INTACH MADURAI
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

MADURAPURI

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INTACH Madurai Chapter New Office Bearers Induction - April 29, 2023



The spirit of enthusiasm to espouse our enriching heritage values is what we nurture in common. It steadily gains strength and support out of mutual understanding through joint endeavours. We shall together play our role as a responsible member, staying committed in our tasks to uphold the honour of our city, Madurai.

In course of periodic induction of members taking charge over multi folded heritage related activities of Madurai chapter the office bearers were appropriately introduced by Mrs Chitra Ganapathy and felicitated by Mr. Raja Govindasvamy, Ex-Principal of Thiagarajar College of Arts & Science. Our services contribute to the wider network of the esteemed Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage.

Congratulations and Wishes from Mrs. Uma Kannan, Ms. Shobana Ramachandran, Mr. M.D Vel, Mrs. Valli Annamalai, Mr. V MathanRaj, Mrs. Sharmila C Ganesan, Mrs. Pavalamani Pragasam, Pr. N. Ayyanathan, Mrs. Chitra Ganapathy., Mr. P. Rajesh Kanna, Mrs. Mathalaimani Asaikani, Mr. S. Bharathi, Mrs. Divya Gupta, Mr. Aravind Kumar Shankar, Mr. Vasudevan Ganapathy, Mr. Nilesh Sangoye, Mr. D. Gunasekaran, Mrs. V. Ponmeera and all those who are supportive bestowing faith, boost us to take the leap forward.

Vani C Chenguttuwan - Convenor | S Shanthi- Co-Convenor







Open to Suggestions:

- **Projects to work with your own team**
- **Projects to work with other Organisations**
- **Heritage Walk / Nature Trail**
- **Organise Fair**
- **Stage Performance**
- **Conduct Educational Programme**

Looking Forward to Members voice their opinion and volunteer!

MAY We Volunteer !?
MAY We Work on a Heritage Project !?
MAY We Have A Monthly Heritage Visit & Agenda !?

'All Things Seem Possible in MAY' - Edwin Way Teale (American Naturalist)

The evergreen jasmine plant in seasonal exuberance of summer radiance spreads over with very fragrant flowers - Madurai Malli. Therein came the choice of branding its essence within the new cloth banner of Madurai Chapter. The Applique and Embroidery Design was executed by Ramya Ajay, Theni.

Compiler - Curator : Vani, Mathan, Shanthi, Ponmeera

UNESCO, the world renowned organisation upholds heritage values and has assigned an observance day to focus on heritage related activities to be followed for a year.



"Heritage is our legacy, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our natural and cultural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration."

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

- Consider the integration of traditional, historic building conservation, adaptive reuse, and/or energy efficiency of heritage buildings and landscapes.
- Feature innovative infrastructure development to showcase the ways in which traditional knowledge, practices and cultural heritage can be part of solutions.
- Capture traditional philosophy and rationale in dealing with the environment (both land and water) and the climate as manifested in built vernacular heritage and cultural landscapes.





Once in a while, new species are being discovered. It brings a new perspective to our understanding of the world around us or give fresh insights to nature and biodiversity. Once established internationally this species comes under observation and conservation. The latest discovery is Hanuman Plover (Charadrius seebhomi) associated with 'Rama Sethu' in the Palk Strait, its breeding ground. A name coined out of mythological significance invariably helps in drawing attention to the ecology value and protect the wetlands. Genetic research suggests that the climatic change of Ice Age known as Mid-Pleistocene Transition (1.2 million years ago) might have, on an environmental impact caused the rise of the distinct bird species.

KEEZHADI VISIT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - SITE)











One of the most important finds of the Keezhadi seventh phase excavation site is a seven level ring well with twin coir band pattern. On the upper portion of the tiered well, thumb press was employed to give the impression of coir band. This adds sophistication for the fish symbol incised above them. Although along with the damaged top part of the well the head of the fish symbol is also lost, the shape of the fish with tail, fins and scales can be detected.

