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## Third Seminar on Epigraphy — and Epigraphy Centenary

The third Seminar on epigraphy organized by the Jaffna Archaeological Society was held on the 4th and 5th inst. at the Thirunelvely premises of the Jaffna Campus. This Seminar also marks the centenary of Paul Goldschmidt's assumption of duties as the first official epigraphist of Sri Lanka and rightly this Seminar is dedicated to him.

The entrance to the venue was decorated with 'toranas' and a beautiful 'kolam' with some Brahmi and Tamil - grantha characters from Ceylon inscriptions and the ancient 'puranakumbhas' added colour to the occasion and indicated the antiquity of the inscriptions of Sri Lanka.

The proceedings of the Seminar started at 10-30 a. m. on the 4th inst., in the traditional way with the playing of 'Nagasvaram' and 'taval' by expert artistes and the lighting of the lamp by Prof. P. E. Fernando (President Peradeniya Campus) who was the general president of the Seminar. Thereafter, the crowd of scholars assembled at the entrance went to the Ramnathan Hall where Mr. James T. Rutnam, the president of the society welcomed the scholars present there and briefly referred to the contributions of the great savants of Ceylon epigraphy Prof. K. Kailasapathy (President Jaffna Campus) welcomed all to the Campus and said that the seminars of the type would be of great benefit.

Thereafter, Prof. P. E. Fernando delivered his presidential address in which he outlined the contributions of the great European savants to the epigraphy of ancient Egypt, West Asia, Crete, Greece and South Asia, especially Sri Lanka. He also said that the knowledge about the epigraphy of South Asia continues to grow year by year. The address was very instructive and interesting.

The afternoon sessions were presided over by Mr.

J. T. Rutnam, Dr. K. Sivathamby read a very interesting and exhaustive paper on the Sangam classics and archaeology. He stressed the fact that as a result of the recent discoveries of the archaeological finds in Tamilnad, the historical value of the Sangam Classics has enhanced. He compared this to the classical archaeology by pursuing which many historical reference in the Homeric poems have been confirmed.

Mr. V. Sivasamy outlined the contributions of the great savants of Ceylon epigraphy like Paul Goldschmidt, E. Muller, M. Wickremasinghe, Rev. Fr. Guanapragasar, Mudaliyar Rasanayagam and Prof. Senareet Paranavitane, in a paper "one hundred years of epigraphy in Sri Lanka". Mr. B. Bastiampillai read an interesting paper on "Early interest in epigraphical and archaeological studies in Sri Lanka". He paid glowing tributes to William Gregory a British governor of Sri Lanka for trying to create an interest in these fields of study. Thereafter, Dr. A. Shanmugas read a valuable paper on the Syntax of inscriptional Tamil in Sri Lanka. He has applied the principles of modern linguistics in the study of the language of Tamil inscriptions of Sri Lanka. Thevarajan pointed out the influence of the Tamils in ancient Sri Lanka, as gleaned especially from the Brahmi inscriptions, in a paper entitled Brahmi inscriptions and Tamils. Another interesting paper on somewhat similar lines as that of Dr. Shanmugas was submitted by Dr. W. D. S. Karunatilaka on the language of the early Sinhala inscriptions in a paper entitled 'A phonetic interpretation of some of the orthographic peculiarities of early Sinhalese inscriptions of Mr. M. Werake's interesting paper on some comments on the Galle trilingual inscription and Mr. K.

Sittampalam's valuable paper on the Brahmi inscriptions of Sri Lanka; the need for a new analysis were accepted.

