EDITORIAL

Franciscus Verellen, Sinologist, member of the Institute, and Director of the Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO) since 2004 stepped down from the Directorate at the end of his second term, on 27 February 2014. Yves Goudeineau, Southeast-Asian Ethnologist, Director of Studies and head of the EFEO Centre in Chiang Mai, has been named Director of the EFEO by Presidential decree of 26 February 2014. He took up his functions as of 28 February 2014.

With the approval of the Academic Council, Yves Goudineau, Director of the EFEO, has appointed Charlotte Schmid, specialist of the history of Indian art at the EFEO, to the position of Director of Studies. She has taken up her position as of 1 April 2014. Charlotte Schmid was Head of the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO from 2000 to 2002.

We warmly welcome the new Director and Director of studies and look forward to working under their leadership towards the scientific prestige of our institution.

FOCUS

CSH

CSH signs a MoU with Collège de France

The Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH) and the prestigious Collège de France, one of the leading French international academic institutions, are together launching a series of research conferences. The first conferences will take place from late 2014 on. As a first step towards this new initiative, Professor Anne Cheng, distinguished specialist of Chinese thought and intellectual history, has already delivered several talks in various Indian universities including one at CSH on the concept of “Chinese Universalism”. The lecture took place at the CSH Library on 14 March and gathered a large audience. In 2014-2015, the CSH will welcome a group of Professors coming to India with the support of the French Embassy Science Department (Service Scientifique) for a series of lectures. http://csh-delhi.com/eventdetail/15/chinese-universalism-by-prof-anne-cheng

Equity in Climate Change

The CSH, along with Asia Centre, which had gathered a multi-disciplinary team including EDDEN and E&E Consultant, won a call for tender from the “France Strategie” on “The Treatment of Equity in an Ambitious Post-2020 International Climate Agreement”. The aim of this research project is to analyse how the issue of equity is taken into consideration in broad-based international agreements and climate negotiations in particular.

Dr. Leïla Choukroune, CSH Director, and Dr. Sandrine Maljean-Dubois, Director of research at the CNRS and based with Aix Marseille University Law Faculty, are covering the international and comparative legal aspects of the research study.

CSH – Asia Centre – Delhi Policy Group Round-Table Conference

After launching its Lecture Series in January 2014, CSH hosted an Indo-French Dialogue on “India and Afghanistan Post 2014”. A panel of experts composed of Dr. Jean-Luc Racine from Asia Centre (Paris), Dr. Radha Kumar and Lt. Gen. (Retd) Aditya Singh, both from the Delhi Policy Group, chaired by Dr. Leïla Choukroune, Director of CSH, provided for an in-depth analysis of the major stakes India is confronted with in deepening its relations with Afghanistan, from the role of Pakistan to China and Iran’s implications in the political and economic processes. The discussion had been opened by His Excellency François Richier, Ambassador of France to India. http://csh-delhi.com/eventdetail/11/round-table-india-and-afghanistan-post-2014-an-indo-french-dialogue
The CSH was a partner and sponsor of the “Ateliers des Jeunes Chercheurs”, organised by the Association des Jeunes Etudes Indiennes (AJEI). This year’s workshop focused on Labour, mobility and mobilisation in South Asia and was held at JNU University from 11 to 18 February 2014.

CSH team presented a number of papers and chaired panel discussions;

Leïla Choukroune chaired the panel on “Patterns and determinants of employment in contemporary India: an economic perspective on labour”, 12 February 2014.

Jules Naudet discussed the papers of two panels; the first dealt with “The daily lives of workers: ethnographies of Labour” (11 February 2014), the second one was focusing on “Informality and Informalisation” (13 February 2014).

Rémi de Bercegol was discussant for the panel “Patterns and determinants of employment in contemporary India: an economic perspective on labour”. He also held a methodological workshop on 14 February 2014 on “Work clusters and words from the field”.

Fabien Provost presented a paper entitled “Reconstructing the history of the case: the narrative of dead bodies in forensic medicine in India”, 11 February 2014.

Alexandre Cebellac, who co-organised the event, held a methodological workshop on Open source cartography, 12 February 2014.

Trade Investment and Development Initiative

As part of the Trade Investment and Development Initiative (TIDI), Director of CSH Dr. Leïla Choukroune and Dr. David Appleton, Founding Partner of Appleton Luff–International Lawyers, a boutique international trade and arbitration firm presented a paper at a CSH-Indian Institute of Foreign Trade event entitled “Bad, Worse, and the Worst: Food, Alcohol and Tobacco Labelling Schemes—Implications for Asia and India”, on 11 June 2014.

