

Home (1918) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 135

DATED 6.2.18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Epigraphical inscriptions.

Recording papers relating to the inclusion of the astro-
nomical ^{details} ~~dates~~ of available dates in the topographical list of
Madras.

Subject: Madras Epigraphy

10-8-17
Edu B
155
New 11/12

Nellore, 2

30th November 1917.

-1-DEC-1917



My dear Ramachandra Rau,

I understand that Government have ordered the publication of a districtwar list of inscriptions found in the Madras Presidency, compiled by Mr. V. Rangachari, M.A. L.T., of the Presidency College. I would suggest that the opportunity be taken to include in the description of the --- inscriptions the astronomical details of dates, where such details are available. Some few years ago, I drew the attention of Government to the fact that these details, except where a definite year was quoted, were systematically omitted from the lists appended to the reports of the Madras Epigraphist. Government gave orders that the omission should be supplied in future, and accordingly since the year 1914 the lists in question ^{have} included astronomical details, the ^{an} equivalents of which are supplied by me in ^{an} appendix to each annual report. Now that Mr. Rangachari is republishing inscriptions collected during many years past, it would be a good opportunity to include the details of dates ^{Such} ^{as are available in the office of} ~~which can be furnished by~~ the Madras Epigraphist.

^{such} ^{by Mr. Rangachari}
2. I understand that one list is to be published for each -- district and if the public is to take any interest in the lists, it would be necessary to give an indication of the time, when possible, to which each inscription relates. It is a fact -- that only about 5% of inscriptions found contain verifiable astronomical details. In the case of CHOLA and PANDYA inscriptions, a good many up to the year 1908 were verified most carefully by Professor Kielhorn who published the results from --- time to time in the EPIGRAPHIA INDICA. For one or two years subsequent to 1908, the verification was done by Messrs. Sewell and Jacobi, and since the year 1913 I have done the verification for all verifiable dates reported each year by the Epigraphist, including dynasties other than CHOLA and PANDYA.

4-20-17
28-8-17

4-20-17
988 Pub.
7-8-13

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3. If now the details of dates are included, as proposed by me, in the list compiled by Mr. Rangachari, the English equivalents could be supplied by me within almost one week's time. I had intended to offer to do the work some-time or other for inscriptions found before 1913, and not already verified by Kielhorn or by Mr. Sewell or by Professor Jacobi, but now that the list is being done de novo under the supervision of Mr. Rangachari, I think the details of ^{to mat list} dates could be added with very little trouble.

4. I have suggested this to Mr. Rangachari and he has agreed to furnish me with the details necessary for verification, but I imagine that the concurrence of the Madras Epigraphist will be necessary; and in not a few cases the impressions will have to be read over again carefully for the purpose of ascertaining the exact details of the dates as given in the inscriptions. I have found repeatedly by experience that the reading of a date in an inscription has to be done specially if verification is to be successful. I thought of transmitting the suggestion to you because it may not be within the commission already entrusted to Mr. Rangachari to extend the scope of his work in this way.

5. In any case it is necessary to take steps to complete the work begun by Professor Kielhorn and the details of dates not already verified by him ^{will} have to be compiled and verified as far as possible if historical research in Southern India is to be carried on in the manner intended by Government.

6. If I am not suggesting too much, the dynastic arrangement of verifiable dates on the lines of Kielhorn's "INSCRIPTION OF SOUTHERN INDIA" (appendix to volume 7 of EPIGRAPHIA INDICA) is a very desirable addition to existing epigraphical publications. As a first step towards such a work, the inclusion of the details of dates in Mr. Rangachari's districtwar lists would be very helpful.

Yours sincerely,
L. D. Swamikannu

To The Honble Duwan Bahadur R. Ramachandrarau

(P)

Please see G. O. No. 1100 & Co. d/ the 28th Aug: 1917 in which Mr. Ranga Behariyari's "topographical list of the inscriptions of the Madras Presidency" was ordered to be published. It is not known what progress has been made in regard to the printing of the work. If it is not too late now Mr. Krishna Sastri may be asked to report in consultation with Mr. Ranga Behariyari whether it would be possible to carry out Dewan Bahadur Swami Kammur Pillai's suggestion.

