

T.K. CHANDU PANIKKAR
T(hotton) K(arakkadan) CHANDU PANIKKAR

b. - d.

Award 1958

Dance: Kathakali

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Shri Thotton Karakkadan Chandu Panikkar, a foremost exponent of the Kathakali style of Dancing.

Born in 1873, in Kerala, Shri Chandu Panikkar had his training under the famous Guru Easwara Menon and became the greatest exponent of Kalladikkadan tradition of Kathakali Dancing which lays particular stress on *Bhava*. He has a phenomenal repertoire of Kathakali Dramas, which he knows by heart. He is specially famous for his portrayals of the characters of Bhima, Arjuna, Durvasa, Hanuman, Daksha etc.

He was honoured by the Samuthiri Raja of Kozhikkode with the title of Panikkar and presented *Veerashrinkhal* in 1903. The Raja of Cochin honoured him with two gold medals. He is also the recipient of *Veerashrinkhal* and *Kesabhara Kireedam* from the Association of Nambudiris at Thaliparambu in recognition of his services to the art of Kathakali. Besides being an eminent dancer he has trained a number of pupils who are recognised exponents of Kathakali in various parts of the country.

For his pre-eminence in Kathakali and life long service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as dancer of the year in the field of Kathakali, and to award to him a brocade *Angavastram*, a gold *mala*, and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.

1958
1873
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