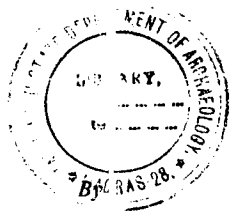


**ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
IN FIVE YEARS
(1989 – 1993)**



**NATANA. KASINATHAN, M.A.,
DIRECTOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**

1994

Achievements of the Archaeology Department

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NATANA. KASINATHAN, M.A.,

DIRECTOR.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN FIVE YEARS (1989—1993)

The achievements of the Department of Archaeology for the past five years from 1989 to 1993 on various fields are narrated below for the benefit of the scholars as well as public.

Conservation of Historical Monuments

In the field of preservation of historical monuments, twelve more historical places have been declared as protected monuments. Information boards are erected almost in all the monuments to provide information to the people of the Tamilnadu on the historical and archaeological importance of the monuments. Steps are being taken to put up declaration notice boards in front of all the monuments. 33 full time watchmen on consolidated pay basis are appointed in order to look after the monuments and to keep them neat and clean. Barbed wire fencing with iron gates at the entrances have been put up around the high way choultries at Pillaichatram and Thangi in Chengai—M.G.R. District.

It has been requested to constitute a high level experts committee by the Government of Tamilnadu to suggest recommendations for the preservation of Tirumalai Naicker Mahal of Madurai and Palace complex of Thanjavur. On the recommendations of the committee the Thiagaraja College of Engineering Madurai was entrusted with the task of carrying out contour survey for proper water drainage around the

Mahal and the soil bearing test to find out the foundational stability of it. After having received the report from them, a final estimate has been prepared to carry out the repair works in three phases to the tune of Rs. 410 lakhs and submitted to the Government for scrutiny and sanction.

Likewise, a detailed estimate has been made to the tune of 60 lakhs by the INTACH of Madras chapter for the repair and preservation of Palace buildings, Thanjavur. Both these estimates were placed in a specially convened meeting under the chairmanship of the Finance Secretary and got tentatively approved to a sum of Rs. 78 lakhs for Thirumalai Naicker Mahal and Rs. 60 lakhs for Tanjore Palace.

Lay out maps for a few monuments have been drawn by the sthaphathies of this department.

The services of the Junior Engineers, Sthaphathies and Draftsmen were utilised for carrying out the contour survey of the proposed excavation sites.

In order to restore the exquisite paintings of Ramalingavilasam, Ramanathapuram, a firm estimate was prepared by INTACH, Lucknow and submitted to Government for scrutiny and approval. The INTACH had also come forward to bear fifty percent of expenditure in restoration of this valuable paintings.

For the preservation of Nayak and Maratta paintings found on the walls of Darbar Hall, Thanjavur, two Scientists from NRLC, Mysore were invited to examine in detail and they submitted a report suggesting certain steps to arrest the moisture on the walls.

Copying And Publishing of Inscriptions

The epigraphical survey was continued in the taluks of Mayiladuthurai, Nannilam and Tiruvarur of Nagai-Quaide Milled district and copied nearly six hundred and fifty inscriptions written in Tamil characters. In addition to this, a considerable number of Hero-stone inscriptions and a few new epigraphs have been discovered from North Arcot Ambedkar District, Trichy District, South Arcot Vallalar district and Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiyar district. The list of inscriptions and other objects discovered during these years is given in annexure I.

During these five years one volume entitled "*Thirukkodikka Kalvettukkal*" including 48 inscriptions was brought out according to the departmental policy of publishing the epigraphs villagewise. Another volume entitled "*Tiruvilimilalaik Kalvettukkal*" is under print which will include more than 100 inscriptions.

The quarterly journal, "*Kalvettu*" has been brought out from 22nd issue to 36th highlighting the important discoveries of this department.

The Epigraphists have also been directed to take classes in the Summer courses.

One Epigraphist is entrusted with the work of preparing the index of inscriptions copied so far, another epigraphist is directed to translate the summery of the inscriptions of Thanjavur district printed so far, into English.

The third epigraphist is preparing an index of epigraphical terms from the printed inscriptions of Kanyakumari District, while the fourth Epigraphist is translating into English the summary of the inscription of the same District. The epigraphist based at Madurai is incharge of conducting the Diploma course in Epigraphy and Archaeology.

Compilation of Epigraphical Dictionary

Having felt the need of a dictionary consisting of the epigraphical terms on Socio, economic, administrative and judicial aspects, the Government was pleased to sanction four posts namely one Assistant Superintending Epigraphist and three Scholars who are conversant both in linguistic and epigraphical fields. So far 10000 such terms are collected. As a preliminary step a model brochure including 500 terms with meaning was sent to ten scholars for obtaining their suggestion. On the basis of their suggestions, it is proposed to bring out in the first phase the volume consisting of the terms of all nature in alphabetical order, beginning with vowels. This volume is expected to have nearly one thousand words.

The Assistant Superintending Epigraphist is also put in the overall incharge of conducting Summer Course every year.

Excavation at Historical Sites

Gangaikonda Cholapuram: Excavations at Gangaikondacholapuram and Alagankulam were resumed in the year 1991. Five trenches were laid bare at Gangaikondacholapuram while three trenches at Alagankulam. Excavation at Gangaikondachola-

puram exposed structures of an earlier phase and also a later phase one to the structures of Rajendra Chola period. Further more, it gives a clue that there should be an entrance on the northern side of the palace. This excavation also reveals that all the walls of earlier phase structure and of Rajendra period were plastered on the inner and external sides. A few exquisite ivory and stone carvings have also been collected.

Alagankulam : On comparative basis Alagankulam excavations proved more fruitful and interesting more artefacts which have drawn the attention of the international archaeologists. The potteries of West Asian origin and coin of Roman kingdom confirmed that this place should have acted as an international sea port in the southern part of Tamilnadu as Poompuhar in Cholanadu and Arikamedu in Nadu Nādu. The sailors and the merchants of far west and far east could have settled here in view of exchanging commodities. The shell, bead and terracotta industries seem to have flourished at this port as we got large number of shell and bead articles and cores for preparing beads and a unique type of pottery that is christined by archaeologists as 'Alagankulam pottery'. This type of pottery could have got influenced by Hellenistic workmanship but originated only from here as suggested by the well known archaeologist, Dr. Vimala Begley.