The morning sessions on the 5th were presided over by Dr. Mrs. Sobhana Gokhale, Dr. K. V. Ramman's paper entitled Brahmi inscriptions of Tamilnad—a historical assessment was read and commended. It is an exhaustive study of the earliest inscriptions of Tamilnad, especially, the many aspects of the civilization as portrayed in records. Another interesting paper on the date of Kharavela & the early Satavahanas was read Dr. Verma, the writer of this paper has tried to prove that Kharavela flourished in the first century A. D. and was a contemporary of Satavahani I. Dr. Mrs. Sobhana Gokhale read an interesting paper on Sri Lanka in Indian inscriptions. Sri Lanka was referred to by such names as, Tambapanni and Sinhala. In his instructive paper on the Manur (in Tirunelvely India) inscription of Maranjadayar, Mr. Natana Kasinathan has re-assessed the importance of this record, especially with reference to local administration (Sabha) an ancient Tamilnad. Mr. C. Sundaram has emphasized the literary aspect of the Kasakkudi grant of Nandi Varman Pallavamalla. In his paper entitled Gleanings from the Kasakkudi grant. Mr. A. U. Bhattacharya has discussed the details and importance of temple inscriptions of Eastern India in an interesting paper. Some temple inscriptions of Bengal during the 17th and 18th centuries. Mr. A. Subramanian has submitted a valuable paper on the methodology of indexing inscriptions from epigraphical reports. This will be of great benefit for students of epigraphy.

The afternoon sessions were conducted in Tamil and was presided over by Prof. K. Indrapala, vice-president of the society. Mr. R. Selvaratnam read an interesting paper on Perpetual lamps as mentioned in the inscriptions. He cited references to these lamps from the

(Over to page 4)

Letter to the Editor

## K. K. S. By-Election

The exciting nomination day for the K. K. S. by-election has come and gone without any serious incidents. A tried and tested Leader and two other civic-minded candidates have come forward offering their services to the Constituency. The stage has been set for the fray. Canvassing has commenced and a lot of political jargon is being dished out from different platforms by their respective supporters. However, the man on the street stands bewildered at the causes that had led to this by-election, the undue delay in holding it and the subtle issues underlying it.

This election offers the voters—at least to the intelligent and educated lot—an opportunity to show the watching world, the extent of their political maturity and capacity. On the result of this election depends the future of the political self-respect and civic glory of Jaffna. There are two angles from which the voters may deal with this election:—(a) They may sterilise their minds of the germs of prejudice arising out of party alignments and personal considerations and examine the claims and qualifications of these aspirants to legislative honours, their past records of service to the country, their dependability, their capacity to represent the constituency and then arrive at a decision.

(b) or without bothering about personalities or the intrinsic merits of the candidates, the voters may look at the "Party" that has put the candidate forward. The candidate from the most dependable Party, whose ideologies are capable of producing maximum benefits to the common man and the country should be returned.

So, at this critical hour, when narrow-mindedness, selfishness and lust of power and personal benefits have sapped the ideals of governing a multi-racial country like ours,

(Over to page 4)

Late Mr. Amirthalingam  
of Vannarpannai, Jaffna  
(Retired O. A.)

## An Appreciation

By

DR. N. KANAGARATNAM

The sudden passing away of Mr. S. Amirthalingam caused grief to people in different walks of life with whom he was associated himself and did meritorious works.

In the Public Service he rose to the civil rank. He had a happy family life with two children one a graduate and the other an accountant.

From his younger days he was a keen sportsman and had won several trophies for the organizations he represented. Up to the time of his decease at the age of seventy three, he was completely faithful to his alma mater Jaffna Hindu College and would like a good student who attends his school regularly, attend each and every occasion where past students functioned for college works. It will be a thrilling feature to see this thin, wiry, old Amirthalingam step into the arena of the college grounds during the annual sports meet even in his 70th year and join in the running race allotted to visitors.

He had been a member of several social and religious institutions in Jaffna and in outstations while in service. Notable among this was the membership he held in the Saiva Paripalana Sabhai Jaffna. He had been taking part in the Sabhai activities up to now. He was also a member of the Sivathondan Nilayam Jaffna and took part in all its activities.

His greatest Thondu (தொண்ட) was the Management of the Iyanar Temple Vannarpannai.

