

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit participated as chief guest and released the book 'MADRAS INKED ... IMPRESSIONS OF AN ARTIST AND AN ARCHITECT' at the function jointly organised by The CP Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation

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Hon'ble Governor said, "I am delighted to release the book, MADRAS INKED ... IMPRESSIONS OF AN ARTIST AND AN ARCHITECT at the function being jointly organised by The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation. That the beautifully produced book is being released during this month of August, when the city of MADRAS is being celebrated is most appropriate. The book, co-authored by the immensely gifted artist, Mr. Manohar Devadoss and the renowned architect, Mrs. Sujatha Shankar, encapsulates the essence of our city.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the Second President of India, once said, and I quote, "Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures". I have had the pleasure of going through the book and seeing the collection of Heritage structures and landmarks in impeccably fine line drawings accompanied by deeply insightful narratives that bring to life the history and architectural features of the landmarks.

That a physical book is being brought out in this digital era, itself is a matter to be celebrated. Enjoying the marvelous drawings and reading the engaging texts and feeling the textured paper while turning the pages of the book itself is a joy, which only a physical book can bring.

What can I say about Manohar Devadoss? Incredibly talented, extraordinary human being who despite having challenges in his eye-sight, has created beautiful fine line drawings over the decades until he went totally blind. Each drawing in this book is itself a masterpiece, with great detail and amazing quality of rendering. He has rightfully been honoured with a Padma Shri last year. He is a living example of how to live life courageously overcoming drawbacks and I am extremely proud of him.

Sujatha Shankar, architect, has written the texts that describe the illustrations in great depth and detail, bringing out aspects of its architectural character and historical significance. She is passionate about heritage and architecture. She has written on Madras in Architectural journals and is the Convenor of the Chennai Chapter of the national organisation, INTACH, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage. Her passion for heritage is evident and comes through in the MADRAS INKED book.

The organisations associated with the book bring further dignity to the publication. Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation, who has supported the printing of the book, is doing yeoman service to the city of Madras by bringing out the fortnightly MADRAS MUSINGS. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, which I know very well, are the publishers and distributors of the book.

It is very noble that the authors are donating the proceeds of the book to three charitable organisations, for children with Cancer, for the visually-challenged and for education of children:

- ❖ Mahesh Memorial Trust for the Paediatric Oncology Centre at Cancer Institute.
- ❖ Govel Trust for the Mahema Devadoss Endowment of Aravind Eye Care System.

- ❖ The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation for Saraswathi Kendra Learning Centre for Children.

The book that showcases Madras would be a valuable possession not only to citizens of Madras but to anyone interested in how culture and history shape our cities. Its traditional houses, old markets, places of worship, statues, public buildings and waterfront are all aspects that give identity to a place. The book MADRAS INKED certainly creates a sense of pride in our Heritage, creates awareness about preserving the past that enhances the richness of the city's fabric. This is crucial to keep in mind and respect the past and its records, as we move in a rapidly paced world of development today. If both heritage and development can coexist in harmony, we would have left a legacy for our future generations which will give them a sense of belonging and connect them to their roots.

The Icons of Madras covered trace its great journey. From the ancient monuments of Mahabalipuram to the shrine at St. Thomas Mount, from Ripon Building, housing the first Municipal Corporation in the country to the magnificent High Court Buildings, from Chepauk Palace to the parade of University buildings along the Marina, from the temples of Thiruneermalai to Triplicane and Mylapore, from St. Mary's Church inside Fort St. George to St. George's Cathedral and Wesley Church, Thousand lights mosque, National Art Gallery, Central Station, Heritage Bungalows, Streetscapes, Buckingham Canal and Triumph of Labour statue.

Delving into the heritage of Madras through these sixty impeccable drawings with interesting, historical and architectural texts, reestablishes and reinforces my happiness to be in this city.

It gives me great happiness to release the book MADRAS INKED ... IMPRESSIONS OF AN ARTIST AND AN ARCHITECT.

The book is a wonderful asset for anyone all across age groups, young and old, for anyone interested in heritage, architecture and cities. Specifically, I think would provide great learning for students especially those in the architecture and engineering

streams, to understand the styles and techniques of yesteryears in the journey of architecture as it has evolved over the years. The book would be of interest and value not just for architecture and engineering students, but also for art and history students, who can learn much from the drawings and the texts. The drawings are inspirational for anyone seeking to be an artist and is an absolute visual treat. The texts that trace the history and set the context of the structure provide deep insights to how history shapes our buildings and environment. I encourage universities and libraries to acquire it as a valuable addition to their collection to benefit many.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Authors, Mr. Manohar Devadoss and Mrs. Sujatha Shankar for their efforts in preparing this book and The C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation for organizing this function. May they be visited with success in all their endeavours.”

On this occasion, Tmt. Sujatha Shankar, Author, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, Thiru. Manohar Devadoss, Author, Dr. Nanditha Krishna, President, CPRAF, Thiru V. Sriram, Director, Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation, Justice Tmt. Prabha Sridevan (Retd.), Former Judge of the Madras High Court and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 19.08.2021

Addl. Director (PR)