The presentation was attended by a large group of advanced students in international trade law and economics, Delhi based practicing lawyers and academics.

It examined the trade and investment law implications of plain packaging and other labelling schemes and asked what is right for Asia and India. It looked at the purported public policy and health benefits of such schemes, as well as their implications for intellectual property rights, investment, employment and State revenue. WTO and investment law issues were also addressed but the emphasis was on broader policy issues affecting India, as well as practical alternatives.

World University Network Research Project (WUN)

Dr. Leïla Choukroune presented a paper on 27 June at the Maastricht University's Campus in Brussels entitled “The Right to Water and Sanitation: A Holistic Legal Approach”. The event was part of the World University Network (WUN) Research Project attributed to Dr. Leïla Choukroune as lead collaborator on “Managing the globalization of water services in a world affected by climate change: regulatory and economic challenges”. Lead by Dr. Julien Chaisse (Chinese University of Hong Kong), this multidisciplinary international project will be conducted in association with the University of Sydney and the University of Leeds.

NAACLIN 2014

DELNET (Developing Library Network) organises the National Convention on Library, Knowledge and Information Networking (NAACLIN) every year in partnership with various institutions. This year it is partnering with the IFP to hold the NAACLIN 2014 in Pondicherry between 9 and 11 December 2014. The convention is expected to draw over 250 librarians from across India. It is scheduled to be held at Hotel Anandha Inn and will be inaugurated by the former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

NAACLIN 2014 will be devoted to discussing how a paradigm change can take place in libraries and information centres and how the focus can shift from collection building to establishing connections and collaborations in the knowledge domain. The convention is scheduled for three days. The first day will be entirely devoted to
conducted a tutorial on the following topic: Managing Libraries through Open Source Software Packages: Collections to Connections. The next two days will focus on the theme of the National Convention, i.e. From Building Collections to Making Connections: Transforming Libraries in the Knowledge Era.

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IFP & EFEO

The Śaivasiddhānta of classical period.

The Śaivasiddhānta is an ancient and influential Religio-philosophical system that was widespread in many parts of India in the early medieval period. Some of the earliest and basic philosophical texts of the system were composed in Kashmir between the 7th and 10th centuries CE. Other texts such as the ritual manuals (paddhati) of the Śaivasiddhānta system were composed in other parts of India from the 9th century.

One such early text of authority is RATNATRAYAPARĪKṢĀ composed by ŚRĪKAṆŢHA in Kashmir in the 10th century. There is a detailed commentary called ULLEKHINĪ on this text from the pen of Aghoraśiva of South India called ULLEKHINĪ on this text from the 12th century. There is a detailed commentary ULLEKHINĪ called by AGHORAŚIVA is proposed with the view to study the early Śaivasiddhānta doctrines. The final research product will be in the form of the critically edited text accompanied by all relevant notes and an annotated English translation ready to be published.

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CSH

Subaltern Urbanization in India: A Research Programme 2011-2014

On 18 and 19 April 2014, at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi, CSH and IFP organised a workshop on Subaltern Urbanization in India as a conclusive act of the SUBURIN programme. SUBURBIN has been a joint project of IFP and CSH, under the responsibility of Eric Denis and Marie-Hélène Zérah, funded by the French National Agency for Research (ANR) for the 2011-2014 period.

Seeking to counter a vision of urbanization as reduced to a process of agglomeration and a competition between global cities, the project highlighted the diversity of trajectories of urbanization, by focusing on India’s small towns. One of its main challenges has been to bring these marginal small agglomerations to the forefront of the analysis of urbanization dynamics and prove that beyond the ongoing growth of megacities, a double process of slowing down of residential migration and an increase in the number of small towns coexist.

SUBURBIN brought together a team of scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds (economics, geography, urban studies and, anthropology) and from various institutions: Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, CPR: Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi, India), Department of Geography, University of Burdwan, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, Urban Research & Policy Program, National Institute of Advance Study, Bangalore.

