

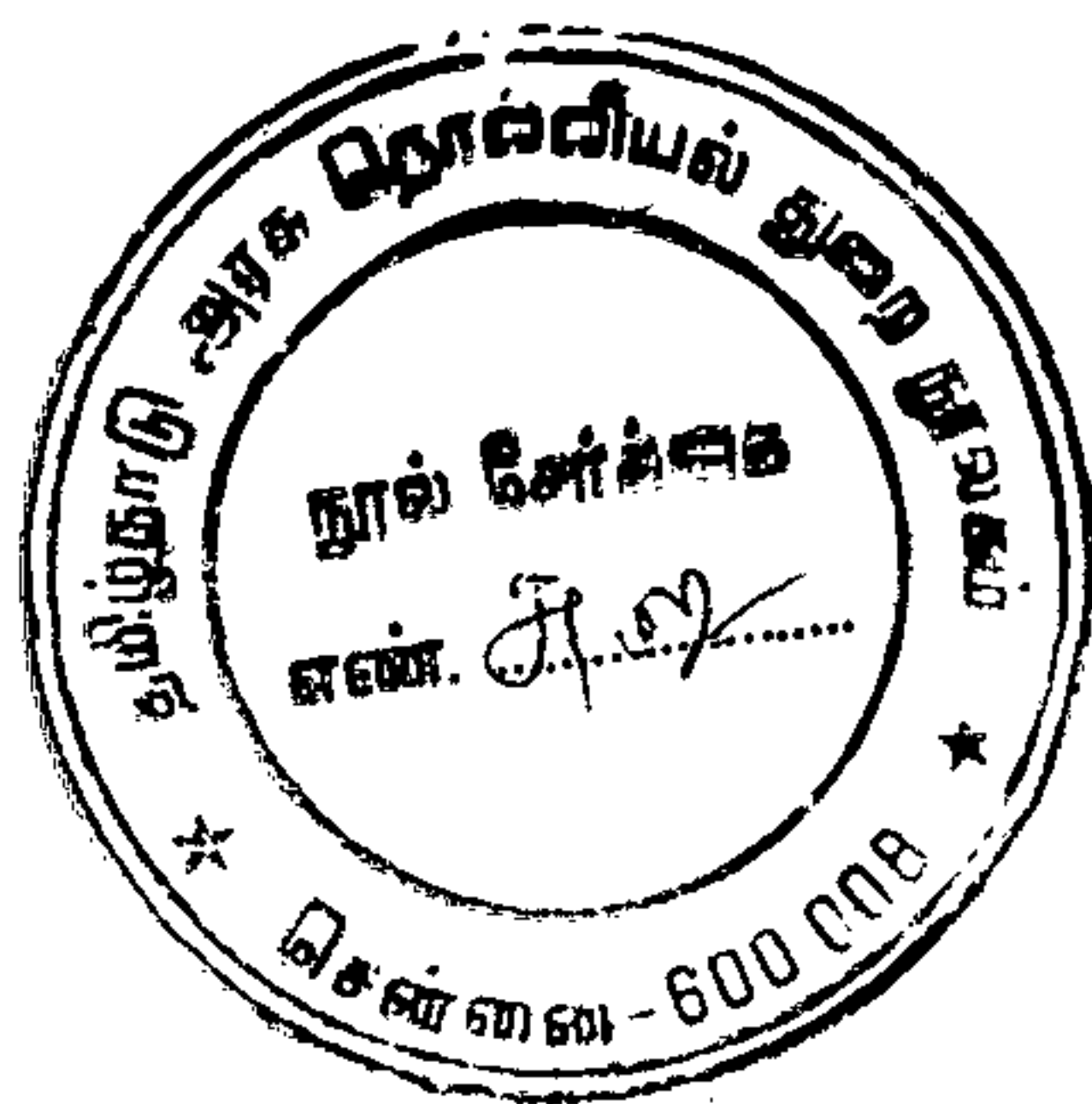


**FUNCTIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**

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**FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**

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DIRECTOR

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is our earnest hope that this brochure will help the readers to have a clear picture of the functions and achievements of this department which is being steadily guided and encouraged by Dr. Avvai. Natarajan, Secretary, Tamil Development and Culture Department. We are grateful to the Honourable Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Thiru M. Karunanithi and Honourable Education Minister Professor Dr. K. Anbazhagan for their continuous patronage to this department.

