

# An American in Madras

மதராஸில்  
ஒரு அமெரிக்கன்



Raja Muthiah Research Library  
*Annual Report*  
2013-14

Cover Page : Title card of the documentary film “An American in Madras”

“An American in Madras” directed by Mr. Karan Bali is a documentary movie about the American born Tamil movie director Ellis R. Dungan.

# *Annual Report* **2013-14**



ROJA MUTHIAH  
RESEARCH LIBRARY TRUST



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## **Main Objectives of the Trust**

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust endeavors to:

- undertake and enable development of research libraries and archives relating to south Indian studies in order to serve the needs of scholars;
- preserve and conserve documents of value for research;
- gather and generate knowledge about libraries and archives;
- disseminate that knowledge;
- train librarians and archivists;
- engage in international collaborative efforts for the betterment of services to readers; and
- engage in research in the areas of humanities and social sciences.

The Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust's principle current objectives are maintenance and development of the Roja Muthiah Research Library and affiliated bodies such as the Indus Research Centre.

**We acknowledge with gratitude the support of**

Mrs. Ramani Natarajan

A. M. M. Foundation, Chennai

Mrs. Uma Narayanan

Mr. M. V. Subbiah

Mr. P. R. Vasudevan

And all the donors who have generously supported the library.

## Annual Report Narrative

It was another year of tough time financially for the Trust. Several proposals were sent to different agencies for funding. Some are under consideration. However cataloguing and digitization of RMRL's material was carried out without any interruption using Library's limited fund. The work towards submission of digital images to the University of Chicago, which is a long standing commitment, was initiated and being carried out. The process includes digitizing and quality control of microfilms, which covers the area of classical & folk literature and indigenous medicine. On completion, these digital files will be added to RMRL's digital corpus.

An MoU was signed this year with the Francke Foundation, Halle, Germany for exchange of literary material. As per the MoU, Tranquebar publications, which are in possession of Francke Foundation, shall be digitized and brought to India for the access of scholars.

RMRL is in the process of exploring various mediums through which it can get in touch with the scholars and general public. In addition to lectures and exhibitions, RMRL screened some notable documentaries such as "Yaadhum" and "An American in Madras" this year. Yaadhum, directed by Mr. Kombai S. Anwar, explored the origin of Tamil Muslims. "An American in Madras" directed by Mr. Karan Bali is a documentary about the American born movie director Ellis R. Dungan, who directed

Tamil movies such as Meera, Shakuntala, Mandhiri Kumari. Both the documentaries were well received.

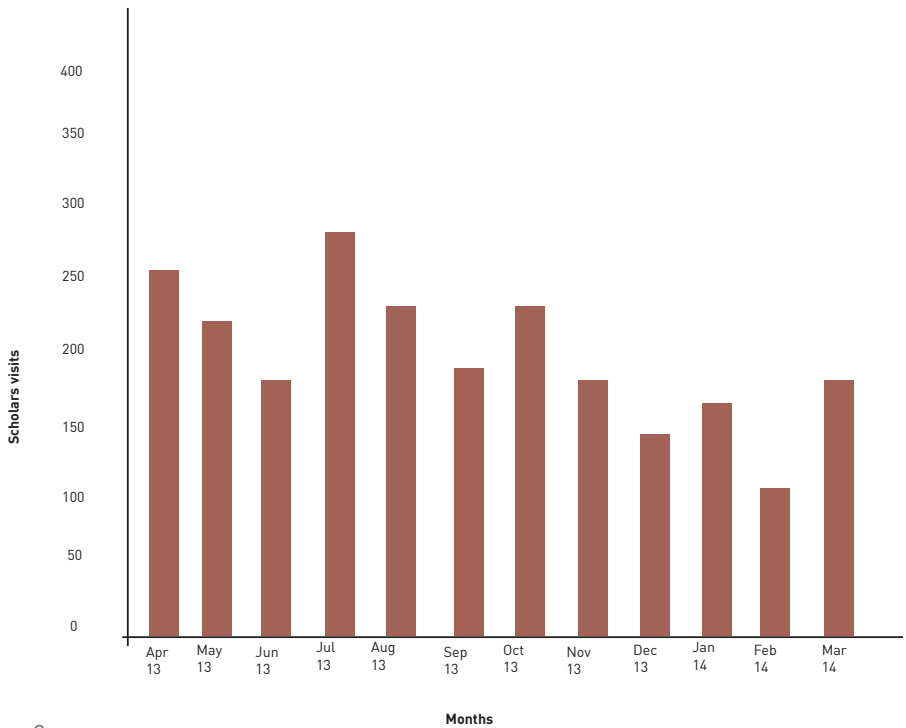
Setting up a financial corpus has become a crucial task for the Library. Appeals for donation have been submitted to several individuals and organizations. The trustees are meeting with potential donors and bringing them to Library. The proposal for expanding the Library building with the funds received from MPLAD scheme, a kind of gesture by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan is still pending with the concerned department. With all the efforts taken this year, we hope, the following year will be a fruitful one.

