



January 2017

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We're just about finishing up with our ninth residency session, having hosted 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. And it's heartwarming that our new colleagues come to us from within the residency program itself.

So much has happened since we wrote to all of you last year. As the residency program has grown into itself and is now run by able and committed residency managers, Sangam House has been able to look at other kinds of program work – most specifically, translations and publishing. We had always hoped that as we reached our tenth year, Sangam House would be able to fulfill its larger mandate of support for literary cultures in various ways.

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 across Indian languages. It is exciting that we are able to encourage and support translations directly from one Indian language into another, without the use of English as a *via media*. What's more, Yali is committed to taking these new translations to publication through our network of publishers in regional languages and English.

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) and to find a Marathi publisher for a translation that has already been completed.

Our mentoring workshop will be held in June to make these translations for publication with publishers we have already identified. Further, the workshop will include two new translators who will be translating short works for publication. The second half of the year will bring these plans to public fruition and we are very excited about that.

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.

Our poetry page, Poetry@Sangam continues with its quiet success. Later this year, Rumour Books is publishing an anthology of poems in translation from the page as *Fafnir's Heart*.



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 continue to win awards for their work. Raghu Karnad won the Sahitya Akademi's Yuva Puraskar (the National Academy for Literature Young Writer award) for his book *The Farthest Field*. Perumal Murugan's rebirth as a writer continued to be celebrated with the Atta Galatta Award for Fiction for *Pyre* and Priya Sarukkai Chabria, who edits Poetry@Sangam has been nominated for the Pushcart Poetry 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.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson & Rahul Soni