A peculiar object made out of the rim portion of the rouletted pottery, having four sides, bearing a vertical line on one side, vertical line with a small horizontal line on the right at the top and a square with one vertical and one horizontal line at the base on the

second side, same symbol with a slight variation i.e. the horizontal line is found on the left on the third while the fourth is blank without any symbol, is tentatively identified as a dice. The other antiquities which have more archaeological value are a seal like copper object, beads made of different semi-precious stones, a square copper coin of indigenous origin datable to 3rd century B.C. etc.

Preliminary reports for the above two excavations have been brought out and got acclamations from the archaeologists of other parts of India. The excavations begun in 1993, are being continued in 1994 along with two more places namely 1) Padaiveedu the capital of Sambuvarayar who had independently ruled during 14th century A.D. and 2) Thirukkoyilur, the capital of the celebrated Malayamans of Sangam fame.

For overall supervision of the excavations and to prepare the preliminary as well as the final reports of the excavations, one post of Deputy Superintending Archaeologist was got sanctioned.

Undersea Exploration Off the Shore of Poompuhar

This department had sent a proposal on the basis of National Institute of Oceanography's Geophysical survey report to the Government for conducting an intensive off shore exploration at Poompuhar in the year 1991. The Tamilnadu Government was pleased to sanction about Rs. 10 lakhs in the first phase for this exploration. The first phase exploration was conducted in the same year and the results were very encouraging. During that exploration we were able to locate some structures in shallow water and a big structure about 5 k.m. seaward from the sea shore off Kaviripoompatti-

nam. A ship wreck was also located about 5k.m. seaward from the sea shore. Due to heavy undercurrents the divers could not explore for a long time. But the size of this structure was approximately measured. It seems that the width of the walls of the structure measures more than 1 mtr. The peripheral length of this structure is 30 mtrs. The gap in between the two walls is about 25 mtrs. The shape of the structure is horse-shoe. The Diver Archaeologists have reported tracing a few courses of stone blocks which needs confirmation.

The shipwreck was intensively explored by the divers and were able to collect some ingots bearing the legend W. Blackett on one side and 1791 or 1792 on the other. Therefore, it is presumed that this shipwreck should have occurred in the last quarter of the 18th century.

Following the results of this survey, Tamilnadu Government was pleased to sanction a sum of another 10 lakhs of rupees for conducting the second phase of survey in the year 1992-93. The second phase of exploration was started in January-February of 1993. This exploration lasted for nearly one month from 21-1-1993 to 28-2-1993. During that season, the explorations were carried out in the inter tidal zone as well as off shore area between Vanagiri in the south and Nayakankuppam in the north in water depth of 5 to 7 mtrs. More materials have come to light from the exploration of the inter tidal zone, revealing the presence of ringwells off Vanagiri and Poompuhar. A brick wall of the Sangam period was also exposed in a few metres south of Kannagi statue. The brick size of this structure is 36x18x6 cm. This structure appears to be a part of a big structure. The ring wells and structure are assignable to 2nd century B.C. to 4th century A.D.

During this second phase of exploration in the low tide area four brick structures were exposed opposite to the present Kaviri mouth at 1 mtr. depth. The exploration of these structures indicated that they are disturbed walls 25 mtrs. in length and 3.4 metres in width. The size of bricks used is 22x13x6 cm. and the lime mortar served as the binding material. These structures are likely to be the commercial settlements. Provisionally the structural remains are assigned to period II.

As a follow up action deeper water off Poompuhar were explored. Two sites were selected on the basis of geophysical survey. One is opposite to the present Kaveri mouth near Vanagiri and another opposite to Kadaikkadu situated north of Poompuhar. Airlift operations in 7 mtrs. depth revealed three courses of stone masonry off vanagiri. The blocks vary in size 30x20x5 cm. to 65x40x10 cm. and 60x35x10 cm. The approximate date of the structure can be ascertained from associated pottery collected at both the sites. They are magalithic Black and Red ware, Redware, Grey ware and Buffware assignable to period II (2nd century B.C. to 4th century A.D.)

As a result of this season's exploration, it is now possible to identify three periods of structural remains of ancient Poompuhar the first one above HWL, the second in 1 m. depth and the third in 5 to 7 m. depth. These evidences are only indicative of the extensive submergence of the ancient port settlements. Further work alone will reveal the full extent of one or more settlements of 3rd century B.C. to 4th century. A.D. in a vast area

extending from Nayakkankuppam to Tranquebar. The nature and age of the U-shaped structure in 23 mtrs. depth are yet to be ascertained. It is now possible to confirm that a part of an ancient port-town of 3rd century B.C.—4th century A.D. in an area traditionally known as Poompuhar has been submerged and archaeologically significant evidence has been obtained both for the submergence of the town and the transgression of the sea.

Site Museums

The site museums located at Gangaikondacholapuram, Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, Coimbatore and Rameswaram have been improved by spending one lakh rupees to each museum for the provision of show-cases, chart stands, slide projectors and water coolers. Two more museums located at Korkai and Kurralam have also been developed by getting an allotment of Rs. 50,000/- to each museum for providing showcases and chart stands. Necessary steps have been taken to procure name boards for fourteen site museums either through Tansi or Khadi and Village Industries or Co-operative Carpentry Units.

The Pre-historic site museum located at Poondi has been expanded with a new section known as "Pre Historic Park" in which the life size models of Pre-historic man and his family are displayed. Fans, lights and Water Cooler facilities were also provided for the benefit of the visitors at this museum.

Curators have been directed to conduct monthly meetings by inviting scholars and to arrange periodical exhibitions on different subjects in order to create an awareness among public on the cultural heritage of their areas.

