

E. & P. H. (1948) Dept.

G.O. No. 2144 Edu., D., 31-8-48.
M.S.

closed.

Abstract.

Museum — Treasure trove —
Madurai Dt. — Tirumangalam Taluk —
Pozuppumethupatti village — Recover
of the idol — Representation —
Papers recorded.



To

The Government of Madras,

MADRAS.

The humble mahazar petition submitted by the pattadars and residents of the villages of Poruppumettupatti, Sindupatti, ~~Rxe~~ Valangakulam, Kangayamatham, Echampatti and Vagaikulam of Tirumangalam Taluk, Madura District

13498
C.S. (Ta/Opal)

E.A.P. H. u. o. Most Respectfully sheweth:

Dom 18/2 18/2/48
Pub (Elec) U.O.
14/9/48-1
18/2/48-1

1. About a year ago in the patta land of one Peria Perumal Thevan of Poruppumettupatti while one ^{Sivankala Thennar} was ploughing the ^{field} filed, the plough struck against an object which when unearthed was found to be an idol of Nataraja in a dancing posture. The idol is one made out of several metals and is in about 4 1/2 ft. in height. When the villagers came ~~to~~ to know of it they went in a body to the ^{field} filed and with great reverence removed the idol and placed it in a Mantapam situated in the Manthai of the village. The ~~deity~~ deity inspires reverence and is also an object of beatyry. The villagers began to worship the deity and also by the residents of the surrounding villagers.

2. The matter was reported to the authorities and the idol was allowed to be kept in the village, some of the respectable residents standing surety for its safe custody.

3. An enquiry ^{was} made and the idol was subsequently removed to the Sub Treasury, Tirumangalam for safe custody. The villagers were given to understand that they would be asked whether they are prepared to construct a temple.

4. The petitioners beg to submit that the entire body of Hindu residents situated within a radius of 15 miles round the village in question (ie. Poruppumettupatti) deem it a special fortune and an accident of great commemoration when the idol was

was discovered. They have made collection from among the villagers to construct a temple to instal the deity and to provide for daily worship.

5. The villagers now learn that the Museum authorities are very keen in getting the idol for the Museum and orders are passed by the District Collector, Madura to hand over the idol to the Museum.

6. The villagers believe that if they are allowed to retain the idol in the village they would be prosperous and no calamity would befall them.

7. They are prepared to give proper security for the safe keeping of the idol in the village and if they are allowed to retain the idol they would expedite the building of the temple and instal the deity there and offer daily worship.

These petitioners therefore pray that you would be graciously pleased to stay proceedings for the removal of the idol to the Museum and hold an enquiry and pass orders for the retention of the idol in the village on such terms, if any, so that the villagers may be gratified and their fears of any calamity extinguished.

சென்னை
S. Kugalaiah
P. பொன்னுசென்னை

H. P. omma Thera
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P. பழனிநாதன் முதலியோர்

ஈ. ரெண்டிப்பாளன்
சு-முகப்பாளன்

H. Vellai Thavar. Thalapatti

S. P. ...

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From
Sri A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.
Superintendent,
Government Museum, Madras.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Madras.



No. 2024-13/47AR dated 3rd March 1948.

Sir,

Sub: Treasure Trove-Tirumangalam Taluk-
Poruppumettupatti village- Recovery of
Idol - Villagers Petition - Reply.

Ref. Education and Public Health Endorsement
No. 13498-1 C2 Edn., dated 27-2-1948.

16283

I have the honour to state that we are all sympathy for the earnestness and sincerity of the villagers. But their attention has to be drawn to this fact that this kind of utsava-bheras are ~~not~~ permitted by the Agamas to be installed in temples and offered pujas as in the case of Dhruva-bheras, nor can we cite a precedent for any such practice. Moreover, according to the Collector's letter, one ear of this image is broken. So it is now unfortunately a mutilated one, and there are definite injunctions prohibiting the worship of such mutilated images, whatever its material. The result, if pujas are offered to such images, according to the Agamas, would be heavenly displeasure. As such the pujas to this image particularly, instead of bringing the villagers prosperity and freeing them from any calamity as stated in para 6 of their petition may bring them serious misfortunes

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From
Sri. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.
Superintendent
Government Museum, MADRAS.8.

To
The Assistant Secretary to
Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George, MADRAS.9.

31407

No. 2024-23/47 Ar.

Dated the 28th April 1948.

Sir,

Sub: Treasure Trove-Tirumangalam Taluk-Poruppumettu-
patti village - Nataraja Idol.

