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AIM AND SCOPE

Crossian Resonance, the multi - disciplinary peer - reviewed and refereed national journal launched in June 2010, strives to reach research scholars from all directions as well as various cross-sections of society and provides a platform to resonate scientific findings to foster the spirit and aspirations of the academics and to promote a research culture among the erudite.

This journal has provided an opportunity and space to the Crossian scholars, Professors and research guides of our institution and other institutions at national and international levels. This little yet vibrant reverberation of intellectual sharing will definitely generate new knowledge and ignite and unleash power to re-search within the visionary researchers.

Crossian Resonance strives to keep up the standard from the first issue and all the papers published in this issue were assessed by competent referee editors and were recommended for publication. This journal is committed to the development and regeneration of the nation with the scope of providing an open and common platform to launch a united vision and empowerment of innovative knowledge.

May this endeavour grow and remain evergreen like an olive tree to create renewed awareness, dimensional consciousness and enlightenment.

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MEMORIALS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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Introduction

Memorial is a structure or a statue built in order to remind people of an important past event or of a famous person or a martyr who died in a war. In the Tamil speaking land they are called as Nadu-kal (erected stone) or veerakkal (hero stones). The earliest mentioning of these memorial stones are found in the sangam literature which speaks about the sangam age, the well remembered span of time for love, valour and hospitality. The literature of this period mentions not only about the erection of the memorial stone but also about its contents, process of workship and offerings made.

The hero-stones of sangam age were not plain but they contained name and fame of the heroes. These everlasting stones were worshipped with reverence. Hero stones or memorial stones are available in large quantity throughout Kanyakumari District. In this article the authors made an attempt to study about the memorials found in Kanyakumari District².

Hero – stone of Ranakeerthi (The Pandya Chieftain)

From the hero-stone of Ranakeerthi we come to know about the historic event happened during the regin of the Pandya king Maran Chadaya. He Vizhinjam and caused destructon there. To revenge this, the Cheras conquered the fort known as Karikottai, which was under the control of Pandyas at that time. In order to protect the fort the pandya army had fought bravely. In this battle the chieftain Ranakeerthi, who had fought for the pandya king, was stabbed to death. In memory of this chieftain a hero stone was erected. It discovered was by Manomaniam P. Sundaram Pillai Aralvaimozhy, who was the then director of Archaeological department, Trivandrum. In the hero stone the idol of the pandya chieftain Ranakeerthi was scattered. At present this heroic stone is kept in the verandah of the Art Gallery of the Padmanabhapuram Palace. The year mentioned in the inscription corresponds to 792 AD^3 .

2. Hero – stone of Raman Pillai at Punnarkulam

From the inscriptions found in the hero stone at Punnarkulam near Mylaudy it is found that one Raman Pillai of Eraniel Village had been serving in the second battalion of Travancore State. This second was known as Malayalam battalion Pattalam. The nature of his death was unknown. There is a bas-relief stone statue found near this stone. This stone remains fort the on Punnarkulam, at Kadukkarai to from extending Marunthuvalmali. It might have been a gateway to Travancore⁴. Probably this Ramanpillai might have defended this fort and met with his death in the process of safeguarding it. Hence, a heroic stone was erected during the regency of Gowri Parvathi Bai⁵.

3. Memorial of Anandan Samadhi at Thachanvilai

In Thachanvilai, about two kilometers away from the little town, Kattathurai, lies the little known samadhi of the forgotten hero of Venad. He was solely responsible to enthrone the king Marthandavarma (1729 - 1758) under a very peculiar political situation that happened in the country around the beginning of 18th century A.D. Marthandavarma is remembered as the maker of modern Travancore. But the real

hero Anandan, the king-maker who had crowned the king is forgotten by the people and the country.

palace once Thachanvilai The stood as a great mansion with not less than sixty-four doors and courtyards. However at present the little Arasa Kaali Amman Koil, the Sapta Matrika Peedhoms, the sarpa kavu, one sword, one important copper plate, and above all the simple samadhi are found neglected Thachanvilai. Ananda Padmanabhan, who had stood like a shield against all the political onslaught of the opposition Marthandavarma enthrone forces to as king of Venad was buried here.

Such a site of historical importance is not yet included in the list of archaeological records. It is a neglected site by many of the historians too. However Anandhan's picture drawn along with king Marthandavarma is exhibited in the palace museum till today.

4. Memorial at Colachel

During 1629-1758, with Padmanabhapuram as the head-quarters, king Marthandavarma ruled the Travancore region. The area comprising of the present Kanyakumari district was a part of the Travancore State. During his period a battle was fought at Colachel between the forces of Travancore and the Dutch on 10th August 1741. This battle

was known as the battle of Colachel⁶. During the early years of the eighteenth century the Danes established a small factory and a trading centre at Colachel⁷. As the Dutch had their base at Ceylon they decided to occupy Colachel to compete with the Danes. Marthandavarma, the Raja of Travancore decided to recover Colachel from the hands of the foreigners. Hence, a battle was inevitable and it was fought at Colachel in 17418. In this battle the Travancore force defeated the Danes easily. But the forces found it very difficult to drive the Dutch from the seacoast of Colachel. When the Maharaja deeply involved in war with Danes, Dutch strengthened their status at Colachel by inviting sufficient soliders from Ceylon under the leadership of De Lannay. The army of Marthandavarma encountered with the Dutch at Colachel. At this Tranvancore forces decisive battle defeated the Dutch9. To commemorate this victory, a pillar was erected in Front of the post office. The pillar commemorating the victory in the battle of Colachel in which captain De Lannoy was taken prisoner by Travancore army.

