

List of participants

T.V. Gopal Iyer (Ti. Vē. Kōpālaiyar) (b. 1925) has qualified himself for the Panditam title of the Madurai Tamil Sangam, Vidwan title, B.O.L. degree and B.O.L. (Hon.) degree of the University of Madras, has served as professor of Tamil in oriental Colleges for a period of 15 years, has edited *Ilakkana Viḷakkam* (eight volumes, 1971-1973), *Ilakkanaḱ Kottu* (1973) and *Prayōka Vivēkam* (1973), with elaborate self-sufficient notes for the research students, has been serving as a research scholar in EFEO Pondicherry since November 1978, has brought a (pre-)critical¹ edition of *Tēvāram* (1984-1985), has prepared a grammatical lexicon of Tamil dealing with all the branches of Tamil Grammar, has prepared the press copy of *Māraṅ Akapporuḷ* and *Tiruppatikkōvai* with the new commentary written by him and with all the necessary notes, has prepared for a new edition of *Māraṅ Alaṅkāram* and *Vīracōḷiyam* in the same way, has prepared a Tamil version of the old *maṇipravāḷam* commentary of the six books by Tirumaṅkai Āḷvār, and now is preparing the two books *Tolkāppiyam, Eḷuttatikāram—Nacciṅārkkīṇiyam*, and *Tolkāppiyam, Collatikāram—Nacciṅārkkīṇiyam*, removing all sorts of mistakes found in the previous editions and supplying them with all the necessary notes for understanding them easily.

R. E. Asher (b. 1926) is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, where he also served as Vice-Principal. He holds the degrees of B.A. and Ph.D. in French of the University of London and a D.Litt. in Dravidian studies of the University of Edinburgh. He has held visiting professorships in France, India, Japan and the United States. His research interests include French literature of the Renaissance, general linguistics, Dravidian linguistics, and modern Tamil and Malayalam literature. He is editor-in-chief of the ten-volume *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Pergamon Press, 1994) and joint editor of the *Atlas of the World's Languages* (Routledge, 1994). Among his other publications are *National Myths in Renaissance France: Francus, Samothēs and the Druids* (1993), grammars of Tamil (1982) and Malayalam (1997) and English translations of novels by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer (1980) and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai (1993), on the writings of both of whom he has published extensively. Collaborative works on Tamil include *A Tamil Prose Reader* with R. Radhakrishnan (1980) and *Colloquial Tamil* with E. Annamalai (2002). He was editor of the proceedings of the second International Conference-Seminar of Tamil Studies (Madras, 1968) and was President of the IATR from 1983–90. He is a Fellow of the Kerala Sahitya Akademi (1983) and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1991) and since 2000 has been a member of the General Council of the Tamil Sahitya Academy.

V.I. Subramoniam (Vadasery Iyemperumal Subramoniam) (b. 1926) is emeritus professor of Tamil Language and Literature and later of Linguistics, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, and is currently Honorary Director and founding member of the International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Thiruvananthapuram. He is also Honorary Editor of the *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*. He received his M.A. in Tamil Language and Literature from the Annamalai University and his Ph.D. from the Indiana University, U.S.A. The Jaffna University, Sri Lanka and the Tamil University, Tanjavur conferred on him Honorary D.Litt. degrees. He was the first Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University, Tanjavur. His efforts to establish a Dravidian University in

¹ François Gros [1984] writes: "we tend to consider this edition as the pre-critical stage, indispensable to the development of a stricter textual study" (PIFI 68.1, p. lxxvii, "Towards Reading the *Tēvāram*").

Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh resulted in the creation of a university there, and he was its first Pro-Chancellor. He has guided a number of important dissertations on the language of the Tamil *Caṅkam* and medieval texts and on Malayalam, apart from history and folklore. His own publications cover a wide range of subjects such as literary theories, periodization of literature, descriptive, historical and comparative linguistics and of recently brain and language. His *Index of Puranānūru* (1962), *Dialect Survey of Malayalam* (1974) and *A Descriptive Analysis of a dialect of Tamil* (2003) belong to a long list of publications (16 books and a hundred and two articles in professional journals). He was one of the editors of some of the Proceedings of the International Conference-Seminar of Tamil Studies organised by the International Association of Tamil Research. He has edited the three volume Dravidian Encyclopaedia.

