

Educational (1913) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 491 EOL

DATED 25-5-1913.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books - Informing Mr. R. V. Viswanatha Pillai that the Govt. will purchase stencil copies of the book entitled "Terimantren".

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S.O.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of clerk with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.O.).	Initials with date of (1) clerk of the Chief Secretariat department acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to departments outside the Chief Secretariat.

C. 1086 of

1.4.13

Madras, 29th. March '13.



To

The Hon'ble Mr. L. Davidson, I.C.S.,

Secretary to Government,

Educational Department,

M A D R A S.

From

V. Visvanatha Pillai

Publisher of "Tirumanthram",

88 Thumbu Chetty Street,

Georgetown, Madras.

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith a copy of "Tirumanthram" an ancient Tamil Book on Saiva Philosophy, recently brought out by me ^{and} to request that the Government will be pleased to extend their kind patronage to the said publication.

I need not say anything in commendation of my work; the copies of the newspaper notices and of the opinions of selected gentlemen, which I beg to enclose, will, I hope, speak to the excellence of the work. I may say that this self-imposed task has caused me much labour and expenditure of money, and that, it being an old high class philosophical work, I cannot expect to recoup by sale even half the cost of its publication. In view of these facts I request that the Government will be pleased to encourage the publication of such rare works by purchasing a sufficient number of copies for distribution among Colleges, Schools, learned Societies and public Libraries.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

V. Visvanatha Pillai

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The "Hindu", dated 20th March, 1913.

Tirumular's Tirumantram.

The Dravidian system of Hindu Philosophy, known as Saiva Siddhantam, greatly prevailing in the South, is based primarily on Saiva Agamas. But this system equally accepts the authority of the Vedas, and then it is called Vedanta Siddhantam. Tirumular's Tirumantram, which is a rare and excellent work, is a happy blend of the Brahminical Theology with the Dravidian Theopathy, though it is chiefly resorted to as a great authoritative work by those following the doctrines of Saiva Siddhantam. The eminent author of ^{his} treatise has elaborately dealt with the doctrines of both these schools. This work is now published by Mr. Visvanatha Pillai, a disciple of the eminent Pundit, Sabapathy Navalar, of Jaṇṇa, with foot-notes explaining the meanings of the difficult words and phrases. No body till now has attempted such a publication, and much credit is therefore due to the publisher. The text, ^{which} is written in a homely yet vivid Tamil and in an ancient metre, elegant and melodious, has been carefully revised in this Edition, and the notes are succinct and to the point. Seven Scholars appeared to have co-operated in the production of this work. The exceedingly interesting introduction, contributed by Mr. V. V. Ramanan, is deserving of special attention, as it indicates the various points for further study and research. This edition is but a prelude to a larger work, as another edition with a full commentary (specimen of which is to be found in the very first stanza) is promised at no distant date, if not in the near future. The Ripon ^{Ripon} is responsible for the artistic and excellent printing. The book can be had at the moderate price of Rs3-8-0, at the said press in Georgetown.

Thirumanthiram.

This rare Tamil work consists of three thousand stanzas written in an ancient metre, simple and elegant. It deals with a variety of philosophical topics and holds a high rank among the recognised ~~the~~ scriptural authorities of Dravidian Literature. The doctrines of the Saivitic and of the Vedantic philosophies are lucidly explained . With its masterly exposition of the different schools of Indian thought, with the profundity of its scholarship and research, and with its encyclopædic lore, the work ought to find a deserving place in every oriental library. The nature of the human body, the soul and Paramatma, the different stages of the soul progress and the ways and means by which salvation is attained, are all treated admirably well in the excellent treatise before us . To the student of the Hindu Religion, as well as to the Oriental Scholar, the book is an invaluable guide.

The inspired author who was one of the Sixty-three Dravidian Saivits, whose life history is chronicled in Peria Puranam, is said to have lived for a long period of three thousand years, and is regarded as one of the greatest Siddhas of ~~the~~ ancient India. He was a practical Yogi of an extraordinary type, and gave demonstrations of his vast occult & mystic powers.

It is ably edited and compiled, with foot-notes, by Mr. V. Viswanatha Pillay, a disciple of the eminent Pundit, Sabapathy Navalar, of Jaffna. The compiler has spared no pains in editing, compiling and arranging the numerous stanzas which compose the work, and he deserves the warm thanks of the Tamil reading public who are indebted to him for placing this work within their reach in its present attractive form. It is also promised that an elaborate edition of the work with full commentary, will soon be issued. The present volume opens

with a fine illustration of Saint Thirumular with his disciples, and has another beautiful portrait of our distinguished countryman, Dewan Bahadur Sir Subramania Iyer, K.C.I.E., ^{LL.D.} ~~LL.D.~~, to whom the work is dedicated. Dr. V.V. Ramana Satri, Ph.D., has contributed to it a well-written and thoughtful introduction. We wish the publication every success, and trust that it will command a wide reading.