KEEZHADI VISIT (ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - SITE)





INTACH Madurai Chapter acknowledges Mrs. & Mr. V. Venkatasubramanian for inviting the participants to their house for tea. The host as the Panchayat President of Keezhadi shared his views of the changing scenario in the life of the villagers after the incredible archaeological discoveries. We have expressed support to help sustain the popularity and conserve the antiquities found embedded in its soil.

Being a Madurai native wanting to visit Keezhadi was in my wish list for long time. I would like to thank Madurai INTACH team for organising this heritage day event.

Afternoon time chosen was perfect avoiding more crowds and started with introduction explainer movie which created more eagerness. Even though there were many signages and information boards kept all around, it is a great learning to hear from a passionate historian like Vani Ma'm.

Well maintained, neatly displayed, traditionally architectured museum. There's a lot of efforts taken in preparing the explainer animations in every segment, I would recommend to make the people and especially students see that even before visiting the place so that they get an idea of what they are about to experience. And excavation site visit should be a mandatory for everyone with proper safety measures to make this complete package.

Thank you Madurai INTACH team and the village president for being the host.

- Shylaja MathanRaj



April 25 - The one and a half feet dig of two trenches in the ninth phase of excavation at Keezhadi has unearthed what looks like a crude floor. This prompted two more trenches to be excavated which has revealed a large floor.

THE MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY OF A BELL



MEMBER COLUMNIST OF THE MONTH

–

S. SHANTHI
CO-CONVENOR

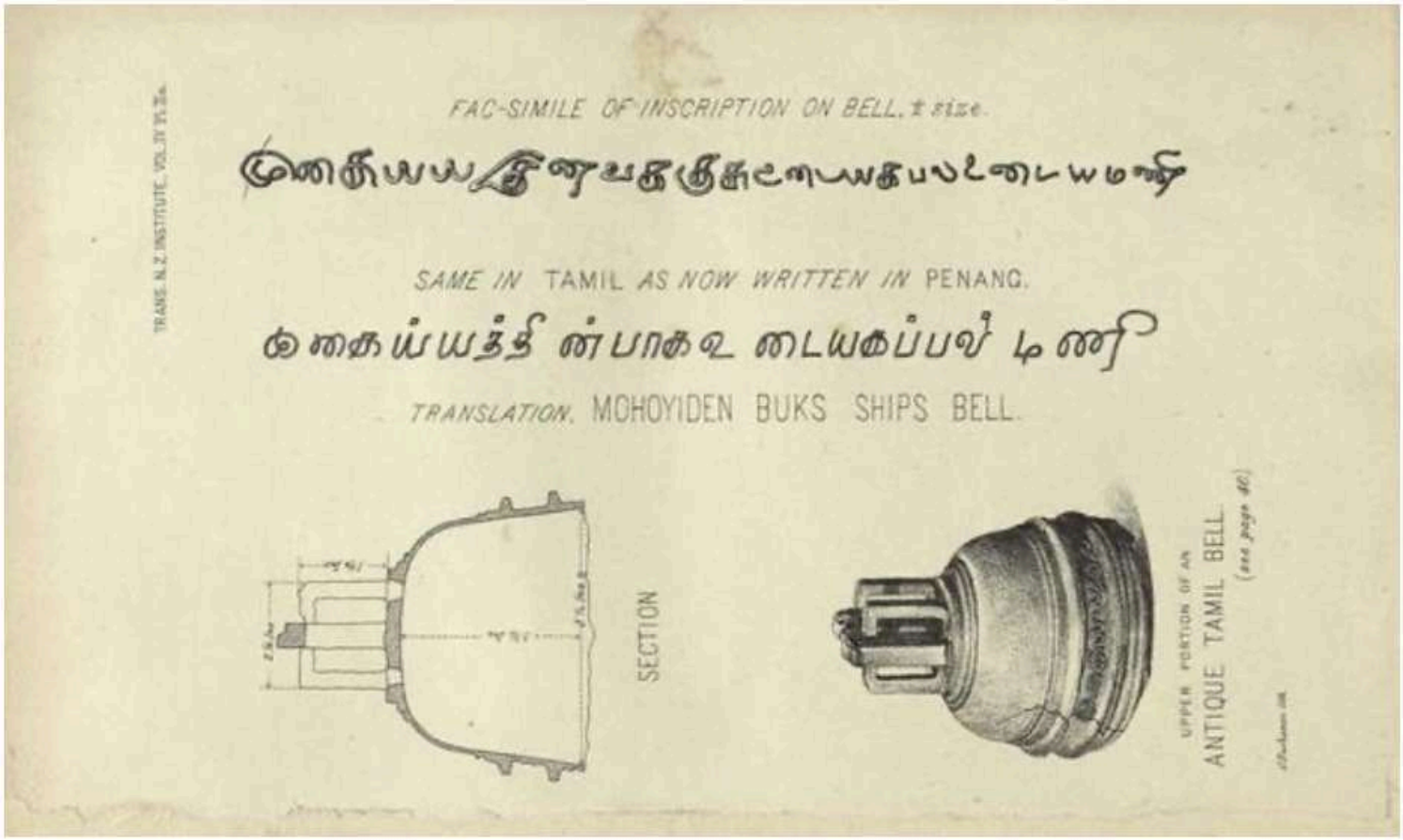
In the remote hills of New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds, an ancient Tamil bell hangs suspended in a small shed, a relic of a bygone era that has traveled across the seas and through time. How did this artifact, crafted in southern India nearly 300 years ago, make its way to the other side of the world?