G. Sundar  
Executive Trustee  
August 2014

Reference Services

1204 scholars visited the Library 2,322 times for their research work during this year. There is a increase of scholars by 34% compared to last year. As in the past M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars as well as writers, freelance researchers and journalists have used the collection. 9,183 books and 6,792 periodicals have been put to use multiple times. In addition to the above figures, several scholars have received support over telephone and email services. Microfilms are also being put to use for their research work. Scholars continue to publish books using the Library collection.

Scholars visits to RMRL in 2013-2014: An overview



## Donors List\*

### Individuals

Mr. Abdullah Firousi  
Mr. Annal, Aru.  
Mr. Arunagiri  
Mr. Baskaran, S. T.  
Ms. Jayalakshmi, S.  
Mr. Kannan, S.  
Ms. Kanagambal  
Mr. Karuppan Chetty, V. R.  
Mrs. Mira Grimes  
Mr. Mohan  
Mr. Mugam Mamani  
Mr. Muthiah, S.  
Mr. Nandakumar, M. S.  
Family of late A. K. Paranthamanar  
Mr. Radhakrishnan, K. S.  
Mr. Ramanathan Chettiar, Sp. V.  
Mr. Saminathan, M. S.  
Mr. Sembai Xavier  
Mr. Sivagami, S.  
Mr. Somu Mathivanan  
Mr. Venkatachalapathy, A. R.

### Institutions & Publishers

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai  
Kanthalagam, Chennai  
Kalachuvadu, Nagercoil  
New Horizon Media, Chennai

\* This list provides the names of donors who have donated more than 10 numbers of print or audio records

## Documentation and Acquisitions

Cataloguing and indexing activities were carried out continuously with limited human resource. Of the 5609 books received through donation this year 3965 were identified as unique books and the rest of the books (30%) were identical with the RMRL's holding. The unique books were catalogued, added to the stack and made available to the public through online database. Single largest donation, comprising 2476 books, was received this year from the family members of the A. K. Paranthamanar, a renowned Tamil Scholar. Of these 56% books were unique. An analysis of Paranthamanar's donation as against RMRL's collection as below:

Period	Tamil	English	Unique	Earlier editions	Later editions
1839-1899	28	1	23	4	2
1900-1999	1130	169	1003	138	158
2000-2012	66	2	54	7	7
Total	1224	172	1080	149	167

Cataloguing of late Mu. Arunachalam's collection has been started. 2300 books were catalogued and the work is in progress.

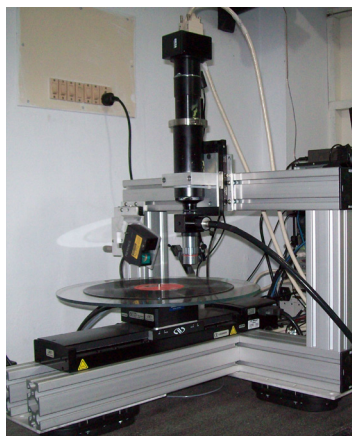
Our online book database was in Koha and we had encountered many technical issues with Koha. During the year we experimented the J-ISIS in a newly rented server. The experiment was successful with the technical help from Mr. Jean-Claude, developer of J-ISIS. Now our online database has been shifted to J-ISIS platform. RMRL provided continuous technical support to the development of J-ISIS and Web-JISIS. The search function had issues with UTF8 characters and it was reported to Jean-Claude. The problem was rectified and new search system was introduced in Web-JISIS.