Director & Staff,
Department of Archaeology.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Government of Tamilnadu was pleased to create the State Department of Archaeology in the year 1961 and appointed a special officer with the chief aim of preserving the historical monuments in Tamilnadu. The post of special officer was converted into one of Director in the year 1966 and a new section of Epigraphy was added to this department. In course of time, this department has been expanded with the following sections :

- I Conservation Section
- II Epigraphy Section
- III Excavation Section
- IV Pre-historic Excavation Section
- V Site Museums
- VI Office of the Archaeological Officers
- VII Office of the Registering Officers
- VIII Office of the Regional Assistant Director
- IX Photography Section
- X Printing Section
- XI Archaeological Lab
- XII Library

The Government Oriental Manuscripts Library was brought under the control of this department in the year 1980.

I CONSERVATION SECTION

Function

The function of this section is to identify the historical monuments in Tamilnadu and to take all necessary steps to declare them as protected monuments and preserve them for posterity.

With the help of the Archaeological Officers and Curators, the historical monuments are identified. The staff of the conservation section are sent to collect the survey data in order to send a proposal to Government requesting it to declare them as protected monuments.

According to the "Tamilnadu Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1966", the Government would issue the preliminary notification directing this department to paste it in a prominent place. If there is no protest from anybody for declaring that historical place as a protected monument within a period of three months, the department would inform the Government and request it to issue final notification. Then the Government would finally issue the relevant order in this regard.

Once, an historical place or a structure is declared as a monument, it would be protected from vandalism and encroachments and be preserved in consonance with its original state and form.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Assistant Executive Engineer	1	Madras
2	Archaeological Conservation Junior Engineers	2	Madras

3	Sthapathies	2	Madras
4	Droughtsman	1	Madras
5	Tracer	1	Madras
6	Archaeological Conservation Junior Engineer	1	Madurai
7	Sthapathy	1	Madurai
8	Droughtsman	1	Madurai
9	Archaeological Conservation Junior Engineer	1	Ramnad
10	Archaeological Conservation Junior Engineer	1	Trichy
11	Archaeological Conservation Junior Engineer	1	Tanjore
12	Sthapathy	1	Tanjore
13	Sthapathy	1	Manora
14	Droughtsman	1	Tirunelveli

Achievement

At present, sixty five monuments are being protected by this department. Necessary proposals have been sent to declare some more historical places and structures as monuments. Of the sixty five protected monuments, five are secular and the rest are religious in nature. The five secular monuments are as follows:

1. Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, Madurai, Madurai District.
2. Palace complex, Thanjavur, Thanjavur District
3. Fort, Tranquebar, Thanjavur District
4. Manora, Sarabendirarajapattinam, Thanjavur District
5. Ramalingavilasam, Ramanathapuram, Ramanathapuram District.

II EPIGRAPHY SECTION

Function

Villagewise survey of inscriptions is being made by the Epigraphists and Junior Epigraphists. They copy the inscriptions found engraved on the temple walls, rocks and stones with the help of Epigraphical attenders and Office Assistants. The Epigraphical Attenders will record the details of the location from where it has been copied, on the estampages. Then, the estampages will be brought to the head office for decipherment by the Epigraphists. The Epigraphists will re-read and make ready for printing with critical notes. After having printed the matter, the estampages would be sent to the epigraphical branch office located at Ooty for preservation.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Assistant Superintending Epigraphist	1	Madras
2	Epigraphists	5	Madras
3	Tamil Scholars	3	Madras
4	Junior Epigraphist	1	Madras
5	Epigraphical Attenders	3	Madras
6	Office Assistants	4	Madras
7	Typist	1	Madras
8	Epigraphist	1	Mayiladuthurai

9	Epigraphists	2	Madurai
10	Epigraphist	1	Ooty
11	Junior Epigraphist	1	Tanjore
12	Junior Epigraphist	1	Trichy

Of the five Epigraphists in the directorate one is placed incharge of the Institute of Epigraphy which is imparting training on Epigraphy and Archaeology to those who have passed post graduate studies, for one year. At the end of the year, the trainees are awarded a Diploma of Epigraphy and Archaeology.

Achievement

About 7000 inscriptions have so far been copied, of which about 2000 inscriptions are printed in book form. The following epigraphical publications are brought out.