Kamil V. Zvelebil (b. 1927) is at present Visiting Professor Emeritus at Charles University, Prague. After PhD in Indic Studies (1952) specialized in Dravidian languages and cultures. Teaching activities at Charles University, Prague; University of Chicago, USA; Heidelberg; Leiden and Utrecht universities, The Netherlands. Lectures at Madras, Delhi, Tokyo, Uppsala, Oxford, Collège de France etc. Many publications on Tamil literature, Dravidian linguistics and the Irula language and culture (Nilgiris); include also translations from Sanskrit, ancient and modern Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam, as well as many books and articles on Indian, in particular south Indian culture and religion, in Czech, Slovak, Russian, German, French, Italian and English. Author of the first *Comparative Dravidian Phonology* (1970) and of a *Lexicon of Tamil Literature* (1995).

S. Agesthalingom (b. 1929) is a former Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil University, Thanjavur. He is currently interested in research on Sangam Classics, especially on linguistic structure and how certain literary excellence is brought out best by exploiting certain structures of the Tamil language. By making use of uniform structures which include one and the same grammatical categories, the Tamil poets were successful in bringing the necessary literary appeal in their poems. Dr Agesthalingom is now engaged in writing a comprehensive Grammar for Modern Tamil, which runs more than one thousand pages, in Tamil and English. Recently he has published several books in Tamil on Sangam classics, *Tolkāppiyam* and a grammar of Modern Tamil (2002).

Iravatham Mahadevan (b. 1930) was educated at Tiruchirapalli and Madras, obtaining Degrees in Chemistry and Law from the Madras University. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1954. He has held several senior administrative and managerial positions in Government of India and the State of Tamil Nadu. He retired voluntarily in 1980 to devote himself whole-time to his academic pursuits. He has specialised in Indian Epigraphy, especially in the fields of the Indus and the Brahmi Scripts. He undertook a computer study of the Indus Script for the first time in India. His book, *The Indus Script: Texts, Concordance and Tables* (1977) is recognised internationally as a major source-book for research in the Indus Script. His major contributions in the field of Tamil-Brahmi Script include publication of the Early Chera inscriptions at Pugalur and the Early Pandya inscriptions at Mangulam. He has published the Corpus of the Tamil-Brahmi Inscriptions 1966 (1968), besides numerous papers on several aspects of the Tamil-Brahmi Script. His book *Early Tamil Epigraphy: From the Earliest Times to the Sixth Century A.D.* has been published early this year (2003). He has served as Editor, *Dinamani*, during 1987-91. He has served as the Co-ordinator, International Association of Tamil Research, for about 10 years (1980-90). He is presently a member of the Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research, Tamil Development Council of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Valarchi Kazhagam of the University

of Madras, Dr. U.Ve. Swaminathaiyar Library. He is also on the advisory panels of the Tamil University, Thanjavur and the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology. He presided over the Epigraphy Section of the Indian History Congress at Dharwar in 1988. He was the General President of the Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society at Thrissur in 1998. He was also the General President of the Indian History Congress Session held in Bhopal in 2001.

Ramachandran Nagaswamy (b.1930) obtained Master's degree in Sanskrit language and literature (Madras) and PhD in Indian arts (Poona). Fields of specialization: Art, Archaeology, Architecture, Literature, Epigraphy, Paleography, Numismatics, Temple rituals and philosophy, Ancient law and society, Music and Dance. Served as Curator for Art and Archaeology, Madras Museum (1959-63) and later joined the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology as Assistant Special Officer (1963-65) and became the First Director of Archaeology of the State and held that post till retirement (1966-88). Served as Head of the Epigraphy Program, EFEO Pondichery, and Consultant Government of India, Documentation of Cultural property (under the UNESCO program), under Indra Gandhi National Center for the Arts, Thanjavur Brahadisvara Project. Popularized Archaeology in Tamil Nadu, especially among Children through publications. Carried out Under Sea Archaeological Survey off the Coast of Pampuhar for the first time in Tamil Nadu. An acknowledged International Expert on South Indian Bronzes appeared as an Expert Witness in the London high Court, in the London Nataraja case. Has started the now famous Chidambaram Natyanjali Festival, 24 years ago with Kapila Vatsyayana. Organized an International Conference on Arts and Religion at Chidambaram in 2001, The proceedings Edited and published under the title "Foundations of Indian Arts". Organized several exhibitions including the one at the National Museum New Delhi in 1983 during the Non Allied Summit Meet. Conducted Excavations at important places like Kārūr, Alagankulam, Korkai, Gangaikonda chola puram etc. Published several books including *Masterpieces of South Indian Bronzes* [1983], *Siva Bhakti* [1989], *Tantric Cult in Tamil Nadu* [1982], *Uttaramerur* [1970] (in French, jointly with F. Gros) and *Facets of South Indian Art and Architecture*.

