

P.R. No : 308

Date : 03.04.2010

### Prof. Asko Parpola

Asko Heikki Siegfried Parpola, presently Professor Emeritus, Department of Indology, University of Helsinki, Finland, was born at Forssa on 12 July 1941 as the son of Aatto Kalervo Parpola and Taimi Mirjam, née Salonen. His maternal grandfather, Rev. Kaarlo Erkki Salonen, was a missionary in Japan for many years and his uncle, Armas Salonen, was Professor of Assyriology at the University of Helsinki. His younger brother, Simo Parpola, an eminent Assyriologist, succeeded Salonen at the University of Helsinki. Asko had his traditional classical education at the Normal Lyceum of Helsinki and after matriculation in 1959, he became a student of Indology and Classics at the University of Helsinki. He secured his Cand. Phil. (M.A.) in 1963 and Lic. Phil. in 1966 and completed his Ph.D. in 1968. From 1967 to 1972, he served as Research Fellow at the Centralinstitut for Nordisk Asienforskning in Copenhagen. The Docentship of Indology at the University of Helsinki was conferred on him in 1969 and the personal chair as Professor of Indology in 1981.

Prof. Asko Parpola is internationally recognized as the leading authority on the Indus script as most of his time and energy have been devoted to the onerous task of solving the Indus script. Since 1968 he has been stressing that the Indus civilization and its writing are Dravidian. A reputed Indologist, his research and teaching interests include Indus Civilisation, Samaveda, Vedic rituals, South Asian religions and prehistoric archaeology of South and Central Asia. He made a profound study of Dravidian Linguistics and Old Tamil in order to deepen his research on the Indus Script. His magnum opus Deciphering the Indus Script (1994) proposing Dravidian as the language of the Indus script has been hailed as a classic in the field. His Concordance to the Indus Texts has been serving as a scholarly source on the subject. The two volumes of The Corpus of Indus Seals and Inscriptions published under Parpola's leadership with financial assistance from UNESCO reproduce the original seals and their impressions and are considered indispensable for any meaningful research on the Indus script.

Prof Asko Parpola richly deserves the Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Award – 2009 for his work on the Dravidian hypothesis in interpreting the Indus script especially because the Dravidian as described by him is very close to Old Tamil.

வெளியீடு, இயக்குநர்  
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை,  
தலைமைச் செயலகம், சென்னை-9