## Reprographic Services

With funds received from the Centre for Research Libraries through the Library of Congress, New Delhi, RMRL has successfully completed the microfilming of Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada books for the Microfilming of Indian Publications Projects\*. 294 books were preserved through this project.

RMRL has provided digital preservation solution for the collection of GD Naidu Charities, Coimbatore. RMRL has digitized items which include print material, gramophone records, 35 mm film reel and palm leaf manuscripts for them.

As the Library did not have any major digitization project this year, the scanning equipments were utilized to preserve important materials from the Library and other collections. RMRL's own fund was used for this work.



IRENE

IRENE, a digital Gramophone recording equipment, developed by Scientists Dr. Earl Cornell and Dr. Carl Haber from National Berkley University, California, USA, has recently been enhanced with a high resolution camera, high powered light source and a fibre optic light guide. Its software has been enhanced to provide better sound clarity while tracing and recording from gramophone records.

\*To know more about MIPP visit <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/bibliographic/nbil/aboutmipp.html>

## **Indus Research Centre (IRC)**

During 2013-14 the Indus Research Centre (IRC) did not attract any new research project or funding. It is working on a project on Glossary of Terms in Tamil related to Indus was approved the previous year by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT). After doing extensive research, and doing several rounds of editing, the IRC team with support from outside experts has created an initial version of the Glossary with about 1,800 terms. IRC intends to expand on this version and make it more extensive, if funding becomes available.

## **Research Activities**

IRC is collaborating with the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in the area of Indus text analysis, specifically in the area of text segmentation. IRC continues to build on its collection of Indus research and reference materials . Bulletin of the Indus Research Centre no.3 “The ‘High-West: Low-East’ Dichotomy of Indus Cities: A Dravidian Paradigm” by Mr. R. Balakrishnan has been translated in Tamil and has been sent for review. C. Subramanian, Research Associate at IRC presented three papers on Indus Script at various conferences during the year:

## **Papers Published**

“Textual and Contextual Analysis of the Indus Script – The Contribution of Corpora and Concordances to the Field of Indus Script Research” was presented at the Indian History Congress held in Cuttack in December 2013.

“Textual and Contextual Analysis of the Indus Script – The Mahadevan Concordance and its Contribution to the Field of Indus Script Research” at the South Indian History Congress held in Poondi, Thanjavur in February 2014.

Contributions of Fr. Henry Heras S. J. to the field of Indus Script Studies at a Conference held in Commemoration of the Jesuit Jubilees in Loyola College, Chennai, in February 2014.

### Workshop

Mr. G. Sundar, Director of RMRL was invited to Halle, Germany, to attend the workshop “Palm leaf manuscripts in Europe and India” in November 2013. The three day workshop was organized by the Francke Foundation, Halle, Germany. Sundar presented a paper on “South Indian Palm leaf collections in India” in the workshop.

### Conference



Mr. G. Sundar, was invited to deliver the keynote address at a conference on Tamil Documentation in Colombo, Sri Lanka, organized by Noolaham Foundation on April,

2013. Sundar delivered a lecture titled “ஆவணப்படுத்துதலும் சமூகமும்” (Society and Archiving).

### Training programmes

RMRL provided training on archiving to staff from Godrej Archives, Mumbai. Training on digitization was provided to staff from archives of CSI Madras Diocese, Chennai.

## Articles published in Roja Itai (RMRL's quarterly newsletter)

அயோத்திதாசர் கையாண்ட திராவிடர் என்ற அடையாளம்,  
ஸ்டாலின் ராஜாங்கம், உதவிப் பேராசிரியர், அமெரிக்கன் கல்லூரி, மதுரை.

நூற்றொகை : ஆராய்ச்சிக்கான ஆதாரம், இரா. பிரகாஷ், உதவி இயக்குநர்,  
ரோஜா முத்தையா ஆராய்ச்சி நூலகம்.

முனைவர் ஐராவதம் மகாதேவன் அவர்களுடன் ஓர் உரையாடல், சந்திப்பு:  
க. சுந்தர், இயக்குநர், ரோஜா முத்தையா ஆராய்ச்சி நூலகம்.

