

9th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar in 2011

Organised by the centre of the École Française d'Extrême-Orient

in Pondicherry, 15th to 26th of August 2011

This year's summer will be particularly eventful with no less than two workshops, one before and one after the CTSS, for which reason the latter will be reduced to two weeks. August is meant to start with *Archaeology of Bhakti in South India* (workshop cum conference organised by Emmanuel Francis, Valérie Gillet and Charlotte Schmid, from 1st to 12th August 2011). The second half of the month will be devoted to the regular CTSS. The texts chosen are the three Vaishnava *Antātis*, composed by Poykaiyālvār, Pūtattālvār and Pēyālvār, the earliest part of the Vaishnava bhakti corpus, the *Tivyappirapantam*, and probably dating back to the 6th century of the Common Era. On the one hand they are, unlike most bhakti texts, still in *Veṅṅpā*, the post-*Cankam* classical metre, but on the other hand they reflect already a fully developed Vaishnava mythology with most of the common Avatars of Vishnu and direct references to temple worship. Late August and early September will be an extended round table meeting of the scholars involved in the EFEO *Cankam* project, with the objective of discussing and testing methods of textual criticism on the basis of the manuscript material supplied by the project (organised by Eva Wilden, from 29th August to 9th September 2011).