Research Grants and Projects

An Asia Europe Comparative Studies (AECSRP) - IEEM (Macau) Academic Research Grant 2013-14 has been attributed to Dr. Leïla Choukroune, (Director of the CSH) for a project on Indian and Chinese investment in Asia.
A Bilingual Dictionary of Tamil Inscriptions

The aim of this Dictionary is to prepare a comprehensive Tamil-Tamil-English Dictionary for Tamil inscriptions. This project, undertaken by Prof. Y. Subbarayalu of the IFP and Prof. G. Vijayavenugopal of EFEO, Pondicherry, was started in April 2012. An assistant was appointed to document the entries in the computer. Taking Santi Sadhana’s Glossary of Tamil Inscriptions (which displays only Tamil meanings) as the basis, new terms are being added wherever necessary from the inscriptions published since. So far the texts of nearly a thousand and two hundred inscriptions have been fed into the computer for making the new entries. Besides this work, the indexes in some standard epigraphical publications (SII XXVI to XXXII and the Pondicherry inscriptions) have been computerized for selection of the entries. The work of revising the earlier entries in Santi Sadhana’s Glossary of Tamil Inscriptions is to be taken up from August 2014.

Contacts: Y. Subbarayalu, G. (IFP) Vijayavenugopal (EFEO) yrsay@ifpindia.org / gvvg@efeo-pondicherry.org

What is driving changes in land use and land cover in Karnataka’s Western Ghats?

Researchers at IFP’s Ecology department, together with the Geomatics and Applied Informatics Laboratory, have been studying the nature and causes of land use and land cover change in the Western Ghats for several years now. The Forest Map of South India was systematically developed using fieldwork and data between the 1970s and 1990s. More recently, the use of new satellite imagery and derived data products to update selected areas of the forest map has allowed us to develop a time-series of landcover information that can be examined to determine the location, extent and drivers of change.

Even though the Western Ghats appear to be a single geographical entity, there is great heterogeneity in environmental conditions. The diversity in climatic conditions and topography has produced a wide array of habitats populated with a range of life forms. Similarly, current and past land use appears to be shaped and constrained by a variety of overlapping environmental and socio-economic factors.

Conservation and sustainable development face major challenges from the various demands on land and resources. Our approach has been interdisciplinary, examining multiple forms of land use change, and employing research methods that can aggregate, combine, and evaluate place-based information, involving multiple factors across a range of spatial scales.

We developed a geospatial-database of the study area by combining a number of spatially-explicit environmental and socio-economic variables within a GIS. Data was derived from several sources, geo-referenced, overlaid and aggregated to common spatial units, such as sub-district polygons, rasters of specific resolution, and vector grids (see map illustration, with study area outlined in red).

Research confirms that there are distinctive local factors driving deforestation and land changes, which underscore the importance of place. Observed patterns of land cover change to anthropogenic types such as coffee or tree plantations, show marked clustering and spatial dependence. Spatially de-linked production and consumption also seems to suggest indirect effects such as cross-border trade in commodities, or remote appropriation of resources by urban populations.

Contacts: Dr. Mohan Seetharam, Dr. G. Muthusankar, and Dr. B. R. Ramesh, with the collaboration of Jean-Luc Bader. mohan@ifpindia.org / muthusankar@ifpindia.org / ramesh.br@ifpindia.org / jean-luc.bader@ifpindia.org

Documentation of Endangered Temple Art of Tamil Nadu

A new pilot project that was submitted by the photo archives cell of the IFP entitled ‘Documentation of Endangered Temple Art of Tamil Nadu’ has been sanctioned by the Endangered Archives Programme supported by Arcadia and administered by the British Library, United Kingdom, for a period of one year starting from 1 July 2014.

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CSH Lecture Series


Behind the Showroom: the Hidden reality of India’s garment workers is a FIDH report presented at the CSH on 29 April 2014, the discussion was chaired by Dr. Leïla Choukroune.

EFEO

The Pondicherry Centre, in collaboration with the University of Pondicherry, organised an international conference on the Mahabharata entitled “Mahabharata: The epic tradition in India and Southeast Asia” from 10 to 12 February 2014: http://www.efeo.fr/blogs.php?bid=14&l=EN

In March 2014 a new project in the domain of Classical Tamil was launched in the Pondicherry centre of the EFEO under the acronym of NETamil, the full title being “Going from Hand to Hand: Networks of Intellectual Exchange in the Tamil Learned Traditions”. The undertaking will be financed with 2.5 million Euro over five years by the European Research Council, via an ERC Advanced Grant won by Eva Wilden (EFEO) for her research project in that area. The inaugural workshop of this project took place at the Pondicherry from 10 to 14 March 2014.

