

State Museum of Oriental Art (Moscow, [www.orientmuseum.ru](http://www.orientmuseum.ru)) and Institute of Oriental Studies, the Russian Academy of Sciences([www.ivran.ru](http://www.ivran.ru)) invites you to join:

The Third International Conference  
**"Problems of the study of Oriental collections"**



Conference topic:

**ASIA AND AFRICA IN THE MUSEUM SPACE: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES**

**Sections:**

1. Peculiarities of Asian and African objects' storage and restoration
2. Criteria for the selection of the objects from Asia and Africa for the museum collection acquisition: the visual features, ethnographic authenticity, ritual significance
3. The history of the formation of the collections of Asian and African art
4. Problems of exhibiting / representing art objects from Asia and Africa. Challenges and strategies
5. Trends of revaluation and criticism of orientalism and colonialism, the influence of these processes on the methodology of working with art objects from Asia and Africa
6. Central Asia in antiquity and the Middle Ages: object, symbol, ritual

Art objects from Asian and African countries have a number of specific features that reflect the “non-European” context of their creation and existence. To identify their artistic merits, historical and general cultural significance, we need special evaluation criteria. The European eye usually seeks high aesthetic qualities of an object, while its value for culture representatives may be undeniable and lies in religious significance, antiquity, correspondence to a certain model.

Working with oriental collections sets specific tasks for the researcher, curator, restorer in the course of the museum collection acquisition and developing a methodology for their selection within the framework of exhibition and educational projects. Objects of the oriental art and everyday life are often created from exotic materials and in a special climatic environment, which can be difficult to reproduce in storage and restoration procedures.

The specificity of oriental objects implies exhibiting difficulties: it is necessary to take into account ethnographic and religious factors, the idea of rarity, ability to illustrate a particular cultural phenomenon. Specialized museums often aim at an educational function, trying to "justify" the appearance of an object and "explain" its beauty to the viewer. The task is even more interesting and difficult for non-specialized museums that have oriental items in their storage, but often lack methodological tools and "supporting" collections for solving the problems of exhibiting.

An open question remains is it necessary to reconstruct the living environment of non-European objects, for the explanation of the origins and specific features of the certain regions and arts. The problem of including such objects / complexes of objects in a "non-oriental" context, concentrating only on their "beauty" is also debatable.

The rethinking of historical events, the colonial policy of states has led to the emergence of new horizons of perception and evaluation of oriental art: we are faced with taboo topics, the erosion of critical approaches to cultural phenomena, a change in "fashionable" vectors of exhibiting Asian and African art objects.

A separate section is dedicated to the memory of leading researcher at the State Museum of Oriental Art, V.E. Voitov (1946-2021), whose scientific activity was dedicated to the history and archeology of Central Asia in the early Middle Ages, primarily to Mongolia and Southern Siberia. Specialists are invited with reports that deal with actual and debatable issues of the history of material and spiritual culture, mythology and archeology of Central Asia in the era of antiquity

and the early Middle Ages. Both new materials and new approaches to the study of well-known artifacts and historical and cultural complexes are welcome.

**Time:** February 28 - March 1, 2022

**Location:** Moscow, State Museum of Oriental Art, Nikitsky Boulevard, 12 A

**Deadline for applications:** January 15, 2022

**The application should contain the following information:**

- Full Name
- Academic degree / academic title
- Position and organization
- Title and abstract (200 – 350 words)

If you wish to participate in our conference, please send your abstract to [orientkon2017@yandex.ru](mailto:orientkon2017@yandex.ru)

Organizing Committee do not have the opportunity to pay expenses for travel and accommodation of the participants.