Gabriella Eichinger Ferro-Luzzi (b. 1931) was born in Germany. In 1968 she obtained the doctorate in geography, thesis in anthropology, University of Rome. Between 1985 and 1991 she had teaching contracts at the university of Venice, Bologna and Rome. From 1992/1993 to 2000/2001 she was associate professor of Tamil language and literature, Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples, retired. Her publications include: *Cool Fire: Culture-Specific Themes in Tamil Short Stories* (1983), *The Self-milking Cow and the Bleeding Liṅgam: Criss-cross of Motifs in Indian Temple Legends* (1987), *The Taste of Laughter: Aspect of Tamil Humour* (1992), *The "Incomprehensible" Writer: Tamil Culture in Ramamirtham's Work and Worldview* (1995), *The Maze of Fantasy in Tamil Folktales* (2002).

The late Vimala Begley² (1931-2000) was born in New Delhi and received much of her early education there. Later, she attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she earned a Ph.D. in 1965. Her dissertation advisor was Robert Dyson, later Director of the University Museum. From 1965 to 1967, Vimala Begley was an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and also an Assistant Curator in the South Asia Section of the University Museum. In 1968 she was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Iowa and, later, held a similar position at the University of California,

² Whereas other notices have, usually, been written by the various participants themselves, this one was kindly provided by Prof. Richard De Puma (School of Art and Art History, University of Iowa) who was also merciful in helping us to proofread the manuscript of V. Begley's article.

Berkeley. She remained a Research Associate of the University Museum throughout her career. From the late 1960s until her death on 22 March 2000 she divided her time between Iowa City and research trips to India. In 1970, Vimala Begley excavated in Sri Lanka and then began her long association with Arikamedu, the ancient site with which her name will long be connected. In 1986 she organized an international colloquium, held at the Archaeological Institute of America Meetings in San Antonio, on the trade connections between Rome and India. These papers, considerably expanded, formed the nucleus of *Rome and India: The Ancient Sea Trade* (Madison, 1991) which she co-edited with Richard De Puma. In 1996 the first of two projected volumes summarizing her work appeared as *The Ancient Port of Arikamedu: New Excavations and Researches, 1989-1992* (Pondicherry, 1996). The second volume is now in press.

Velcheru Narayana Rao (b. 1932) is Krishnadevaraya Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he has taught for over a quarter-century. Educated in India, at Eluru and Waltair, his thesis was published (in Telugu) as *The Structure of Literary Revolutions in Telugu* (Hyderabad, 1978). He has since published numerous volumes of translation and cultural and historical interpretation, including anthologies of classical Telugu poetry, twentieth-century Telugu poetry and (with David Shulman and Sanjay Subrahmanyam), *Textures of Time: Writing History in South India, 1600-1800*, New Delhi, 2001.

G. Vijayavenugopal (b. 1935) was educated in Annamalai University. After teaching at Annamalai University, he joined Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, and held positions like Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of Art History and Aesthetics and Founder-Principal, Madurai Kamaraj University College. He taught at College of Wooster, Ohio (Summer, 1971) and University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA for two years (1977-79). His publications, besides many papers, include *A Modern Evaluation of Nannūl* (1968) and *Nominal Composition in Tamil* (1979). After retirement, he has joined the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Pondicherry, and is in charge of the Epigraphy section. His English translation of Pondicherry inscriptions is awaiting publication. He is now engaged in compiling Tamil inscriptions found in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh States.