The story of the bell begins with the thriving seafaring trade routes of the Indian Ocean. Tamil merchants, hailing from what is now modern-day Tamil Nadu in southern India, traveled far and wide to trade with other cultures. Their ships sailed to ports throughout Southeast Asia, East Africa, and even as far as the Middle East, where they traded spices, textiles, and other valuable goods.

The first time it is recorded in history is in 1830's, when William Colenso a cornish missionary , supposedly the first european to have entered Newzealand noticed it being used by the local maori women to boil some tubers. Intrigued by its presence and shape he traded it with a cast iron pot. Upon inspection he could see some inscriptions which was later deciphered in the 20 th century as the "the bell of the ship of the mohideen bux'.

The bell itself, which is made of copper alloy and adorned with Tamil inscriptions, is believed to have been crafted sometime between the 15th and 16th centuries but later after analysed by an archeologist of ancient scripts was dated to 17 th - 18th century. It is an example of the exquisite craftsmanship that was typical of the Tamil culture during this time period, and it represents an important link to the past. On further investigation , it was found that Mohideen bux, was a patron saint for the muslim merchant communities of Tamilnadu.

THE MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY OF A BELL



The Tamil Bell's inscription, Mohideen Bux udiya kappal udiya mani, translates perhaps in this instance actually means that the ship was under the care of the saint, rather than that it belonged to a person."

How exactly the bell came into the maori's possession is unclear, but it's possible that it was brought to New Zealand by a whaling ship or other vessel. Over time, the bell became an important part of local Maori ceremonies and rituals, and it continues to hold a special place in the hearts of the people who live in the area today.

Despite its significance, the Tamil bell remains a mystery, its exact origins and journey shrouded in the mists of time. But it serves as a testament to the incredible reach of ancient seafaring cultures, as well as a reminder of the cultural exchange that took place between different civilizations.

Whether you're interested in history, culture, or just the fascinating stories of how objects travel around the world, the Tamil bell is a truly remarkable artifact that has captivated people for centuries. It stands as a reminder of the incredible journeys that people and objects can make, and of the rich tapestry of human history that is woven from countless threads.



National Maritime Day is observed to recognise international maritime trade of India.