IFP

For more details on these events, please consult our website, at the following address: http://www.ifpindia.org/-Seminars-.html

International Seminars


Contact: M. Kannan
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Seventh Annual Tamil Studies Conference 2014, held at the University of Toronto, Canada, on May 16-18, 2014: http://www.tamilstudiesconference.ca/

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Contact: Dr. Audrey Richard-Ferroujadi
audrey.richard@ifpindia.org

Miscellaneous

The India Biodiversity Portal organized a Neighbourhood Trees Campaign from Earth Day, 22 April, until 27 April 2014. The aim of the campaign was to create awareness on the importance of trees in neighbourhoods and to crowd source and aggregate information on tree diversity in India. All data were openly accessible and in the public domain. The campaign was conducted online through the India Biodiversity Portal at http://treesindia.indiabiodiversity.org/. The campaign was a collaborative activity of the ‘treesindia.in’ at India Biodiversity Portal in association with The French Institute, ATREE, SeasonWatch, Nizhal in Chennai, Keystone Foundation in Kotagiri, Strand Life Sciences, Azim Premji University, Wipro, Earthian, eflora India, and many others.

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WELCOME

...at the CSH

Dr. Bruno DORIN, Economist from Cirad (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and Cired (International Research Centre on Environment and Development), joined the CSH in February 2014 to strengthen and lead CSH research in economics and development. He already worked 8 years in India (during the 1990s) and now focuses on the Indian and global issue of land, labour productivity and structural changes for a green and inclusive
Bulletin of the French Research Institutes in India


Nitin KRISHNAN graduated in 2013 from Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, with a Bachelor degree in Law. Currently, He is pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in International Law and Diplomacy from Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. Previously, he has been awarded Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in French from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He joined the CSH team in February 2014 as Research Assistant in International Economic Law, in the Globalisation and Regulation research field.

Dr. Lion KOENIG joined CSH as a Visiting Fellow from March to June 2014. He is a Research Associate at the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, and at the Cluster of Excellence ‘Asia and Europe in a Global Context’, Heidelberg University. He studied Political Science of South Asia and English Philology at Heidelberg and at the University of Edinburgh, UK. In 2013, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Political Science for his dissertation on ‘Cultural Citizenship and the Politics of Censorship in Post-colonial India: Media, Power, and the Making of the Citizen’.

Caroline MICHON, is a PhD candidate at CEIAS/EHESS, starting an Anthropological study of several women and student organisations in New Delhi and women demonstration against violence and rape. She joined CSH for a short research stay during a fieldwork in February and March 2014.

Gaurav MEENA is a Research Assistant on the project, “A Changing Country and a Changing Village: Growth and Development in India and in Palanpur over Six Decades”. He has a Masters degree in Public Policy from Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai, and B.Tech. in Computer Science from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Prasad KHANOLKAR is a PhD student of Planning and South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada. He holds a degree in architecture from Kamla Raheja Institute for Architecture, Mumbai, and a masters in regional planning from Cornell University, NY. He is also a member of Collective Research Initiative Trust (CRIT), Mumbai. He joined CSH as a Visiting Fellow in May 2014 until December 2014.

Laurence GAUTIER is a PhD student in History at the University of Cambridge. She studied at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon and holds an MPhil degree in Modern South Asian Studies from Cambridge. She was Visiting Fellow at CSH for a short research stay during March and April 2014.

Fabien PROVOST joined CSH as a Visiting Fellow from January to May 2014. He is Ph-D. candidate at the University of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, France since December 2012. His research project consists of an ethnographic study of several departments of forensic medicine, in three medical colleges in North India.

Virginie OLIVIER, PhD student at the University of Paris IV and scholar of the EFEO, stayed at the Centre for a period of one month from 15 February 2014 to continue her research on the Iconography of Agni, Brahmag and the Brahmans in the ancient Indian sculpture.

Dr. Anna A. ŚLĄCZKA, Curator of South Asian Art at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, was in Pondicherry from 5 to 19 February 2014 to continue her study on the dating and conservation of Chola bronzes.

Marzenna CZERNIAK-DROZD-ZOWICZ (Jagiellonian University at Krakow) was at the Pondicherry Centre from 15 February to 09 March 2014 to continue her research on the role of tradition in contemporary pancaratra practices of the Vaishnavas of South India.

