

72 MB
(1949.) Department.

MS. SERIES. 116

G.O. NO. 3302, EDUCATION,

Dated 28TH OCTOBER 1949.

Memo. No. 26382-98/49-3 Edn. dated 16-7-49. (2)

Sub:- Poet Laureates - Durbar.

The attention of the Director is invited to the orders in G.O. No.814, Education, dated 22-3-49 appointing Poet Laureates for Regional Languages and Sanskrit.

The Government consider that it would be most appropriate that the Poet Laureates appointed in the above G.O. are invited to assemble at a public Durbar at which His Excellency the Governor would preside and

formally confer on them the title. His Excellency has agreed to taking part in such a Durbar to be held in Madras on the 14th August 1949. The function would be held at the Rajaji Hall, Mount Road.

The D.P.I. is requested to *draw up* ~~approve~~ *submit* for the approval of Government, a suitable Programme for the function with tentative timings. He is also requested to *take* ~~steps tentatively for~~ other necessary arrangements such as issue of invitations, etc., for the Durbar.

To

The D.P.I.

Copy to P.W.D.(C)
one de m b/c.

Dpd.
S.P.
12/7/49

47.49.

16/7

SUB: Poet Laureates - Durbar.

The attention of the Director is invited to the orders in G.O. No.814, Education, dated 22.3.49 appointing Poet Laureates for Regional Languages and Sanskrit.

2. The Government consider that it would be most appropriate that the Poet Laureates appointed in the above G.O. are invited to assemble at a public Durbar at which His Excellency the Governor would preside and formally confer on them the title. His Excellency has agreed to taking part in such a Durbar to be held at the Rajaji Hall in Madras on the 14th August 1949. Steps are being taken to make the Hall available for holding the Durbar.

3. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to draw up a suitable programme for the function which after due approved by Government/you may intimate to His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Ministers. He is also requested to take steps for other necessary arrangements such as the issue of invitations, etc., for the Durbar.

4. Orders will issue separately in regard to the payment of travelling allowance to the poet laureates.

J.M. Lobo Prabhu,
Secretary to Government.

To
The Director of Public Instruction.
Copy to Public Works Department (C).

1 P/e. ✓

Forwarded/By Order

SUPERINTENDENT.

Memorandum No. 26382-02/49-3, Dated 16-7-49.

Subject: Post Laureates' Durbar.

The attention of the Director is invited to the order in O.O. No. 414, dated 22.7.49 appointing Post Laureates for Regional Languages and Sanskrit.

2. The Government consider that it would be most appropriate that the Post Laureates appointed in the above O.O. are invited to assemble at a Public Durbar at which His Excellency the Governor would preside and formally confer on them the titles. The Government have agreed to holding such a Durbar to be held at the Rajaji Hall in Madras on the 14th August 1949. Steps are being taken to make the Hall available for holding the Durbar.

3. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to draw up a suitable programme for the function which after due approval by Government may invite to His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Minister. He is also requested to take steps for other necessary arrangements such as the issue of invitations, etc., for the Durbar.

4. Orders will issue separately in regard to the payment of travelling allowance to the Post Laureates.

L. J. J. Prasad,
Secretary to Government.

The Director of Public Instruction,
Govt. of Public Works Department (C).

Forwarded By Order

DEPARTMENT.



GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Public Works Department.
Memorandum No. 5954-C/49-1, Dated 19th July 1949.

Sub: - Rajaji Hall - Reserved on 14th August 1949 for Post Laureates' Durbar -

Government Memo. No. 26382-02/49-3, Adn, Dated 16-7-49.
.....

The Sub Divisional Officer, Government House Sub Division is informed that the Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, has been reserved on the 14th August 1949 for holding a public Durbar at which His Excellency the Governor of Madras will preside and formally confer titles on Post Laureates for Regional Languages and Sanskrit.

T. V. NATESA MUDALIYAR,
Additional Deputy Secretary to Government.
To the S.D. Govt. House Sub Division, Mount Road.
Copy to the Supdt. Government House Estate, Mount Road.
,, to the Assistant Engineer (Elec.) City, 35/38 Thambuchetty Street, C.I. Madras.
,, to the Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D.
,, to the & P.H. (G.2) Department.
,, to the Director of Public Instruction.

Forwarded / By Order

h/j
SUPERINTENDENT.
P.T.6.

Letter

Ref

No. 26382-92/49-4 Edu d-21-7-49.

10

Sri T.M. Narayanaiah M.A.B.L.
Halls Road, Egmore

✓ Sri K Narasimha Rao MA
BOL., LT.,
Madras Christian College
Tambaram

Dr. C. ~~Chyakra~~ Raj.
Dr. C. A. Chyakra, Member
to A. P. H. D.
Lecturer in Malayalam
Univ. Bristonjo Triplicha

✓ Dr. C. Kumhar Raja
BA (Hons)
Reader in Sanskrit
University Building
Triplicane

Sci,

Poet Laureate - Con-
ferment of Title -

I am directed to state that the Govt. propose to hold a public Durbar for the Conferment of the title of "Poet Laureate" on the Poet Laureates appointed in G.O. No. 814 E.D. dated 22nd March 1949. His Excellency the Governor has consented to preside over the Durbar which will be held

E. H. H. (92)

May be filed with C. No. 26382-92/49.
remaining open on the subject.

Spd
21/11/11

X / 72-73

in the Rajaji Hall, Mount Road
on the 14th August. Arrangements
for the Durbar are under
consideration -

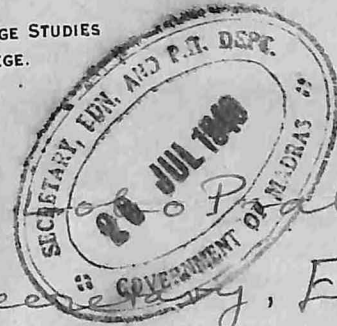
The Honble the Minister
for Education desires to have
for use at that function,
a short sketch of the Career
and Achievements of the Poet Laureate,
appointed -

I am to ask that you
will be so good as to forward
to this Dept. such a short
note sketch concerning the Poet Laureate for
Tamil
Kannada
Malayalam
Sanskrit

Y. f.

20.7.49.

From
K. NARASINGA RAO, M. A., B. O. L., L. T.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
&
SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN LANGUAGE STUDIES
MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.



Station Tanjavur

Date 25.7.1949

To
J. M. P. Prabhu Esq. J. C. S.,
Secretary, Education & Public Health Department,
Government of Madras

Sir, Ref. Letter NO. 26382-G2/49-4, Edn.
dated 27.7.1949.

Sub: Poet Laureate - Conformation of title.
Kannada Poet Laureate.

57151

I beg to intimate to you that I have
already submitted the following manuscripts
to the Director of Information & Publicity,
Government of Madras, on the 16th instant itself.

- 1) A short life sketch, in English, by the
Kannada Poet Laureate himself.
- 2) A brief life-sketch of the Kannada
Poet Laureate, in Kannada, by me.

The Director of Information & Publicity
has kindly consented to prepare a short
note containing the Career and achievements
of the Kannada Poet Laureate, extracting
from the afore said first manuscript, which
I obtained from Sri M. Govindabai and passed
it on to him.

Yours faithfully,
K. Narasinga Rao

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS.

Madras, 25-7-1949.

From

Dr. C. Kunhikrishna Raja, M.A., D.Phil.(Oxon),
Professor of Sanskrit,
University of Madras, Madras.

To

J.M. LOBO PRABHU, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department,
Government of Madras, Madras.

Sir,

Ref: Your letter No.26382-G2/49-4, Edn.
dated 21-7-1949.

I write to inform you that the matter relating
to the life sketch and the work of the Poet Laureate
for Sanskrit is with the Director, Department of
Information and Publicity, Fort St. George, Madras.
I have today written to him to forward all information
to you.

Yours faithfully,

C. K. Kunhikrishna Raja
PROFESSOR OF SANSKRIT.

Diwan Bahadur
T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAY

57153

810) Camp Coimbatore
FORMES ROAD, KILPAUK
Madras 25.7.1949.
28 JUL 1949
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dear Mr. Lab...

here in connection with the language
examinations; and your special
letter dated 21.7.49 regarding
a sketch of the career and
achievements of the Post-graduate
in Tamil was received by me
here (Coimbatore). I shall
gladly send you the sketch
on or before the 5th of August 1949.
I shall be returning to Madras on
the 11th of August.

Yours most
J. or Narayanam Pillay



6-9-7 8(d)
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

Madras, 22-7-1949.

From

Dr. C. Achyuta Menon, B.A.,
Ph.D. (London),
Reader in Malayalam,
University of Madras, Madras.
Chairman, Poet Laureate Committee for Malayalam.

To

J.M. Lobo Prabhu Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

56637
Ref: Letter No.26382-G2/49-4, Edn.
dated 21-7-1949.

This is to acknowledge receipt of the
letter quoted above, communicating the Government's
proposal to hold a Public Durbar to confer the title
'POET LAUREATE' on the poets in the various South Indian
Languages appointed in G.O.No.814 Edn. dated 22-3-1949.

I shall prepare a short sketch *on Poet Vallattil* and send the
same by the end of the month.

I may add for your information that I am
no longer a Lecturer in Malayalam; I have been promoted
as Reader.

Yours faithfully,

Cheruvu

22/7/49

Telephone: 2802

Code: BENTLEY'S SECOND

Telegrams: VUMMIDIAR

VUMMIDI RAMIAH CHETTY GURUSWAMY CHETTY & Co.

DIAMONDS, JEWELLERY AND SILVERWARE

Workshop:

62, GOVINDAPPA NAICK ST.,

MADRAS.

Office & Showrooms:

23 to 25, N. S. C. BOSE RD.

MADRAS.

21st July 1949.

Ref: No. 8299

The Assistant Secretary,
Educational and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your telephone conversation, we have pleasure in submitting herewith our estimate for silver medals with gold centres as per 2 alternate designs enclosed herewith.

Estimate.

Silver Medal with the Government of India
Emblem embossed in gold, complete with
cost of gold, making charge etc.,
including a gift case.

Gold Medal -do- -do- (4 Sovereigns) 350-0-0 each.
The above price includes engraving charges
of the letters 'Government of Madras'.

Engraving inscription in English or Hindi or any language
at the back of the
medal extra at 0-1-0 per letter.

Yours faithfully,
V. R. G. & Co.,

Encl: 2 Designs.

VPRC:KSV.

Partner.

Draft II.

Letter No.

Edn. dated

To

(Sri Namakkal Kavignar
V. Ramalingam Pillai, Poet Laureate for Tamil,
Namakkal, Salem Dt.)

Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon,
Mangalam Tirur, South Malabar.

Sri M. Govinda Pai, Manjeshwar P.O.,
South Kanara Dt.

Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K.S. Krishnamurti Sastrigal,
Chief Professor of Vyakarana, Rameswaram Devas-
thanam Patasala, Madura.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Govt. of Madras propose to invite you to a Public Durbar which will be held in the Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, Madras, on the 14th August '49 for the confirmment of the title of "Asthanakavi" on you. His Excellency the Governor of Madras will preside over the Durbar and present the Insignia of the title to you on that occasion.

I am directed to request you to make it convenient to be present at the Durbar on that day. I am to state that you will be allowed a single First Class fare in respect of your journeys to and from Madras, and a daily allowance of Rs 5/- for the halt on the 14th August.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to D.P.I.

1.8.49

2
Telegramm
under P.C.
Ex/press Telegrams to:-

- 1) (Namakkal) Kavignar (N) Ramalingam Pillai, Namakkal.
2) Sri M. Govinda Pai, Manjeshwar P.O. (South Kanara)
3) (Mahamahopadhyaya Sri) K. S. Krishnamurti Sastri
Chief Professor (of) Vyakarna, Ramakrishna Mission
Patasala, Mathurai.

Government intend
conferring title of
Lauriate on you at
public dinner on 14th
(fourteenth) August.
Kindly reply if date
suitable

Ed Health

1/8

345 13

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Class Prefix] Code

Recd. at H. M. Sent at H. M.

From To

By

Office of Origin. Date. Service Instructions. Words.

TO
58586

0 IC MADURA 0 2 19 SECRETARY EDUCATION HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MADRAS GOVT MADRAS

YOUR TELEGRAM THANKS DATE SUITABLE ATTENDING = K S KRISHNAMURTI

SASTRIGAL = + 1-1548 - 42 =

N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from the text

Caxton Press, Madras.—12-48—50,000 Bks.

294 15

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Class Prefix] Code

Recd. at H. M. Sent at H. M.

From To

By

Office of Origin. Date. Service Instructions. Words.

58587

TO

THANKS 14 TH AUGUST SUITABLE : GOVINDAPAI

N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from the text

Caxton Press, Madras.—12-48—50,000 Bks

Letter No. 26382-49-5 Edn. dated 2-8-1949.

To

Messrs. Vummidi Ramiah Chetty Guruswamy Chetty & Co.,
No. 23 to 25, Nethaji Subas Chandra Bose Road,
Madras-1. (with the designs and other
endorsements).

Gentlemen,

Ref:- Your letter No. 8299 dated 21-7-49 regarding
the making of Medals for the Poet Laureates.

I am directed to state that the Government accept
Design (1) submitted with your letter cited above for five
silver Medals with the Govt. of Madras Emblem embossed in
Gold, subject to the following alterations:-

(1) The letters "ASTHANAKAVI" in the respective
languages, i.e. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Sans-
krit, should be inscribed in an emboss in gold at the bottom
on the front side of the Medal.

(2) The names of the Poet Laureates should be inscribed
in English on the reverse of the Medal.

2. As already agreed to by you, a silver chain of
suitable size and length should be attached to the Medal.
I am to ask you to arrange for the delivery of the Medals
by the 12th August. I am to state that necessary payment
at the rate of Rs. 115/- per Medal will be made on receipt
of the Bill of Cost.

Yours faithfully,

lms
2.848

Sp. Secy
2/8
And by Mr. Messrs.
2.8.49. 1949

Flag (G)

plm

12-8

Letter No. 1000 dated 21-7-49

Address: 1. (with the name of the person to whom the medal is to be sent.)
2. (with the name of the person to whom the medal is to be sent.)
3. (with the name of the person to whom the medal is to be sent.)

Ref: Your letter No. 1000 dated 21-7-49 regarding the matter of medals for the 1948-49 season.

I am directed to state that the Government medals for the 1948-49 season (1) submitted with your letter dated above for five silver medals with the Govt. of Madras which enclosed in gold, subject to the following conditions:-

(1) The letters "ASTHANAKAVI" in the respective languages, i.e. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Sanskrit, should be inscribed in an embossed in gold at the top on the front side of the medal.
(2) The name of the poet laureate should be inscribed in English on the reverse of the medal.

As already stated to you, a silver medal will be awarded to the poet laureate for the 1948-49 season. I am to state that the Government medals for the 1948-49 season (1) submitted with your letter dated above for five silver medals with the Govt. of Madras which enclosed in gold, subject to the following conditions:-

At the rate of Rs. 100/- per medal will be paid to the poet laureate for the 1948-49 season. I am to state that the Government medals for the 1948-49 season (1) submitted with your letter dated above for five silver medals with the Govt. of Madras which enclosed in gold, subject to the following conditions:-

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

14 15 82

2 AUG 49

19

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

58857

NOTICE

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this telegram.

Charge to pay.		Office Stamp.
Rs.	As.	
		830

Handed in at (Office of Origin).	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words
Madras	21/8/49				10

TO

Edheath
Government Madras
Fourteenth august accepted
Kannigian Ramalingam
Pillai

N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Diwan Bahadur

T. M. NARAYANSWAMY PILLAY

Chairman and Convener,
Tamil Poet Laureate Selection Committee.

ORMES ROAD, KILPAUK.

Madras 6-8-1949

6 AUG 1949

Dear Mr. Lobo Prabhu,

60257
Herewith I am sending the note
on the career and achievements of the
Poet Laureate in Tamil.

Yours sincerely,

T. M. Narayanswamy

The career and achievement of the Poet Laureate in Tamil.

Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai was born on Friday - the 19th of October 1888 in Mohanoor, a village in Salem District. He was born of humble parents. His father Venkataramana Pillai was an Head-constable and his mother Ammani Ammal a pious and courageous woman; and our poet owes much to her training and discipline. He was the 8th child of his parents; while the child was yet in the womb it was prophesied by a devout religious soul that the 8th child to be born would be a male child and that that child would have 'kingly' sway and it has proved true. The eighth child born was our Poet and it must be admitted that he has achieved more than 'kingly' fame and reputation since he is now honoured as an outstanding poet and patriot not only in the Tamil countries land but all over the ~~country~~ where Tamil is being read..

The Poet began his education in a pial school. He was very intelligent and promising. He evinced a special taste for painting - a fine art enabling the devotee to appreciate beauty. He neglected subjects like Arithmetic for which he had no taste or aptitude. He was very proficient in painting, so proficient as to win a gold Medal at the Delhi Durbar in 1911. He read upto the F.A. Class corresponding to the present Intermediate and then discontinued his studies. He was for some time a teacher and he resigned it after a short time - the work being uncongenial. He showed great interest in the Dramatic art and he freely attended Dramas and Therukoothus - Street ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{dramas} - and this must have contributed a great deal towards

the acquisition of his peculiar popular attractive style and ^{powers} ~~xxxxx~~ of dramatic representation. He has drunk deep of the springs of Tamil Literature - ancient as well as modern - and has assimilated its spirit and made it his own; his writings bear evidence of his scholarship and learning.

He is a fervent patriot. Even as a student he was captivated by Sri Aurobindo Ghosh and his writings in the years following the partition of Bengal and even then as a student his ideal was to work for the emancipation of the motherland. An opportunity offered itself in 1920 when he had grown to be a man, when Mahatma Gandhi started the non-co-operation movement; he then threw himself heart and soul into this movement and became one of the staunchest disciples of Mahatma Gandhi. He had courted imprisonment many a time in the course of the battle for the Country's Freedom. When Mahatma Gandhi started the Salt Satyagraha, his famous lines "கத்தியின்றி ரத்தமின்றி யுத்தம் முன்னெடுக்கிறேன்" calling upon the people to enlist themselves as soldiers in the 'bloodless and 'swordless' war brought him great popularity and he was acclaimed as the Poet of the Congress. During the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha it was those lines of his that were sung by the Satyagrahis ^{during their march.}

Our Poet is the product of Gandhism and an ardent follower of Gandhi. In his poetry it may be said he followed the foot-steps of Subramania Bharati - the greatest of the modern Tamil Poets - and he continued and perfected the work begun by Subramania Bharati. Subramania Bharathi's inspiring songs roused the country from its slumber and lethargy and made it vibrate ~~into~~ with a new life, patriotism, vigour and fury. ~~This new spirit~~

This new spirit began to run to excesses and there was a danger of the country falling a prey to violence and disorder. It was at this juncture that Mahatma Gandhi came and stemmed the tide of violence and disorder and directed the fervour and enthusiasm of the people roused by Bharathiar into the channels of non-violence. Our Poet has been the preacher of the Gospel of Gandhian Non-violence through his melodious ~~verses~~ verses and it must be recognised that he has succeeded in spreading the ideals of Satyagraha in the Tamil Nad and enthroning Gandhi and Gandhism in the hearts of the Tamilians. Gandhi is his hero and he places him next only to God.

He has published several works - some prose and some poetry. Malai Kañlan (மலை காளன்) My Life (என் கதை) Aryans or Dravidans (ஆரியர் அல்லது திராவிடர்) are some of his prose works. The heart of the Tamilian (தமிழன் இதயம்) Homage to Gandhi (காந்தி அஞ்சல்) Prayer (பிரார்த்தனை) are some of his poetical works. He and She (அவரும் அதுவும்) reads like a novel written in verse; The interest is sustained throughout from the beginning to the end. All his works are distinguished by and sweetness and inspired by high ideals. simplicity. They are all extremely popular and written for the enjoyment and elevation of the common man. He is a believer in the unity of God. One may say he is an Hindu but he is by no means a sectarian. He has ~~created~~ preached the oneness of God though He may be worshipped ~~in~~ under different names and in different ways. He has been spreading the message of national unity: he deprecates distinctions which are sought to be made on the ground that some of us are ^{Aryans} ~~Aryans~~ and some ~~are~~ Dravidans and points out how such distinctions have no basis and emphasises that we are all Indians and Indians alone. Personally he is kind, sympathetic and generous. He has ennobled the philosophy of work and the charka -

immortal
is ~~usual~~ verses.

Among the Tamil poets living in the Province of Madras he holds an unique place and has won the affection and reverence of all. In recognition of his service as a Poet he was given a purase in 1942 at Bangalore and subsequently all over the Tamil Nad the public have gathered in large numbers to honour him. Special mention must be made of the meeting at Madras in which thousands participated and in which our beloved Rajaji presented him a purase in appreciation of his services.

