

ARCHIVAL AND LIBRARY RESOURCES IN TAMILNADU
ON THE PUDUKKOTTAI PRINCELY STATE

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Professor Joanne Waghorne of the Study of Religion Program at the University of Massachusetts - Boston has sent SALNAQ a copy of the report she submitted after a year's research as a Fulbright grantee in South India. We are pleased to publish the following excerpts, and hope others will contribute similar reports.

I have designed this final report on my field research on the former princely State of Pudukkottai with a dual purpose. I hope that the report will serve both as a means of informing the U.S. Office of Education and the Government of India Ministry of Education about my research activities this year; and, as a guide to fellow scholars on the types of material available in and about Pudukkottai and (by analogy) in other princely states as well.

I feel very satisfied with the project as a whole. My goals were met. I have reconstructed in considerable detail the complete Dignitary Establishment, the system of royal honors, the feasts and festivals, and collected a large number of poems, songs and myths. But far more important is the fact that this information clearly forms a consistent, logical system of sacred kingship with its special symbols, its ritual structure and its theological base. The proof of that statement, of course, will be the topic of my book, *One Jewelled Elephant*, which I hope to complete by next September, 1980.

The primary and secondary research material available on and in Pudukkottai.

A. *The Pudukkottai Internal Governmental Records.* There were two major divisions both of which kept careful records: The Darbar office and the Huzur office.

1. *The Darbar disposal files:* The Darbar was the government of Pudukkottai: the name given to the collective offices of the Raja's chief ministers. The records from 1857-1948 are still available, well indexed, and preserved in the present office of the Sub-collector of Pudukkottai, now a district of Tamilnadu State. The early darbar files from 1845-1856 are now housed in the Tamilnadu Archives. These files deal with all governmental material, but also mention the granting of royal honors and the salaries and duties of the palace establishment--both of which the Darbar had to approve.

2. *The Huzur Records in the Palace:* These were the records of the palace itself, and had been well ordered and stored in the old palace. Unfortunately the old palace was used only for ceremonial purposes from 1930-1948 and after Integration of the Princely States was leased for commercial use. The tenants simply stuffed palace records into gunny sacks as the Royal Family discovered later. The Tondaiman family was kind enough to let me see these records which

were a rich source of information. They deal mostly with the functioning of the palace staff and ceremonies. There were detailed lists of the Dignitary Establishment, the original programs for the royal feast and festivals, and ceremonies. These records have now been re-sorted and steps are being taken for their preservation.

3. *The Huzur Records in the Government Museum:* The Palace records from the very early period were re-copied sometime in the 19th century, and five volumes of these are available in the Government Museum in Pudukkottai. These early Huzur records contain mostly correspondence between the British Government and the rajas over military matters, although there are some letters which mention the palace establishment, feasts, and festivals.

4. *The records of the Inam Land Settlement 1888.* Until 1888, all palace servants were paid not by salary but by the granting of land without tax for their maintenance (Inam = gift). In 1888, the system for payment was changed and salary substituted. The entire land tenures of Pudukkottai were reviewed and all the Inam land resettled. (Inams had also been granted to Brahmins, for military service, and as a sign of royal favor). Careful records were kept of all of these settlement cases. The history of each Inam grant and its settlement was recorded in about 200 large volumes. There is a 30 volume index of these listed by the type of grant. The first three thousand cases deal with the "palace service." The exact nature of many of the most archaic ritual services rendered to the raja were found in the Settlement office, Pudukkottai, but have very recently been moved to the Collector's Office.

B. *External Government Records:*

1. *The Residency Records:* The Resident was the official intermediary between Pudukkottai and the British government. A portion of the records for Pudukkottai from 1890 to 1947 are in the India Office Library in London. The records from 1830 to 1844 form part of the Tanjore district records in the Tamilnadu Archives. Records after 1920 are in the National Archives in New Delhi, but were in the process of reclassification and so not available for perusal. I could not locate the records from 1844 to 1920. For the most part, the Residency files deal with more strictly political matters.

C. *Public and Private Libraries: Manuscripts and Printed Material.*

1. *Folk songs from private collections:* The Tamil *Isai Sangam* in Madras has a small but fine collection of Tamil songs, many of which deal with former rajas and chiefs. The Chief Secretary of the T.I.S. personally located several valuable songs on the Tondaiman rajas from musicians in Madras and Tiruchirappalli. A retired member of the All-India Radio, Madras, has a fine personal collection of folksongs, and kindly lent me selections on the Pudukkottai rajas. The families of two former court poets lent other published but rare books of poems.