If the phrase "Duty Conscious" is to be personified it can be said that it is "Amirthalingam". Amir (in Tamil is Amirtham அமிர்தம்) as he is popularly known to his associates in Government Service and outside. He had been a Treasurer of the Jaffna United Club for sometime and he kept the records and accounts up to date. His demise is really a loss.



## THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

அரக்கொடு சேர்த்து அனைத்த அக்கல் போல்  
உருக்கி உடங்கு இயைந்து நின்று—பிரிப்பின்றித்  
தானே உலகம் தமிழன் உளம் புருதல்  
தானே உலகு என்பன் இன்று.

Like gold - dust mixed with melted wax, God  
mixes up with souls and is inseparable from  
them though different in substance. When  
He enters within me in my freed state I  
(identify myself with Him and) say I am  
the world.



தஞ்சாவூர் தமிழகம்

தஞ்சாவூர் தமிழகம் கவிமயம்  
தஞ்சாவூர் தானறி விக்கையம்  
தஞ்சாவூர் தானறி நேத்துமே  
தஞ்சாவூர் தன்னெறி காட்டுமே.

தஞ்சாவூர் தமிழகம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1975

TOKEN OF TROUBLE!  
JANUARY 31 STRIKE

Notwithstanding the fact that there are grievances of the would be strikers to be redressed, the justification for positive action in the form of a general strike cannot be sustained. Apart from the point of view of collective action in conformity with the convention of trade union rights, there is the more important consideration of the appropriateness of time and manner of action particularly in the existing circumstances of economic inequality.

The organisers of the 'token' strike have in effect set afoot a massive campaign appealing for support from every trade union including organizations of teachers. The implications of the preliminary preparation of the would-be-strikers cannot but tend to create misgivings in the minds of the people in general. Such a state of affairs cannot be conducive to the solving of the problem of the organizers who have themselves posed the possibility of a curfew being imposed.

Taking into consideration all the extraneous circumstances that naturally tend to intervene even before the happening of the threat, the organizers would be well advised to reconsider the proposal in all its aspects and postpone the 'D' day to a more suitable time.

The common man, however, cannot be persuaded to accept the correctness of cessation of work in all spheres of administrative activities even if it be token in nature and restricted to a single day. His view has to be considered. Hence our suggestions to the organisers of the January 31 event that they suspend their action for further talks and thoughts.

Strike, throughout the years, have invariably proved to be a source of disaffection. Far from realizing the ideal of enabling the country enjoy a contented service, strikes have served to make every member of the Public Service, the Mercantile Service and other Establishments feel that more things are wrought by striking than the workers' world can dream of. It is to be hoped that the organizers would appreciate the fact that the less Public Service gets involved in strikes, the better it would be for the country's progress.

Third Seminar on Epigraphy—  
and Epigraphy Centenary

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Tamil classics too. There after, a paper on the Brahmi inscriptions of Thirupparankuram submitted by Mr. Mayilai Seeni Venkatasamy was read and commended. He has tried to prove that Antuvan Kotupittan mentioned in one of these records was no other than the Nallanthu Vanar of Madura. Pulavar Rasu read a very interesting paper on some gleanings from the inscriptions. Many an example cited by him are of great value to a sociologist of Tamilnad. Mr. A. Sivaselvan's paper Some Tamil manuscripts Sri Lanka and Mr. T. Shanmugasundaram's paper on the materials used for engraving inscriptions were accepted. The Seminar came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Mr. A. Sivaselvan joint Secretary.

The first issue of Purvakala—journal of the society was released during the Seminar. At the same time an exhibition of some important archaeological specimens from the Jaffna and Batticaloa districts and some publications on archaeology was organized by the student members of the society headed by Mas. P. Ragupathy. Mr. Rasu the editor of 'Kongu' presented two recent publications on South Indian epigraphy to the society and Mr. J. T. Rotnam presented some publications on Ceylon epigraphy to him. Important publications showing one hundred years of epigraphical research in Sri Lanka were exhibited by Prof. K. Indrapala.

The papers submitted for the Seminar are of a

high standard and touch various aspects of South Asian epigraphy. They will be published in a book form very soon.