He is a shining light among the modern poets and he will always live in our hearts as a Poet and patriot.

Urgent 22 Namakkal
V. Ramalingam Pillai 10-8-49
Tamil Post Laureate. Namakkal (v) 33

To The, Secretary, Government of Madras
Education & Public Health Department.
Fort. St. George, Madras

Dear Sir, I will thank you very much if you
can send an invitation immediately to Sri
K.V. AL.M. Ramanathan Chettiar, Kottaiyer.
Ramanad St. Please do. He is one of my
nearest and noblest of my friends whom I want
to be with me at the Durbar on the 14th.
Again I thank you for this personal consid-
eration.
Yours sincerely
Ramalingam

One invitation card
with the car-pass
despatched to K.V. AL.M.
Ramanathan Chelthiar,
Kottaiyur on 4-8-49.



Sri
J. M. L. to be Prabu and I.C.S
Secretary to Government
Education & Health

Fort. St George

Madras

Recd Six invitation cards.
Chinnai Kunalai
Tamil Panthar
T. Nagar.
11/8/49

x (for each)

Copy to Regd. 10.849.

A 5 (10/8/49)

E. & P.H. (G2).

Letter No. 26382-92/49-10 Edn. dated 11-8-49.

To

- (1) Sri Namakkal Kavignar
V. Ramalingam Pillai, Poet Laureate for Tamil,
Namakkal (Salem Dt.)
- (2) Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon,
Poet Laureate for Malayalam,
c/o. C.G. Kurup, No.1, Bishop Whallers' Avenue-
East, Mylapore, Madras.
- (3) Sri M. Govinda Pai, Poet Laureate for Kannada,
Manjeshwar P.O., South Kanara Dt.
- (4) Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K.S. Krishnamurti Sastrigal,
Chief Professor of Vyakarna, Rameswaram Devas-
thanam Patasala, Mathurai.

(with enclosures to each).

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Govt. of Madras
propose to hold a public Durbar at the Rajaji Hall,
Mount Road, Madras, ^{at 5 PM, on Sunday,} on the 14th August 1949 for the
award of the insignia of "Asthanakavi" on you. His
Excellency the Governor of Madras will preside over the
Durbar and present the insignia of the title on the
occasion. I am directed to ask that you may make it
convenient ~~to~~ to attend the function on that date.
You will be allowed a single First Class fare in respect
of your journeys to and from Madras and a daily allow-
ance of Rs.5/- for your halt at Madras on the 14th
August. Intimation as to the detailed programme of
the Durbar ^{is enclosed} ~~and the hour at which it will commence~~ will
be sent separately.

herewith x
I am to forward half a dozen invitation cards,
with the necessary car passes in respect of the Durbar
for the use of such of your near relations or intimate
friends whom you ^{might} like to invite for the function.
~~with which he would enjoy travelling allowance~~

Yours faithfully,

10/8/49

24

(23)

37

AWARD OF THE INSIGNIA OF POET LAUREATESHIPS

by

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

14th August 1949 ..

5-00 P.M.

P R O G R A M M E .

H.E. the Governor will inspect a Guard of Honour (provided by the National Cadet Corps and Congress Seva Dal Volunteers).

Prayer.

Address by the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

Citation by the Chief Secretary.

Award of the Insignia to each Poet Laureate by His Excellency the Governor.

Poets' response.

National Anthem.

AWARD OF THE INSIGNIA OF POST LAUREATESHIP

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

8-00 P.M.

The Governor will present a word of honor (provided by the National Chief of Honor and Laureateship)

Prayer

Address by the Honorable Minister for Education

Address by the Honorable Secretary

Prayer of the Minister for Education

Prayer

Prayer

Procedure.

25

27

39

Chief Secretary will then read out turn by turn the name of each awardee with a short account. Each awardee will stand up when his name is called up and at the end of the recital will walk to the dais and His Excellency will present the award consisting of medals and shawls. The awardee will then return to his seat. At the close of the awards the Chief Secretary will resume his seat. Recitation by poet laureates if they so desire and the National Anthem will be sung all standing. His Excellency and party will then depart.

....ooo...

Procedure.

Chief Secretary will then read out the names of the awardees with a short account. Each awardee will stand up when his name is called up and at the end of the recital will walk to the dais and his Excellency will present the award consisting of medals and shawls. The awardees will then return to his seat. At the close of the awards the Chief Secretary will resume his seat. Reception by good ladies if they so desire and the National Anthem will be sung all standing. His Excellency and party will then depart.

...000...

Signature
11/11/8

EXPRESS

STATE.

(To) Sri M. Govinda Pai,

Manjeshwar. (South Kanara Dt.)

Invitation	to	Public	Durbar (on the)
Fourteenth	and	papers	sent
to	K.Narasinga Rao	Professor	Christian
College	Tambaram	Please	attend.

Edhealth.

O/c. *11/11/8*

From

Sri V. Ramaswami Ayyar, B.A.,
Assistant Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department.

To

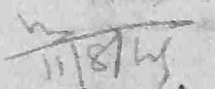
Sri K. Narasinga Rao, M.A., L.T.,
Associate Professor for Kannada,
Madras Christian College,
Tambaram.

Fort St. George, Madras, dated 11-8-1949.

Sir,

I am to forward to your address the letter of intimation intended for Sri M. Govinda Pai, Kannada Poet Laureate in respect of the public Durbar for Poet Laureates on the 14th instant. I am to ask you to hand it over to him with the six invitation cards and other papers on arrival.

Yours faithfully,

gpc. 
Asst. Secretary to Govt.

28 (28)

24 Jan
1968

45

(To)

ON
LETTERARY
POSTED

EDHEALTH.

O/c.

Copy of the Debit Note.

Order No.1993.

30 (19) Dated 13-8-1949. 49

Vummidi Ramiah Chetty, Guruswamy Chetty & Co.,
23 to 25, China Bazaar Road, Madras.

To the Secretary to Government, Edn. & Public Health Department, Madras.

Rs. A. P.

Five silver gold-centred medals with Government of
Madras emblem embossed in gold and "Asthana Kavi"
embossed in 5 different languages -

each medal provided with silver chain @ Rs.115/-each. 575 0 0

Engraving charges. .. 7 0 0

Sales Tax. .. 9 2 0

(in separate fancy presentation cases).

591 2 0

/True copy/

CABLE ADDRESS:

"SILKEN" MADRAS.

PHO: 4665

Established 1888

CODES:

SCHOFIELD 3 LETTER
ORIENTAL 3 LETTER
A. B. C. 6TH EDITION
BENTLEY'S & PRIVATE.

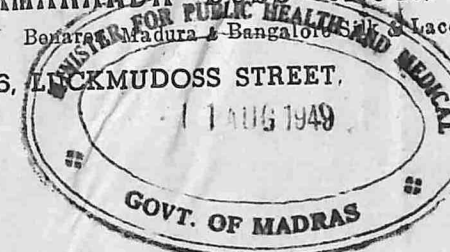
PARAMANANDA DOSS CHOTA DOSS & SONS, (30)

Benares, Madras & Bangalore Lace Cloth Merchants.

No. 16, LUCKMUDOSS STREET.

MADRAS. 3

Ref: No.



9th August 1949.

The Hon'ble Minister for
Education & Law, & Public Health Dept.,
Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,
M a d r a s.

Dear Sir,

61848

We sent you six shawls (two priced at Rs.86/- each, two at Rs.85/- each and two at Rs.98/- each) for inspection on the 6th instant. On 9-8-49 one shawl priced at Rs.86/- was returned to us through our representative. We have supplied you five shawls for which, as instructed by you, we are sending herewith our Bill for Rs.459-1-0.

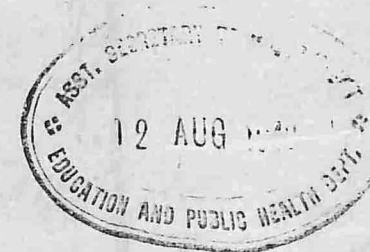
While issuing a cheque, please note to issue the same in favour of "PARAMANANDA DOSS CHOTA DOSS & SONS".

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Harsikbhai Dahyabhai
Per. Pro. B. GOVIND DAS,

Encl:



From

Paramananda Doss Chota Doss & Sons,
Benares Cloth Merchants, 16, Luckmoo Doss Street,
P.T. Madras.

32 (M) Madras: 9th August 1949.

To

The Hon'ble Minister for Education,
Law and Public Health, Government of Madras, Madras.

Terms: Interest at 12 per cent will be charged after one
month's credit period.

			Rs.	A.	P.
9-8-1949.	2	(Two) Shawls @ Rs. 85/- each.	..	170	0 0
	1	(one) shawl @ Rs. 86/-.	..	86	0 0
	2	(Two) shawls @ Rs.98/- each.	..	196	0 0
			Total.	452	0 0
Sales Tax @ 0-0-3 per Rupee.			..	7	1 0

(Rupees Four hundred and Fifty-nine
and anna one only).

459 1 0

Cheques should be crossed and written as "Marsihbhai Dahyabhai
Per.Pro.B.Govind Das.

33 (32) 53

PARAMANANDA DOSS
CHOTA DOSS & SONS.
P. T. MADRAS.

No. 32-7
Size 50 x 6 Full
Price 98-00

PARAMANANDA DOSS
CHOTA DOSS & SONS.
P. T. MADRAS.

No. 31-7
Size 48 x 5 1/2 Full
Price 85-00

PARAMANANDA DOSS
CHOTA DOSS & SONS.
P. T. MADRAS.

No. 40-7
Size 45 x 5 1/2
Price Rs. 86-00

PARAMANANDA DOSS
CHOTA DOSS & SONS.
P. T. MADRAS.

No. 32-7
Size 50 x 6 Full
Price 98-00

PARAMANANDA DOSS
CHOTA DOSS & SONS.
P. T. MADRAS.

No. 31-7
Size 48 x 5 1/2 Full
Price 85-00

IMMEDIATE.

E. & P.H. (G.2)

Poets Laureate - Honorarium for 1949-50 - Payment.

C.No. 26382/49.

Read again:-- G.O.No. 2627 Edn., dated 9.12.1947.

G.O. No 814 Edn. 27 22.3.1949 -

Memo.No. 26382-49/49¹² Edn., dated 22/8/49

The Government desire that the ^{five} ~~one~~ Poets Laureate who have been appointed in G.O.No. 814 Edn., dated 22.3.1949 for a period of five years - names given in the copy of the G.O. attached - should be paid the honorarium of Rs.1,000/-, ~~from~~ which is due to them for 1949-50 on the occasion of the first public Durbar which is to be held to confer ^{on them} the insignia of the title of Poet Laureate on Sunday the 14th August 1949, and that the payment should be by means of a cheque in favour of each. The A.G., Madras, is requested to be so good as to arrange for the preparation ~~xx~~ of the necessary cheques in their favour and forward the cheques to the Secretary to Govt., E. & P.H. Deptt., to-morrow (13th).

