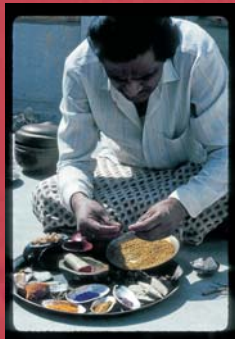
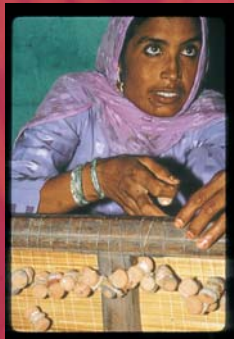


# Preserving India's Lost Craft History through digitization of film archives



## GRANT or FUNDING QUERY

Alexandra Soteriou's archive of over 20,000 slide images, recorded primarily in the 1980's, documents papermaking, book and related decorative art methods, along with tools, materials, formulas, artisan interviews, ruins and locations that are often lost or disappearing.



The scope and depth of this visual record is unique in the world.

Photographs portray information gathered at numerous sites in India and Pakistan including: Agra, Ahmedabad, Daulatabad, Delhi, Erandol, Gilget, Gosundra, Hathras, Kalpi, Kota, Khuldabad, Kishangarh, Lahore, Lucknow, Mathura, Patan, Pondicherry, Sanganer, Samarkand (north of India,) Wardha, and Zafarabad. Images range from obscure topics like the rare translucent snake papers used in decorated manuscripts to secrets of rare stenciled marbled images, and to the hollow reeds used to make fine moulds for papers that were the substrate for India's magnificent miniature art.



Alexandra's goal is to obtain a grant or funds to digitize her slides to preserve a vanishing cultural heritage and create a resource which she can make freely available for students, libraries, museums and institutions that house historic records. Her concern is to insure that this priceless visual legacy continues beyond her lifetime.

A Fulbright grant in 1985 started Alexandra's 20 year odyssey researching lost paper craft traditions in India and Pakistan. She inspired thousands of Indian artisans to recommit to a revitalization of their craft heritage using environmentally sustainable techniques. She founded World Paper, Inc. and consulted for UNIDO, USAID and Aid to Artisans. Soteriou's book *Gift of Conquerors, Hand Papermaking in India* is regarded as the definitive work in the field and was awarded the American Library Association's gold star for a best academic book.

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