வையாபுரிப்பிள்ளை பதிப்புகளில் பாட வேறுபாடுகள் பெருமாள்முருகன், தமிழ்  
இணைப் பேராசிரியர், அறிஞர் அண்ணா அரசு கலைக்கல்லூரி, நாமக்கல்.

தமிழ்த் திரையியல் ஆய்விற்கு மேலை ஆய்வாளர்களின் பங்கு S. தியோடர்  
பாஸ்கரன், எழுத்தாளர்.

மெஹர்கர் - சிந்துவெளிப் பண்பாட்டின் தொடக்கம். ச. சுப்பிரமணியன்,  
ஆராய்ச்சியாளர், சிந்துவெளி ஆராய்ச்சி மையம் ,ரோஜா முத்தையா  
ஆராய்ச்சி நூலகம்.

முத்தொள்ளாயிரம் : பாட வேறுபாடுகள் பெருமாள்முருகன், தமிழ்  
இணைப் பேராசிரியர், அறிஞர் அண்ணா அரசு கலைக்கல்லூரி, நாமக்கல்.

ஐரோப்பாவில் தமிழ் ஆவணங்கள் சுந்தர் கணேசன், ரோஜா முத்தையா  
ஆராய்ச்சி நூலகம்.

ஒற்றுமையில் வேற்றுமை - சிந்துவெளி ஆட்சிப் பரப்புகள் : ஒரு  
கண்ணோட்டம் ச. சுப்பிரமணியன் , ஆராய்ச்சியாளர் , சிந்துவெளி  
ஆராய்ச்சி மையம் ,ரோஜா முத்தையா ஆராய்ச்சி நூலகம்.

## Extension Activities

### Lectures / Exhibitions / Documentary Screening

#### Prof. M. Anandakrishnan Endowment Lecture series



Mr. R. Balakrishnan,  
delivering lecture

Dr. J. B. P. More, historian and author, delivered his lecture titled “Portuguese interactions with Malabar and its Muslims in the 16th century: A new era in clash of civilizations”

R. Balakrishnan, Honorary Consultant, Indus Research Centre delivered his lecture titled “Spatial and Temporal Dimensions of Sangam Tamil Literature”



Prof. Perumal Murugan,  
delivering lecture

Dr. Bernard D’ Sami, Loyola College, delivered his lecture titled “Labour Migrations: Past and Present – Issues and Challenges”.

Prof. Perumal Murugan delivered his lecture titled “திருமண அழைப்பிதழ்கள் அறிமுகமும்” (An introduction to wedding invitation)

Prof. William Sweetman & Dr. R. Ilakkuvan delivered a lecture titled “Bibliotheca Malabarica: Ziegenbalg’s Tamil Library”



Prof. P. S. Ramanujam,  
delivering lecture

Prof. P. S. Ramanujam, Technical University of Denmark delivered his lecture titled “Goldfoil from Tanjore”

## **Other lectures**

### **Lectures organized as part of Madras week celebrations**

Mr. K. R. A. Narasiah delivered his lecture titled “Memories of Madras”

Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy, Madras Institute of Development Studies, delivered his lecture titled “Thiru. Vi. Ka’s Chennai”

Prof. Ravi Vaitheespara, University of Manitoba, delivered his lecture titled “Re-inscribing religion as nation: Naveena Caiva (Modern Saivites), Tamil nationalism and Dravidian movement”

## **Exhibitions**

On the eve of Madras week celebration RMRL organized the exhibition of Mr. C. L. D. Gupta’s drawings on “Madras that is Chennai, The Queen of the Coromandal”. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. P. Chellappan, Director, Palaniappa Brothers, Chennai.

RMRL in association with the Rangamandira Research Academy, Chennai, organized an exhibition “Beholding the Attic”, curated by Dr. Swarnamalya Ganesh. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan.

## **Documentary movies**

“Sekkizhar Adi-p-Podi T. N. Ramachandran”, a documentary movie about the Saiva Siddhanta scholar and translator, directed by Mr. Ravi Subramanian was screened at the Library.

“Yaadhum” a documentary movie directed by Mr. Kombai. S. Anwar, that traces the origin and roots of Tamil muslims was released and screened at the Library.