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The Indian Patriot, dated 8th January, '13.

Tirumantram by Tirumular .

This is a well-known work, and we welcome the present edition which is very artistically got up, as one well calculated to further the study of Dravidian ^{and} ~~on~~ South Indian Philosophy, which, according to Professor Max Muller, "though it may show clearly traces of Sanskrit influence, contains the original indigenous elements of great beauty and of great importance for historical purposes". These words of the great Professor aptly describe the character of the work before us, which is one of the earliest treatises extant on Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy, a happy blend of the Brahminical Theology with Dravidian Theopathy, which numbers its followers by thousands in Southern India. But the work is a treatise on the Vedanta Philosophy as well; the author has dealt in extenso with the doctrines of both these schools of thought. It is written in homely but virile Tamil and in an ancient metre, elegant and melodious. We notice that the present publication which gives a carefully prepared ^{text} ~~but~~ with copious foot-notes, is but the prelude to a larger work, and an edition with a full commentary is promised at no distant date. We learn from the publisher's preface to ^{the} ~~the~~ book, that several scholars have co-operated in the production of the present work, and that many men of light & leading have contributed to its cost. We would close our short notice of the book with calling attention to ^{the} ~~the~~ exceedingly interesting introduction contributed by Mr. V. V. Ramana Sastri, Ph.D., which indicates, with a fullness at once striking and stimulating, the various points for further study and research.

The book is edited and published by Mr. V. Viswanatha Pillai, a disciple of the eminent Pundit, Sabapathy Navalar of Jaffna; it is priced Rs 3-8-0.

67 6
The Madras Mail, dated 3rd February, '13 .

Indian Publications.

Tirumantram.

Lovers ^{of} devotional literature will be glad to welcome a new and scholarly edition of the well-known Tamil Classic, "Tirumantram", by the Saint and sage, Tirumular, which affords valuable material for the study of ^{the} Dravidian system of Indian Philosophy. Though it shows undoubted traces of Sanskrit influence, ^{the} the work is one of the earliest treatises extant on Saiva ^{or} Siddanta Philosophy, which numbers its followers by thousands in the Tamil country. The Work is written in chaste & virile Tamil and in an ancient metre, and hundreds of its soul-stirring verses are sung daily in South Indian temples today. The present publication, which has been edited and published by Mr. Viswanatha Pillai, a pupil of the eminent scholar, Sabapathy Navalar of Jaffna, has copious notes appended to it. Several other Tamil Pundits have cooperated with him in bringing out this magnificent edition, which is priced at Rs. 3-8-0, and printed at the Ripon Press, Madras.

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Madras Times, dated 17th March, '13 .

INDIAN PUBLICATIONS.

Tirumantram by Tirumular .

Mr.V.Viswanatha Pillai, a Tamil Scholar of merit, has edited & published "Tirumantram by Tirumular" (Ripon Press, Thambu Chetty Street, Madras, Rs.3-3-0) This book aims at furthering the study of South Indian Philosophy, and is, we are told, one of the earliest treatises extant on Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy. Vedanta Philosophy also is dealt with in this book. The book is written in homely Tamil. Several Tamil Scholars have contributed to this work, and as such the book should be of great use to those interested in the study of Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy .

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THE HINDU ORGAN, JAFFNA,
dated 22nd January, '13.