The list of the objects that are displayed in their museums has also been prepared giving details of the name of the object, material, the source of collection, date etc.

The Curator, Arcot had conducted the Summer Course at Arcot in the year 1993

The collection of rare stone sculptures and a few archaeological objects of Thiru. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., the then Sub-collector of Ariyalur was taken possession by this department in the year 1989 and displayed them at the Site Museum of Gangaikondacholapuram.

Collection of Manuscripts and Rare Sculptures

Nearly 3000 Palm leaf manuscripts had been collected by the Archaeological officers from their respective jurisdictions. Of them 500 manuscripts were deciphered and transcribed by them.

In addition to this about 5000 manuscripts of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries were taken possession by this department from the Collectorate of Nagarkoil. Similarly a considerable number of manuscripts from Pudukkottai Collectorate have been brought to the Office of the Archaeological Officer, Thanjavur District. The Archaeological officer of Coimbatore District had discovered a few pre-historic rock-painting in Nilagiri District and had participated as department representative in the Kodumanal excavations conducted by the Tamil University, Thanjavur. The archaeological officer of Thanjavur District conducted the Summer course at Pudukkottai in the year 1990.

The Archaeological officer, Dharmapuri district had led the team of Archeologists to lay bare at Gangaikondacholapuram in the year 1991 and submitted a

detailed report on that season excavation. The Archaeological officer, Nagarkoil had conducted the Summer Course in the year 1991. Himself and the Archaeological officer, Madurai took great effort in transporting the manuscripts from Nagarkoil Collectorate to Madurai Thirumalai Naicker Mahal. These manuscripts are being chemically treated and restored by the Assistant Chemist based at Madurai.

South Arcot Vallalar district Archaeological officer deciphered and critically edited one new commentary on Tirukkural written by an unknown author and has been published by the department in the year 1993. In addition to the collection of manuscripts and rare sculptures, the Archaeological officer, Madras has been entrusted with an important task of arranging monthly meeting in every month at the Directorate by inviting eminent scholars who are proficient in Archaeology and its related subjects. He also made a discovery of one copper plate assignable to Viiayanagar period.

The Archaeological officer, Madurai made an excellent discovery of two archaic inscriptions datable to 2nd century B.C. at Tirumalai in Thevar Tirumaganar district in association with the Curator and Epigraphists of Madurai.

In addition to their routine works, the Archaeological officers have been directed to conduct classes in Summer course for the teachers and to explain the historical importance of the temples, monuments etc. in their areas while the teachers were taken to the historical places for the spot study. A few of them were sent to associate the archaeologists while conducting excavations in their districts.

Publication of Inscriptions and Guide

During these years, eighteen books have been published through our departmental press which possesses one treadle and one cylinder printing machines.

This has become possible as this press is strengthened with a few new posts namely one Assistant Works Manager, two Foremen, four Compositors and one Binder. Our press has also taken up the job of printing the works of Oriental Manuscripts Library.

In addition to these the following printed works which were awaiting long time for binding have been made bound. The list of books printed and bound during these years is given in Annexure II..

The quarterly journal 'Kalvettu' has been printed from No. 22 to 36.

Side by side, nearly two lakhs entrance tickets in each year for three important monuments i.e. T.N. Mahal, Madurai; Ramalinga vilasam, Ramanathapuram and Fort of Tranquebar and the invitations for monthly meetings and seminars have also been printed.

Registering the Art Objects

An impetus has been given for the Registration of antiquities by convening annual meetings of the Registering officers and discussing the problems with the concerned authorities like H. R. & C. E. Commissioner and Joint and Duputy Commissioners and the Directer of antiquities registration of the

Archaeological Survey of India. During these five years 2585 applications have been received for registration 3616 and antiquities were registered and issued necessary certificates.

In addition to these, the Registering officer, Madras has been put up in charge of video documentation of ancient painting available in Tamilnadu and was directed to arrange exhibitions at Poompuhar, Poondi and Gangaikondacholapuram. He was also responsible for the historic discovery of Tondur inscription written in archaic Tamil character assignable to 2nd century B.C. Registering officer, Trichy had co-opted with the Curators in conducting seminars at Karur and Gangaikondacholapuram. He had also made a few valuable discoveries of Nayak paintings at Srirangam, Sluice inscriptions in Trichy District etc. He was also requested to superwise the excavation conducted in the year 1991 at Gangaikondacholapuram. Registering officer, Chidambaram had associated with the Archaeological officer, for conducting summer course at Chidambaram in the year 1992. Registering officer, Tirunelveli had associated with the officers of Madurai in conducting the District Seminar at Madurai. Registering officers were also directed to make annual verification of the stocks and Library books of the sub-offices of the department in their respective jurisdictions.

Photo Section

In addition to the normal works of taking photographs of temples, sculptures, bronzes and paintings and giving coverage of the whole works of preservation of monuments and excavation at historical sites, one photo-

grapher was put incharge of documenting of all the mural paintings available in Tamil Nadu by Video-Camera, for which necessary equipments were got sanctioned by the Government for the cost of Rs. 1,50,000.

Library

As the book are purchased every year to library for the benefit of the technical staff of this department as well as the research scholars from outside, the books are found accumulated and kept in open space. In order to keep them in safe custody and to avoid damage, a proposal had been sent to the Government for the sanction of amount for purchasing almirahs. Government was pleased to sanction of Rs. 1 lakh and by utilising that amount 8 almirahs were purchased through TANSI.

Oriental Manuscript Library

Necessary measures have been taken to rejuvenate the Government Oriental Manuscript Library. One post of Tamil Pandit and one post of Telugu Pandit were got to be revived and filled with suitable candidates. The Curator post was also got revived and a senior most Tamil Pandit has been temporarily promoted to act as Curator. Government have been addressed for the revival of two posts of Sanskrit Pandits, two posts of Tamil Thirukkural Pazhaiya Urai Pandits and one post of Mender.