2 Draft D.O. below is for appl. P.O. No. 5573-1.9.13.12.17
"Dear Mr. Sastriyari,

dyatun with me today

(P)

I want to invite a reference to G.O. No. 1100 & Co. (Ed. 3), d/ the 28th Aug: 1917 in which the Govt: ordered the publication of the topographical list of the inscriptions of the Madras Presidency. It has been suggested by Dewan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai in his D.O. of the 30th Nov. 1917 (copy enclosed) that it would be desirable to include in the description of the ~~details~~ inscriptions

4

14/11

M. R. R. Rao Sahib H.
Kishore Sahib Sahib,
B. A.,
D. D. S. for Epigraphy.

"the astronomical details of dates,
where such are available. I want
to request you to report, in
consultation with Mr. Ranpa Achari,
as to the feasibility of carrying
out the suggestion especially with reference
to the process in setting up of the type already of the
your's directly.
nonaccessibility of reference Easy access
of the Epigraphic dates in other works of reference.

2-12-17

14/11

14/11

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13/12/17

PP 567

D.O. No. 46

B. 2013
B. 169

Office of the A.A.S. for Epigraphy

Madras, 23rd January 1918.



HP 344
only

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your D.O. 1557 B-1, dated the 13th December 1917, and to state that Mr. Rangachari whom I consulted in the matter thinks that the inclusion of astronomical calculations of the hitherto unexamined dates in his Topographical List at this stage, when already nearly 350 pages have been printed clean, is practically impossible and would only delay the issue of the book for a year or more. His letter in original is enclosed for reference.

2. While I concur entirely with Mr. Swamikkannu Pillai's desire to make the Topographical List of Inscriptions more complete and useful by supplying the omission of unexamined dates, I also feel with Mr. Rangacharya, the practical difficulty of going through the collection from the year 1886 almost down to 1914 in which year the date-calculations of Mr. L.D. Swamikkannu Pillai begin to appear regularly as an appendix to my Annual Reports. Prior to 1912 similar work was done by Professors Kielhorn and Jacobi and Mr. Sewell;

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and their contributions are published in the Epigraphia Indica. All these have been examined and included by Mr. Rangacharya in his Topographical List.

3. The calculations of Kielhorn, Jacobi and Sewell were no doubt only confined to select dates supplied to them from this office. Even of these a good number were withheld from publication for not yielding correct results. In order therefore to make a complete list of all the dated inscriptions hitherto unexamined, I will have to read in original, practically the whole of the epigraphical collection from 1886 to 1912 and the references that will have thus to be made, will be by thousands while the really valuable dates for Chōla and Pāṇḍya chronology that are extracted from these may not be more than a hundred. These few dates will appear as the inscriptions are published and their astronomical value will necessarily also be noted on that occasion.

4. It does not therefore appear to me that for including a hundred or more unexamined dates of my collection in Mr. Rangachariyar's Topographical List the

enormous labour and time in this office and the consequent delay in the publication of that work, could reasonably be supported. Besides, I am at present very busy with the study of the collection of inscriptions of the current year which comes to nearly 700 and can hardly spare time for other work.

Yours sincerely,

H. Krishna Sastri.

To

The Secretary to Government of Madras,

Home (Education) Madras.

X

Dear Sir,

With your letter No 816 dated Decr 1917 I have the honour to state that I have carefully considered possibility of including the astronomical details of dates in the Topographical list. I have already included all available dates as they are ascertained from the contributions of Dr Kielhord Jacobi, Mr Sewell and Dewan Bahadur Swaminamma Pillai etc. I believe these are the most important and interesting dates available in the epigraphs coming by your office. There are bound to be, of course, hundreds of epigraphs, the dates of which have not been considered with a view to the determination of their English equivalents. But inclusion in the list at this stage is, I think, impossible. To read, in the first place, many 10000 inscriptions for this purpose would require a labour of years and the delay of the printing of the book by an equal duration; and as nearly 350 pages have been printed. And even if all the most important dates have been ascertained and included, I think that the details of dates of other epigraphs may be legitimately come in when they are published, in accordance with the professed intentions of Government, in detail. The attempt to include the details of dates at this stage, I fear, will be too late for the present work.

