

1 . REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SURVEY MISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOP- MENT OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND SITES OF INDIA March (15~23), 2000

Prof. Cyril Veliath SJ

On March 15, 2000, an investigative team of eleven scholars under the leadership of Dr. Yoshiaki Ishizawa of the Institute of Asian Cultures of Sophia University, departed from Narita airport to the city of Chennai in South India. The primary purpose behind this expedition was to undertake an investigative study of the ancient temples, monuments, and historical sites of the south of India, particularly those of Kanchipuram and Mamallapuram in the state of Tamilnadu, and Belur, Halebid, and Hampi of the state of Karnataka. In the process however, we also hoped to acquire as much as possible an insight into aspects of the culture and customs, that dominated those various cities. The trip was concluded within a week, and the team members returned to Tokyo on March 23.

The individuals who comprised the team were the following:

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Chief of the Mission.

Advisor to the UNESCO for South Asia.

Director General of the Sophia University International Mission for the Preservation of the Angkor monuments.

Professor of the Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.

(2) PROFESSOR UMESH PAWANKAR

Mission Coordinator.

Robert S. McNamara Fellow of the World Bank in Cultural Resource Management.

Lecturer, Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.

(3) Dr. TOMIO MORIAI

Professor, Tohoku Institute of Technology, Sendai, Japan.

(4) MRS. SACHIKO MORIAI

(5) DR. MASAO KATAGIRI

Professor, College of Science and Technology, Nihon University, Tokyo.

(6) PROFESSOR NOBUO ENDO

Senior Fellow in Historical Site Engineering, Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.

Advisor, UNIV in Cambodia.

(7) DR. YOSHIHARU NAKAO

Professor, Tezukayama Gakuin University, Osaka, Japan.

(8) MRS. SHINKO NAKAO

(9) DR. YOSHIYASU MATSUMURA

Professor, Tohoku Institute of Technology, Sendai, Japan.

(10) PROFESSOR TAKAHASHI SHIROAKI

Lecturer, Waseda University, Tokyo.

Lecturer, Tokyo University of Foreign Languages.
Research Fellow, Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.

(11) DR. CYRIL VELIATH SJ
Professor, Sophia University, Tokyo.
Director, Institute of Asian Cultures, Sophia University, Tokyo.

The team arrived in Chennai on the evening of March 15 after flying via Singapore, and at 8:30 AM the following morning we boarded buses to visit the city of Mamallapuram, which lay approximately two hours away by road. Accompanying the team was Dr. K. T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist attached to the Archaeological Survey of India. Mamallapuram was the port city of the Pallava rulers, and was of particular importance from the 7th to the 8th century. It is associated with two eminent Pallava monarchs, namely Mahendravarman-1 (580 - 630), and his son Narasimhavarman-1 (630 - 668). At Mamallapuram, the team visited the Varaha Cave Temple, the Kotikal Mandapa, the Krishna Mandapa, the Mahishamardini Cave Temple, the Trimurti Cave Temple, the Ganesha Ratha, the rock sculpture depicting Arjuna's Penance, and the Pancha Rathas, among others.

On March 17, the survey team undertook the visit of the city of Kanchipuram, and once again Dr. Narasimhan kindly made his services available, and provided the members with an excellent description concerning the background of the various sculptures. Kanchipuram, which is located approximately 60 kilometers away from Mamallapuram is one of the seven great holy cities of the Hindus, and was the capital of both the Chola and the Pallava dynasties, and for a time it was even patronized by the Vijayanagar rulers. Kanchipuram was famous from the 7th to the 9th century, and Buddhism and Jainism are also said to have flourished in this region. Among its various monuments, the team visited the Kailasanatha Temple, the Vaikuntha Perumal Temple, the Vardhamana temple, the Ekambareshvara Temple, and others.

From the 18th to the 19th of March we first flew to the city of Bangalore, and then traveled by road to the city of Hassan. From Hassan we visited the Chennakesava temple located in the city of Belur, and built in the year 1117 by Emperor Vishnuvardhana of the Hoysala dynasty. Later we proceeded to the city of Halebid which was the capital of the Hoysala rulers, where we visited the Hoysaleswara Temple built in the 12th century.