During this period twenty manuscripts were ready for printing. The descriptive catalogue of Tamil manuscripts Vol. XXVI has been published through Archaeology Department Press and four works namely Madal Thirattu two vol., Needhikkathaigal two vol.

are being printed by Tamil University Press, Thanjavur. Volume XXVII, of the Descriptive Catalogue of the Tamil manuscripts is under print in the press of the Archaeology Department.

For the proper care and printing of the manuscripts, a master plan was prepared to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs and submitted to the Government. In addition to this, for approaching UNESCO for financial aid, necessary preliminary measures are on the process.

Summer Course and Diploma course

Holding of summer course on Epigraphy and Archaeology for School and College teachers and the Diploma course for Post Graduates have been revived from 1989. The Summer course was held at Ooty in 1989, Pudukkottai in 1990, Nagercoil 1991, Chidambaram in 1992 and Arcot in 1993 while the diploma course was held at Madras in 1989 and at Madurai in the following years. The honorarium and stipend were got raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 to the teachers who are participating in summer course and from Rs. 125 to Rs. 250 to those who are admitted in diploma course respectively. Our beloved Chief Minister had issued a memorable G.O. permitting the teachers of Middle Schools also to participate in Summer course which had been the long felt demand of these teachers.

Celebration of World Heritage Week

In every year, in the months of November and April, the World Heritage Week is being celebrated by this department. During that period our local officers used to take the students of colleges and high schools to the nearby temples and monuments in order to impart to them on the importance of the preservation of monu-

ments, copying of inscriptions, identifying the icons and the architectural details. During these five years they had involved about 50 schools and 20 colleges in this glorious task.

Conducting District Level Seminars

In order to involve the public and the students of colleges, this department ventured upon the important task of conducting district level seminars in association with the local colleges in various districts highlighting the cultural heritage of that local area. Mini exhibitions were also arranged in view of these seminars that were held at the following places.

- 1) Karur in Trichy District in 1992
- 2) Madurai in Madurai District in 1992
- 3) Poompuhar
- 4) Poraiyar and
- 5) Dharmapuram Mutt
- 6) Ramnad in Ramnad District in 1993
- 7) Kurralam in Nellai-Kattabomman Dist. in 1993
- 8) Gangaikondacholapuram in Trichy Dist. in 1993.

Production of a film on Monuments, Excavation And Museums

Preservation of monuments, conduction of excavation and establishment of Museums all involve some special technical expertise. These technicalities have been filmed step by step and explained with appropriate commentary. This film is intended to be screened in the Colleges and Schools to educate them on the importance of monuments and its preservation, the method of excavation and the utility of the

archaeological objects, the necessity of the site museums and their role to create an awareness among the local mass on their cultural heritage. It is being produced with the guidelines of Tamilnadu Film Division and the Deputy Director of this Department is put in charge to see that it is produced within the stipulated time.

Creation of Regional Office at Madurai

One post of Assistant Director for Madurai region was got sanctioned and appointed in order to integrate the sub-offices of this department located in and around Madurai under the control of him and to speed up the normal routine works. To assist him in this task one post of Typist was also got sanctioned.

Archaeological Laboratory

The Archaeological Chemical laboratories were set up at Madras and Madurai to carry out the chemical conservation work.

The chemist of Madras lab was deputed to study the paintings found on the rocks of Kilvalai and Sethavarai for the preservation. He was also directed to clean and preserve the artefacts and the potteries housed at Raja Rajan Museum, Thanjavur, Rajendra Museum, Gangaikondacholapuram and Fort Museum, Tranquebar.

The lab located at Madurai was used to clean the palm leaf manuscripts brought from Nagercoil Collectorate. The Assistant Chemist of this lab was sent to Ramalinga Vilasam, Ramnad to find out the ways and means for preservation of paintings drawn



on the walls and ceilings of this building. He was also deputed to Kutralam in order to submit a report to H.R. & C.E. department for the preservation of paintings found on the ceiling of Kutralanathar temple. The services of the Lab Assistant was used to clean the Sculptures and Potteries of Museum located at Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, Madurai, Ramalinga Vilasam, Ramnad and the Site Museums at Rameswaram and Korkai. The above two labs were used to clean and preserve the following Archaeological objects during the years from 1989 to 1993.

Sl. No.	Antiquities Chemically Treated and Preserved	Nos.
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1.	Palm Leaves	9179
2.	Terracotta Objects	50
3.	Potteries Full Sizes	42
4.	Stone Sculptures	40
5.	Coins (Copper, Silver, Lead and Gold)	993
6.	Wooden Objects	6
7.	Marble Sculptures	2
8.	Fossils	2
9.	Pre-Historic Stone Implements	21
10.	Stuccoes	22
11.	Bone (FISH)	1
12.	Bronze images	6
13.	Iron Materials (Anchor, Sword, Nails etc.)	274
14.	Beads	54
15.	Paintings	2
16.	Ceramics	48
17.	Shells	39

Total	10,781
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ANNEXURE I

List of Inscriptions and other objects discovered from 1989 to 1993

S.No.	Name of the Object	Location	Material	Period	Significance
1	Archaic Tamil Inscription	Rock-bed Vikkrirangalam Dindukal Anna District	Engraved on rock	2-3rd century A.D.	It reads 'Eraval Arakayatan Ceivithon' in archaic Tamil character meaning the bed where the inscription is engraved is the gift of Arakayatan of Eraval village.
2	Tamil Archaic inscriptions	Lintel of natural Caverns. Tirumalai, Pasumpon Thevar Thirumaganar District	"	2nd century B.C.	It reads 'Erakaturu Kavithikan Koria pali' meaning the bed was caused to be made by one Kavithikan belonging to Erakatur. Another is mutilated.
3	Sculpture	Ponnur, North Arcot Ambethkar District	stone	7th century A.D. Pallava	This is a rare Pallava sculpture with the combined aspects of Siva, Vishnu, and Brahma. This can be identified as Thattatreya.
4	Stone tub	Thiruvallam Siva temple N. A. Ambedkar District	Stone	12-13th century A.D.	This tub is found with intricate carvings of dancing girls.

