



THE TARUN MITRA MEMORIAL LECTURE COMMITTEE



American Institute of Indian Studies

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and

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cordially invite you to the

TARUN MITRA MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024

on Friday, 6 December 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

at

Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Resource Centre

10, Lake Terrace, Kolkata 700 029.

Dr George Michell

Eminent art historian, will give a lecture titled:

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DAVID MCCUTCHION: BRICK TEMPLES OF BENGAL.

AMIYA DEV, GERALDINE FORBES, ADITI NATH SARKAR

Conveners: *The Tarun Mitra Memorial Lecture Committee*

ROSINKA CHAUDHURI

Director: *Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta*

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DR GEORGE MICHELL

Born in Australia, George Michell finished a PhD on early Indian Temple Architecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in 1974. During the late 1970s, he travelled through West Bengal and Bangladesh, visiting many of the temples that the Late Professor David McCutcheon had documented. When it came to editing the 1983 book *Brick Temples of Bengal* for Princeton University Press, George invited local scholars who had worked with David to contribute. Since then, he has researched extensively in the Deccan region of peninsular India, notably at the 14th-16th century capital of Vijayanagara, known popularly as Hampi.

In his illustrated talk, George Michell will follow Professor McCutcheon's typological classification of Bengal brick temples by discussing the different hut (*bangla*), pinnacle (*ratna*), and towered (*deul*) types, each of which evolved over the centuries to produce a profusion of architectural designs. This stylistic diversity is enhanced by moulded and cut terracotta plaques that illustrate popular deities and legends. Once the British are established in Bengal, brick temples adopt European style Classical features, sometimes even European figures.