LITERARY LEGACY SERIES - SESSION 1 & 2











Literary Legacy Series is an initiative taken by the chapter to outsource various information about Madurai from literary works. Mr D. Gunasekaran was the key person in finding the scholar for this special programme and the rest fell in place as we fitted schedules to cherish history, culture and musical compositions. The first session presented by Mr. Madhusudanan Kalaichelvan followed by a stroll and the second along with Mr. Shanmuganathan, a descendant of traditional Othuvar family of many generations rendering classic verses were novel programmes. Despite lack of participation, the outreach is tremendous as we get to understand from the responses and reviews -

April 29 Session 1 - **வணிகக் கூடல்** & **அல் அங்காடி உலா** | April 30 Session 2 - **மதுர-தமிழிசை**

In view of consecration of Sattainathar Temple, Sirkazhi a year long renovation work was undertaken. On April 16, bronze idols, peetams and copper plate inscriptions were unearthed in the temple premises. At a depth of about 2 feet, when a hole was dug near the west tower for performing the Yagasalai rituals, they were discovered. The copper plates bear an explication of Thevaram, Tamil hymns of the seventh century Thirugnanasambandar, the child prodigy Of Sirkali. Each of the plates measure upto 68 x 7.5 cm, weighing 400 grams. The rarity is the first find of Thevaram on copper plates.

LITERARY LEGACY - SESSION 1 & 2







I had the excellent opportunity to attend INTACH Madurai's fascinating initiative, Literary Legacy Series. In the debut session, Mr. Madhusudanan Kalaichelvan provided a deeply insightful presentation on Madurai's ancient trading routes and the traders' culture. It proved to be a multifaceted exploration of old Madurai's glorious reputation as a business and cultural hub, enriching the engaged listeners by plucking out details from history and literature.

The event was followed up with an experiential walk in the old streets of Madurai, a city whose rich cultural heritage is still felt in the everyday spaces. We took a breezy walk through the historic streets, where culture, cuisine, and beautiful architecture overwhelm our senses. Mr. Kalaichelvan further described how Madurai's vibrant markets had stood the test of time. And how it continues to thrive!

- Arun Kumar , Chief Editor , High on Films

Professor Madhusudanan Kalaichelvan's eye-opening presentation on ancient Madurai traders and trade routes has left a great impact on me. Particularly, because of the way it was structured, which provokes our curiosity as well as satiates our quest for knowledge. The icing-on-the-cake aspect of this meet is taking us on a walk through the old streets of Madurai. The in-depth interaction with the professor while taking a stroll in the lively streets gave me the feel of having traveled back in time.

Thanks to INTACH & special thanks to Vani madam for inviting us to this enlightening session.

- Veera , Social Entrepreneur

LITERARY LEGACY - SESSION 1 & 2

29/4/2023 அன்று INTACH மதுரை சார்பாக ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் திருமிகு. வாணி அவர்கள் முன்னிலையில் மதுரை தியாகராஜர் கலை மற்றும் அறிவியல் கல்லூரியில் மாலை 4:30 முதல் 6:30 வரை இலக்கியச் செம்மல் மதுசூதனன் கலைச்செல்வன் அவர்களால் வணிகக் கூடல் என்ற நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெற்றது. அதில் மதுரை மற்றும் சுற்றுவட்டார பகுதியில் இருந்த வணிக அமைப்புகள், வணிக பெருவழிகள் மற்றும் வணிகம் சார்ந்த விஷயங்களை தொல்லியல் மற்றும் கல்வெட்டுச் சான்றுகள் வழியாக புகைப்படங்களுடன் விரிவான விளக்கங்களை அவர் அளித்தார். அதில் உப்பு வணிகர்கள், நவதானிய வணிகர்கள் போன்ற பல்வேறு வகைப்பட்ட வணிகங்கள் சங்க காலத்தில் நடைபெற்றதையும் அதன் தொடர்ச்சியாக இன்றும் மதுரையில் அதே இடங்களில் வணிகம் நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டிருப்பதையும் புகைப்படங்களுடன் குழந்தைகளும் புரிந்து கொள்ளும் விதமாக விளக்கினார். நிகழ்ச்சியின் முடிவில் கேள்வி பதில் பகுதியும் இருந்தது. அதில் வந்திருந்த பொதுமக்கள் சார்பாக வணிகம் பற்றிய சந்தேகங்களுக்கான விளக்கத்தையும் அவர் தெளிவுபடுத்தினார். குழந்தைகள் ர.ஸ்ரீநிகா, தி.விஷ்மிதா அவர்கள் நான் எழுதிய மதுரை நடுகற்கள் என்று நூலினை திருமிகு வாணி அவர்களுக்கும் இலக்கியச் செம்மல் மதுசூதனன் கலைச்செல்வன் அவர்களுக்கும் வழங்கி சிறப்பித்தார்கள்.