From March 20th to 21st we visited the city of Hospet, close to which is located the village of Hampi, containing the ruins of the Vijayanagar empire. Vijayanagar was the most powerful and renowned Hindu empire, between the 14th and the 16th centuries. Here at the ruins of Hampi, we visited among others the Virupaksha Temple, the Krishna Temple, the Tiruvengalanatha Temple, the Vitthala Temple, and the monolithic images of Ganesa and Narasimha. From the time of our arrival in Bangalore on March 18 until our departure to Chennai on the March 21, the team was accompanied by Dr. Jithendra Das of the Archaeological Survey of India, and Mr. Naquvi, the Regional Director of the Government of India Tourist Office.

On March 21st evening the team returned to Chennai, and on the 22nd morning we visited the Kalakshetra Foundation, where the members were all treated to a presentation of Indian Classical and Folk dances, and later on we proceeded to the Dakshina Chitra, where the president, Mrs. Deborah Thiagarajan, presented the members with an experience of life in a traditional South Indian setting.

Throughout the journey we received the active support and encouragement of several officials of the government of India, such as:
The Honorable Mr. Ananth Kumar, Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India; the Honorable Mr. R. Venkatraman, former President of India and Chairman of the Kalakshetra; Mr. M. P. Bezbaruah, Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism; Ms. Kasturi Gupta Menon, Joint Secretary in the

Ministry of Culture; Mr. S. B. Mathur, Additional Director General, Archaeological Survey of India; Ms. Girija Rajkumar, Principal Secretary and Resident Commissioner, Government of Karnataka; Mr. Om Kumar, Resident Commissioner, Government of Tamilnadu; Dr. Latika Padgaonkar, UNESCO; Captain Amrendra Singh, Chairman, INTACH; Dr. Premlata Puri, President, Center for Culture and Communication; Dr. M. C. Joshi and Dr. M. N. Deshpande, former Director Generals of the Archaeological Survey of India, and Dr. R. D. Chaudhury, Director General of the National Museum in New Delhi.

We are grateful also for the kindness shown to us by, Mr. A. P. Muthuswami, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu; Dr. K. T. Narasimhan, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, and his staff of able co-workers at Chennai, Mamallapuram, and Kanchipuram; Mr. T. R. Srinivasan, Special Commissioner for Art and Culture in the Government of Tamilnadu; Mr. R. V. Ramani, Member Secretary, and Mr. Rajaram, Director, Kalakshetra Foundation; Mr. Naquvi, Regional Director, and Mr. D. Venkatesan, of the Government of India Regional Tourist Office; Dr. Deborah Thiagarajan, President, Dakshina Chitra; Mrs. Geeta Ram, Secretary, Madras Craft Foundation, Mr. R. Kannan, the Commissioner for Museums in the Government of Tamilnadu, in Chennai; Ms. Achala Moulik, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Dr. D. Jithendra Das, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, and his able co-workers at Bangalore, Belur, Halebid, and Hampi; Mr. Naik, Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Government of Karnataka; Professor Balasubramanya, Deputy Registrar, Kannada University; Dr. Nanjunda Rao, Founder and Director, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; Professor Choodamani Nandagopal, Director, International Center for Indian and Cultural Studies.

Apart from all these I would include also the name of his Excellency Mr. Ryuichi Ishii, Consul General of Japan at Chennai and his staff of efficient co-workers, and a special word of gratitude needs to be extended to the Mission Coordinator, Professor Umesh Pawankar. Through his many telephone calls, faxes, and trips to various corners of the country, Professor Pawankar truly sacrificed a major portion of his time and energy to ensure the success of this expedition.

We are now considering the possibility of undertaking various collaborative projects with India in mutually beneficial areas such as Historical Site Engineering, a Holistic Approach to the Management of Historic Monuments and Sites, Archaeological Explorations, as well as Community Centered Conservation and Development of Physical Heritage in Pluralistic Societies. We have excellent reasons to believe that enterprises such as these would result in furthering professional dialogue and bilateral cooperation and exchanges, in the arena of conservation and development of tangible and intangible cultural resources in India.

April 21, 2000