Yours sincerely

D. Rangaswami

Assistant

NOTES.

Page 9

Home Dept.
(24.1)

There appears to be enough
in what is said by Messrs. Karishma
Sastri and Rangaswami to show
that Mr. Swamikannu Pillai's proposal
is ~~not~~ ^{at present} ~~not~~ ^{practically} for
orders whether the latter may be
informed accordingly. If so the detail
below is for appl.

D.O.

My Dear Swamikannu Pillai,

In reply to your

D.O. of the 30th Nov. 1917, suggesting
the desirability of including in
the districtwar list of Madras
inscriptions now under print the
astronomical details of available
dates, I am to enclose a copy
of Rao Sahib Karishma Sastri's letter,
~~which~~ ^{which} ~~points out~~ ^{points out} the
practical difficulties
in the way of adopting your
suggestion ^{and} at this stage of the
publication.

Yours truly,

To M. R. Raj. Devan

Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai

Esq., M. A. T. T. B.

Madras

25.1.18.

CR
21.18

29.1.18

2001

The D.O. will only provoke a
counter criticism & I am
incompetent to judge
just drop the matter. Inform
the Press, if they are likely to delay
pruly otherwise

my
30/11/18

It is Subd: that there does
not appear to be any need to write
to the Press as it has not been asked
either by this office or Mr. Venkatesh
Sastri to suspend printing. If it is
however thought necessary, a D.O.
may go to Mr. Venkatesh Sastri. It
is observed that Dewan Bahadur
Swamikannu Pillai's D.O. has not
been acknowledged.

D.O. " Dear Mr. Sastriyart,

"With refer: to

"the Correspondence ending with
"your D.O. No. 46, dt the 23rd Jan.
"1918, I am to ^{state} ~~inform~~ you that
"the suggestion to include the
"astronomical details of available
"dates in the distinctive list of
"Madras inscriptions has been
"approved & dropped

Two 90's

DO. No. 1557B-2

2-2-18

Left this D.O. of the one

as p. 12 infra
pp 5 to 7 ante

2/2

Say that the printing of the
work ~~may be pushed on~~
~~work need not be finished~~
~~be delayed~~

To M. R. R. & Geo Savick

И. Крившук Постой

Sub: B. A.

A. A. S. for Epitaphs

In reply to your letter of 11/1/1919.

King
27/2/2011

2 After the issue of the above D.O the papers and also been recorded.

3. Another Draft D.O. to Mr. Swamikannu
30.1.18 Pillai is submitted below in case a reply
should go to him

CR
1.2.18

1. 2. 18

Issue ^{for} both DOS

my yw

Both the J's have 23w

2. The papers around the

Order 135, 2/62 "18
rec'd Recorded

ms. Recorded.

9
52718

~~14-2-18~~

$$\frac{CR}{4.2.18}$$

Epigraphical
inscriptions

Regarding papers
relating to the
inclusion of the

Astronomical dates
of available dates
in the topographical
list of Madras

do not ~~_____~~ at any of 81 p1

Home (Ind) Dept

D.O. 1557B-30
2-2-18

My dear Swamikannu Pillai,

In reply to your D.O. of the 30th November 1917, I am to state that the suggestion to include the astronomical details of available dates in the Districtwar list of Madras inscriptions has been considered and found to be not practicable at the present stage of the work.

Yours truly

C.R.
1-2-18

20/2

Deskd.
2-2-18

2.

M. R. Ry. Divan Bahadur L.D.
Swamikannu Pillai Esq.
M.A. L.L.B.
Collector of Nellore.

When signed

19

READ AGAIN G.O. No
191

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.