5. Gandhi Memorial

In memory of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial had been constructed at Kanyakumari where his ashes, was kept on 12th February 1948 before immersion. The construction of this memorial was began in 1954 and ended in 1956 at the cost of Rs.3 lakhs¹⁰. It has four mandapas, a prayer hall and three gopurams. The height of the highest gopuram in this memorial is 72 feet. It was constructed on the basis of North Indian style of art and architecture. The most important feature of the architecture of this memorial is that it allows the sun rays to fall on the sport where the ash of Gandhi was kept on 2nd October that is on his birthday¹¹

6. Memorial of Kamaraj or Kamaraj Mani Mandampam

Another remarkable memorial of is Kamarajar Kanyakumari district Manimandapam at Kanyakumari which is dedicated to Kamaraj a freedom fighter the former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. He was known as black Gandhi among the masses during freedom struggle and kingmaker during congress regime. It was built where his ashes were kept for general mass to pay homage before immersion into the sea. Today it is widely visited by people of the state to show their homage and gratitude¹².

7. Vivekananda Rock Memorial

At the land's end of India stands a majestic monument of Swamy Vivekananda, a great Hindu philosopher and a chief disciple of Ramakrishna

rocks There are two Paramahamsa. projecting out of the ocean, south - east of the Kumari Amman Temple at a distance of 450 yards from the taping end of the main land. Among the two rocks, the spacious rock which was chosen by Swamy Vivekananda for meditation is Vivekananda the known as Swamy Vivekananda visited Kanyakumari in the last week of December 1892 to have the blessing of Devi Kanyakumari before made a visit to Chicago where the World Religious Conference was held in 1893. On the evening of 28th December 1892 he swam across the sea to the rock, sat there the whole night in deep meditation and he got enlightenment. To propagate the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and to construct a befitting monument on the the Vivekananda rock sacred rock, Memorial Committee was formed in November 1962, with Ekanth Ranade as its secretary. Towards the end of 1962, on the eve of the birth centenary year of the Committee Swami Vivekananda, approached the Government of Tamilnadu to seek their permission for the erection of the Vivekananda Memorial the Vivekananda Rock. The plan of the memorial structure was prepared consultation with Tamilnadu Government and was taken up for execution on November 1964. S.K. Achari of

Devakottai, a renowned architect and engineer of the traditional school, designed the rock memorial which was decided to be built in granite stone¹⁵. The committee had chosen 2nd September 1970 for the consecration and inauguration of the memorial which synchronized the 77th Anniversary of the historic speech made by Swami Vivekananda at Chicago¹⁶. The then President of India V.V. Giri inaugurated the Memorial in a public function.

The Vivekananda Rock Memorial consists of two main structures, namely Shripada Mandapa and Vivekananda Mandapa. Besides this, other ancillary structures like water reservoirs, power distribution centre, etc. are found in the memorial rock. Within the Sripadha Mandapa the holy foot-print of the Goddess Kanyakumari is enshrined¹⁷.

8. Memorial of Thiruvalluvar Statue

Thiruvalluvar statue is located at the southernmost tip of the Indian peninsula where the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal meet in Kanyakumari. Here in the sea, about 400 metres from the shore, on the minor rock adjoining the Vivekananda Rock of statue Memorial stands a Thiruvalluvar¹⁸. monument The installed at the cost of Rs.6.14 crores. Its height 133 feet signifies the 133 chapters

of "Thirukkural" written by Thiruvalluvar. The statue measuring 95 feet is placed on the rock of 38 feet high pedestal (Ardha Peedam). The right hand of Thiruvalluvar with three fingers pointing skyward signifies the three cantoes of 'Thirukkural' 'Aram', 'Porul' and 'Inbam' 19. The foundation of the statue was laid by the former Prime Minister, of India Morarii Desai on April 15, 1979 in the presence of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.G. Ramachandran. After several modification, the installation was finalized when M. Karunanidhi the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu allocated funds in the 1990-91 budget. The actual work of sculpting began on September 6, 1990. The statue was placed on its pedestal on October 19, 1999

Conclusion

The Memorials of Kanyakumari District are rich in their values. These

Memorials attract a large number of tourists from all over the world. People in large number visit Kanyakumari and enjoy the sites of the historical memorials spread over Kanyakumari District. The style and architecture of these memorials differ rapidly from the North Indian monuments. The memorials of the district have also boosted the tourism industry and attracted a lot of foreigners who are visiting Kanyakumari to have a glimpse of these historical memorials. Much efforts has been put in by the Government of India to preserve these ancient and historic memorials. Memorials in Kanyakumari District are the monumental examples of our antiquity which speak of our glorious culture and above all stimulate the scholars of history to explore the past history of India.

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