



November 2016

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We are on the cusp of our organization's ninth residency session. We are welcoming an exciting array of writers and translators from across India as well as Switzerland, Germany Korea and the United States. We are also happy to welcome back our residency manager, **Pascal Sieger**, and to announce that **Giles Hazelgrove**, an alumnus of our program will be sharing residency management duties with him. We are lucky to have both of them on our team.

So much has happened since we wrote to all of you at the beginning of the year. Most notably, we commenced with a major new project: **Yali**. The name harkens back to a hybrid of many animals and is a guardian deity in south Indian temples. The project is generously supported by the **Aditi Foundation**, which has been a supporter of Sangam House for several years, and expressed a commitment to sustain the project for the next few years.

Yali seeks to assemble and mentor translators interested in translating literature from regional languages within Indian, often marginalized by market forces, into other languages -- Indian and beyond. What's more, Yali will also seek publishing partners to disseminate the work produced by the endeavor.

The project began with an August workshop at Sangam House where a pilot cohort of translators and publishers set the focus and timeline for Yali's first undertaking. The group committed to producing three new translations for *Ghachar Ghochar*, a novel written in Kannada by Vivek Shanbhag: Bengali (through English), Tamil, and Hindi (both direct from Kannada.) We're also helping to find a Marathi publisher for a translation that has just been completed.

Mentoring for these translators begins in December with a follow up mentoring workshop scheduled for June of this year. The mentoring workshop will also have a young Malayalam translator into English. The text at hand will be a short work to be chosen by Juggernaut Press and then published by them. The fourth pair at the mentoring workshop will be a direct Bengali to Hindi short work, which will also chosen by the mentor and to be published by Yatra books.



We anticipate that final drafts of translations will be completed by August 2017. Yali has already secured publishers for both Hindi and Tamil. All of this would allow for four Yali supported translations published and out there by August 2017.

What's more, at Bookmark at Jaipur Literary Festival in January 2017, we are programmed to bring publishers of translations and book review editors together to make a pitch for the new works from Yali that will be out in 2018 and secure a commitment to review at least one translation every month -- all this as a prep for 2018 'Reading India in Translation' year with book stores, book reviews, and lit fests -- all doing a translation focus.

With continued generosity from the Aditi Foundation, we anticipate organizing a Yali translation workshop every June, always focused on under-served languages, specifically Assamese and Oriya for which we already have resource collaborators. Our pilot cohort is also looking at tribal languages for potential future translation undertakings.

In February we completed publication of the third volume of the **Sangam House Reader**, featuring work from all of our residents from seasons five and six. And there is no rest for the weary: we are already finalizing layout and cover design for volume four, which will feature work from season seven and eight residents. Thanks once again to our faithful partner, **InkoCentre**, for making the Sangam House Reader possible.

Sangam House alumni have had a banner year receiving nominations and awards for their work. Highlights include: **TK** (I can scroll through our group page but please help me here with a major publications, nominations, awards. Here is what we already included in January newsletter: **Namwali Serpell**, winner of the Caine Prize; **Rohini Mohan**, winner of the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and the Tata Literature Life Nonfiction Award; **Aditi Rao**, winner of the Satish Verma Young Writer Award for Poetry; **Shahnaz Bashir**, winner of the Satish Verma Young Writer Award for Fiction; **Karthika Nair**, winner of Tata Literature Life Book of the Year Fiction; **Anu Singh Choudhary**, winner of the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism; **Priyanka Dubey**, winner of the 2015 International Center for Journalists Knight International Journalism Award; **Perumal Murugan**, winner of the Samanvay Literature Prize; **Jeremy Tiang**, recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts (U.S.) Literary Translation Fellowship; and **Janice Pariat**, who was shortlisted for The 2015 Hindu Prize.)

It is hard to believe that our next season will mark Sangam House's tenth anniversary. It has been quite a decade, which would not have been possible without the generosity, support, and talent from all of you. We will be developing special programming to mark the anniversary and look forward to involving all of you in that celebration.



Until then, we look forward to encourage the work of the residents who will be joining us later this month. And of course we welcome visits from all of our friends and supporters. If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit Sangam House we encourage you to do so as there is no better way to understand the power and impact of the experience.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson & Rahul Soni