Ref: Our telephonic conversation on the 27th Apr 48.

When I wrote my letter No. 2024-13/47 Ar dated 3rd March 1948, the image had not been received here. On examination it is found that in addition to the broken jata (locks of hair) on the right, the image has several cuts looking as though some one has tried wantonly to mutilate it. The Collector's description that an ear has been broken is wrong. The head of the serpent on the lower right arm is also broken and the cut seems to be old. The mutilation of the image, therefore, is greater than mentioned in my letter referred to above.

The acquisition of this image by the Government is of the utmost importance for the following reasons :-

1) In this image the pose is what is described as *narukal thandavan* (narukal thandavan), in which instead of the left leg being raised over the right one which tramples the figure of the demon, the right one is here raised over the left. This type of Dancing Siva image is found only in the Pandya country, but it follows the prescriptions of Natya Sastrya more closely. The Museum does not possess an image of this very rare type.

2) Geographically speaking this is the first Nataraja image from the Pandya country. It is of very great use in the comparative study of Art and Iconography of the ~~Chola~~ Chola and the Pandya territories of about the 13th Century A.D.

3) As a piece of Art, this image is more realistic than contemporary images.

4) If, inspite of the sastric objections to the worship of mutilated images, the villages want it for worship, it might mean either that they have not consulted the better informed members of the village itself, who would not advise them to go against the rules of temple worship, or that some dealer in antiquities desirous of pilfering this image has set up a party of the villages to send the petition to the Government. Illicit traffic in old temple images is rampant all over the Province, and I understand that very often old images are replaced by faked ones by clever dealers.

In view of the above circumstances there is the strongest possible case for the acquisition of this image for the Museum on behalf of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Yours most obedient servant

A. Aiyappan
SUPERINTENDENT.

which may be experienced in the long run.

In the circumstances, the villagers' claim for this image cannot be considered to be based on correct knowledge.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent.

Encl.

Petition in original
(pp 1-3)

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for worship, the Collector is requested to draw their pointed attention to the fact that the idol is mitulated and to the objection raised by the Superintendent Govt. Museum. on that score, and to report to Govt. the villagers' attitude on ~~this~~ ^{the} this objection.

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2.5.48

To
The Collector of Madura,
with copies of the Mahazar
and S.G.M.'s letter.

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EPH. Deptt. (C2)

Draft I

From the S.G.M. No. 2024 -13-47 AR dated 3-3-48.

MEMO. No. 13498 C2/48-4 Edm S/ 3.5.48

Treasure Trove - Tirumangalam Taluk - Porupumattupatti
village - Recovery of idol.

The Supdt. is requested to submit to Govt. a copy of
the Collectors' letter referred to in the letter cited above.

a copy of the award process

To
The S.G.M.

luy
1.5.48

25 ar

From
Sri. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph. D.,
Superintendent,
Government Museum, MADRAS. 8.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George, MADRAS. 9.

No. 2024-24/47 Ar. Dated the 11th May 1948.



Sub: Treasure-trove - Tirumangalam Taluk -
Poruppumettupatti village - Recovery of
Idol. *h. n. ante*

Ref:- Government Memorandum No. 13498 C2/48-4 Edn.
dated the 3rd May 1948.

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MS-17 up The two references called for - (1) The
Collector's letter and (2) award proceedings - are enclosed
herewith.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. Aiyappan
SUPERINTENDENT.

TRUE COPY.

Ref: 14536-47 B2.

15
Tirumangalam Taluk Office,
Dated 24-2-'48.

From

Sri N. Ramakrishnan B.A.,
Tahsildar, Tirumangalam.

To,

The Superintendent, Government
Museum, Madras.

Sir,

Treasure-Trove Act - Tirumangalam Taluk - Poruppumettupatti
village - S.No.43/7 - Recovery of an idol - disposal,
Collector's Ref.10824-G-47 B1 dated 11-2-48.
Supt. Govt.Museum Ref.No.2024-8-47 AR dated 18-2-48.

I am sending to-day by goods train the Natarajar Vighraha
duly packed up in a strong wooden case. The broken piece of one
ear of the idol has been enclosed in a cover and tied up to the
right hand of the idol. I request that the receipt of the case
may kindly be acknowledged. It could not be sent by insured
Railway parcel as its weight is 6½ maunds while the minimum for
insured parcel is said to be three maunds only.