Tirumooler's Tirumantram

This is one of the most important works on the Vaidika Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy and Hindu ethics. The Author of it, Saint Tirumooler Nainar, is venerated throughout Tamilakam as a great Saiva Yogee who has achieved the highest self-realization. The Saint, whose abode was Sree Kailasam, while on a visit to the sacred shrines in South India, reached Viruvavaduturai on the banks of the sacred river, Kauveri. One day, when about to leave the sacred place, he heard the lowing of a herd of cows, and found on reaching the place that the cowherd, whose name was Moolan, was dead, and the faithful cows were giving vent to their grief. This excited the pity of the Saiva Yogin who laid aside his body in a safe place and entered the body of the dead cowherd to console the cows. After taking the cows to their respective homes, he came back to recover his body, when lo! he found it was gone. By his introspective vision he found that Lord Siva had caused his body to disappear in order that he might bring out in Tamil the truths revealed by him in this Saiva Agamas. Thus resolved, he sat at the foot of a Pochi tree in a garden outside the temple in Siva Yoga. He directed his vision on a given line and at the close of one year he gave out the truth realized in one stanza of Tirumantram. Thus he continued for three thousand years, giving out three thousand stanzas in beautiful Tamil, which now form the treatise. The present edition of the treatise is a well-got up, neatly ^{printed} volume of 686 pages, double Crown Octavo, and is printed in good paper. It contains a learned preface by Dr. V. V. Ramana Sastri, Ph.D., elucidating the several points treated in the work and commenting on the life of the Saint. Valuable notes on the difficult passages in every stanza are appended at the foot of every page. The Volume is dedicated to Sir S. Subramania Iyer, retired High Court Judge. The learned Editor of the present edition is Mr. Viswanatha Pillai of Naviddapuram, Jaffna, student of Srila Sri Sabapathy Navalar. The Volume is priced Rs3.50 and was printed at the Madras Ripon Press.

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The following Vernacular Journals have also noticed
the work in question:-

The Swadesa Mitran, Madras, 8-1-13

The Locopakari " 13-1-13

Sentamil, Madura, Volume 11, No. 2.

The Poornachandrodayam, Madura, Vol. ~~15~~ 3, No. 9

The Vaisyamitram, Devakotta, 3-2-13

The Hindu Organ, Jaffna, 22-1-13

Re 3054/13

P. 128

To

The D.P.I. with a book
to be returned with reply

Notes in CB

4-4-13

W. J. G. 5/2/13

Capt. G. 13/13
M.

10

11 Educational Dept
(Cus 1086)

Encl 1086-1 Encl of 4.4.13

Referred to the D.P.I.
for remarks.

T.H. C.R.
1-4-13 3-4-13

4.4.13

Stock Form No. 151.
5,000-4-2-11.

Educational

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No. 1558 29

Received 191 Registered 1913

Subject.

Resubmitting with remarks papers received with the endorsement of Government in regard to the value of the book entitled "Tirumantiram".



ENCLOSURES.

No.

Ref on Cur No. 3 0 5 4 /13

Spare copies

Station M a d r a s Dated the 7 M a y 1913

From (Name) The Hon'ble Sir Alfred Gibbs Bourne, D.Sc.
F.R.S.K.C.I.E.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,
M a d r a s

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational
Local and Municipal Department.
Stonehousehilly, The Nilgiris.

Sir,

In returning herewith the papers referred to me for remarks with the endorsement of Government No. 1086-1, Edl., dated 4th April 1913, I have the honour to state that the Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology, Presidency College, is of opinion that "Tirumantiram" is a work of value in relation to the underlying religious and philosophical principles of Tamil Saivism and that it deserves to find a place in the libraries of colleges and schools.

Price Rs 3-8-0 -
10 copies cost Rs 35
or Rs 38-8-0 all

2. I may add that 10 copies will be required for the use of some of the educational institutions under my control in case Government decide to patronize the book in question.

3. I return herewith the book received with the endorsement

of

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of Government under reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. H. H.

For Director of Public Instruction.

W. H. H. H.
N.V.S.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:

Again G.O., No. , dated . 19 .
Again G.O., No. , dated . 19 .
Current No. 1086 From the Mr. V. Viswanatha Pillai No. , dated 29-3-1913.
" " 1555 " D.D. Pillai 3054/13 " 7-5-13
" " " " " " " "

ORDER. No. 49180^{plus}, dated 29-5-1913.

Min

Sp 24/5

Note: A copy may be purchased for the Commemorative library. The total cost of 11 copies is only Rs 38-8-0.

27.5.13
27.5.13

Mr. V. Viswanatha Pillai will be informed that the Govt. will purchase eleven copies of the book entitled "Vimamatham" including the copy now forwarded to Govt. He will be requested to forward the remaining 10 copies to the D.P.D. and the bill of cost to the Accountant General direct. The cost will be debited to "32 miscellaneous - Cost of Books and Publication".

2. On receipt of the copies the D.P.D. will distribute them among ~~selected~~ selected educational institutions. The copies already received by Govt. will be forwarded to the Commemorative Public Library, Madras.

27.5.13
27.5.13

11/20/5

To, Mr. V. Viswanatha Pillai
The D.P.D.
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" Commemorative Library, C.P.D. Library

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1 - 3 1/2

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