12 August 1949

12.849 ^{initials}

To

The A.G.
(with encl -
copy of G.O.)

170 814 Edn

22.3.49

(Through Fin)

Note. Finance may see.

Deskd.

12/8/49.

Copy to P.H.

12.849

13.8.49

The draft memo may be accepted.

12.849

12.849

S.O.H

Fin (Exp A)

No. T.A.D. IX. Genl.
37

Office of the Accountant-General, Madras.

Fort St. George, dated the 12th August 1949.

Enclosures.

FROM

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,

MADRAS,

To

The Secretary to Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

SIR,

Subject:- Payment of Honorarium for Poets Laureate for
1949-50

Reference:- Government Memo. 26382 G2/49-12 Edn. dated
12-8-1949

I have the honour to forward herewith five cheques
for Rs.1000/- each drawn in favour of the Poets Laureate
noted in the margin* towards the payment of honorarium
for the year 1949-50. After disbursement, the payees'
stamped receipts may kindly be obtained and forwarded to
this office.

Yours faithfully,

1. Sri Namakkal Kavignar
V. Ramalingam Pillai
2. Sathavadhani Kalaprapurna Sri
Chellapilla Venkatasastri Garu
3. Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon
4. Sri M. Govinda Pai
5. Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K.S. Krishnamurthi Sastrigal

Asst. Accounts Officer

avr

Cheque No.

Cheque No.	Item No.	Token No.	Amount
1) 159976 13.8.49	20	Post	1000/-
2) 159977/13/8/49	21	"	" "
3) 159978 - do -	22	"	" "
4) 159979 "	23	"	" "
5) 159980 "	24	"	" "

to be included
only with
letter for
item 2

I think that a
few others are
still in order.

E. & P.H. (G2).

Letter No. 61989-49/49-1 Edn. dated 19-8-49.

To

- 1 Sri Namakkal Kavignar,
V. Ramalingam Pillai, Poet Laureate,
Namakkal, Salem Dt. Madras. (para 1 only)
- 2 Sathavadhani Kalaprapurna Sri Chellapilla
Venkatasastri Garu, Poet Laureate,
Ksheerasagar Buildings, Governorpet, Bezwada. (paras 1 and 2).
- 3 Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon, Poet Laureate,
Mangalam, Tirur (South Malabar.) (para 1 only)
- 4 Sri M. Govinda Pai, Poet Laureate, Manjeshwar P.O.,
(South Kanara Dt.) (para 1 only)
- 5 Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K.S. Krishnamurti Sastrigal,
Chief Professor of Vyakarna, Rameswaram Devas-
thanam Patasala, Mathurai. (para 1 only)

Copy to the Accountant-
General, Madras,
(with reference to
letter to TAD-
X-Genl. - 37 -
12.8.49)

Sir,

Sub:- Honorarium for the Poet Laureate for 1949-50.-
Stamped Receipt for the sum of Rs.1000/-

Ref:- From the Accountant-General, Madras, T.A.D.IX.
Genl.37 dated 12-8-49.

With reference to the Cheque for Rs.1,000/- given
to you on the 14th at the Public Darbar on the 14th inst.
of honorarium for the Poet Laureateship, being
the amount due to you for the year 1949-50, I am directed
to request that a Stamped Receipt therefor may please be
sent to the Accountant-General, Madras, direct, and the
fact of having done so may be intimated to Government.

2. The cheque intended for you has been
handed to Sri B. Gopala
Reddi, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, who will deliver it
to you when he visits Vepery.

Yours faithfully,

16.8.49

General
note

From (20) 37/12/44 Mathurai
20.8.49 63
Maha Mahopadhyaya K. S. Krishnamurti
Chief Professor of Vyakarana, Sastugal,
Rameswaram Sevasthanam Patasala,
Madura.
To The Secretary, Edu. Public Health Dept. Madras
Sir Ref: your letter No 61989 C-49-1 Education
dated 19.8.49
As desired in the above reference I have
today sent a stamped receipt for the cheque
of Rs 1000/- to the Accountant General, Madras.
May I request you to kindly send

me T. A. bills forms
for claiming my T. A. action
and from Madras and
oblige. Thanking you.
yours faithfully.

K. S. Krishnamurthy
Sasalingal

POST

ADDRESS



To

The Secretary
Education + Public
Health Department,
Government of Madras
Fort St. George
Madras

From: M. Govinda Pai,
Poet Laureate, (Kannada),
Manjeshwar P.O.
S. Kanara.

38 (37) 65

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
MADRAS.

Sir,

64040

Ref. your letter No. 61989-G2-49-1,
Education, I have today sent a stamped receipt
for Rs. 1000/- only (one thousand only) to the
Accountant General, Madras, acknowledging the
honorarium received for the year 1949-50.

Yours faithfully,

M. Govinda Pai

Madras,
22nd August '49.



Ksheerasagaram buildings,
Governorpet, Bezwada
Dated 24-8-49.

The Accountant General to the Government of
Madras,

Madras.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Honorarium for the Poet Laureate
in Telugu for 1949-50-- receipt for.
Ref: Letter No. 61989-G2-49-1 dated
19th Aug., 49 from the Secretary to
the Government of Madras, Education
and Public Health Dept.

with reference to the above 1 enclose
herewith a stamped receipt for the sum of Rs. 1000/-
given to me as honorarium for the year 1949-50
as Poet Laureate in Telugu.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: 1.

Copy to the Secretary to the Government of Madras
Education and Public Health with
reference to his letter cited above.

Kallathol



Cheruthuruthy 69
Via : Shoranur

Date 25th August

To

J. M. Lobo Prabhu Esq., J. C. S.

Secretary to Government



Sir,

As per your communication dated
19th August, I have sent the receipt for
Rs 1000/- (Rupees Thousand only) to The
Accountant General.



Yours faithfully.

V. V. V. V. V.



ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
17 AUG 1949
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

KA
5/8

Translation of the letter dated 15-8-49
written in Malayalam, received from
Mehakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon,
Poet Laureate for Malayalam,
Go. C. G. Kurup Esq., 1, Bishop Weller's Avenue
East, Mysapore.

To the Hon'ble Minister for Education,
Govt. of Madras.

Sir,
I am one of the Poet Laureates who
attended the Durbar at Madras on the 14th
August. In the Govt. order I was given
one I Class T.A. and Rs. 5/- as Daily Allowance.
As I am very old and not conversant with
other languages and also because I am
deaf I could not travel alone. My son there-
fore accompanied me during my journey.
Therefore, if there is no objection, two I Class
fares and two D.A.s may kindly be allowed
to be granted. It will be appreciable if the
amount comes to me tomorrow (16-8-49).
I am leaving Madras on the 18th
evening.

(X)

Translation of the letter dated 15-8-49
written in Malayalam, received from
Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon,
Poet Laureate for Malayalam,
Go. C. J. Kurup Esq., 1, Bishop Waller's Avenue
East, Mysore.

To the Hon'ble Minister for Education,
Govt. of Madras.

Sir,

I am one of the Poet Laureates who
attended the Durbar at Madras on the 14th
August. In the Govt. order I was given
one I Class T.A. and Rs. 5/- as Daily Allowance.
As I am very old and not conversant with
other languages and also because I am
deaf I could not travel alone. My son there-
fore accompanied me during my journey.
Therefore, if there is no objection, two I Class
fares and two D.A.s may kindly be allowed
to be granted. It will be appreciable if the
amount comes to me tomorrow (16-8-49).
I am leaving Madras on the 18th
evening.

Memorandum No. 26382-92/49 Edn. dated 26-8-49.

Sub:- Poets Laureate - Durbar held on the 14th instant -
Claim of Travelling allowance - Instructions.

The Poets Laureates are requested to claim the travelling and daily allowances admissible to them in connection with their attendance at the Public Durbar on the 14th, ^{August 1949,} that is, a Single I Class fare to and fro and a daily allowance of Rs.5/-, and forward the Bills to the Secretary, Edn. & P.H. Department,

A T.A. Bill form is forwarded herewith for their use.

Fort St. George, Madras. ^{for counter signature} The T.A. Bill presented by the Kannada Poet Laureate is returned to Sri M. Govinda Pai ^{only} after countersignature.

The Poets Laureates are requested to present the Bills, after countersignature, at the Accountant-General's Office, Madras, or at the ^{concerned} District Treasury for payment. ^(Salem, Coimbatore, Mangalore and Nathuram)

In addition to the single First Class Railway fare and the Daily allowance of Rs.5/- on the 14th, a mileage of Two annas per mile may be allowed as a special case where it is claimed.

The expenditure will be debited to "37. r. Education - General - Miscellaneous - A.(1). 8. Other grants".

The Director is requested to take action to provide funds by reappropriation or otherwise, ^{if necessary, to meet the additional expenditure on this account.} The Accountant-General is requested to authorise the payment of the amounts claimed either at his office or at the District treasury pending provision of funds.

To

Sri Namakkal Kavignar
V. Ramalingam Pillai,
Poet Laureate in Tamil,
c/o. Chinna Annamalai,
"Tamil Pannai", Theagaroyanagar. (with encl.)

Sri Vallathol Narayana
Menon, Poet Laureate in
Malayalam, c/o. C.G. Kurup Esq.,
No.1, Bishop Whallers Avenue-
East, Mylapore. (P.T.O.)

Recd all except
item (3)
26/8/49

22/8/49

22.849

23/8/49

23/8

To

(3) Sri M. Govinda Rai,
Poet Laureate in Kannada,
Manjeshwar P.O.
(South Kanara Dt.)
with enclosure. By Regd. Post.

(4) Mahamahopadhyaya Sri
K.S. Krishnamurti Sastrigal
Poet Laureate in Sanskrit,
Rameswaram Devasthanam
Patasala, Mathurai (with encl.)

(5) The D.P.I., Madras.

(6) " A.G. tho' Finance.

Submitted for countersignature
of the T.A. Bill of Sri M. Govinda
Rai, Poet Laureate for Kannada.

88
29/8/49

29.849

29/8

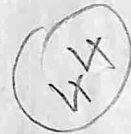
E. & P. H. (92)

78

~~64~~

2480

2480



WBS

E. + P. H. (C. 29)

Submitted to Secretary for
counter-signature of the T. A.
Bill of Sri Vallathol Nara-
yana Menon, Poet Laureate
for Malayalam.