2.A sum of Rupees 30/- (Thirty) only being the cost of Planks,
and accessories and charges for making the case and packing has
been incurred. I request that the amount may kindly be sent by
money order, so that it may be adjusted in the Sub-Treasury at
Tirumangalam.

3.The Railway Invoice No.21/24-2-48 is enclosed herewith.

Sd/-
Tahsildar.

Copy submitted to the Collector, Madura.

True Copy

26.2.12/48

A. Gijarra
Superintendent
Government Museum,
Madras.

Proceedings of the Collector of Madura d/19-1-48.
Present. Sri K. Rama Varma Raja B.A., Collector, Madura.

Treasure Trove Act-Tirumangalam Taluk-Poruppumettupatti village -
S.No.43-7-Patta land-recovery of an idol-disposal.
Road. 1. Collr's D.Dis.9076.G.46 d/15/7/47.
2. Mahazar of the villagers dated 2-10-47 and 19-11-47.
3. Supdt. Govt. Museum's Ref.2024.4/47.A.R.d/29-10-47 and
connected records.

On 17-6-46, a Vigraha of a Natarajar standing on a demon, on a peedam, in a dancing posture made of an alloy, valued at Rs.250/- was found by Sivankalai thevan S/o Kumarandi Thevan in S. 43-7 of Poruppumettupatti village, Tirumangalam Taluk, Government dry land owned jointly by (1) Kattapadi (a1) Perumal Thevan (2) Pattar (a1) Perumal Thevan (3) Muthuswamy Thevan (4) Vollaisamy Thevan (5) S. Perumal Thevar and (6) Nallaswamy Thevar.

2. A notification was published under Sec. 5 of the Treasure Trove Act in the Port St. George Gazette inviting claimants to appear and put forth their claims, if any, on 14-7-47, at Madura. Only 3 persons appeared for the enquiry. They did not adduce any evidence to show that the idol was their property. Under Sec. 5 of the Treasure Trove Act, the idol was therefore declared ownerless.

3. The villagers in their Mahazars dated 2-10-47 and 19-11-47 requested the retention of the idol in the village so that it might be installed in the village and worshipped. This request was enquired into on 6-1-48. The villagers who appeared at the enquiry were keen on having the idol set up in the village and were prepared to give security.

4. The Superintendent Government Museum, Madras, wants the idol to be acquired on behalf of the Government for the Museum. Considering the importance of this treasure to the cultural world and in view of the inability of the villagers to found a temple and worship the idol in the village in a manner befitting its importance and also in view of the fact that this is on utsava'bora which is used for festivals and not for main worship in the temple. Under Section 16 of the Treasure Trove Act, hereby declare that the idol will be acquired on behalf of the Government, for the value of Rs.250/-. The value of the Treasure, namely, Rs.250/- together with 1/5th of such value, Rs.50/- will be deposited in the District Treasury. The amount will be disbursed to the finder and the owners of the land in which the idol was found.

Sd/- K. Rama Varma Raja,
Collector

B.O. Huzur. Head Clerk.

Tare Sby
A. Arayan
Superintendent
Government Museum
Madura

PA
dated 12/1/48

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
11/6/59
C. No. Edu 9 P. H DEPARTMENT.
Education Branch.
REMINDER.
To THE Collector of
Madurai
~~have the honour to invite~~
I am directed to invite attention to the Govt Memo
~~invite~~
No. 13498 dated 18-10-48 and to
request that the reply to it may be expedited
request that this reminder may be returned at once
with information as to—
(1) the stage at which the matter now is,
and (2) the date by which a reply may be expected,
and—
(3) the circumstances which have caused the
delay.
B1
482 Office Secretariat
Station Fort St. George
Dated 17.6.48
Signature: [Signature]
F. W. Ann. Secretary to Govt
Designation: Re. 17.6.48
[SUBJECT: Treasure Trove - Tirumangalam
Taluk - Poruppenattupatti village -
Recovery of the idol -
Representation [P.T.O.]

Indumithirupur
mass of trees removed
near to
w/ 2/11/50 hold

No.10824/G/48/B.1

Madura Collector's Office, Madura
Dated the 19th July, 1948

From

To
Sri K. Rama Varma Raja, B.A. The Secretary to Government
Collector Education and Public Health
Madura District Department, Fort St. George,
Madura Madras

21 JUL 1948

Sir,

Treasure Trove - Tirumangalam Taluk Poruppumettupatti
village - Recovery of the Idol - Representation - report
submitted.