“An American in Madras” a documentary movie directed by Mr. Karan Bali was screened at the Library. The movie highlights the career of American born Tamil movie director Ellis R. Dungan.

**Audit Report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions**

We have examined the Balance Sheet of **Roja Muthiah Research Library Trust** as at 31st March, 2014 and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said trust.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office of the above named trust so far as appears from our examination of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view –

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at 31st March, 2014
- (ii) in the case of the Income & Expenditure account, of the excess of income over expenditure of its accounting period ending 31st March, 2014

for Bhaskaran & Ramesh  
Chartered Accountants

Chennai  
01 August 2014

A Bhaskaran  
Partner

**Audited Financial Statement****Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2014**

Particulars	31.03.2014		31.03.2013	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>				
Capital Fund		29,264,545		25,599,160
Endowment Fund		668,150		668,150
		<b>29,932,695</b>		<b>26,267,310</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Gross block	29,148,482		24,903,611	
Less: Depreciation	3,076,855		2,624,343	
Net block		26,071,627		22,279,268
<b>Investments</b>		718,000		718,000
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>				
Accounts receivable		1,220,578		1,149,163
Cash and Bank balances		1,858,921		2,113,581
Loans & Advances		86,041		94,178
		3,165,540		3,356,922
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions				
Current Liabilities		22,472		86,880
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		3,143,068		3,270,042
		<b>29,932,695</b>		<b>26,267,310</b>

**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2014**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>31.03.2014</b>	<b>31.03.2013</b>
	<b>Rs.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions Received	4,362,318	3,991,578
Donations Received	310,876	1,150,031
Other Receipt	260,151	202,906
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,933,345</b>	<b>5,344,515</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Operating expenses	267,046	148,015
Employee expenses	3,424,821	3,735,366
Administrative expenses	1,326,205	1,354,399
Depreciation	452,512	531,001
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,470,584</b>	<b>5,768,781</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>	<b>(537,239)</b>	<b>(424,266)</b>

## **Accounting Policies**

### **i) Accounting convention**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis of accounting.

### **ii) Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period reported.

### **iii) Revenue Recognition**

The Income from Digitisation, Documentation, Reprographics, Training and Reference Services is accounted on Accrual basis.

Donations are accounted on Receipt basis. Interest is accounted on Accrual basis.

Project Work in Progress has been recognized on percentage of completion basis.

### **iv) Fixed Assets**

The Fixed Assets other than the Books owned by the Library are accounted at Cost and depreciated over the useful life of the asset.

The books & periodicals purchased for the collection are recorded at cost and not depreciated.

The books and periodicals received as donation are valued at fixed prices depending on the age of the book or periodical. These rates have been approved by the managing committee after considering the practices followed by similar organizations. These assets are not depreciated.

### **v) Depreciation**

Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on written down value method at rates arrived at based on the useful life of the asset.

Depreciation in respect of additions made during the year and put to use for less than six months has been charged at 50% of the original rate for the block.

### **vi) Investments**

Investments are recorded at Cost.

### **vii) Foreign Currency Transactions**

Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the rates prevailing on the date of transaction.

## Board of Trustees

Uma Narayanan, *Social Work*, Chennai

S. Muthiah, *History, Heritage Conservation*, Chennai

M. V. Subbiah, *Industry*, Chennai

S. Theodore Baskaran, *Cinema, Wildlife*, Bangalore

Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, *Education*, Chennai

Ramani Natarajan, *Law*, Chennai

G. Sundar, *Library & Archives*, Chennai

## Consultants

R. Balakrishnan, IAS

*Honorary Consultant*, Indus Research Centre

Moses Gladson and George Mathew, *Design Consultants*

## Staff

G. Sundar, *Director*

G. C. Suresh Babu, *Technical Officer*

S. Muthu Malathi, *Technical Officer*

E. K. Mohan, *Technical Assistant*

M. Ravi, *Technical Assistant*

R. Prakash, *Assistant Director*

M. Manikanda Subbu, *Development Executive*

A. Anjali, *Cataloguer*

A. Sathiyamurthy, *Technical Assistant*

## Research Fellow

C. Subramanian, Indus Research Centre



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3rd Cross Road, Central Polytechnic Campus, Taramani, Chennai 600 113

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