



Annually 2021

2021 Issue | Buddhist Art & Cultural Conservation Centre

COVID19 TIMES

The global pandemic of Covid19 has changed the way we live and the way we think of our future.

The Kingdom of Bhutan has been ahead of its times in terms of environmental and cultural preservation and continuity; and in the face of the adversity, Bhutan has met these challenges with resilience and strength under the benevolent guidance of His Majesty the King and the spiritual compassion of His Holiness the Je Khenpo.

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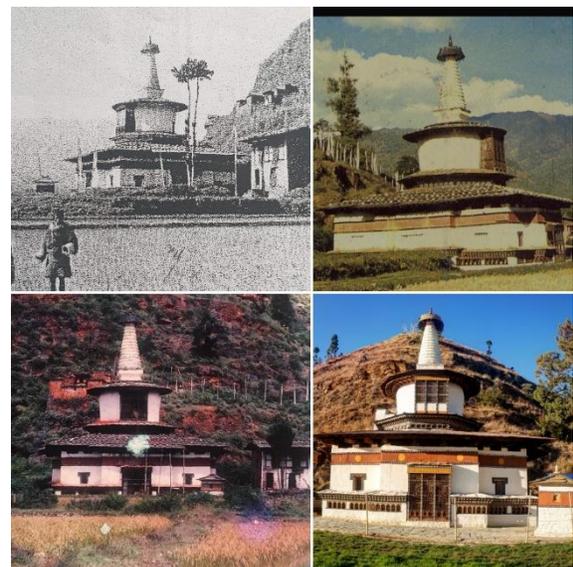
At the BACCC Office

Our office has now experienced two lockdowns that have spanned over a month or two. Though this has brought about some delays to our workload, our monk conservators have met with these challenges admirably. They have learnt to use Zoom and GoogleMeet, and used their free time productively by filling it with spiritual practice and recitation of Medicine Buddha mantra to benefit those who are suffering from Covid19 around the world.

Our monk conservators are back in the office, refreshed and reinvigorated to work on our first set of 40 thangkas from Rigsum Gonpa Monastery in Eastern Bhutan.

Our monks are also preparing for our next huge monastery restoration project that will begin this March 2021.

They successfully completed the [Royal Dumtseg Restoration Project](#) at the end of 2019; a 15th Century monastery built by Thangtong Gyalpo, the Leonardo Da Vinci of the Himalayas.





Lhadzong Tashigang Goempa

The Hill of Auspiciousness Meditation Centre

They are now gearing to work on another national heritage site, the 17th Century Lhadzong Tashigang (Hill of Auspiciousness) Monastery that was founded by the [12th Je Khenpo Kunga Gyatso](#) (1722-1772).

His expertise in languages made him a famous Sanskrit scholar amongst his contemporaries; the monastery was built to fulfill his vision that indicated he was fated to live there.

It is one of the oldest meditation centres for both monks and lay persons in Bhutan and the monastery contains many sacred relics, as well as having one of the most intricately carved woodworks and a rare wall mural depicting the details of the life of Milarepa, one of the key saints of Tibetan Buddhism.





Digitization of Central Monastic Body of Bhutan's Antiquities

Inspired by Their Majesties the Kings and Her Majesty Royal Grandmother of Bhutan, the Central Monastic Body has taken the initiative to digitalize the sacred treasures and antiquities that are significant and unique to Bhutan's historical and spiritual inheritance.

The Digitization of Central Monastic Body's antiquities commenced at the end of 2019. It is an ambitious 10-year undertaking to digitalize and create a quality database system that provides future custodians with accessible yet secure information for the preservation, archival, research and continuity of Bhutan's tangible heritage.

Our team includes monks and senior lopens such as the former Secretary General Lopen Gembo, fluent in 3 languages (English, Dzongkha and Japanese) and the recipient of the 2014 World Buddhist Outstanding Leader Award; and the Former Head of Antiquities Department of the Central Monastic Body, Lam Phub Tenzin, who is highly knowledgeable with over 20+ years' experience in dealing with antiquities.



New BACCC Office Construction Progress



The new BACCC Office construction finally commenced in autumn of 2020 with the appropriate Buddhist rites and prayers.

To fulfill BACCC's Vision and to give the monks a permanent home to continue their dedicated conservation work in preservation and continuity of Bhutan's unique heritage, the Buddhist Art & Cultural Conservation Centre was conceived.

The new BACCC Office is located 10 minutes away from Tashichhoedzong and related Government and monastic offices. Its design includes conservation studios, library and research facilities, an interactive altar room and classrooms as well as storage facilities.



Local Support

The Central Monastic Body, the Royal Government of Bhutan and interested Bhutanese supporters and friends have offered their support in kind and financially as well as expertise and skills.

For more information, please visit [BACCC website](#) or contact us.

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International Support

Founded by Ephraim 'Eddie' Jose, the [Druk Foundation for Art Preservation](#) is recognized 501 (c) 3 charitable entity based in the United States and US tax deductible.

The Foundation initiated international fundraising efforts that were contributed towards the construction of the new BACCC office.

DFAP's future donation will go towards the Continuity programs involving education and training of the monk art conservators.

For more information, please visit the [Druk Foundation website](#).

May I become at all times, both now and forever,

A protector for those without protection;

A guide for those who have lost their way;

A ship for those with oceans to cross; a bridge for those with rivers to cross;

A sanctuary for those in danger;

A lamp for those without a light; a place of refuge for those who lack shelter;

And a servant to all in need."

Shantideva

(8th Century Indian philosopher, Buddhist monk poet and scholar.)