30/8/49.

30/8/49

less

30849.

S

30/8

66

8/8

248

Secy. Est P. H.

31 AUG 1949
ATTN AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P.H. DEPT.
30 AUG 1949
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Residence
Malayalam
Laurence St.

Vallathol Narayana
Mem is as follows

Si Mahabari Vallathol
Narayana Mem.

P.O. Chornthanthi
Vai Shomanu
KM

Alk this
adms.

2028

26382/49-

Poets Laureate - Public Durbars -
Medals and shawls - bills -
passed for payment

26/8

Memo. No. 26382-92/49-16 Edu. dated 26-8-49.

The following bills are
forwarded to the A.G. :-

Vummidi Ramiiah Chetti,
Bangam Chetti and Co.
Jewellers & Silversmiths,
23 to 25 China Bazar
Road Madras - } Rs 591-2-0
for the manu-
facture of
five medals
for Poets Laureate

Paramaraja Doso Chota
Doso and Sons, Silk and
Lace Cloth Merchants,
Lucknudoos Street,
Park Town Madras } Rs 459-1-0
for the pur-
chase of
five shawls
for the Poets Laureate

The Accountant General is Requested
to pass the necessary cheques ^{urgently} in favour
of the Respective firms mentioned
above for the amounts noted against
each on production of stamped
receipts by the firms.

2. The expenditure will be
debited to 37 r - Education - General
Miscellaneous A (i) .8 - Other Grants.

3. The D.L.I is Requested
to find the funds by Reappropriation
or otherwise -

4. Vummidi Ramiiah Chetti,
Bangam Chetti and Co.

Guruswami Chetti & Co. and Paramanda Doss
Chota Doss and Sons are requested to
receive the payment from the A.G. on
production of the stamped receipts
for the amounts.

Wm
18.8.49.

despatched.
\$ 271849.

To The A.G.
(with two
bills in
orig.)

Copies
to be
taken up
with
"D.P.I."

✓ Dummaji Rania
Chetti, Guruswami
Chetti & Co -
25 to 25
China Bazaar
Road, Madras
Paramanda Doss
Chota Doss & Sons
Silk & Lace Cloth
merchants,
Lucknow Doss
P.T. Madras

Draft
Letter No. 26382-9249-17 Edu. dated 26-8-49.
To Sri Vallabha Narayana Menon
B.A. Graduate for Malabar
Co. Sri C.E. Kumar,
1 Bishop Walter Avenue
East
Madras
Sir,
W.M. reference to your
letter of the 15th August 1949
I am directed to state, that in
partial modification of the
instructions contained in Dept's

72
 Dept's letter No. 26382-G2-49-10 En
 dated the 11th Aug. 1949, you will
 be allowed as a special case two
 I Class fares for your journeys in
 connection with ~~you~~ the Public
 Durbar on the 14th August and
 Rs 10/- for ~~the~~ your halt at Madras
 on that date.

18/849

Copy to R. A. G.

" " " D. R. J.

Resptd.

26/8/49.

CABLE ADDRESS:

"SILKEN" MADRAS.

Phone 4665

Established 1888

CODES:

SCHOFIELD 3 LETTER
 ORIENTAL 3 LETTER
 A. B. C. 6TH EDITION
 BENTLEY'S PRIVATE.

PARAMANANDA DOSS CHOTA DOSS & SONS, 73

Benares, Madura & Bangalore Silk & Lace Cloth Merchants,

No. 16, LUCKMUDOSS STREET,

MADRAS. 3

Ref: No.

29th August 1949.

The Accountant General,
 Madras.



Sir,

Subject: Poets Laureate - Public
 Durbar Medals and Shawls - Bills -
 Payment - requested.

Reference: Memo. No. 26382 G2/49-16
 Education dated 26-8-49 from the
 Secretary to Govt., Education &
 Public Health Department.

As directed by the Secretary to
 Government, Education & Public Health
 Department in his Memorandum cited above,
 we send herewith our stamped receipt for
 Rs. 459-1-0, being the cost of five shawls
 supplied by us - vide our Bill dated
 9-8-49. We shall thank you to favour us
 with your cheque at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

Harsihbhai Dahyabhai

Per. Pro. B. GOVIND DAS,

Encl: 1 stamped
 Receipt for Rs. 459-1-0.

Copy to the Secretary to Govt., Education
 and Public Health Dept., Madras for
 information.

S. Y. 322-A (Full sheet).

TO BE RETURNED WITH REPLY.

Office of the *Accountant General*

Reply.

No. *Tg. Edu VI 41* *Madras*

Dated *18*, the *18*. 19*49*

FROM

To *The Secretary,*
E. & P. H. Dept.
Madras Govt.

SIR,

I have the honour to request that you will
be so good as to furnish the information, etc.,
required below.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. Panicker
Asst. Secy office
80 M/30/8.

7.11.53 *1153* *T.A. bill for Rs 207/- on behalf*
85/8. *Vallathol Narayana Menon*
of (poet laureate for Malayalam)
want of certificate from the party

(Continue on reverse, if necessary.)

76/90 2

no amount a
that ~~the~~ claim was
not preferred previously
and that he travelled
actually by the
class to which
he was entitled (viz I. class)
to travel.



2) The Govt memo No 26382 G2/49-17
Edu dt 26.8.49 is still
awaited through the
Finance Dept. The
bill is passed ^{provisionally} as a
special case

B

51 (40) 27 28 (92)
Letter By Regd. Post.
No. 26382-G2/49-18 Edu dt 9-9-1949.
To
Sir K. S. Krishnamurthi
Sastriyal,
Post Laureate, for
Rameswaram Devasthanam
Patasala, Mathurai
(with the bill)
Sir,
Travelling allowance bill
for journeys connected with the
attendance at the public dinner
on the 14th August -
I am directed to forward the

Two dupli
Draft
Hoori
Jal.
Sp. Secy
8/9
to Sir

28.83
your travelling allowance bill duly
countersigned, for presentation at the
District Treasury, Mathuram.

7.9.49. 1/8 8.8.49
7.9.49.

Y. T.

Letter
Ref No. 26382-92/49-49 Edm dated 9-9-1949.

To Mahakavi
Sri Vallathol Narayana
Menon,
Pochampattam,
Cheruvu. (Cheruvu,
(Via) Shoranur.

Sir,

Travelling allowance
bill for journeys to
attend the Public
Dinner on 14.8.49.

I am directed to ask you
to furnish the ^{undermentioned} certificate and
send

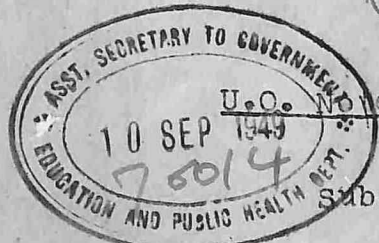
897
Send it direct to the Accountant
General, Madras with reference to your
t.a bill. for Rs 207 for your journeys
in connection with the public durbar
on the 14th August : —
Certificate

I certify that for the Railway
journeys included in the bill I travelled
by the First Class for which travelling
allowance is claimed. And that no other T.A
claim was prepared for the same day."

Y. J.

8/8-49
7.8.49.

SPECIAL



Government of Madras.

Public (Political) Department.

U.O. No. 5207/49-1, dated 8th September 1949.

Sub: DURBAR - Award of Poet Laureateship - Expendi-
ture - Details.

The Education and Public Health Department are request-
ed to specify very urgently the total amount of expenditure in-
curred by them by way of presentation of purse, shawl, medal,
etc. to the Poets Laureate in connection with the Durbar held
on 14-8-1949, together with the budget head to which the expen-
diture is debitable. The information is required for answer-
ing a Legislative Assembly question.

C.S. Ramachandran,
Deputy Secretary to Government.
To the Education and Public Health Department.

Forwarded / By order

SS.Sm./8-9.

Superintendent.

100

p. 69 c.f.
in the L.F.

An expenditure of Rs. 328/- was incurred in connection with the award of Honor presented by the National cadet corps, First Battalion, Madras, on the occasion of the Durbar. The expenses on this account is to be debited to "37. r. Edu. general - Miscellaneous - A (i). 11. National cadet corps."

E. & P. H. No. 70014

(a Copy of M. 399.

here with

Sent

14/8/49. Infy.

129.48,

1919

13943

P. W. (P. O. E.)

101 83
E. & P. H. (C. P. E.)

Please see the w.b. note of Public (Political) at p. 1 ante. No purse was presented to the Poets Laureates during the public Durbar on the 14th August. Only a cheque for Rs. 1000/- to each of the five Poets Laureate, representing their honoraria for the year 1949-50, was handed to them simultaneously with the occasion. This does not form part of the Expenditure on the Durbar.

2. The cost of the five Medals for the Poets Laureate came to Rs. 591-2-0 and a ~~sum~~ sum of Rs. 459-1-0 was incurred for the purchase of ~~the~~ five shawls for them. The expenditure was debited to "37. r. Education - general - Miscellaneous - A (i). 8. - other grants."

3. Four Poets Laureates attended the Durbar. The Poet Laureate for Telugu, Sri Chellapilla Venkatasubrahmanyam, could not attend the Durbar owing to illness and he was represented by Sri B. Gopala Reddi, H. M. (Finance), at the Durbar. The T. A. Bills of three Poets Laureates have been passed for payment, while the T. A. Bill of the Poet Laureate for Tamil is under scrutiny.

An approximate amount of Rs. 496/- will be incurred for the four Poets Laureates by way of Travelling Allowances which will be debited to the ~~Head~~ Head of account ~~referred to~~ in para 2 above.

With the above information this may be returned to Public (Political) ~~may~~ he be informed no accd.

5/8/49

of the expenditure on the Government of Madras



54

105
85

Honourable Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja
Premier of Madras

requests the pleasure of the company of

on the occasion of the award by
His Excellency the Governor of Madras
of the insignia of

Poet Laureateships

at 5 p.m. on the 14th August 1949, at the
Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, Madras



ADDRESS

BY

HON'BLE SRI MADHAVA MENON

Minister for Education and Law

ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD OF THE
INSIGNIA FOR POET LAUREATESHIP

108

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND FRIENDS,

DURING the days of the British administration the English language had assumed major importance as the language of the Government and the courts and as the medium of instruction in schools and colleges. What-ever advantages accrued from the assignment of this position to English, it is well known that, thereby, our own languages came to be neglected. With the attainment of freedom on the 15th August 1947 and the establishment of a popular Government at the Centre and in the Provinces, the Government took up for active consideration the steps to be taken for revivifying our ancient languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Sanskrit, not only with a view to affording facilities to authors of merit in those languages to give free play to their literary talent, but with a view also to making available to the common man general information on all branches of culture.