It is also to be noted that the Jaffna Archaeological Society is the only organization to have organized a series of lectures on epigraphy for three consecutive years since 1974. The Epigraphical Society of India, formed recently will be holding the first sessions in the last week of January.

Two Seminars on  
South Asian  
Studies

The South Asian Studies Seminar instituted recently at the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka had organized two lectures. The first one was held on November 30, 1974. Prof. Kenneth David Ph. D. delivered an interesting lecture on 'Cultural definitions of the body, land subsistence in Jaffna.' He tried to analyse and give a scientific basis for some social and religious customs prevailing in Jaffna.

The other lecture on 'Proto-Scientific idea of Tantrism' was delivered by Mr. T. Kanesar M. Sc. Asst. Govt. Analyst, on December 14, 1974. Mr. Kanesar traced the history of the scientific ideas pertaining to the Sakti cult. He has made use of various sources—primary and secondary—on the subject and tried to strike a new line of thinking in this respect, as was done by Prof. Needham concerning the Chinese civilization especially about Lao-Tse.

## AUCTION SALE

All the undermentioned jewelleryes pawned with Mr. V. Sanmuganathan Licensed Pawn Broker of 32 A Stanley Road, Jaffna from 1st June 1972 till 30th June 1973 will be sold by me by Public Auction at the said Pawn Shop on Thursday the 27th day of February, 1975 commencing at 10.00 A. M.

Jetty, Karainagar,  
15th January, 1975  
35, 17 & 24

V. Erampamocrthy,  
Licensed Auctioneer.

வான்முக்கில் வழாது பெய்க் க வளஞ் கரக்க மன்னன்  
கோக்குறை அரக செய்க குறைவிலா துயிரகன் வாழ்க  
நான்மறை யறங்க லோகிக நற்றவம் வென்வி மல்க  
மேன்மைகொள் கைவந்தி விளங்குக உலக பெருகாரம்;

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF R. N. SIVAPIRAKASAM

Letter to the Editor  
(From page 3)

when fundamental rights are of no concern, when the common man is unable to obtain his essential needs—food, clothing and medicine—at reasonable price levels, let us hearken to the call of Sri Krishna—

"Stand up, O Arjuna, and act unafraid, offering thy all to the eternal spirit, for, Action is thy Duty and fruit is not thy concern."

Whoever may assail you, whoever may tempt you, stand firm, use your common sense and look to the future of the country and cast your vote, the most powerful weapon you possess. May God Almighty grant you the strength and sense needed to exercise your voting right without fear or favour and elect

"The man whom the lust of office does not kill, Man whom the spoils of office cannot buy, Man who possesses opinions and a will, Man who has honour, Man who will not lie..."

Yours truly  
E. P. Rasiah, J. P.

## NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF POINT PEDRO

No. 12410

1 Suppiah Vaithilingam  
2 and wife Sivakolunthu  
both of Alvai North  
Vs. Plaintiffs

1 Subramaniam Thiagarajah  
2 wife Nagammah  
3 Arumugam Karthigesu  
4 Nagammah widow of Alagaratham  
5 Sinnathamby Muttucumar  
6 wife Meenadchiammar  
7 Nallammah wife of Rajaratnam  
8 Thangamuttu widow of Vallipuram all of Alvai North

Defendants

It is hereby notified that action No. 12410 has been instituted in the District Court of Point Pedro under the Partition Act No. 16 of 1951 for the partition/sale of the land called "Manintrollai in extent 4 Lms V. C. 12 Kls. and situated at Alvai Maniveeravagathevankurichchy.

The defendants in the aforesaid action are summoned to appear in Court on the 28th day of January 1975 at 10 O'clock of the forenoon.

By order of Court,  
A. Thavarajah  
for Secretary/  
Chief Clerk

Drawn by  
(Sgd) G. V. Subramaniam  
Attorney-at-Law  
for Plaintiff.

This 15th day of January 1975