Government Memo Ref.13498-C.2/48-3 Edn dated 3-5-1948

54076

The Tahsildar Tirumangalam visited the village, assembled the riots and explained to them the points mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Government Memorandum. Most of the villagers except the owners of the fields where the Idol was found, appear to have appreciated the point. The Tahsildar reports that there is no enthusiasm among the villagers to have the idol back but no one is willing to commit himself to writing. Hence he could not record any statement. The owners of the land from which the idol was recovered however persist in their objection to the transfer of the idol to the Museum.

2. During the course of the proceedings the villagers were saying that they wished to set up the idol in a temple and worship it. This is a Piramalai Kallar village. Members of this community are not ordinarily worshippers of Shri Nataraja. As the idol is not fit for being installed in a temple and in view of the general attitude of the villagers, it does not seem necessary to reconsider the action already taken.

SCP/19-7

Collector.

13b
20
Ref 10824-G-4231 cr. 1

REPLY.

To The Secretary to Government
Education & Public
Health Dept. Fort St. George
Madras

Sir, The reference is pending
with the Rev. D. V. Officer
Tirumangalam. I am reminding
him today. I shall submit
my report in a fortnight.

47003 2/21/48
For Collection
Madura.

24648

24648

To the Secretary to Government
 Public Works Department
 Madras
 From the Collector
 Tirumangalam Taluk
 25/8/48

The Collector Tirumangalam Taluk visited the village, ascertained
 the facts and explained to them the points mentioned in paragraph
 2 of the Government memorandum. Most of the villagers except the
 owners of the fields where the idol was found, appear to have
 appreciated the point. The Talukdar reports that there is no
 opposition among the villagers to have the idol back but no one
 is willing to commit himself to anything. Hence he could not
 report any statement. The owners of the land from which the
 idol was recovered however object in their objection to the
 transfer of the idol to the Museum.
 3. During the course of the proceedings the villagers were
 saying that they wished to set up the idol in a temple and worship
 it. This is a Purnimal Kallar village. Members of this community
 are not ordinarily worshippers of Shiva. As the idol is
 not fit for being installed in a temple and in view of the general
 attitude of the villagers, it does not seem necessary to recommend
 the action already taken.

Collector
 Tirumangalam Taluk
 25/8/48

23/8/48

PP.5-6C.7.
 P.7C.7.
 P.13C.7.
 P.24C.7.

To The S.G.H.
 The collector of
 Madurai.

E.P.H.
 C2

Museum — Treasure Trove — Madurai —
 Tirumangalam Taluk — Pournimettupatti
 Village — Recovery of the idol —
 Representation — Papers recorded.

Order H.S.
 Ref: From the S.G.H., No. 2024-13/47AR
 d., 3-3-48.
 No. 2024-23/47AR.
 d., 28-4-48.
 No. 2024-24/47AR.
 d., 11-5-48.

From the collector of Madurai, No.
 10824/8/48/B.1., dated
 19-7-48.

Order No. 2144 H.S.
 Recorded.
 25/8/48 P.S.
 25-8-48

8/12/48 Edu & P.H. (C2)

Treasure Trove - Tirumangalam Taluk - Porupumettupatti.

C.No 13498 village - Recovery of idd - Villagers Petition

2/48

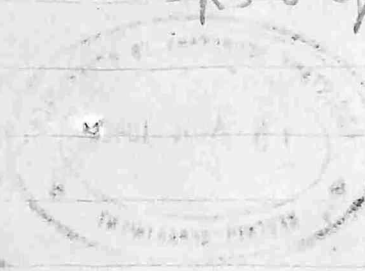
Ref:-

H-2 of

From the villagers of Porupumettupatti, petition of 11

P-5-6 of

From the S. G. M. No. 2024-13/47 AR of 3-3-48



Please see the petition of the mahazar petition of the villagers of Tirumangalam Tk on H-2 of for the restoration of the idol of Sri Nataraj - which was discovered while ploughing the fields to their village and the remarks of the S. G. M. on P-5-6 of. In view of the facts stated by the S. G. M. in his letter, no action seems necessary on the petition. The papers may be recorded. A draft order is submitted for approval. As it is not a deity and is not a deity, no action is called for.

Re

25.3.48

PER

31.3.48

2/48

S. / proposed to be done

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 University.
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 institution we also
 be added in the

The image has already brought to the
Museum, having been acquired under the
provisions of the ~~Antiquities Act~~ ^{Antiquities Act} for
the ~~Museum~~ ^{Antiquities Act} on behalf of the Govt. In the circumstances
reported by the S. G. M. it does not seem that
the request of the villagers should now be
pursued.

by
30.4.48 S
by
30.4.48

g see to keep
it in Museum.
to be divided into
Pl. in
diff. in
by
Museum as per
file.

