

I used the South Asia Initiative faculty funding I received to support travel, attendance and stay at the 13th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar organized by the Centre of the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFO) in Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu for three weeks in August, 2015. I met my proposed goals, which included attending the 13th Classical Tamil Summer Seminar, acquiring Modern and Classical Tamil teaching and learning resources including dictionaries, texts, audio-visual and other materials, strengthening networks with local and international Tamil scholars, and re-invigorating my spoken Tamil language skills. All of these activities have enabled me to enhance the Tamil teaching curriculum at Harvard, especially the way I approach teaching Classical Tamil. These improvements were palpable this past academic year, and students of mine have already begun tapping into the network of scholars this trip helped to expand.

In addition to meeting my proposed goals, there were two unexpected outcomes. One, I completed an English translation of a Tamil graphic novel called Chandrahasam, published by Vikatan Publishers. An article about the translation can be found here:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/history-of-pandyas-in-graphic-details/article7763440.ece>

And two, two students of mine who were traveling in India at the time of the seminar were able to attend the seminar with me for a day and experience it first-hand. It is likely that they will participate in the seminar in the future.

Find photographs of the seminar on Page 2.

Ripley
SAI Grant Report – Summer 2015