(ii)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
5	Panel sculpture	Thiruvamathur, South Arcot Vallalar District	Stone	7th century A.D. Pallava	A panel probably depicting Lingodh- bhava or Trimurthi. The figure of Lord Siva is in Linga form flanked by Vishnu and Brahma on either side.
6	Coin	Thiruvannmiyur Madras District	Lead	5-6th century A.D. Pallava	An humped Bull is found on the obverse while a Vase and the Chaitya tree are seen on the reverse of the coin.
7	Coins	Varadarajan pettai S. A. Vallalar District	Gold	Telugu chola, Vijayanagar	Some coins bearing a legend in Tamil character 'Ganda' and the depiction of the figures of the sun, moon, umbrella and Venugopalan standing posture in topsy turvy on the obverse This coin is identified as "Ganda- gopalan Madai." There are also some Vijayanagar panams.
8	Terracotta figure	Villupuram Rama- samy Padayatchiyar District	Terracotta	8th century A.D.	This figure is similar to the Yaksha figure discovered already from Polu- mampatti and Panayakulam in

(iii)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
9	Paintings	Siva temple Sittayan-kottai, Dindukal Anna District	Mural	Later Pandya	Coimbatore and Dharmapuri districts respectively. The Paintings depict the figures of Dakshinamurthi, Nataraja and a few Nayanmars (Saiva saints).
10	Terracotta figurine	Sekkadimedu Thanjavur District	Terracotta	18th century A.D.	The figures of a foreign soldier, Vinayakar, bull and a bird.
11	Terracotta figure	Aravakkurichi Trichy District	"	10-11th century A.D.	The figure of a mother having a child on her hip in natural style.
12	Hero-stone Inscription	Kendiyambakkam R.P. District	Inscribed on stone	8th century A.D.	Records the death of a hero Karunandi
13	Archaic Tamil Inscription	Thondur R.P. District	Engraved on the rock	2nd century B.C.	It reads "Sankayipan eva Akasha Uraram Mosi Ceitha Atitanam" It is written in archaic Tamil character.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
14	Memorial stone	Thethampattu S.A. Vallalar District	Stone	8-9th century A.D.	This is a memorial stone depicting the figure of a hero offering his head to the Goddess of war i.e. Durga. The inscription is defaced.
15	Painting	Periyamayaki Amman temple - Palani	Mural	18th century A.D. Local Zamin	Fascinating painting depicting the scenes of Royal procession.
16	Hero-stone Inscription	Kamalapuram hills N.A. Ambedkar District	Stone	9-10th century A.D.	It records that the hero died while rescuing the cattle of his village.
17	Sculpture	Singavaram R.P. District	Stone	7th century A.D.	An image of standing Durga with four hands holding bow arrow and long sword etc. Beautiful faces of Deer and Lion are shown above the right and left shoulders respectively. Durga is flanked with one soldier on either side having sword.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
18	Sculpture	Anangur S.A. Vallalar District	Stone	7th century A.D.	This sculpture seated on an elephant could be identified either with Indra or Muruga.
19	Hero-stone Inscriptions	Vangattur Gudiyattam Taluk N.A. District	Stone	9th century A.D.	Four hero-stones were discovered. All of them mention the death of the members of one family and their servants in a battle.
20	Hero-stone Inscription	Kudanagaram Gudiyattam Taluk N.A. Ambedkar District	Stone	10th century A.D.	Of the three, one inscription belongs to Ko-Parakesarivarman while the other to Mavalivanarayan of 10th century A.D. The rest is mutilated.
21	Memorial stone	Semballi N.A. District	Stone	15-16th century A.D.	The figure of a bull and a tiger are carved. On the basis of their position it is presumed that the bull was killed while fighting with the tiger. The inscription reads that this bull is of Thachan pudhuran ("Thachan pudu-ran Rshabam")

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
22	Danish punch marked coins	Collected from a private party	Lead	17th century A.D.	Issued by Danish king Christian V. bearing the letters D.D.C. On the obverse the king's name is indicated by 'C 5'. This is the first Danish punch marked coin found so far in Tamilnadu.
23	Chinese Vase	On the seashore of Tranquebar	Celedon	10th century A.D.	This discovery establishes the trade contact and cultural relation between Chinese and Tamils in the early Medieval Chola period.
24	Coins	Kattuchery near Thirukkadavur Nagai-Quaide Milled District.	Copper	Sangam Cholas	Square coin with Elephant figure.
25	Sculpture	Ariyangundu Rameswaram	Stone, Copper	12th century A.D.	A seated Buddha statue in white stone and a copper image of Avalokatisvara were discovered.
26	Inscription	Thuvakkudi Trichy District	Stone	11th century A.D.	Inscription of Kulottunga I is found on the sluice. It mentions that the Urrar (Villagers) gifted some land to Ulaga Vidanga Peraraiyan who built the sluice. The name of the village is mentioned as Tulikudi.

