

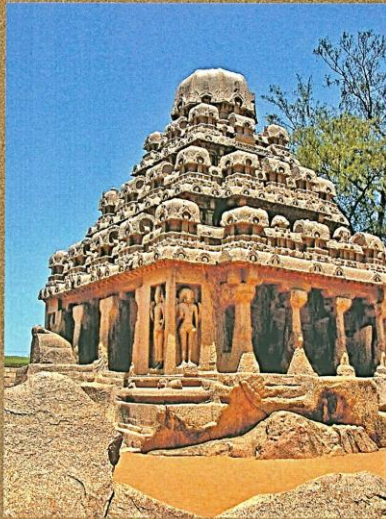
with best wishes

R. Nagaswamy

Monumental Legacy 30.9.2016

OXFORD INDIA PAPERBACKS

MAHABALIPURAM



R. NAGASWAMY

MONUMENTAL
LEGACY



R. Nagaswamy

Ramachandran Nagaswamy (born 10 August 1930) is an Indian historian, archaeologist and epigraphist who is known for his work on temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu. He served as the founder-Director of the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department. He was also instrumental in starting the annual Chidambaram Natyanjali festival in 1980.

Nagaswamy served as curator for art and archaeology in the Government Museum from 1959 to 1963. In 1963, he was appointed Assistant Special Officer for Archaeology for Tamil Nadu state and from 1966 to 1988; he headed the newly formed Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department.

Nagaswamy was awarded the "Kalaimamani" award by the Government of Tamil Nadu for his pathbreaking work on Sekkilar's Periyapuram. He appeared as an Expert Witness in the London High Court, in the London Nataraja case

Built in 700 CE by the famous Pallava king Rajasimha, Mahabalipuram is a unique monument where art form combines with religion and legends. Also known as Mamallapuram, it showcases the best of Tamil art and architecture.

The beauty of the monument is further enhanced by its location on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, the latter significantly influencing the creations. Part of the prestigious Monumental Legacy series, this book presents a graphic account of the site and its monuments-mandapas (cave temples), rathas (chariots), open air bas-reliefs, and structural temples. Arjuna's penance to obtain Pashupata weapon from Lord Shiva; Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura; Vishnu's incarnation as varaha; Goddess Lakshmi, personification of beauty; Krishna lifting the Govardhana Hill-all familiar legends come alive in Mahabalipuram. The author also surveys other related sculptures, panels, and inscriptions like Adivaraha cave, Mahishasura Mardini cave and panel, Varaha cave and panel, and the shore temple.