The revised draft memo to
the Comr. (Draft I) is for
approval -

Draft II is also for app.

by
1.5.48

by
2.5.48

[Issued as Memo No. 13498 C2/48 - 3 Edu. D 3.5.48]

[Issued as Memo No. 13498 C2/48 - 4 Edu. D 3.5.48]

CNO 35326 C2/48. From the S. G. M., No. 2024-24/47 A.V.

Dated 11.5.48

Please see the letter from the S. G. M. on 13.4.48 and its
enclosures. This may be over till a reply is received from
the Comr. of Madras to the Govt memo first cited above
or till 10.6.48 whichever is earlier.

Re
13.5.48

JD
13.5.48

CNO 47008 C2/48 From the Comr. of Madras,

No. 10824 G/48/B.1 Dtd 24.6.48

Please see the reply from the Comr. of Madras on 20.4.48. It may be
reminiscent in the matter on 20.7.48 if necessary

Re
29/6/48
2.5.48

1219 CNO 54076 C2/48. From the Comr. of Madras

No. 10824 G/48/B.1 D 19.7.48

11-29

12-49

11-29

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174

This case relates to the idol of Sri Nataraja
which was discovered while ploughing the fields in
Porupumettupatti village, Tirumangalam Taluk,
Madras Dist. The residents of the above said
village and the surrounding villages situated
within a radius of 15 miles round the village in
question, have sent in a mahazar requesting
for the restoration of the idol to the villagers ~~themselves~~.

2. The Supt., Govt. Museum who was
consulted in the matter, states that this kind of
utsewa-bheras are not permitted to the Agamas to be
installed in temples and offered Pujas as in the
case of Shriwa-bheras nor can we cite a
precedent for any such practice. One ear
of the image is broken. Since it is unfortunately a
mutilated one, there are definite injunctions
prohibiting the worship of such mutilated
images. The result, if pujas are offered to such
images, according to the Agamas, would be
heavenly displeasure.

3. ^{also} From the Supt. report that in addition
to the broken jata (locks of hair) on the right,
the image has several cuts. The collector's
description that an ear has been broken
is wrong. The head of the serpent on the lower
right arm is also broken and the cut seems
to be old. The mutilation of the image, therefore,
is greater than mentioned. For the reasons stated
at 'x' on 17.4.48 of his letter, the Supt. states that
the acquisition of this image by Govt is of the
utmost importance.

4. Considering the importance of this treasure
to the cultural world and in view of the inability
of the villagers to found a temple and worship
the idol in the village in a manner befitting

[P.T.O.]

h 17 y

h9-10 y

1219

h21g

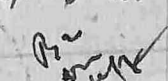
and in view of the general altitude of the
villagers, the COM. states that it does not
seem necessary to reconsider the action
already taken.

A

$$\frac{n}{318148}$$

5 $\frac{h}{\gamma}$ Rev.
37 hms Rev.

R 44577 B
H-8-48

Rev. Dept

The notes on front page 5 and may
be ^{No remark} ~~removed~~ ^{seems} ~~added~~ ^{to}
the ^{file} ~~file~~ ^{to} ~~return~~ ^{be} ~~to~~

$$\frac{Q}{9.848}$$

8/1284

~~2 + 6~~

Rev. no 44577B/48-7

12/87 up

[Notes ^{from page 5} ~~of Rec~~ above may be perused]

~~'A'~~ above The case may now be circulated to H. H. (Ed.),
A/K for orders on A above. W. C.

$$\frac{u}{17.848}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 5 \text{ } ^{\text{by}} 771 \text{ } ^{\text{by}} 100 \text{ } ^{\text{by}} 100 \text{ } ^{\text{by}} 100 \\
 \hline
 159 \\
 \hline
 21.8 \text{ } ^{\text{by}} 100
 \end{array}$$

E.P.H.
C2

The papers may now be recorded
for future reference. A draft ordered
is submitted for approval.

25/8/48

8.5
25/8/48

24/8/48

E.P.H. 13478

Rev Dept

To A22

(Last copy of the Dept. or p. 3 sent)
The notes on page 2 sent may
be forwarded, and the file retained.

E.P.H.

8

25/8/48

24/8/48

To A22

Note of Rev. Dept. may be forwarded
to the Rev. Dept. as follows in 2 parts.

24/8/48