1	Madras District Inscriptions	..	1 volume
2	Kanyakumari District Inscriptions	..	5 volumes
3	Dharmapuri District Inscriptions	..	1 volume
4	Nannilam Taluk Inscriptions	..	3 volumes
5	Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk Inscriptions	..	1 volume
6	Kumbakonam Taluk Inscriptions	..	1 „
7	Chengam Hero-stones	..	1 „
8	Thanjai Peruvudaiyar Koil Kalvettukal	..	1 „

III EXCAVATION SECTION

Function

In order to select a site for excavation one has to study the literature, history and inscriptions to find out ancient places such as capitals, ports and cities of ancient ruling monarchs and chieftains. Having listed out the ancient cities, the exploration will be carried out at the sites by the Archaeologists. They would enquire with the villagers if they have come across any ancient structures or any antiquities. They will also explore the places thoroughly to find if there is any raised mound. If there is any raised mound, it means that there was an ancient habitation. Due to invasion of the rival kings, it is believed, that these places might have been either razed out or abandoned by the inhabitants. Sometimes the villagers could have collected some important artefacts while they plough in such raised mounds. If they dig pits they could have struck some brick structures or the ring wells that are the clear indications for the habitation. The accidental finds that occurred in some places also led the archaeologists to locate the sites of ancient period.

For example at Gangaikondacholapuram, in Trichy District, the villagers were able to dig carts load of bricks in every year while they start their cultivation at a particular site called Utkottai. This incident has been brought to the notice of this department. Immediately the Archaeologist was deputed to do thorough exploration. During his exploration he was able to locate

a large mound spreading over to a stretch of 4 kilo metre square. After having done all the preliminary works, we started excavations and we were able to bring to light the palace built by Rajendra Chola, the illustrious son of Rajaraja, the Great. Likewise we were able to locate an interesting site i.e. Alagankulam which is considered by the Archaeologists as another Arikamedu, in Ramnad District.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Deputy Superintending Archaeologist	1	Madras
2	Archaeologist	1	„
3	Assistant	1	„
4	Office Assistant	1	„

Achievement

The following fifteen historical sites have been excavated in Tamilnadu by this department.

1	Anamalai	}	Coimbatore District
2	Poluvampatti		
3	Korkai	}	V. O. C District
4	Panchalankurichi		
5	Karur	}	Trichy District
6	Kannanur		
7	Gangaikonda- cholapuram		

8	Palaiyarai	}	Tanjore District
9	Kurumbanmedu		
10	Kovalanpottal		Madurai District
11	Tondi	}	Ramanathapuram District
12	Alagankulam		
13	Pallavamedu	}	Chengai Anna District
14	Vasavasamudram		
15	Panayakulam		Dharmapuri District

Among the excavated sites, Korkai in V. O. C. District, Karur and Gangaikondacholapuram in Trichy District, Alagankulam in Ramnad District are more important sites which have yielded excellent artefacts confirming the location of the ancient capitals, their relationship between South India and North India, and between Tamilnadu and Rome. The excavation at Korkai assumed great importance because the charcoal found in a trench during the excavation have been dated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research to 785 B.C. plus or minus 100, thereby suggesting that the habitation at Korkai was in existence even from 800 B.C. So the antiquity of Korkai and Southern parts of Tamilnadu goes back to the period of Circa 1000 B.C. The inscribed potsherds found from Korkai confirm that the script prevalent in Tamilnadu for writing Tamil language was in existence from 3rd century B.C. The excavation conducted at Karur and Gangaikondacholapuram revealed the antiquity of Karur which is believed by some scholars as the capital of Sangam Cheras and the

building exposed by the excavation at Gangaikonda-cholapuram to be the palace built by Rajendra Chola. The excavation at Alagankulam in Ramnad District has thrown light on the Roman settlement established at Alagankulam, as was the one at Arikamedu near Pondicherry.

IV PRE-HISTORIC EXCAVATION SECTION

Function

It is the duty of the Pre-historic Archaeologist to locate Pre-Historic sites in Tamilnadu and to lay bare some promising sites. The antiquities collected from the excavations are to be brought to the Pre-historic Museum established at Poondi in Chengai Anna District.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Pre-historic Archaeologist	1	Madras
2	Technical Assistant	1	„
3	Attender	1	„

Achievement

The concentration was first laid on the border of South Arcot and North Arcot Districts. Because, this border is occupied by the Eastern range. A number of Pre-Historic paintings drawn on the rocks of this range have been discovered.

Besides, considerable number of megalithic monuments have also been spotted out. In one such monument, namely cairn circle, a granite stone in the form of a mother Goddess is found.

