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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr.Dahlia Bhattacharya

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dr.Amrita Mondal

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ,UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
RAJARAMMOHUNPUR, DIST –DARJEELING

WEST BENGAL , INDIA, PIN-734013

PHONE -0353-2580998

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Floral Depictions in the Coiffure of Ancient Indian terracotta

Anamika Choudhury¹

Abstract:

India, world famous for its culture has a diverse, rich and elongated motifs tradition. In fact, the traditions of motifs in our country can trace their origin back, almost to about 5000 years ago, to the ancient Indus Valley and Mohenjodaro civilizations, and they have been created and developed through the ages against a background that is richly woven with the myths and imaginary of sign and symbol. The development of a particular motif is undoubtedly being the result of religion, customs, natural surroundings and social beliefs of the particular area to which its creator belongs. Though always speculative, the meaning of the motifs used in decoration of coiffure, Head-dress and hair dress may change with cultural context but the symbolic meaning of various motifs remains some whatever they are applied.

Key words: Ancient, Antiquities. Motifs, Religion, Symbols, Tradition.

History is generally deals with the exploits of the kings and their achievements in the field of administration, the rise and the fall of states and the social and economic conditions of the people. But such a history cannot be regarded as complete. It should present the story of the people and their life, thought and culture. It should record the characteristics as well as reactions of the people to physical and economic conditions. It should contain an account of their social institutions, beliefs and forms. It is, therefore, necessary to deal with history of costume, coiffure and ornaments. Head dress was a common item of male and female attire in ancient India which is still used by the people on ceremonial occasions or even when one goes out. The antiquities found from Harappa and Mohenjodaro¹ reveal that both men and women generally wore a fan like head dress, but in case of a nude male figure, it looks like cap curling into a point.

¹ Research Scholar, Department of History, N.B.U.

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