and species, whereas synthetic dyes can be produced in laboratories all year round. Natural dyes can also be harmful to some extent. Logwood, a species of tree has ingredients, hematein and hematoxylin, that can be have harmful effects when inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin.

Stains are fairly common among dyed textiles and are defined as spots or patches of differing color that appear on textiles. Stains can be prevented during production by regularly cleaning production machines and equipment to ensure no random oils, grease. as we know, the textiles of India are famous all over the world. if such minor problems are over come it will be even more rich in expressing the true culture and traditions of India.

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