An intensive survey was carried out along the banks of river Vaigai in Madurai District. During the survey, fossil, probably of a tortoise, and some iron slags were collected.

In the survey conducted in Dharmapuri District a few fascinating paintings of Megalithic period were located in Dolmens.

V SITE MUSEUMS

Function

Site museums are established near the excavated sites, at monuments and at historically important places. These museums depict the cultural heritage of the local people. The objects displayed in these museums are of local origin, collected from excavations conducted in these areas. Their importance is imparted to the local people; thereby they understand the social, political, economic life and the artistic skill of their ancestors.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Curators	2	Tanjore
2	Junior Assistant	1	,,
3	Sales Attenders	2	,,
4	Museum Attender	1	,,
5	Watchmen	5	,,
6	Sweeper	1	,,
7	Curator	1	Dharmapuri
8	Watchman	1	,,
9	Sweeper	1	,,
10	Curator	1	Korkai
11	Sales Attender	1	,,
12	Watchman	1	,,
13	Curator	1	Ramanathapuram
14	Sales Attender	1	,,
15	Watchmen	2	,,
16	Curator	1	Rameswaram
17	Sales Attenders	2	,,
18	Watchmen	2	,,
19	Sweeper	1	,,

20	Curator	1	Coimbatore
21	Sales Attenders	2	„
22	Watchmen	3	„
23	Sweeper	1	„
24	Curator	1	Gangaikonda- cholapuram
25	Record Clerk	1	„
26	Watchmen	2	„
27	Watchmen	2	Kovalanpottal
28	Curator	1	Courtalam
29	Sales Attender	1	„
30	Watchman	1	„
31	Curator	1	Karur
32	Junior Assistant	1	„
33	Museum Attender	1	„
34	Watchmen	1	„
35	Sweeper	1	„
36	Curator	1	Tranquebar
37	Sales Attender	1	„
38	Watchmen	2	„
39	Curator	1	Poondi
40	Junior Assistant	1	„
41	Sales Attender	1	„
42	Watchman	1	„
43	Curator	1	Arcot
44	Junior Assistant	1	„
45	Watchman	1	„
46	Sales Attender	1	„
47	Curator	1	Madurai

Achievement

Fifteen site museums have been established. Each museum is distinguished in some respect. For example, the museum of Dharmapuri is known for hero stones; the museum of Arcot is dedicated for Islamic Arts; the Rajarajan Museum is generally for the objects of chola period, more especially of Rajaraja period and the Maratta Museum is for Maratta period only.

Thirumalai Nayak Museum at Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, Madurai, Ramalinga Vilasam Museum at Ramanathapuram and Fort Museum at Tranquebar are earning sizeable revenue by way of entrance fee from visitors. Nearly Rs. 1.5 lakhs are collected in a year.

VI OFFICE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICERS

Function

The Government of Tamilnadu have taken a policy decision to appoint Archaeological officer in each district. The duty of the Archaeological Officer is to make archaeological survey of his district, to find out the historical places, pre-historic sites, loose sculptures and to collect palm leaf manuscripts and important antiquities. Having located the historical and pre-historic places he will write short reports on it and send them to the Directorate. He will also prepare a list of all the important places of historical and cultural values of his district and prepare a brief note on each place in order to publish an archaeological guide of each district:

The Antiquities and the manuscripts thus collected by him will be displayed in the museum located in his district. If there is no museum in his district, the antiquities will be sent to the nearby museum. These officers are also empowered to purchase palm leaf manuscripts of Tamil and Sanskrit languages for Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred only) a year.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Archaeological Officer	1	Madras
2	„ „	1	Dharmapuri

3	Archaeological Officer	1	Tanjore
4	Typist	1	„
5	Archaeological Officer	1	Coimbatore
6	Typist	1	„
7	Archaeological Officer	1	Madurai
8	Typist	1	„
9	Archaeological Officer	1	Tirunelveli
10	Typist	1	„
11	Archaeological Officer	1	Nagercoil
12	Typist	1	„
13	Archaeological Officer	1	Chidambaram
14	Typist	1	„

Achievements

More than four thousand palm leaf manuscripts of Tamil and Sanskrit languages are collected. These deal with literature, medicine, astrology, mathematics, ballads, dramas etc. Some outstanding sculptures, coins and antiquities of different periods have also been collected and handed over to the site museums.