2. *The U.V. Swaminathan Aiyar Library, Madras.* A privately run library for public use that houses a vast collection of both palm leaf and paper manuscripts of Tamil poetry and prose, as well as rare collections of Tamil magazines. Several Tamil maga-

zines from 1910 to 1920 had articles on the Pudukkottai rajas, on Dassara, and on the Vedic Library in Pudukkottai.

3. *Maraimalai Adigal Library and the Adyar Research Library, Madras.* Both are excellently run private libraries for public use that house rare printed books. None deal specifically with Pudukkottai, but they give general information on kingship, festivals, etc., in South India. The Adyar Library has an excellent collection of early printed versions of old local myths from the Tiruchirappali-Tanjore-Ramnad-Siva-ganga districts. It also has the finest collection of Sanskrit (Grantha) *agamas* - which give the basic ritual texts of the ceremonials used in Pudukkottai.

4. *Personal Letters:* The grandson of the most important dewan of Pudukkottai kindly lent me his grandfather's personal letters.

5. *The Oriental Manuscript Library, Madras.* This is a major collection of Tamil, Telugu and Sanskrit local legends and tracts. There were a large number of Telugu poems directly about the Raja of Pudukkottai, and a number of Tamil manuscripts relating to the Pudukkottai area. All of these were copied by pandits and most important portions translated. The O.M.L. also had the *agama* which was the textual basis for the coronation in Pudukkottai.

6. *The Government Museum, Pudukkottai:* The museum has a small library with a good selection of printed books about Pudukkottai. Its most important resource, however, was the palm-leaf gazetteer which the Raja had prepared in 1814 for the use of the East India Company. With the excellent direction of the curator, I had two Tamil pandits transcribe this palm-leaf onto paper. It filled almost 500 typewritten pages in Tamil. The curator himself has undertaken the translation of the texts, and we hope to publish this with an introduction in both Tamil and English for general use. I think it is the oldest such gazetteer available.

Yet to be done and new avenues for research.

There were three sources of information which I was not able to use fully due to time considerations.

1. *The records of the Madurai Mission* housed in the Sacred Heart Seminary, Kodaikanal: I have been told that there are a number of early letters in Italian and French by Jesuit missionaries in the Pudukkottai State in the Jesuit Archives at this Seminary.

2. *The National Archives.* When the Pudukkottai records are reclassified.

3. *The Collection of more folk songs and palm-leaf manuscripts of such songs and poems.* I am certain that there are many more palm-leaf collections of songs about Pudukkottai in the village homes of the former members of the Court and dancers from Pudukkottai.

DEPARTMENTS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

STATUS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN

The editors received the following memorandum from Alvin C. Moore, Jr., Field Director:

As an aftermath of the recent disturbances in Pakistan and the attacks on American installations there, personnel of the U.S. Mission deemed non-essential to the basic foreign policy objectives of the U.S. in that country were evacuated by presidential order. The Library of Congress Field Director was among those evacuated. The LC acquisitions program continues, however, under the interim direction of Ras Masood Siddiqui, senior national employee of the Karachi office. Regular operations including correspondence may be slowed somewhat due to heightened security requirements and substantially increased demands on R.M. Siddiqui's attention. Tensions within Pakistan, the inability to perform acquisitions travel within the country, and the recent more strict censorship of the media, may result in a slight downturn in quantity of publications acquired for the program.

The Library of Congress hopes that it may soon be possible for an American field director to resume residence in Karachi, or if this should not be possible, that a Library of Congress representative may visit Karachi periodically in an arrangement similar to that which prevailed with our Cairo office for many years.

Please note that any correspondence from participants to the Karachi office should be addressed to: Field Director, Karachi-LC, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520, and not to any foreign service national employee.

Washington, D.C.
November 30, 1979

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

Strength through Wisdom: a Critique of U.S. Capability. A report to the President from the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies. November, 1979. 156 p.

The following excerpt has implications for the future of South Asian libraries. (For copies: order # 017-080-02065-3, G.P.O. Doc. Dept., Wash. DC 20402. \$4.75)

pp. 89-90.

The future of advanced international training and research is threatened by library problems: the steeply, constantly rising cost of books and periodicals, mailing, essential processing services, and space to house acquisitions. Worsened by adverse exchange rates, these problems are complicated further by the urgent need for research libraries to introduce expensive new technologies to make possible the regional and national inter-library cooperation that is now imperative and for which federal assistance is essential.

Given the costs involved, the commission recommends maintaining and improving our international