Pr. Sylvain BROQUET stayed in Pondicherry from 13 to 22 February 2014. He carried on his current research on Sanskrit South-Indian inscriptions, and made investigations about the reception of Sanskrit poems with double meaning (dvyarthakâvya) by pandits, with a view to analyse the interpretative course that kind of text suggests.

Julie ROCTON, doctoral student from the University of Aix-Marseille, member of the UMR 7297, “Texts and Documents of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean” visited the centre for a period of 2 months from 14 February 2014 to continue working on her thesis “Ideas on aesthetics from the Sanskrit tradition in the practice and the teaching of Bharatanâtyam”.

Roland FERENCZI, BA (Hindi and Sanskrit studies) student at the ELTE University of Budapest and MA student of the Department of Antique Studies, University of Pécs in Hungary and recipient of the Campus Hungary scholarship of Balassi Institute, visited the Pondicherry Centre from
25 to 31 January 2014 to study the history, importance and nature of the Vaishnava and Shaiva Sanskrit palm-leaf manuscripts of the EFEO and the IFP.

Maria Piera CANDOTTI, Assistant Professor in Sanskrit at the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and member of the ANR project “Panini and Paninians of the 16th and 17th centuries” directed by François Grimal (EFEO), came to the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO for a period of two months from 5 June 2014 to study the text Praudamoramam with S. L. P Anjaneya Sarma.

T. RAJARETHINAM joined the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO on 1 March 2014 as a Researcher within the framework of the NETamil Project – Going from Hand to Hand – Networks of Intellectual Exchange in the Tamil Learned Traditions directed by Eva Wilden and awarded the ERC Advance Grant financed by the European Research Council. He will be in charge of organising the filing system on the NETamil server (in the initial stage) and then working towards preparing a database (which will be accessible to NETamil members at a later stage).

B. THILAKASIVASUNDARAN joined the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO on 16 June 2014 as an informantician within the framework of the NETamil Project – Going from Hand to Hand – Networks of Intellectual Exchange in the Tamil Learned Traditions directed by Eva Wilden and awarded the ERC Advance Grant financed by the European Research Council. He will be in charge of organising the filing system on the NETamil server (in the initial stage) and then working towards preparing a database (which will be accessible to NETamil members at a later stage).

M. SATHISH, software developer, joined the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics from 2 May 2014 to October 2016, to work in the WIKWIO project under the supervision of Mr. D. Balasubramanian.

Rohit Mathew GEORGE joined the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics from 1 February 2014 to 30 June 2015 to work on the India Biodiversity Portal with an emphasis on the Western Ghats in the framework of the Western Ghats Portal, Phase II and under the supervision of D. Balasubramanian and Dr. B.R. Ramesh.

Navya REGHU, PhD candidate, joined the Ecology Department on 27 January 2014 for a three-year period, to work on Land cover reconstruction using pollen data in South India under the supervision of Dr. K. Anupama and in the framework of the Palaeoenvironments of South India project.

Manzoor Ahmad NAIK, PhD candidate, joined the Ecology Department on 16 January 2014 for a three-year period, to work on Agroforestry and climate change under the supervision of Dr. Cheryl D. Nath and in the framework of the Agroforestry and Xylology projects.

Dibakami KRUTARTHA, who has an M.A in Sanskrit from the Pondicherry University, joined the Indology Department on 1 January 2014 for a two-year period, to pursue his PhD on the subject A political and administrational study of Arthasastra and Sukraniti under the supervision of Dr. Deviprasad Mishra.

Estelle FOURAT, a PhD candidate at Cirad, has spent 7 months on the field to address consumption of animal-based food and its determinants, her thesis topic. After ten years of consultancy, Estelle left off since September 2011 a PhD research on sociology of food, supervised by Professor Jean-Pierre Poulain (Certop: CNRS UMR 5044), and by Nicolas Bricas, socio-economist at Cirad (UMR Moisa), where she got a two-year fellowship (March 2013- April 2015). She obtained a grant from CSH to facilitate her fieldwork in India during March-April 2013 and September 2013 to February 2014.

Rishav Kumar THAKUR left CSH in May 2014. A recent graduate in Economics from the Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, he joined CSH in August 2013 as a research assistant to Dr. Himanshu in a project named Palanpur: India’s Economic Revolution, A perspective from six decades of economic development in a north Indian Village. He will be starting a Master degree in Economy and Development at the University of Geneva.

