

**Vriddhachalam Shiva Ardhanari**

<b>Item Listing:</b> SCK000002	<b>Name &amp; Material:</b> Shiva Ardhanari, Stone
<b>Origin:</b> Vriddhagireeswarar Temple, Vriddhachalam, Tamil Nadu, India	<b>Period:</b> Chola Dynasty, 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> C CE
<b>Status:</b> Case registered By Idol wing.	<b>Valuation:</b> 300,000 Usd ( 2004)
<b>Current location:</b> Art Gallery of New South Wales.	<b>Evidence / Proof:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Published Book reference Early Chola Architecture and Sculpture, 1974, Author Douglas Barret</li> <li>2. Photo archives from the French Institute Pondicherry – documented 3 occasions – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 1958, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1967 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 1974.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Status:</b> Exhibit is off display from the Museum and handed over to the Culture Ministry of Australia headed by Mr. George Brandis. MEA has written to the Australian Government on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2014 seeking the return giving 30 days' notice to dispute the claim of Indian Government. <b>Since 3 months already passed and the Australian Government has not raised any dispute to seek immediate restitution.</b>	Attached supporting documents as proof.



© IEP/EFTO

Fake Idol currently under worship in the Temple



Exhibits/supporting Proof:

- 1) Douglas Barret published photo in 1974

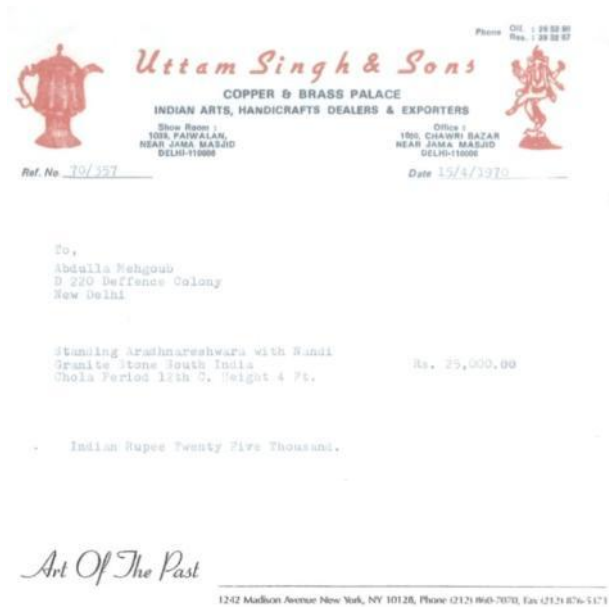


- 2) IFP archive date ( photographing in situ) on 3 separate occasions:

ROLL_NO	EXPO_NO	DATE	PLACE	DISTRICT	TALUK	MONUMENT	SUBJECT
00567	7	31-Jan-58	VRIDDHACHALAM	South Arcot	Vriddhachalam	Siva Temple, Sri Vriddhachalesvara	Ardhanarisvara
04317	5	30-Oct-67	VRIDDHACHALAM	South Arcot	Vriddhachalam	Siva Temple, Sri Vriddhachalesvara	Ardhanarisvara
06497	7	04-Mar-74	VRIDDHACHALAM	South Arcot	Vriddhachalam	Siva Temple, Sri Vriddhachalesvara	Ardhanarisvara



- 3) Falsified Provenance papers from Uttam Singh & Sons, Delhi and Raj Megoub. The Hindu ( paper) already visited Uttam Singh & Sons and proved this to be faked.



**LETTER OF PROVENANCE**  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 2003

I, Raj Megoub, hereby certify that the Granite sculpture of Aradhnareshwara leaning over the handi from South India, Tamil Nadu, Chola, 10<sup>th</sup> Century, Dimensions: 46 1/2 x 19 x 12 inches was purchased by my husband, Abdulla Mehgoub who was diplomat in Delhi from Sudan during his posting there from 1968 to 1971

  
Raj Megoub  
63-58 grand Central Parkway