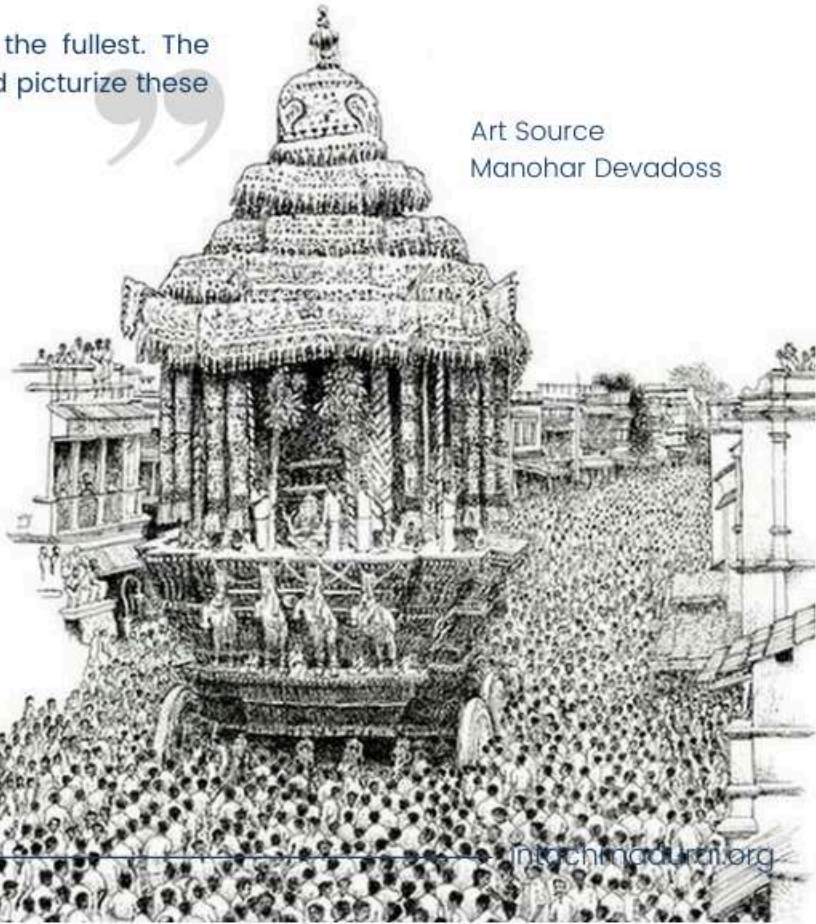
- தேவி அறிவுச்செல்வம், கோயில் கட்டடக்கலை மற்றும் சிற்ப சாஸ்திர பயிற்றுநர்

Thiru Madhusudanan Kalaichelvan during his speech on the topic **மதுர - தமிழிசை** elaquently spoke about Thirugnanasambander's advent into and stay in **திருஆலவாய்**. His talk rightly took place in Meenakshi Amman Temple which added spirit to his talk and the rendition of **தேவார பாடல்கள்** by the **ஓதுவார்** was so devout.

He covered the entire happening of that time frame and the important role that Sambander played in amending the prevailing turmoil in **திருஆலவாய்**. He spoke about all the anecdotes that happened during his entire stay in Madurai right from the time when he entered **திருஆலவாய்** near Yanamalai until he left Madurai after accomplishing a righteous way for **சைவ சமயம்** . His speech was interluded by the Dewaram song sung by Sambander at each location & occasion.

His talk was very informative and we enjoyed it to the fullest. The descriptive way he spoke was so realistic that we could picturize these days in our mind and relieve that period

- S. Vasantham



Art Source
Manohar Devadoss

Heritage Changes: About 50 Temple Vintage Chariots are found in Tamilnadu. The wooden wheels have been replaced by metal ones and motorised to give the necessary thrust for devotees to pull the ropes of the chariot.