Alvappillai Veluppillai (b. 1936) (Arizona State University) Ph.D (Sri Lanka), D.Phil. (Oxon), Hon. Doctor (Uppsala). Former lecturer and associate professor of Tamil in the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; former Professor of Tamil in the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka; former Guest Professor in Religious Studies in Uppsala, Sweden; former lecturer in Tamil in University of Virginia; Senior Fellow of the Dravidian Linguistics Association and Visiting Professor in the University of Kerala (1973-1974); Visiting Professor in the International Institute of Tamil Studies (1980); Commonwealth Fellow in the University of Edinburgh (1981-1982). Wrote many articles in journals. Contributed chapters in books with collective authorship. Edited Sri Lanka Tamil Inscriptions in 2 books. Author of *Tamilvaralārīlakkaṇam* (Chennai, 1966), *Tamil ilakkīyattil kalamum karuttum* (Chennai, 1969), *Study of the dialects in Inscriptional Tamil* (DLA, Trivandrum, 1976) and *Epigraphical Evidence for Tamil Studies* (IITS, Madras, 1980). Co-editor (with Peter SCHALK) of *Buddhism among Tamils in Pre-colonial Tamilakam and Īlam*, 2 vol. Uppsala University, 2002.

E. Annamalai (b. 1938) received his M.A. and M.Litt in Tamil language and literature from Annamalai University and M.A. and Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Chicago. He taught in both these universities before joining the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore in 1971 as professor and deputy director. He designed and

guided the description of the tribal languages of India and the programmes of their teaching in schools besides participating in the multilingual communication, literacy and first and second language pedagogy projects of the Institute. He was involved in language policy and development work with the central and state governments of India. After retiring from the directorship of the Institute in 1995, he was a visiting fellow at the Institute for the Study of Asian and African Languages, Tokyo, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, and the University of Melbourne, Australia. He is a member of the advisory board of Terralingua (Washington D.C), of the scientific committee of World Language Survey of UNESCO (Bilbao, Spain), of the panel of the Endangered Languages Documentation Project (London) and of the National Council for the Promotion of Indian Languages (New Delhi). Besides publication of research papers on grammatical and sociolinguistic aspects of Tamil, he was actively involved in the preparation of *A Dictionary of Contemporary Tamil* (CreA, 1992), *A Dictionary of Idioms and Phrases of Modern Tamil* (Mozhi, 1997) and *Tamil Style Manual* (Mozhi, 2001), and co-author (with R.E. Asher) of *Colloquial Tamil* (Routledge, 2002). His other books include *Dynamics of Verbal Extension in Tamil* (1985), *Adjectival Clauses in Tamil* (1997), *Lectures on Modern Tamil* (1999) and *Managing Multilingualism in India: Political and Linguistic Manifestations* (2001).

Harold Schiffman (b. 1938) received his B.A. from Antioch College (1960) in German and French, and his M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1969) from the University of Chicago, in Linguistics. He has taught at the Universities of California (Davis) and Washington (Seattle). Since 1995 he is Professor of Dravidian Linguistics and Culture in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and since 2003, Pedagogical Materials Director of the newly constituted national South Asia Language Resource Center. His research interests focus on the Dravidian languages, especially Tamil, and he is currently exploring issues of grammaticalization in diglossic languages. He is also interested in the area of language policy, and is director of the Consortium for Language Policy and Planning. Recent publications include *Linguistic Culture and Language Policy* (Routledge 1996) and *A Reference Grammar of Spoken Tamil* (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Y. Subbarayalu (b. 1940) was educated at Madurai and Madras (Chennai). He taught as lecturer in Ancient History at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai and as professor of Epigraphy and Archaeology at Tamil University, Thanjavur. He was visiting Professor for one year in the Department of Oriental History, University of Tokyo and for two months at EPHE, Paris. His special fields are: South Indian epigraphy, particularly Tamil Epigraphy, history of Chola and Vijayanagar times, early historic archaeology of Tamil Nadu. He has been associated with Prof. Noboru Karashima of Tokyo University in the study of South Indian inscriptions, and in research projects relating to South-East Asia and Sri Lanka. His publications are: *Political Geography of the Chola country* (1973), *A Concordance of the Names in the Chola Inscriptions* (1978) (co-author with Noboru Karashima and Toru Matsui), *Palm-leaf Documents of Tiruchirappalli District* (1989), *A Glossary of Tamil Inscriptions* (2002-03), and several articles relating to the Chola state, historical geography, and names of persons. He is presently coordinating an ambitious project on a Historical Atlas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala from prehistoric times to 1600 CE. at Tamil University, Thanjavur in collaboration with French Institute of Pondicherry.