Languages are the indestructible expression of the culture and spirit of a people. They are the pride and the badge of the different peoples of the world. Their wealth reflects not only the intellectual but also the moral and physical greatness of the people. That our own languages have survived the historical vicissitudes of the country is at once a tribute to their vitality and to the character of the people. That they have continued to be rich both in thought and expression was the augury of the independence which the country has won today. Therefore, in attaching importance to the revival of our languages, the Government have been concerned with the wider issue of enlarging the greater life of the people of the country.

Poetry is to language what a flower is to a plant. From the earliest times man has tried to put his finest thoughts into metrical words, the better to enshrine them. From our ancestors we have accordingly inherited the Rig-Veda, through centuries during which everything else has perished. Similarly the Ramayana and the Mahabharata have survived, on account of their imperishable quality, all the ravages of time and chance. Attention by Government to poetry, therefore, is no luxury; it is attention to the seeds of the larger life by which a people lives.

Poetry is not only a link with the past; it is also a link with the future. The Poet Shelley regarded poets as the unacknowledged legislators of the world, those who see into the inwardness of events and point to new and unknown ways. We owe to poets that they have exposed social injustices, long before they were removed. That poets beautify and glorify life is, of course, well known. In our own existence, in which there are few of the pleasures known to other countries, the Ramayana and the various songs of the common people have supplied much of the joy in life.

It would not be exaggeration to agree that in our very poverty, the poet

"By his magic has transfigured
All that is beneath the Sun
To a better sound, a finer view
And—loveliest tale of all that's true
He tells that you come to spring
And that spring returns to you."

In these circumstances, the institution of the poet laureate was integral to our past civilization. In the courts of ancient kings, poets and scholars were honoured and flourished. Under a democracy, the houses of the people are the courts of the Ruler in which our Poets deserve to be installed. My predecessor Sri Avinashilingam Chettiyar accordingly came to the conclusion that in each of the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Sanskrit languages, the poet laureate should be designated. Five selection committees were consequently constituted, on each of which there were representatives of universities. They have selected

- 1 Sri Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam Pillai, Namakkal (Salem district)—for Tamil,
- 2 Sathavadhani Kalaprapurna Sri Chellapilla Venkata Sastry Garu, Vijayavada—for Telugu,
- 3 Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon, Mangalam, Tirur, South Malabar—for Malayalam,
- 4 Sri M. Govinda Pai, Manjeshwar (South Kanara district)—for Kannada,
- 5 Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K. S. Krishnamurthi Sastrigal, Mathurai—for Sanskrit.

It is significant, but by no means strange, that the five poets laureate have contributed greatly to the struggle for freedom through the genius of their poetry. Never divorced in feeling or fellowship from the non-violent Satyagraha, that raged for three decades against the armed might of one of the most powerful nations, our poets laureate were not "idle dreamers of an empty day," who asked themselves petulantly like William Morris, "why should I strive to set the crooked straight," on the contrary, every one of our laureates identified himself with the martyr heroes and set to word-music not only the moral achievements of the Mahatma and his men, but also the new code that would build a new India around the charka harijan, kisan and worker. Mahamahopadhyaya Krishnamurthi Sastrigal, our Sanskrit Laureate, has written the *MAHATMA VIJAYA*, a *Champu* poem which deals with Mahatma Gandhi. Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai, the Tamil Laureate, has sung many a poem not only about the National Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Tilak, Chidambaram Pillai and others, but has also composed popular pieces on the constructive programme of the freedom movement such as prohibition, harijan uplift, village industries and temple entry.

Vallathol Narayana Menon has likewise a commendable record of freedom poetry. Nationalist to the core, he too has sung with unrivalled vigour on nationalism and nation-building activities. His poem "Flag Salutation" is sung all over Malabar whenever the Tri-Colour is hoisted. Brahma Sri Chellapilla Venkata Sastry, the Telugu Laureate, is nearly 80 today, weak and bed-ridden. Yet he retains a lively interest in current affairs and his recent contributions on topics like temple-entry, harijans, communism provide interesting sidelights to his general theory of life. Sri Govinda Pai, the Kannada Laureate, evinces an equally passionate love for liberty. In his *VAISAKHI* there is a memorable passage on Independence in which he warns an alien nation against imposing its will on a slave country. Sri Govinda Pai has also written moving pieces on themes like "Quit India," and "the Assassination of Gandhiji."

But the preceding remarks on the link between our new Poet Laureates and the Independence Movement should not be taken to mean that the present incumbents of these new posts were appointed with their political background in mind. These literary personalities have been awarded laurels because they are poets—the best poets—in the land. This is recognized by the common people as also those who study poetry critically.

Closely allied to the scheme of poet laureates is the scheme for the award of prizes for the best books in the four regional languages—Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. Six prizes of Rs. 500 each for Tamil and Telugu and of Rs. 250 each for Kannada and Malayalam have been awarded to the following:—

Tamil.

- 1 Sri M. P. Somasundaram—Poems and Songs.
- 2 Sri T. K. Manickavasagam—Mathematics, Astronomy and Engineering.
- 3 Sri P. Tirukutasundaram—Children's Literature.
- 4 Sri A. V. Subrahmaniyam—Medicine and Hygiene.
- 5 Sri K. S. Nagarajan—Educational methods, Philosophy and Physiology.
- 6 Sri Jamadagni—Natural Science.

Telugu.

- 1 Sri Gadiyaram Venkata Sesha Sastri—Poems and Songs.
- 2 Sri Jammalamadaka Madhavarama Sarma and Sri N. Venkata Rao—Prose Works—Literary Criticism (prize to be divided equally).
- 3 Sri M. Bapineedu and Sri G. V. Sitapati—Children's Literature—(prize to be divided equally).
- 4 Sri Goteti Jogiraju—Agriculture.
- 5 Sri M. Somasekhara Sarma—History.
- 6 Dr. G. Narayanamurti—Hygiene.

109

Kannada.

- 1 Sri Ranganatha Diwakar—History.
- 2 Sri K. Vittal Shenoy—Science.
- 3 Sri M. Ranga Rao—Novel.
- 4 Sri B. Venkataramana Bhat—Poetry.
- 5 Sri M. Thimmapayya—Criticism.
- 6 Sri Gamaki Gunduramayya—Children's Literature.

Malayalam.

- 1 Sri V. Sreedhara Menon—Poems and Songs.
- 2 Sri Karoor Neelakanta Pillai—Short Story.
- 3 Sri S. K. Pottakad—Novel and Drama.
- 4 Sri M. C. Nambudripad—Physics and Chemistry.
- 5 Sri K. E. Job—History, Economics, Politics and Sociology.
- 6 Sri P. N. Moosath—Educational Methods, Philosophy and Psychology.

In the institution of laureateship and prizes the Madras Government trust they have taken an appropriate step in their educational policy. It is their earnest desire that this policy should embrace the enlightenment of everyone in the province. Compulsory education on the basic pattern is the first step which the Government are taking in respect of children. In respect of adults, the Government of India have offered an annual grant of about 18 lakhs, which it is intended immediately to use to establish adult schools in the premises of the existing secondary and larger primary schools. In this connexion full use will be made of Audio-Visual aids, so that science may facilitate and expedite the difficult task of educating the old. In respect of secondary education, bifurcated courses are being introduced to supply a practical basis, so that the country is duly supplied with the technicians required for its progress. University education is growing of itself, the colleges having increased from 78 in 1939 to 107 in 1949, which is evidence of the success of secondary education. We are not neglecting other activities. In the matter of physical training this province takes pride of place. For music, we have established, with a grant from the Government of India, the Karnataka College of Music. For military training, we have sanctioned the enlistment of 6,000 cadets, some of whom have provided the Guard of Honour today. It is the earnest endeavour of the Madras Government to create by its educational activities the proper human foundations for its own future and for the greatness of the country.

Any material reward to a poet, which he never expects, will be too small. Nonetheless to signify our regard, the Government have decided to present a medal and a shawl today, and an honorarium of Rs. 1,000 annually for five years to the chosen Laureate. I invite Your Excellency kindly to award the insignia of our regard to the laureates. I invite the Hon'ble Premier to award the honorarium

120

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT
GOVERNMENT PRESS
MADRAS
1949



OUR POETS LAUREATE

Darbar Day, Fourteenth August
Nineteen Hundred and Forty-nine

Published by
The Director of Information and Publicity
Government of Madras

59

1139

60

60

POETRY AND THE PEOPLE

"I want art and literature that can speak to the millions", declared Mahatma Gandhi. True to this sentiment, the Madras Government have selected as Poets Laureate five luminaries who are essentially the peoples' choice. The appointments form a formal ratification of the popular desire of the masses, for these poets reigned supreme in the hearts of the people long before the institution of Poets Laureate—first of its kind in India—was considered.

Shelley described poets as the "unacknowledged legislators of the world". It is but fitting, therefore, that the "acknowledged legislators"—the men at the helm of State affairs—should hasten to pay their meed of tribute to these brother helmsmen. The new Poets Laureate are honoured not only for their dynamic role in the freedom struggle, but also for their paramount influence on contemporary literature. This is at once the privilege and the duty of a people's Government which has a vital stake in the cultural renaissance of the country.

"If thou hast two loaves, sell one and buy hyacinths to feed thy soul," counsels a Persian aphorism. These are days of biting scarcity and bitter want in the sphere of material goods; but let us be thankful to our Poets Laureate for providing hyacinths to feed our souls.

K. MADHAVA MENON,
Minister for Education.



Sri Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai, the Tamil Poet Laureate

I
*When falls the soldier brave,
Dead at the feet of wrong.
The poet sings and guards his grave
With sentinels of song.*

Tamil Nad in recent days was given a chance to evince its traditional love for song and thought, vindicate its belief in the

success of the freedom struggle and reaffirm its faith in the Gandhian creed of Truth, Non-violence, Work and Unity. And Tamil Nad rose to the occasion when the Madras Government crowned Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai with the laurels of the Poet Laureate. Every beat, every rhyme of the songs of the Namakkal Poet is born out of the blood and tears shed by countless martyrs, the harrowing years in gaol spent by the leaders and the mute despair that dimmed the gleam in million slave-born eyes.