(vii)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
27	Ring	Karur, Trichy District	Gold	2nd century B.C.	It bears the legend 'Tayan Otalan', indicating the name of the person who had worn it.
28	Ring	Karur, Trichy District	Silver	2nd century A.D.	It has the legend 'Peravatan' suggesting the name of the owner of this ring.
29	Coin	Karur, Trichy District	Silver	8th century A.D.	The legend 'Vapu' is written above the standing humped Bull in Grantha characters on the obverse while, the conch and a standing lamp are on the reverse.
30	Coin	Niravi Ramnad District	Gold	Rajaraja I period	The legend 'Uraga' in Devanāgarī characters is written on the obverse as the standing Ceylon Man is found on the reverse.
31	Copper Plate	Mappedu Chengai-M.G.R. District	Copper	16th century A.D.	It records the gift made during the period of Krishnadevaraya.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
32	Paintings	Srirangam Trichy District	Mural	18th century A.D.	Depicts the figures of Lord Krishna and the avatars of Vishnu.
33	Terracotta Figurine	Melapperumpallam	Piece of an Urn	4-5th century A.D.	The figure of the Goddess embedded on the shoulder part of the Urn.
34	Inscription	Olugaiyur (near Ranipet) N.A. Ambedkar District	On a stone slab	9th century A.D.	Records the establishment of a sluice during the period of Parantaka I.
35	Panel sculpture	Valayattur	Stone	6-7th century A.D.	A colossal Durga figure standing erect on the head of Mahisha.
36	Sculpture	Villupuram Ramasamy Padaiyachi District.	Stone	10th century A.D.	Seated Vinayaga with plantain fruits, coconut offered in front of him.
37	Sculpture	Alagur Chengai-M.G.R. District.	Stone	7th century A.D.	Standing Durga broken below the knees.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
38	Inscription	Guntur Trichy District.	Engraved on a stone	Aditya I 9th century A.D.	Records that this sluice was established by Maran Kuvavan of Guntur.
39	Bronze image	Tiruvanaikka Trichy District.	Bronze	12-13th century A.D.	An exquisite bronze image of Gopika standing in threebhang position placing her left hand on the shoulder of a lady attendant.
40	Copper Plate	Tirukkoyilur Vilupuram Ramasamy Padaiyachi District.	Copper	1633 A.D.	Records the dispute of Valangai and Idangai castes, and narrates about the origin of Vanniyas.
41	Inscription	Thanjavur Thanjavur District.	Stone Pillar	Rajaraja I 10th century A.D.	Three Sanskrit inscriptions written in Tamil characters mentioning the birudes of Rajaraja.
42	Sculpture	Melapperumpallam	Stone	9th century A.D.	Seated Ayyanar in Utkudikasana posture.
43	Inscription	Marakunam Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District.	Stone	9th century A.D.	This inscription belongs to the period of Aditya Chola. It refers to <i>uva-er</i> , a new term which seems to indicate a special right of cultivation.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
44	Coin	Alagankulam Ramnad District.	Copper	Arcadius (395 to 408 A.D.)	Head of the king with legend(D.N.A.)- RCADIVS on the obverse while the seated figure holding something in its right hand and carrying probably a child by its left with legend which is completely defaced.
45	Hero Stone	Inamkulattur Tr ichy District.	Stone	10th century A.D.	Refers to the death of a hero Korrampudi while rescuing the cattle.
46	Copper Plates (Four)	Sivakasi Nellai Kattabomman District	Copper	18th century A.D.	These plates throw fresh lights on the social condition of Vanniyar, Yadavas and Fisherman during 18th century in this area.
47	Coins	Valantaruvai Ramnad District	Copper	13th century A.D.	Probably coins of Maravarman Sundara Pandya.
48	Paintings	Vannan Parai Nilgiri District	On the rock	1-2nd century A.D.	Paintings in white pigment are found.

(xi)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
49	Inscription	Ongur Villupuram R.P. District	On a stone Pillar	744 A.D.	It is engraved in the period of Nandi- varma Pallava II. It refers to the establishment of a sluice.
50	Inscription	Chidambaram S.A. Vallalar District	Oyster Shell	17th - 18th century A.D.	Quotation from the Sacred Book Koran, is written.
51	Bronze object	Maniyambadi Dharmapuri District	Copper Bronze	500 B.C.	An Antelope. Appears to be the image of Megalithic period.
52	Sculptures	Solapuram Chenkai M.G.R. District	Stone	16th century A.D.	Vishnu and Sridevi images were found during the levelling of the temple premises.
53	Structure	Premises of T.N. Mahal Madurai Madurai District	Brick	17th century A.D.	Brick structure was exposed on the western side of Swarga Vilasam while conducting the test of soil bearing capacity.
54	Sculpture	Gundur, Trichy District	Stone	10th century A.D.	An image of Ayyanar bearing an inscription on the pedestal mentioning that it was gifted by Kuvavan sattan.

ANNEXURE II

1989-1993

BOOKS PRINTED & BOUND

Sl. No.	Name of the Books	Books Printed	Books Bound
Books in Tamil			
1	தமிழக வரலாற்றுச் சின்னங்கள்	1000	1000
2	இராமலிங்க விலாசம் அரண்மனை அகழ்வைப்பகக் கையேடு	1000	1000
3	ஆற்காடும் அகழ்வைப்பகமும்	500	500
4	தொல் பொருள் ஆய்வுத்துறை அரும் பணிகள்	1000	1000
5	இராமலிங்க விலாசம்— இராமாயண ஓவியக் குறிப்புகள்	1000	1000
6	கும்பகோணமும் மகாமகப் பெருவிழாவும்	1000	1000
7	தருமபுரியும் அகழ்வைப்பகமும்	1000	1000
8	திருக்கோடிகா கல்வெட்டுகள்	500	500
9	கருவூரும் அகழ்வைப்பகமும்	1000	1000
10	தமிழ் ஓலைச் சுவடிகளின் விவர அட்டவணை	500	500
11	திருக்குறள் பழைய உரை-III	500	500
12	இராசேந்திர சோழன் அகழ்வைப்பகம்	1000	1000
13	கல்வெட்டு காலாண்டு இதழ் எண் : 22 முதல் 36 முடிய	7500	7500

1	2	3	4
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Books in English

1	Functions of the Dept. of Archaeology	500	500
2	Under Sea Exploration off the shore of Poompuhar	500	500
3	The metropolis of Medieval Cholas	1000	1000
4	Alagankulam Excavation Report	500	500
5	Seminar on Marine Archaeology	500	500
6	Art Panorama of Tamils	500	500