Achuthan Govindankutty Menon (b. 1940) is associate professor of Tamil and Comparative Dravidian at the University of Leiden, Leiden. He is also a Hon. Professor at the International Institute of Dravidian Linguistics, Trivandrum. Before coming to Leiden he worked in the Departments of Tamil and Linguistics, Kerala University,

Trivandrum. He took his M.A. in Tamil language and literature and his Ph.D. in Linguistics on *A Grammatical Study of Kamparāmāyaṇam* under the guidance of Prof. V.I. Subramoniam. In Leiden he received his further training from Prof. F.B.J. Kuiper (b. 1907). His publications are in the fields of Comparative Dravidian, linguistic history of Malayalam and Tamil, linguistic convergence in Tamil and Hindi, verb stem formation in Tamil, literary and cultural aspects of *Rāmāyaṇa* and finally Colonial Linguistics and the reconstruction of the spoken language. Two of his important publications are: "Tamil verb stem formation", *International Journal of Dravidian Linguistics*, XXVII (1), pp. 13-40 and "Copperplates to silver plates: "Cholas, Dutch and Buddhism", in: Klokke, M.J. & Kooij, K.R. van (Ed.), *The fruits of inspiration: Studies in honour of Prof. J.G. Casparis*, Groningen: Egbert Forsten, pp. 291-317 (2001). In 1995 he organised an International *Rāmāyaṇa* Conference in Leiden.

Alexander Dubyanski (b. 1941) was born in Moscow. In 1965, he entered the Institute of Oriental languages (now the Institute of Asian and African Studies) at Moscow State University where he learnt Tamil. His teachers were Yuriy Yakovlevitch Glazov (1929-2000) and Alexander Moiseevitch Piatigorskij (b. 1929). He also received guidance from Semion Germanovitch Rudin (1929-1973). He graduated in 1970 majoring in Tamil language and literature. In 1974, after postgraduate studies, he defended his Ph.D. thesis "The situation of separation in old Tamil poetry" in which he developed the idea of ritual roots of *akam* poetry. Since 1973 he permanently works as a teacher and a research scholar in the Department of Indian philology of the Institute of Asian and African studies where he teaches Tamil language and literature. The list of publications by Dr. Alexander Dubyanskiy includes around 100 titles of works devoted to different problems of Indian literature, culture, religion. In 2000 his monograph in English *Ritual and Mythological sources of the Early Tamil Poetry* was published in Groningen.

Dieter B. Kapp (b. 1941) was educated at Heidelberg (Dr. phil.: 1971; Dr. phil. habil: 1980). Since 1992, he is professor and director of the Institute of Indology & Tamil Studies, University of Cologne, Germany. His main fields of teaching include classical and modern languages and literatures of India (Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali; Old Avadhi, Hindi; Tamil). In research, his main interest and focus is on tribal languages, Dravidian as well as Munda. The research areas visited by him are the Nilgiri Hills District, Tamil Nadu, and the Koraput District, Orissa. Field research was carried out by him during 1974-1976, 1981-1982, 1994-1995, 1998-1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. In 1993, he organized "The First International Conference-Seminar on Dravidian Studies" at Stuttgart, Germany. In 1996, he launched a book series, entitled "Beiträge zur Kenntnis südasiatischer Sprachen und Literaturen"; which, so far, comprises ten volumes. His publications (and complete bio-data) are registered at the website <<http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/zfs/kapp.pdf>>.