Every poet of major stature has a special characteristic approach in invoking his Muse. Milton had his Biblical theology, Keats his Grecian mythology, Byron his Saracenic encounters; Kalidas revelled in seasonal festivals while Kamban chose the puranic epics. Nearer to our times, Tamil Nad produced two major poets who sought their inspiration in the one burning theme of three decades or more—the freedom struggle. They were Bharathi and Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai.

Ramalingam Pillai is a perfect example of the true Gandhian follower. It was not exigencies of party forces that made him subscribe to the various features of the Gandhian code. He accepted in its entirety every phase of the basic Congress programme, not because he was a sound strategist, but because he was a good soldier. Khadi, charka, prohibition, temple entry, village uplift, rural industries—these are articles of faith with him and so he sang of his faith in the poems that became the music of the independence movement.

Ramalingam Pillai was born in October 1888, in a simple middle-class family in Namakkal, a taluk in Salem district. His father Sri Venkataram Pillai was a head constable in the Moganur village thana. Ramalingam was the eighth and the seven before him were girls. There had been a son born before, but the child had lived only for a few minutes. No wonder the family hailed the birth of a son with fervent joy. The father gratefully recalled the words of an elder who had blessed the expectant mother: "The eighth son will rule the land." Little did they reckon that the lusty-lunged babe in the cradle was to rule Tamil Nad with a song on his lips!

Ramalingam's boyhood reflects the brightness of his later career, but there were no special indications of a divine devotion

to poetry. In fact, as a boy Ramalingam was more interested in visual than oral art: he took to painting with great zeal. But though he spent dry arithmetic classes drawing surreptitious sketches and cartoons, he did well in other subjects. He was a regular prizeman, particularly in Tamil, but painting for ever remained a passion with him.

After matriculating from a Salem school he joined the S.P.G. College, Tiruchirappalli. Here he won acclaim in sports and studies, but he left college barely after a year. About this time he developed ear trouble and despite an operation by Dr. T. M. Nair, he became partially deaf. The blindness of Milton inconvenienced him socially, but did not handicap his genius. But Ramalingam's deafness, like Beethoven's or Vallathole's, is a tragic event, as the keynote of his poetry is its sonorous rhythm, meant to be recited rather than read.

After leaving college, Ramalingam married Muthammal, daughter of his elder sister. This was one of those memorable marriages which begin badly and end as an idyll. There was a poignant finale too. After fourteen years of married life the couple had no children, and the elders advised another marriage, proposing a younger sister of Muthammal. Ramalingam Pillai was adamant, and refused to consider a second marriage while his wife lived.

"What if I die?" she asked. The next morning she passed away.

II

"As nightingales feed on glow-worms, so poets live upon the loving light of nature."

Ramalingam Pillai became a taluk office clerk and then a teacher. But his heart was not in his work and so he became a professional painter. A chance encounter with an influential client put him on the road to success: and in 1912 we find him receiving a gold medal from King George V at the Delhi Durbar for a painting of a Coronation scene.

Through the years the Muse teased him into sporadic efforts. Occasionally he would compose a few lines, but the fervent glow was lacking, the magic spark was absent.

And then came the period of storm and stress. The Congress Party had come to the first of many showdowns with the British Government, and Mahatma Gandhi led the nation in the new "War"—Satyagraha. Ramalingam Pillai, an active Congress-man from 1914, hailed the struggle in his inimitable poetry. His particular genius needed this sharp drizzle of national upheaval to burgeon forth into flower—

"Without blade, without blood,
There comes a War,
Votaries of Truth
Join from afar.

Crouch not to shoot
No life to be taken
This new mode of battle
Has the world shaken.

No chargers, no elephants
No murder in the fray
Nobody to be the foe
No desire to slay."

III

"Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity." (William Wordsworth.)

Ramalingam Pillai's poetry fulfils only the first requisite of Wordsworth. The Salem Poet composed in the saddle, so to speak, and rarely waited for white-hot emotions to cool into convenient placid platitudes. The occasion found the poet ready with a song on his lips. When Rajaji launched the Vedaranyam Satyagraha in 1930, Ramalingam Pillai sang the song of the new non-violent technique and thousands of youths responded to the call. The song still remains a favourite martial tune with the non-violent soldiers of Tamil Nad. Spontaneous combustion can be an apt description of the poet's composing methods, for the fire of poetry was kindled in a flashing second by the spark of struggle. Not for him the long notes, the obscure allusions, the rejected rhymes, the revised drafts.

Such technique explains the quality of his works—of a lambent glow, pure and glistening. The poetry of the common man, his verse never deepened into mystic crepuscularism or metaphysical subtleties. Never was there a strained metaphor, a far-fetched image, a flamboyant simile. His word pictures were of action caught in a moment's magic eternity—as his vision of a world racked by war.

"Wail of mothers weeping
State of devils sleeping."

Sincerity of emotions carried him from stanza to stanza, and the breathless haste of his lines lit up a flare-path of passionate appeal. Rarely does he descend into the method of arguing with the reader: not for him cold logic and disputing facts. He apparently believes, like the French philosopher Pascal "that the heart has its own reasons which reason knows nothing of." His poetic appeals are therefore directed straight to the hearts of his listeners.

And listeners they were, for Ramalingam's poetry is designed to be sung at a congregation, not read in cold print in a closet. A natural gift for rhythm, an ear tuned to rhyme, gives his lines the lilt of resonance that makes them echo and re-echo to dazzling patterns of sound-pictures. Yet he is no facile versifier who uses the aid of alliteration and metre to cover up poverty of thought or superficiality of sentiments.

His genius was concentrated upon the theme—not its objective possibilities but its subjective influences—and his emotional reactions raced into words as poetry.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once said: "Words in their best order is prose. The best words in the best order is poetry." Ramalingam's poetry is of the latter order—"best words in the best order,"—but even had he lacked this intrinsic genius for beat and rhyme, he would still rank as a major poet by virtue of the depth, the passion, the sincerity of the feelings that he transmutes into poetry.

IV

"Genius in the man of action is the apotheosis of charlatanism." (Aldous Huxley.)

known as Tirupati Venkata Kavulu, who as poets, scholars, dramatists and above all as Satavadhanis, have rendered the greatest service to Telugu literature during the past fifty years.

Sri Venkata Sastri was born in 1870 in Enam (French Territory) in an illustrious Brahman family. But he really belongs to Kadiam, a village in East Godavari, where he settled and lead his life. He studied Sanskrit and Telugu under Sri Charla Brahmayya Sastri. Sri Venkata Sastri then had to go to Benares to perfect his Sanskrit, which in those days had predominance over Telugu, so far as scholars were concerned.

Sri Venkata Sastri began his poetical career very early in life, when he began to display the wonderful art of 'Satavadhanam' along with his colleague, the late Sri Divakarla Tirupati Sastri, an equally eminent scholar and poet. Andhra Desa was fortunate in having this wonderful and harmonious alliance between these two people in the matter of 'Avadhanam' and poetical works. Our Poet Laureate's regard and love for his late colleague Sri Tirupati Sastri is such that ever since the latter's demise in 1919, he would publish his works signed 'Tirupati Venkateeyam'. The literary works of the 'twins' always bear the names of both, irrespective of the authorship.

The main factor that contributed to the wide popularity of these twin-poets not only among poets and scholars but also among illiterates is the wonderful art of 'Satavadhanam', which they displayed throughout Andhra Desa for nearly 20 years. The art of 'Satavadhanam' which is peculiar to Telugu language and literature requires not only poetic talent but also scholarship, creative genius, capacity in 'Asukavitvam' and above all prodigious memory. For nearly twenty years they toured "from Gadval to Chennapuri" displaying this wonderful art, honoured by Rajahs, Zamindars, scholars, poets and the common public.

Wherever they went they met thousands of people anxiously waiting to see and experience something hitherto unknown. In those days wherever one went one could hear their sweet poetry and one could come across their disciples, and references to their "Avadhanams". Their tours ranged from villages and towns to courts of Rajahs and Zamindars. Astonished and delighted by their 'Asukavitvam, avadhanam and scholarship,' Rajahs and

Zamindars conferred on them honours as presents of shawls to processions on elephants.

“వినుగు నెక్కినాము, ధరణీమణి మొక్కగ మొక్కినాము”

“సంచరించితిమి రాజ్యసాధనముల పూర్వ కవులకన్నను నిరాహుటముగను...”

“రాజమిత్రుల మదిగాక రాజ బంధువులము, కవిరాజులము, ఉదుగురుగల్పి కులము వారము మా కెందు కొందులదేదు.”

But though the twin-poets honoured many a Rajah or a Zamindar and were honoured by them in turn, their attachment to scholars and poets was greater. Among those who had the greatest regard and appreciation for these poets may be mentioned the late Sri Ananda Gajapati of Vijaynagaram, and Sri Krishna Rao, Zamindar of Prolavaram. In this way the poets displayed during a period of 20 years not one or two but hundreds of 'Avadhanams'. Mrs. Annie Besant and many foreigners praised their skill. The twin-poets have written a number of books (Gunturuseema, Geeratham, Nanarajasandarsanam) describing their activities in the field of Satavadhanam; the joint work of Sri Venkata Sastri, the intellectual giant and Sri Tirupati Sastri, the great scholar as 'Satavadhanis'.

The art of 'Satavadhanam' and the 'Asukavitvam' which is an indispensable feature of the former, is not unknown in the history of Telugu literature. The late Madabhushi Venkatacharya was considered to be an expert in this art and Bhattumurti who dates back to the golden age of Sri Krishnadeva Raya was well-versed in this art. But it can never be disputed that it is the Tirupati Venkata Kavulu that elevated for the first time in the history of Telugu literature, the 'Asukavitvam' to a higher standard and transformed it into a creative art. The 'Satavadhanam' displayed by the Tirupati Venkata Kavulu throughout Andhra had a tremendous effect on contemporary Telugu letters and encouraged many a young enthusiast to emulate them.

