



# Project 'Mausam'

Monthly Lecture Series

## **Emporiums of Indian Ocean Trade, witnessed by the Java Sea Shipwrecks of the 9th and 10th Centuries**

Date: 09.02.2015

Time: 05.00 p.m.

Venue: Auditorium, C.V. Mess, IGNCNA, New Delhi - 01

### Abstract:

This lecture will present the startling evidence of long distance trade at the close of the first millennium, linking West Asia, India, Southeast Asia and China in a continuum of exchange. A number of shipwreck cargoes discovered and excavated in the past fifteen years demonstrate for the first time the scale and complexity of the commercial exchange that ensured that base commodities, luxury consumables, works of art and religious paraphernalia all played a role in this trading system. The ship architecture of the vessels investigated adds a further dimension to this research, bringing alive the Arabic and Chinese sources which provide contemporary descriptions of this trade.

### Bio:

Dr. John Guy, FSA, is the Florence and Herbert Irving Curator of the Arts of South and Southeast Asia at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and an elected

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. He was formerly Senior Curator of South Asia at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and has served on the Councils of the European Associations of South Asia and Southeast Asian Archaeology and various editorial boards.

He has worked on a number of archaeological excavations, both land and maritime sites, and served as an advisor to UNESCO on historical sites in Southeast Asia. His research interests include the early temple arts and sculptural traditions of South and Southeast Asia, with a focus on southern Indian and Sri Lanka. He has also published widely on shipwreck ceramics and the Indian textile trade.

John has authored books on many aspects of Indian and Southeast Asian art, and numerous research papers. Major publications include *Oriental Trade Ceramics in South East Asia* (OUP 1986), *Ceramic Traditions of Southeast Asia* (OUP 1989), *Arts of India: 1550-1900* (V&A 1990,) *Indian Art and Connoisseurship* (Mapin 1990), *Vietnamese Ceramics: A Separate Tradition* (co-author 1997), *Woven Cargoes. Indian Textiles in the East* (Thames & Hudson 1998; reprint 2009), *Indian Temple Sculpture* (V&A /Abrams, 2007), *Chola. Bronzes of Southern India* (Royal Academy co-author 2007), *Bronze* (contributor, Royal Academy, London, 2012), *Lost Kingdoms. Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia* (MMA/Yale 2014).

He has curated and co-curated many exhibitions, most recently *Gods of Angkor. Khmer Bronzes from the National Museum of Cambodia* (Freer-Sackler 2010), *Wonder of the Age: Master Painters of India* (MMA 2011), *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculpture of Sopheap Pich* (MMA 2013), *Interwoven Globe. The Worldwide Textile Trade, 1500-1800* (MMA 2013) and *Lost Kingdoms. Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of Early Southeast Asia, 5th to 8th Century* (MMA 2014).