

ICAI's Accountancy Museum of India

Accountancy Museum was set up in February 2009 in Sector-1, Noida office of the ICAI, with an objective to preserve the heritage of our accountancy profession and acknowledge the endeavours of its torchbearer in the professional development. It is now known as *Accountancy Museum of India*, since this name was granted by the Govt. of India, in response to our proposal. In 2010, the Museum was shifted to the Sector-62, Noida office of the ICAI. *Accountancy Museum of India* presents the story of origin and development of accountancy profession in India and in the world through its script displayed through digital panels and visuals displayed through various items from national and international museums and individual collectors. It is a unique endeavour of the Institute. It has just started its journey and, therefore, has a long way to go. The feedback of the members of accountancy profession in India will inspire the Museum to grow. Visit the museum to experience the joy of getting to discover the development of the accountancy profession in India. Read on...



World's First Coin

Courtesy: British Museum

We read *History* in school as a mandatory subject and then in colleges when we opt for that subject. History as a subject connects us to our past, and gives us a perspective to observe development through centuries and decades. Though most of us ignore it as a subject,



Mughal Gold Coin

Courtesy: British Museum

but on day-to-day basis we use it in our personal as well as professional life. Anything that is past becomes a matter of *History*. We often get back to our past—into its years, days and moments that we cherish, because of our various reasons and associations with them. It



MS 4632
Bulla-envelope with 17 plain tokens inside.
Near East, ca. 3700-3200 BC

Bulla-Envelope With 17 Plain Tokens

is interesting that we know so many things about our past and at times we want to relive those moments with the help of documentary or visual evidences we have in our possession. That gives us joy. We all try at our individual level to preserve those moments. Museums are similar attempts to preserve some moments from our past and they help us relive those moments and give hope and an optimism to step ahead in life.

(Contributed by Accountancy Museum of India. Comments can be sent to accountancy.museum@icai.in.)



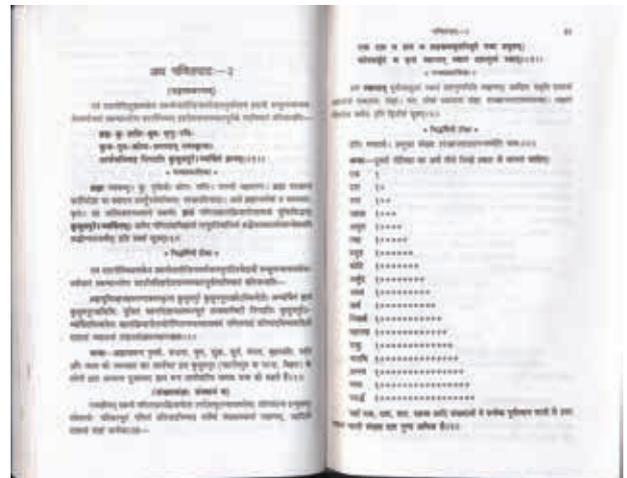
From Arthashastra

Accountancy Museum was set up in February 2009 on the first floor of the C-1, Sector-1, Noida office of the ICAI. The objective behind setting up the Museum is to preserve the heritage of our accountancy profession and acknowledge the endeavours of the torchbearer professionals in the professional development. Accountancy Museum is now known as *Accountancy Museum of India*, since this coveted name was granted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, in response to our proposal. In 2010, the Museum was shifted to a new venue, i.e. Sector-62, Noida office of the Institute.

Accountancy Museum of India presents the story of origin and development of the accountancy profession in India and in the world through its script displayed through digital panels and visuals displayed through various items including documents, photographs and photographs of various items borrowed from national and international museums and individual collectors. In the course of setting up this *Museum*, established

institutions like National Museum, National Archives of India, Archaeological Survey of India, Supreme Court Museum, British Museum, archives of various national newspapers including The Times of India, The Hindu and Hindustan Times, and some national and international private collectors were approached and consulted.

Digital panels in the Museum cover the story of origin and development of accountancy and accountancy profession, starting from the ancient days when there were clay bulla and tablets to represent economic transactions. It also endeavours to cover the story of accountancy in ancient and medieval India through an exploratory study of various ancient Indian texts and historical studies. Then it traces the formalisation of the study of accountancy profession



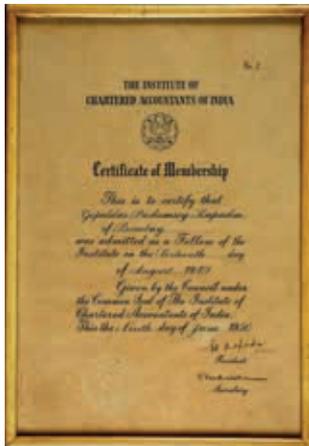
From Aryabhatiya

in India using various authentic minute books of parliamentary debates and Indian Accountancy Boards. In its collection among others, the Museum has a 160-year old ledger (*khata-bahi*) and about 100-year old balance sheets. It also has many important documents, images and photographs of historical significance collected from various sources. People connected to the field of accountancy will particularly find it interesting so as to know how this accountancy as a discipline and profession originated.

A selection of important items from the Museum is also available in the form of picture postcards. The booklet of the Museum, first published in February 2009, that has been revised recently in May 2013, is also available at a nominal price at the Museum. All stakeholders of the accountancy profession are invited to visit the Museum. While they will cherish the moments in the Museum premises, the Museum



From Manusmriti



GP Kapadia - Certificate of Membership

will also benefit from their comments, opinions and directions. All those connected to accountancy must come at least once and discover the joyous journey into an intellectual discipline and its heritage. It is to be noted that accountancy profession is one of the oldest professions on this earth, i.e. going back to the earliest civilisations

of Mesopotamia.

Members may visit the Museum to know the history of their profession and their Institute's glorious past. When they discover the magnitude of efforts of their ancestors in developing and setting up the institution, they will fall in love with their Institute again. The Museum is unique not just in India but also in the world, since to the best of our information, there are just two other museums in the world on this specific theme. There are the Accountancy Museum set up by the *Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants* in Texas in USA and the other one set up by the *Accounting Heritage Association* in New Jersey of USA. But in comparison, our museum stands taller in terms of its scope and collection. This Museum is humble enough to acknowledge and accommodate the story of accountancy practices of other parts of the world.

This Museum could be reached using Metro station of Noida City Centre and then by hiring a three-wheeler or a shared auto-rickshaw. Buses from Delhi also come to the Sector-62 of Noida. Once visitors are in Sector-62, they can locate A Block and then Plot No. 29. ■



Indian Accountancy Board



Writing of Accounts

Courtesy: British Museum



Inauguration of the ICAI Headquarters (1954)

Visiting Hours: 10.30 am–1.30 pm & 02.00 pm–05.00 pm
(Monday to Friday except on Government holidays.)
Phone: +91-120-3045955/926; +91-120-3045946
(Reception)
Entry - Free, for All.