George Hart (b. 1942) is Professor of Tamil and currently holder of the Chair in Tamil at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1975. The bulk of his research is on Sangam Literature, and, with Hank Heifetz, he recently published *The Four Hundred Songs of War and Wisdom: the Purāṇānūru* (University of Columbia Press), which won 2002 A.K. Ramanujan Book Prize for the best translation from an Indian language. Other works include his research on the nature of the Sangam poems, their relation to poems in Indo-Aryan, South Indian religion, and a translation with Hank Heifetz of the Forest Book of the *Ramayana* of Kampan. He is currently working on a translation of the *Patirruppattu*.

Jaroslav Vacek (b. 1943), PhDr., CSc., professor of Sanskrit and Tamil. Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague (since 2003). Has taught Sanskrit and Tamil since 1967, and between 1975 and 1989 also Mongolian. Besides textbooks (*A Tamil Reader Introducing Sangam Literature*, co-author S. V. Subramanian. Madras 1989; Textbooks of Mongolian I-IV, co-authors J. Lubsangdorji et alia. Prague 1979-1990) and translations, he wrote on problems of linguistics, comparative Dravidian and Altaic (*Dravidian and Altaic 'Water - Viscosity - Cold'. An Etymological and Typological Model*. Prague 2002, 359 pp.), and classical Indian literatures (Pandanus series since 1998). Vice-Rector of Charles University for international relations (1994-1997). Further cf. <http://iu.ff.cuni.cz/>

Peter Schalk (b. 1944) is full professor in the history of religions at Uppsala University, Religious Studies, Uppsala, Sweden, from 1983. His main fields of research are: Ritual transmission of Sinhala Buddhism through pirit and bana, the religions of Funan as state ideologies, the history of Buddhism and Hinduism among Tamils, and Religious expressions of social-economic conflicts in present South Asia. His publications are registered at the website <http://webdb3.uu.se/bibliografi/> [Search for Schalk]. One of his latest publication is P. Schalk et al. *Buddhism among Tamils in Pre-Colonial Tamilakam and Īlam*. Part 1-2. Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, Historia Religionum 19-20, 2002.

Emanuela Panattoni (b. 1945) is Professor of Dravidian languages and literatures at the University of Pisa, Dept. of Linguistics, since 1979. Her main fields of research are classical and devotional Tamil literature, and modern Malayalam literature. Among her publications are a series of articles on Dravidian loan-words in Pali and Sanskrit (in coll. with M. D'Onza Chiodo, published in "Indologica Taurinensia" V 1977, VIII-IX 1980-1981, XII 1984, in *L.Sternbach Fel.Vol.*, Lucknow 1979, and *Bandhu. Scritti in onore di C.Della Casa*, Alessandria 1997); *Inni degli Ālvār. Testi tamil di devozione visnuita*, Torino 1993; *I Dieci Canti (Pattuppāṭṭu)*, 2 vols., Milano 1995-1997; *Quattrocento poesie di guerra. Puṛaṇānūru*, Milano 2002. Forthcoming are studies on the organisational structures of classical Tamil anthologies and the book *Inni dei Nayanmār. Testi tamil di devozione scivaita*.

Sheldon Pollock (b. 1948) is George V. Bobrinskoy Professor of Sanskrit and Indic Studies at the University of Chicago. He was educated at Harvard (ABmcl Classics, 1971; Ph.D., Sanskrit and Indian Studies, 1975) and in India (Sanskrit with P.N. Pattabhirama Sastry, among others; Kannada with T. V. Venkatachala Sastry). He recently edited *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia* (Berkeley 2003), and, with Homi Bhabha et al., *Cosmopolitanism* (Duke 2002). His *Language of the Gods in the World of Men* is due out in late 2004 from Berkeley. Currently he directs the international research project "Indian Knowledge-Systems on the Eve of Colonialism."