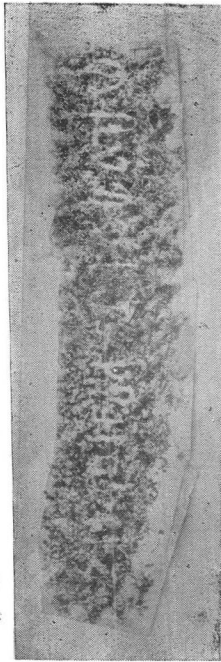
Entrance Tickets for Monuments

1	திருமலை நாயக்கர் அரண்மனை நுழைவுச் சீட்டு	12,95,000	2540
2	டேனிஷ் கோட்டை நுழைவுச்சீட்டு	1,00,000	200
3	இராமலிங்கனிலாசம் நுழைவுச் சீட்டு	65,000	131

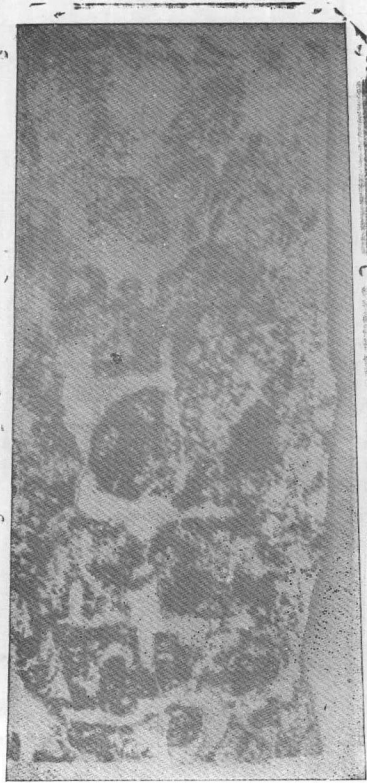
Books kept not bound for long time and made bound

1	தொல்லியல் கருத்தரங்கு	441
2	தமிழ்க் கீர்த்தனைகள்	980
3	அருண்மொழி	856
4	திருமலை மன்னர் கையேடு	1000
5	இராசராசன்	125
6	பாளையப்பட்டுக்களின் வம்சாவளி தொகுதி II	35
7	பாளையப்பட்டுக்களின் வம்சாவளி தொகுதி III	630
8	குடுமியான் மலை	35
9	களப்பிரர்	500





Archaic Tamil Inscription, Thirumalai.
Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan District. 2nd century B.C.



Archaic Tamil Inscription, Thirumalai,
Mutilated - 2nd century B.C.



Gold ring with legend “Tayan Otalan”
in Archaic Tamil - 2nd century B.C.



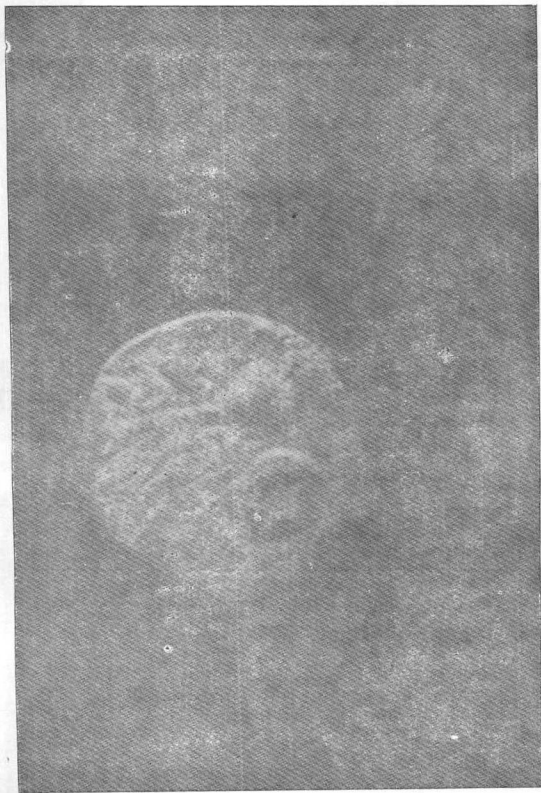
Silver ring with legend "Peravatan"
in Archaic Tamil, 2nd century A.D.



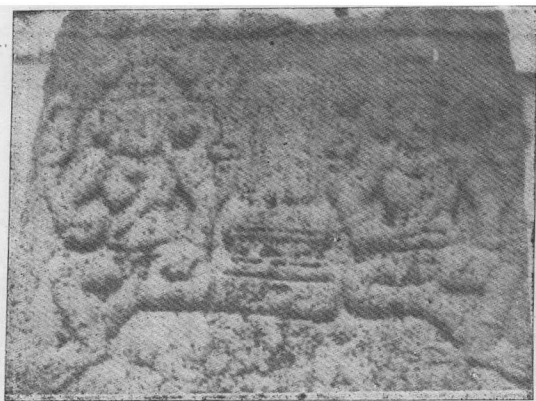
Terracotta figurine embedded upon an urn,
Melapperumpallam, 4-5th century A.D.



Lead coin, obverse, Pallava period, 5-6th century A.D.
Thiruvannamiyur.



Lead coin, reverse, Pallava period, 5-6th century A.D.
Thiruvannamiyur.



Lingodhbhava or Trimurti,
Thiruvamathur, 6-7th century A.D.



Durga, Valayathur,
North Arcot Ambedkar District,
6th-7th century A.D.



Durga, Alagur, Sriperumputhur Taluk,
Chengalpattu-M.G.R. District, 7th century A.D.



Durga, Singapuram,
Villupuram Ramasamy Padaiyatchiyar District,
7th century A.D.



Muruga or Indra, Anangur,
South Arcot Vallalar District,
7th century A.D.



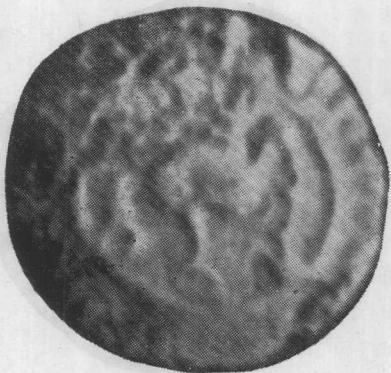
Ganesa, Kandampakkam,
Villupuram Ramasamy Padaiyatchiyar District,
8th Century A.D.