VII OFFICE OF THE REGISTERING OFFICERS

Function

The Government of India have enacted "The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972" in order to curb the smuggling of Art Treasures from India. To enforce this act effectively, Registering Officers and some supporting staff have been appointed in this department. The entire expenditure of this scheme is met by Government of India. At present, there are four such offices of Registering Officers are functioning.

The duty of the Registering Officer is to receive application in a prescribed form attached with the photograph of the object which is more than hundred years old, for registration and issue a certificate to the owner. One copy of the certificate is sent to the central pool of the Archaeological Survey of India and another is retained in the office of the Registering Officer for future.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Registering Officer	1	Madras
2	Junior Assistant	1	"
3	Record Clerk	1	"
4	Office Assistant	1	"
5	Registering Officer	1	Chidambaram
6	Junior Assistant	1	"
7	Record Clerk	1	"
8	Office Assistant	1	"

9	Registering Officer	1	Trichy
10	Junior Assistant	1	„
11	Record Clerk	1	„
12	Office Assistant	1	„
13	Registering Officer	1	Tirunelveli
14	Junior Assistant	1	„
15	Record Clerk	1	„
16	Office Assistant	1	„

Achievement

Though the act had been enacted in the year 1972, it came into force only from the year 1976. About 40,000 applications have been received for registration. Of them, nearly 30,000 objects have been registered and issued certificates. While doing registration of the antiquities the Registering Officers had appropriately identified some objects which were not identified until then.

VIII OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Function

In order to decentralise the powers of the Director and to make immediate supervision of the sub offices located in the southern parts, the Tamilnadu Government have been pleased to establish a regional office headed by an Assistant Director, at Madurai.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Assistant Director	1	Madurai
2	Typist	1	„
3	Office Assistant	1	„

Achievement

The staff of this office have been posted recently. Assistant Director is now controlling all staff working in Thirumalai Naicker Mahal and make periodical supervision over the work being carried out by the sub offices located at Madurai and south of Madurai.

IX PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

Function

Photographs of temples, sculptures, bronze images and paintings are taken in each District to maintain a photo-bank in this department. Photographers are accompanying the Archaeological Officers in each District and take photographs of the above items and bring the exposed rolls to the directorate for developing and making prints. Photographs are sold at a rate fixed by the Information Department to the researchers and public. Life size blowups are also prepared for displaying in the trade fair exhibitions and in the site museums of this department. It is also the duty of these photographers to cover the conservation and excavation works.

A Colour Lab has also been set-up for making colour prints.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Photographers	4	Madras
2	Assistant Photographer	1	„
3	Dark Room Assistant	1	„

Achievement

About 50,000 negatives have been gathered. Nearly 2,000 Black & White and Colour Slides are prepared. A film on Mahabalipuram is being screened to educate the school children on the world famous monument which has been recorded in the world heritage book of UNESCO.

X PRINTING SECTION

Function

A small printing unit with a skeleton staff is attached to this department in order to print all the available inscriptions in Tamilnadu. This press is also utilised for printing entrance tickets for Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, Tranquebar Fort and Ramalingavilasam, Ramanathapuram. Besides these, guide books for site museums are also printed by this press. A quarterly journal 'Kalvettu' containing research articles on epigraphy and recent findings of this department, is also brought out regularly.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Assistant Works Manager	1	Madras
2	Proof Reader	1	„
3	Compositors	4	„
4	Machine Minders	2	„
5	Printer-cum-Binder	1	„

Achievement

107 books on different titles have been printed and distributed to the departmental site museums for sale. Nearly four lakh entrance tickets are printed for three monuments every year. Twenty Six volumes of the quarterly journal 'Kalvettu' have been brought out.

XI ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAB

Function

The Archaeological Lab is set up to clean and preserve the antiquities. A number of invaluable antiquities that are collected during excavations are brought to these labs for chemical treatment and preservation. Besides, the Chemists and Assistant Chemists are visiting site-museums and monuments periodically for on the spot cleaning of the objects. Their services are also utilised for strengthening the exposed brick structure at Gangaikondacholapuram and the mural paintings found in the monuments.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Chemist	1	Madras
2	Assistant Chemist	1	„
3	Assistant Chemist	1	Madurai
4	Lab Assistant	1	„

Achievement

Number of coins, iron and copper objects, bone and ivory materials, terracotta figurines, painted stuccoes, have been cleaned and chemically strengthened. The patina found on the stone and bronze images kept in museums was removed. The brick structure, laid bare at Gangaikondacholapuram and the paintings drawn on the walls of Ramalingavilasam, Ramanathapuram and at Meenakshi temple were strengthened with chemical treatment.

