

## 6<sup>th</sup> Classical Tamil Winter Seminar

Organised by the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient  
in Pondicherry, 11<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2008

The Pondicherry “Classical Tamil Winter Seminar” is back on schedule and will take place for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in February 2008. This time, as in 2005, there will be two levels, for beginners and advanced students. The text we propose to read for the first week is a little known Akam anthology in VeNpaa metre, the *Aintiṇai Aimpatu*, one of the *Patinenkīlkkāṇakku*, the 18 minor classics. As the title indicates, it comprises only 50 verses, so we will easily be able to read the whole text. Like many works of its kind, it has not been edited often, commentaries are late and meagre and translations do not exist at all. Morphology, syntax and vocabulary are somewhere between those of the early classical and the bhakti stages of the language, and the author takes a certain amount of liberty with the older thematic conventions. Since we are fortunate in having access to a number of manuscripts, we will try to improve on the transmitted text and therefore also have some discussion on what improving an old Tamil text might mean. The second week will be dedicated to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> decades of the *Patirrupattu*, the small Cankam anthology dealing with the deeds of the Ceera dynasty. In the following two weeks, we shall return to more familiar territory to examine selected episodes from a text every student of Tamil ought to be acquainted with, the *Kampa Rāmāyaṇam*. The work is a 12<sup>th</sup>-century late-comer in the annals of poetry and has been ignored by the commentators of grammar and poetics, but it is one of the most popular classics of today.

Detailed program on the EFEO website under: [http://www.efeo.fr/ctws\\_2008/index.htm](http://www.efeo.fr/ctws_2008/index.htm)