Vaishnavi SURENDRA left CSH in May 2014 to pursue a PhD at Berkley University, California. She joined this team in October 2012 as a Research Assistant on the project, “A Changing Country and a Changing Village: Growth and Development in India and in Palanpur over Six Decades”. She has a Masters degree in...
Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her undergraduate education was at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. As part of the Palanpur project, Vaishnavi’s research focused on income diversification and the growth of income from non-farm activities, as well as the dynamics of inter-generational household mobility.

...at the EFEO

Nicolas MOREL, doctoral student at the University of Aix Marseille, left Pondicherry in March after spending a few months in the Pondicherry Centre to pursue his research on the Forts of the Deccan - Bellari (Karnataka) Naldurg (Maharashtra) and Firozabad (Karnataka).

...at the IFP

S. JEYAKUMAR, Ph.D. student in the Botany at the VHNSN college, Madurai Kamaraj University, had joined the Ecology Department from 1 April 2011, to work on the framework of “Forest Diversity and Dynamics” at the Uppangala permanent sampling plot under the supervision of Dr. N. Ayyappan, left on 30 June 2014.

Dr. Cédric VEGA who holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada, and who took up his post at the IFP on 27 October 2010 for a two-year period, as the Head of the Laboratory of Applied Informatics and Geomatics (LIAG), left on 25 February 2014.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that the EFEO announces the passing of Director of Studies, Pascal Royère, at Toulouse, on 5 February 2014, at the age of 49. Director of the largest restoration workshops of the EFEO at Angkor in recent years, most notably those at the Baphuon and the Western Mebon, Pascal Royère was the recipient of the Grand Prize of the Prince Louis de Polignac Foundation in 2007. In 2011 he was the joint winner of the Grand Prize in Archaeology awarded by the Simone and Cino del Duca Foundation to the team at the EFEO’s Siem Reap Centre.

MILESTONES

IFP

The “Dancing Shiva”
A program that was broadcast on ABC1, Australia on 24 March 2014, titled “Dancing Shiva” (an episode of the “Four Corners” program), investigates how the notorious art dealer Subhash Kapoor, who is now facing court in India and is on the wanted list in the United States, sold several idols stolen from temples in South India to renowned museums, of which a statue of Nataraja worth over $5 million to the National Gallery in Canberra.

The photo collection of the French Institute of Pondicherry/EFEO was instrumental in helping the police identify some of the statues. Link to the documentary: http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2014/03/24/3968642.htm Contact: Dr. N. Murugesan murugesan.n@ifpindia.org

PUBLICATIONS

CSH


EFEO


Dravyaguṇaśataślokī is a work on the medicinal properties and uses of articles of food and some other substances of daily use, by Trimallabhaṭṭa, who flourished in the first half of the seventeenth century. The text is composed in hundred and one verses mostly in long meters with various alaṃkāras. The substances dealt with are divided into fifteen groups (varga) namely, water, milk and dairy produce, grain and pulse, meat, vegetables, the sugarcane and its products, honey, oils, fruits, spices and condiments, prepared dishes, fermented liquids, substances used for massage and bathing, pān (tāmbūla) and inorganic substances.

In this publication, we furnish a critical edition of the Dravyaguṇaśataślokī based on three manuscripts and an edition of 1953. In the introduction to the edition, a study of the author and his works as well as the details of the commentary Dravyadīpikā by Kṛṣṇadatta on the Dravyaguṇaśataślokī are discussed. The Hindi translation that is published in the 1953 edition is reproduced and the book concludes with an appendix that contains two articles (‘editing scientific texts’ and ‘scientific texts in Sanskrit’), relevant chapters of Aṣṭāṅgarādaya on dravyavijñāna and a list of manuscripts on Āyurveda that are available in the major manuscript libraries of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.


IFP/EFEO CO-PUBLICATIONS

La Bhakti d’une reine : Śiva à Tiruccēṉṉampūṇṭi.

Language: French. 1100 Rs (48 €).