XII LIBRARY

Function

A library possessing of about 10,000 volumes on different disciplines is functioning in this department. A number of books deal with History, Epigraphy, Numismatics, Archaeology and Art and Architecture. The books on allied subjects to Archaeology such as Anthropology and Sociology are also available. These books are made use of by the Technical staff of this department while they write research articles and books and in editing inscriptions. Research scholars are permitted to refer these books. But lending of books is prohibited.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Librarian	1	Madras
2	Attender	1	„

Achievement

About 10,000 books have been acquired by way of purchase and donation. Exchange of journals is also done.

GOVERNMENT ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY

Function

The Government Oriental Manuscripts Library is one of the best manuscripts libraries in Asia, possessing a large number of manuscripts that are preserved in good condition. The manuscripts are in Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Marathi Urdu, Persian, Ceylonese and Burmese languages.

Research scholars are permitted to refer and copy from the manuscripts. Government have sanctioned recently the purchase of a xerox copying machine to facilitate the scholars. The unpublished manuscripts are deciphered and edited by the pandits for printing into book form.

Catalogue of manuscripts in each language is also prepared and printed for the use of readers.

Staff

S.No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Headquarter
1	Curator	1	Madras
2	Librarian	1	„
3	Assistant Librarian	1	„
4	Head Clerk	1	„
5	Assistant	1	„
6	Junior Assistant	1	„

7	Typist	1	”
8	Sanskrit Pandits	2	”
9	Urdu Pandit	1	”
10	Tamil Pandit	1	”
11	Record Clerk	1	”
12	Menders	3	”
13	Binders	3	”
14	Peons (O.A.)	3	”
15	Dusting Mazdoors	5	”

Achievement

So far 44,524 palm leaf manuscripts and 21,553 paper manuscripts have been acquired. In addition to this 22,000 printed books are added. The curator and Pandits have edited 207 manuscripts. 143 descriptive catalogues of the manuscripts in different languages are also published. At present 40 works are ready for printing.

ESTABLISHMENT

The Director is the head of this department. He is being assisted by a Deputy Director on Technical matters and an Assistant Director in the cadre of Deputy Collector, on personnel matters. Besides, an Assistant Accounts Officer who is assisting on financial matters, is authorised by director to draw and disburse the salaries and advances to the staff.

The establishment section consists of three Superintendents who are assisted by six Assistants and nine Junior Assistants. 'A' section superintendent is incharge of personnel, while 'B' section superintendent is dealing with the Budget and Technical files. The 'C' section superintendent is supervising the preparation of contingent bills, purchase of books and getting sanction for the continuance of posts etc.

There are three Record Clerks, five Office Assistants, two Watchmen and one sweeper to help the establishment. At present this office is functioning in a private building by paying a sum of Rs. 13,350/- as rent per month.

RECENT FINDINGS OF THIS DEPARTMENT

1. Ancient Tamil Inscription

An Archaic Tamil (Tamil-Brahmi) inscription was discovered by this department on a hill known as Undankallu in Nilakkottai Taluk, of Quaid-E-Millad District. This inscription reads as "Erayal Arakayatan Sevvithon" The meaning of this inscription is that the bed where the inscription is engraved is the gift of Arakayatan of Erayal Village. On the basis of palaeography this inscription is assignable to 2nd-3rd century A.D.

2. Ancient Tamil Inscription

In the village called Thirumalai of the Pasumpon Thevar Thirumagan District, this Department has discovered two inscriptions in ancient Tamil characters on the lintel of two natural caverns. The inscription on the first cave records the detail that the bed was caused to be made by one Kavithikan belonging to Ekatur.

3. Rare Pallava Sculpture and a tub

A rare pallava sculpture with the aspects of Siva, Vishnu and Brahma in Ponnur village of North Arcot District and a stone tub (13th century A.D.) with intricate carvings at Tiruvallam near Vellore were discovered. The sculpture datable to 7th century A.D. appears to have been influenced by Chalukyan style.