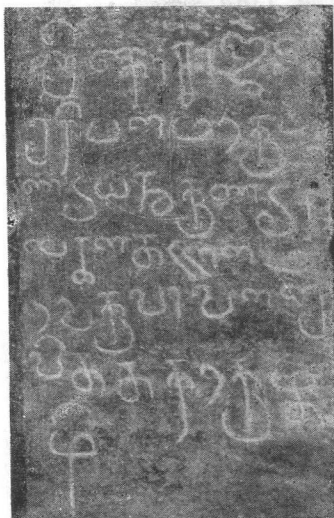
Hero-stone, Kendiyambakkam,
Tindivanam Taluk, Ramasamy Padaiyatchiyar District,
8th century A.D.



Silver coin with legend 'Vapu', Karur,
obverse, 8th century A.D.



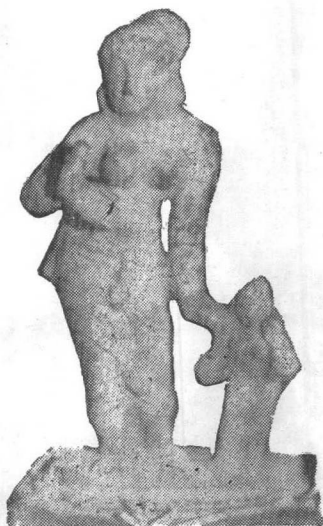
Silver coin, reverse, Karur,
8th century A.D.



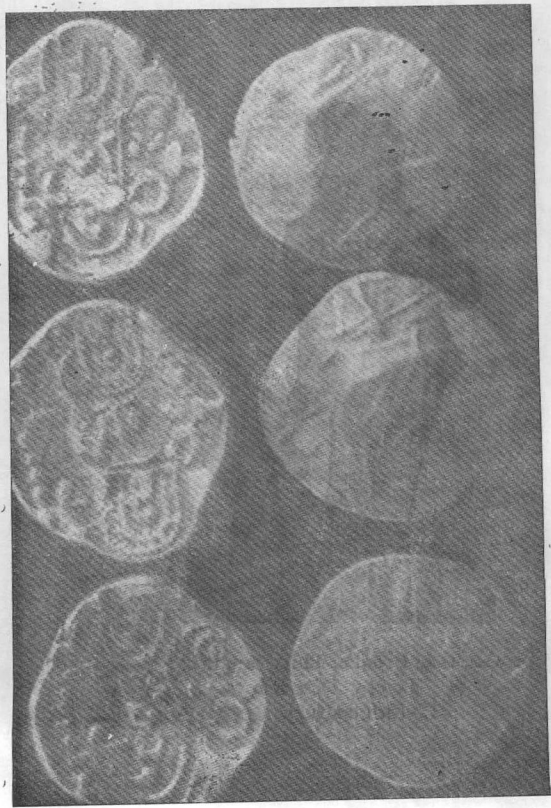
Sluice Inscription, Guntur,
Trichy District, 9th century A.D.



Inscription engraved on a pillar,
 Rajaraja Museum, Thanjavur,
 10th century A.D.



Gopika, Bronze, Thiruvanaikka,
Trichy District.
12-13th century A.D.



“Gandagopalan Madai”, Gold coin, Obverse and reverse,
Varadarajanpettai, South Arcot Vallalar District, 13th century A.D.



RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology has brought to light more significant artefacts from the excavations conducted at Padaividu, in Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District, Tirukoyilur in Ramasamy Padayatchiyar District and Alagankulam in Ramanathapuram District.

Padaividu was the capital of Sambuvarayar who ruled in 14th century having the control over the present North Arcot Ambedkar District, Tiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar District, Chengai-M.G.R. District and Villupuram Ramasamy Padayatchiyar District. There are epigraphical evidences to show that they had fortified their capital. The raised mound known as Kottaimedu and the remains of Fort walls are even now in existence at Padaividu. Hence this department started its excavation and laid bare seven trenches. Almost in all the trenches either the brick wall or the granite wall occur. They have also yielded some interesting artefacts such as smoking pipes, crucibles, coin moulds, a dice made of ivory, arrow head made of steatite stone, a considerable number of earthen lamps, three copper coins from stratified positions and two from surface collection. In trench Nos. 4, 5 and 6 the mud floor occurs extending to a length of about five and a half metre. Below this level in trench No. 7 the occurrence of a Channel built of brick is very interesting. It seems clear that the trenches 5, 6 and 7 are almost in the habitation area.

In Tirukkoyilur, the capital of Malaiyamans of Sangam age totally four trenches were cut. Since we meet the natural soil almost in all the trenches at a depth of about 2 mtrs, we are not able to collect more antiquities. However a few interesting pot sherds, known as Rouletted ware sherds, black and red ware sherds, sherds with graffiti have been gathered. Besides, some coins were also collected in the river bed of Pennaiyar. Of them the square copper coin bearing the figure of a horse on one side is significant as this coin has been identified by Thiru. R. Krishnamurthi, the editor of Dinamalar as the issue of

Malaiyaman. Though the other coins are more corroded, some appear of Pallava origin.

Alagankulam surpasses the other two sites mentioned above in supplying the artefacts. The most fascinating objects so far collected are as follows: A die of a horse made of Rouletted sherd, a rouletted sherd bearing the archaic tamil script reading "nran", stamped pottery bearing the figures of peacock on the inner side, mat design sherds and three copper coins along with a number of shell bangle pieces and beads made of different semi-precious Stones. Of the three copper coins one is in round shape tempting to identify it to Roman coin, the others are in square shape but broken pieces.

On the whole all these three sites are more promising and encouraging providing hope to make breakthrough in the cultural history of Tamilnadu.