The heart of this book is a temple built in the Tamil-speaking South in the late 9th or early 10th century CE, at Tiruccēṉṉampūṇṭi, near Trichy. Now abandoned, that temple is one of the earliest known Śaiva temples of the Cōḷa period. The evidence gathered here suggests that this shrine, dedicated to Śiva as “the great god of Tirukkaṭaimuṭi”, was raised in honour of a deity who is lauded in the Tēvāram (7th – 9th centuries), a poetic anthology of the earliest surviving Tamil Śaiva hymns. A Pallava queen, Māṟampāvai, whose inscriptions are engraved on pillars found half-buried on the site, was the most prominent among its early patrons. The difficulty pinning down her complex identity echoes the difficulty of defining the site, which seems like a missing link connecting different corpora of evidence: poetic texts, epigraphs, carvings, Pallava monuments and Cōḷa-period art.

The site is therefore explored here in three ways: by an attempt to define “Cōḷa art” while acknowledging the contribution of Pallava royal temples and monuments raised by minor dynasties which call into question the use of any such dynastic label; by an investigation of the relation between the world of texts and that of archaeology through the study of one particular iconographic ensemble and one epigraphical corpus; and by an examination of the relation between royal and local, particularly in the realm of “Bhakti”. As a woman active in this region who claims in Tamil inscriptions to be a member of a Pallava family famed for its Sanskrit epigraphy, and who appears more closely linked to a merchant community than to Brahmins, Māṟampāvai crystallises the encounters between several worlds. The divine realm is not the least complex of them, for Viṣṇu, Brahmā and female deities are an integral part of the sacred court of the Śiva wedded to this place.

Keywords: Tamil epigraphy, Hindu art, Bhakti, Śaivism, Tēvāram, Kṛṣṇa, Brahmā, female deities, Pallava, Cōḷa

Starting around the sixth century of the common era, a new form of fervent religiosity seems to be discernible in the Tamil-speaking South that is often termed the “Bhakti movement”. The eleven essays gathered in this volume all deal with South Indian primary sources related to the various phenomena that can be grouped together under the head of “Bhakti”, which may be broadly defined as personal devotion between a devotee and his god. What characterised the early phase of this “movement”, which in subsequent centuries swept across the whole sub-continent and transformed popular religion in every place that it reached, was the emphasis placed upon the emotional aspect of the relation between the devotee and his chosen deity: the Tamil hymns regularly underline the message that salvation can be attained just through such devotion.

The chronology of the appearance, growth and development of this transformative movement is riddled with uncertainties, whether we consider literary or archaeological evidence. Each of the contributions to this volume addresses some aspect of the history of this movement in the South, and so, drawing on a wide range of disciplines—linguistics, philology, epigraphy, archaeology—they together contribute, each in its own way, to the mapping of the chronology of Bhakti. This volume is dedicated to our esteemed colleague Paṇḍit R. Varadadesikan, a specialist of the Tamil sources of Vaiṣṇavism, who recently retired after dedicating forty-four years of his life to a career in the Pondicherry Centre of the EFEO working to further understanding of Tamil and Maṇipravāḷam literature.

Keywords: Tamil Bhakti, Medieval South India, Tamil devotional literature, archaeology

The Archaeology of Bhakti I: Mathurā and Maturāi, Back and Forth.


Language: English. 1000 Rs (43 €).

This volume—the outcome of a workshop-cum-conference that took place from 1 to 12 August 2011 in the Pondicherry Centre of the École française d’Extrême-Orient,—is an invitation to practise the “archaeology of Bhakti” with the help of both textual and non-textual sources.

Bhakti, broadly defined as an attitude, a strategy or a style of devotion—one that may be intellectual, emotional or rooted in acts of worship—towards God or the Divine, manifests itself through the personal voices of devotees as well as through the collective effort that constitutes the building of a temple. The “archaeology of Bhakti” aims at correlating different realms of representation, such as textual and statues, in order to illuminate the elusive, pan-Indian phenomenon of Bhakti. The focus is on sources, agencies and layers. A special attention is given to inscriptions, which belong both to the realm of artefacts and to that of texts, and which help to distinguish royal demonstrations of Bhakti from local manifestations. In the realm of textual sources, “archaeology” is put to work to identify how literary conventions and concepts have formed and been incorporated, layer upon layer, into a given composition.

After an introduction by the editors about the complexities of the concept and practices of Bhakti in the Indian world, essays by nine scholars explore the phenomena of Bhakti and their chronology from different perspectives (textual, epigraphical, archaeological, iconographical). In the course of these
explorations, the reader is transported from the North to the South of the subcontinent, back and forth between Mathurā and Maturai.

**Keywords:** Bhakti, archaeology, Hinduism, Buddhism, epigraphy

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