4. Panel Sculptures of Pallava period

In the prakara wall of the Abhirameswara temple in the village Thiruvamathur in Villupuram Taluk of

South Arcot District an image probably depicting Lingodbhavar or Trimurthy is chiselled as a panel sculpture. On stylistic grounds the sculpture may be assigned to 7th century Pallava idiom. In the centre of the sculpture is the figure of Lord Siva in the anthropomorphic Linga form flanked respectively on the left and the right sides, by Vishnu and Brahma.

5 Pallava Durga

On an epigraphical survey conducted by this department, a Durga image made of granite stone, datable to 7th century A.D, has been located at Alagur, an interior village in Tirupperumpudur taluk of Chengai Anna District.

This excellent image of Durga is being worshipped by the villagers as village guardian deity which is found installed on the side of the road that lead to this village.

The broad shoulder, the sturdyness of the figure and the thick ornaments all attest the typical Pallava style which is comparable to Mahendravarman idiom.

6. Early Pallava Coin

An early Pallava coin made of lead was found in Tiruvanmiyur, a suburb of Madras. Figure of a standing humped bull is found on the obverse and a vase and the Chaitya tree are found on the reverse of this coin. It could be datable to a period of 5th-6th century A.D.

7 Gold Coins at Kurinjippadi

Seventy seven gold coins were discovered at Varadarajanpettai near Kurinjippadi in South Arcot District.

These coins belong to Ganga, Telugu Choda and Vijayana-gara Kings. A few golden pieces and some golden bangles were also found along with these coins. On one group of coins Tamil legend 'Ganda' is written in typical Chola characters and the figures of sun, moon, umbrella and Venugopala in standing posture holding flute in his hands are all on the obverse; while some zigzag lines on the reverse. These are identified as the issues of Gandagopala, Telugu Choda King.

8 Ancient Terracotta figurines

A terracotta figure, anterior to 12 centuries (8th century A.D.) has been discovered at Thirukovilur of the same taluk of South Arcot district. The figure is similar in style to the Yaksha figures discovered by this department at Poluvampatti and Panayakulam.

9 Later Pandya Paintings

Some fascinating paintings drawn on the wall of a Siva Temple of Sittaiyankottai near Attur in Quaid-E-Millad District, have been discovered by this department. It is understood that this temple was built during 13th century A.D. The inscription engraved on the pattika of the Northern wall mentions that the Sethirayisvaramudaiyar temple was built by an officer Anjada Perumal, in memory of his father. This village seems to have been a place of merchants and their guards as it is called 'Eriviratalam' in inscription.

The paintings, most probably of Later Pandya period depict the figures of Dakshinamurthy and Nataraja.

They are drawn in lines in red ochre on the surface prepared by a mixture of white, yellow and brown pigments.

10 Terracotta Figurine of Marattas

Some outstanding specimens of Terracotta figurines datable to 18th century A.D. were collected from Sekkadimedu, a suburb of Tanjore by this department. The above terracottas were found during the exploration carried out in view of excavation.

11 Terracotta Figure of a mother-goddess

A mother-goddess terracotta figurine has been discovered at Aravakurichi in Trichy district. The figure exudes motherly affection. The child is held on the mother's hip in natural stance. This terracotta figure of later Chola idiom, can be dated to 10th-11th century A.D.

12 Early Chola Sluice

A stone sluice belonging to Aditya Chola period has been located with the help of a school teacher, in Trichy District.

An inscription engraved on the pillar of this sluice mentions that it was established by an individual Maran Kuvavan of Kuntur. The inscription is written during the reign of Korasakesari. On palaeographical ground this inscription is datable to 9th century A.D.

13 Ganesa and Chandi Sculptures

One exquisite Late Pallava sculpture of Ganesa and a figure of Chandi assignable to early Chola period are found in a remote village Kundambakkam in Villupuram Taluk, South Arcot District.

Of these two, Vinayaka is worth mentioning since it is chiselled out as a panel depicting the figure in seated (Padmasana) posture. The significant features of this figure are the weapons in the hands and the offerings found in front of it.

14 Early Pallava Durga

A magnificent figure of a Durga datable to early Pallava period i.e. 6th-7th century A.D. has been discovered in Valaiyathur, a small village in North Arcot Ambedkar District.

This panel sculpture is seen standing on the head of a big mahisha (buffalo), holding a dagger in its right upper hand while a Conch or Kabala in its left upper hand. The right lower hand appears to hold a long sword placed across the abdomen. The left lower hand is shown in lola hasta position holding some unidentifiable object. As the workmanship of this figure appears to be crude and primitive it is considered that it could have been the immediate evolution of folk art.

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