Leslie C. Orr (b. 1948) is an associate professor in the Department of Religion at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Her research is concentrated in two overlapping areas: the roles and activities of women in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism; and the organization of religious life in the history of South India up to the late medieval period, including the examination of institutional structures, religious authority and social hierarchy, ritual forms and ritual performers, and the physical space in which social and ritual dynamics transpired, with a particular focus on the interactions among religious communities. She is the author of a number of articles in these fields, and of the book *Donors, Devotees and Daughters of God: Temple Women in*

Medieval Tamilnadu (2000), and a book in progress on the sociology of the medieval South Indian temple.

David Shulman (b. 1949) is Professor of Indian Studies and Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He was trained in Tamil philology by John Marr (b. 1927) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. His early work focused on the history of south Indian Saivism. More recently he has been concerned with the history of classical poetry and poetics in south India. Among his books are *The Wisdom of Poets: Studies in Tamil, Telugu, and Sanskrit* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001) and, with Velcheru Narayana Rao, *Telugu Poetry: An Anthology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002). From 1992 to 1998 he was Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem.

Osmund Boppearachchi (b. 1949) is *Directeur de Recherche* at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) Paris and visiting Professor of Central Asian and Indian Archaeology and Numismatics at the Paris IV Sorbonne University. He is one of the world authorities on Central Asian, Indian and Sri Lankan archaeology and history. He obtained his PhD from Paris I University and his "Habilitation à diriger des recherches" from the Paris IV University. He has published seven books and more than one hundred research articles in international journals, and has edited four volumes. His first major publication, *Monnaies gréco-bactriennes et indo-grecques, Catalogue raisonné*, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, 1991, won the "Gustave Mendel Award" from the French Académie des Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres and the "Bhagawanlal Indrajii Silver Medal" from the Indian Coin Society. The *Pre-Kushana Coins in Pakistan*, Islamabad, 1995 that he jointly published with Amanur Rahman was also award-winning in 1997. The Hellenic Numismatic Society (Athens) attributed him its Silver Medal in 1996 for substantial contribution to Greek numismatics. In 2002, the French Académie des Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres awarded its "Prix Drouin" for best publication on Oriental Numismatics" to his *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. Graeco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek Coins* (New York, 1998). He is the Director of the French Mission of Archaeological Co-operation in Sri-Lanka, a corresponding member of the American Numismatic Society, a member of several Numismatic Societies and the President of the Indian Society for Greek and Roman Studies.

Indira Viswanathan Peterson (b.1950) is a professor of Sanskrit and Indian Studies in the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, U.S.A. She previously taught in the Asian Studies Program, Mount Holyoke College. Indira Peterson specializes in Sanskrit and Tamil literature, Hinduism, South Indian cultural history and Karnatak music. Her publications include: *Poems to Siva: The Hymns of the Tamil Saints* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989), and *Design and Rhetoric in a Sanskrit Court Epic: The Kirātārjunīya of Bhāravi* (2003, State University of New York Press). Her current research focuses on literary genres and cultural history in Tanjavur and Tamil Nadu in the 18th and 19th centuries. She is completing a monograph on the Tamil *kuṛavañci* genre, entitled "Imagining the World in Eighteenth-century India: The *Kuṛavañci* Fortune-teller dramas of Tamil Nadu."

Kesavan Veluthat (b.1951) was educated in Calicut and New Delhi. After teaching in different colleges in Kerala since 1975, he joined the newly established Mangalore University in 1982, where he is now Professor of History. An expert epigraphist and a specialist on early medieval south India, Dr. Veluthat has published a few books, among which *The Political Structure of Early Medieval South India* and *Brahman Settlements in Kerala: Historical Studies* are the more famous, apart from several articles. He presided over Section II: Medieval Indian History of the Indian History Congress (1997) and

Section V: Historiography of the Andhra Pradesh History Congress. He has been a visiting Professor at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, in 1999 and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, in 2003.

Takanobu Takahashi (b. 1951) studied in Tokyo, Madurai (1979-1982) and Utrecht (1985-1988), and is Professor of Indian Literature at the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan. His field of research is Tamil classical and post-classical literature and poetics. Major publications are *Tamil Love Poetry and Poetics* (E.J.Brill, 1995) and *Tirukkuraḷ* (complete translation into Japanese, Tokyo, 1999). He is currently working on a translation of the *Tolkāppiyam Poruḷatikāram*.

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