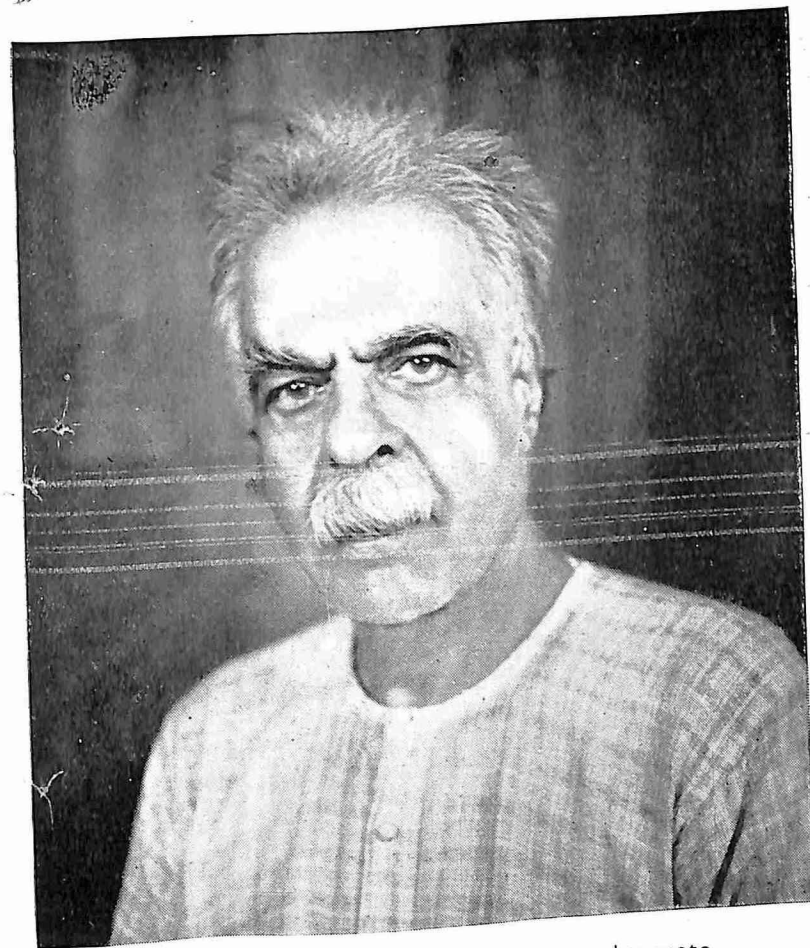
These 'Satavadhanams' gave an impression to the people that poetry too can be a honoured profession in this world, that a poet too is fit for honour, that there is no greater creative art than poetry. Among the various titles which Sri Venkata Sastri, now possesses, nothing is dearer to him than the title 'Sataradhani'.

He is now eighty, emaciated, crippled and bedridden. But it is surprising to note that the pen which he took up 60 years ago still continues to be active to prove his words that "he is born to be a poet and that poetry is his profession."

(ಕವನಾರ್ಥಮಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸುಕವಿತಾಕಾರ್ಯವೆ ನಾ ಪ್ರತಿ).

He is able to write with his own hands in the same old beautiful script with the same vigour, creative genius and scholarship as of old.

Let the Almighty bless him with many more years of happy life of such literary activities!



Sri M. Govinda Pai, the Kannada Poet Laureate

The coveted honour of being the first Kannada Poet Laureate in the history of Free India has been conferred on Sri Govinda Pai

of Manjeshwar, South Kanara District. South Kanara has been noted for its poets past and present. The galaxy of poets like Ratnakara Varni, Parti Subba and Muddana who enriched Kannada literature and distinguished themselves in their individual treatment of poetic art paved the way for the budding poets. Muddana, the most versatile prose writer and poet, was the first to encourage the present Poet Laureate Sri Govinda Pai.

At the age of 16 Sri Pai was able to digest the Shakespearean dramas and do a metrical translation of the two acts of "Twelfth Night" which was read and encouraged by that Master Poet of Karnataka. The poetic genius of Govinda Pai was revealed for the first time in his two short poems contributed to the monthly *Suvadini* of Mangalore in about 1902. From that time he wrote, it appears, off and on and all have appeared in one Kannada journal or another.

In many ways Govinda Pai is a unique personality and occupies a notable place in contemporary Kannada literature. His writings have appeared in every leading journal of Karnataka. His poems as well as research articles adorn almost all special numbers, commemoration volumes and scholarly magazines. His reluctance to travel, his stay-at-home habit and his refusal to be praised and publicised have prevented the general public in other parts of Karnataka from coming into close contact with a personality of rare distinction, and with one of the greatest living research scholars and poets of Karnataka.

Sri Govinda Pai was born on 23rd March 1883 at his maternal grandfather's house in Manjeshwar, South Kanara, which is at a distance of 11 miles from Mangalore. He is the eldest son of the late Timma Pai and Srimathi Devakamma. He comes from a well-known Saukar Bappai family of Mangalore. He belongs to the Vaishnava section of the Saraswat Brahmins which forms one of the five divisions of the Northern Brahmins known as Pancha Gowdas. Sri Pai's ancestors having been exiled from Goa, scattered themselves almost all over the West Coast in the North and South Kanara Districts and further south as far as Cape Comorin in about the middle of the 16th Century during the tyrannous rule and the religious persecution by the Portuguese who were the rulers of Goa.

After finishing his primary education at Manjeshwar Sri Govinda Pai moved to Mangalore to take up his secondary Education. After matriculating from the Canara High School, Mangalore, he joined the Government College, Mangalore, for further studies. Thereafter in 1901, he married Srimathi Krishna Bai Kamath of Mangalore. For three years he had to discontinue his studies on account of his father's death. Again he resumed his studies and joined the Madras Christian College and came out first in English in B.A. He also secured a high Second Class in Sanskrit. Owing to eye trouble he could not appear for his optional subject, mathematics, and for some years he was distracted by illnesses as well as loss of some of the nearest and dearest at home. At last he gave up his attempts to complete his studies.

As a poet Sri Govinda Pai has taken a new and revolutionary step, that of writing and publishing poems without "prasa" the alliterative second letter of each verse which had all along been looked upon as the *sine qua non* of poetry. Why alone Kannada, of all Dravidian Poetry? Forthwith there rained a heavy downpour of adverse and even abusive criticism; but Sri Pai stood as a bulwark against the bitter criticism and never yielded to his opponents. In 1916 he first adapted the European, especially the Shakespearean sonnet into Kannada and has since written several of them.

In 1928 he wrote a poem "Gommata Jaina Stuti" in praise of the three Gommata colossi in Karnataka, and the Jaina Godhead whom they represent. It was his first work that has been published in book form. It is composed in Sanskrit metres in which however the time-honoured "prasa" is conspicuously absent. In 1930, he collected all his lyrical poems which had been scattered here and there and published them in a book form along with 50 verses translated from Fitzgerald's English version of the "Rubaiyat" of the Persian poet Omar Khayyam. He called that book "Gilli Vindu" or "A Flock of Parrots". Next year in 1931, he wrote a poem "Golgotha" in blank verse on the last days of "Jesus Christ" which first appeared in journals and thereupon came out in book form in 1937.

His constant study of Buddhist works in Pali made him contemplate and write a poem about the last day of Buddha. This

poem is named "Vaisakhi" or the "Full moon day of Vaisakha". This blank verse composition shows the poet's religious tolerance and cultural outlook. His description of nature is superb. In Vaisakhi he showed his love of nature. He paints an evening in the following word-picture:—

"Sun descends, heat subsides, breeze blows, 'evening-jasmine' blossoms, herd returns towards homestead, small birds hidden in the leaves of the trees owing to heat of the sun come out and cry, kite circles, cuckoos say, 'Kuhu kuhu'—and Kembotha bird asks 'Kah kah' (in Sanskrit who-who).

"Don't force your religion or kingdom on others. Those who respect others' religion and independence as their own, that religion, that nation, that independence will spread like sky—Those who destroy others' dharma and independence, their dharma, nation and independence will perish like raising waves—therefore don't suppress others, otherwise the result of that will be self-ruin—neither long life nor progress."

These are the lofty sentiments expressed by our Poet Laureate. There are a number of yet other shorter and longer poems scattered in various Kannada journals which are awaiting collection and publication in book form. About 50 or 60 of them seem to be connected with the sad demise of his dear departed wife. He calls them "Nanda Dipa" or "Eternal Flame". The poet himself expresses: "Lamp lit up by the sorrow for my dear departed wife, which is unquenchable as long as I am alive and set up before God—in other words, it is an offering of songs to God—in memory of her whom he has been pleased to take away from me." The pathetic yearning of the poet's heart is well brought out in these elegies which will give him a place among the foremost elegy writers of the world.

Later works written on particular occasions like "Quit India" and assassination of Gandhiji and so on have earned for him a high place among the national poets of the day.

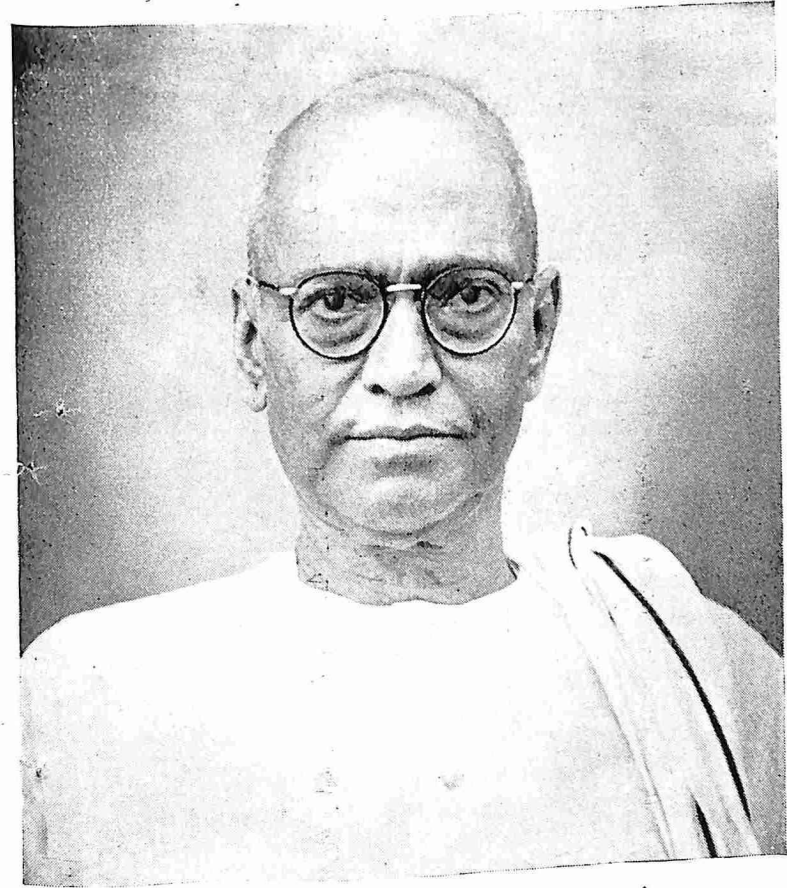
The history of his forefathers made Sri Govinda Pai turn to historical research. After a thorough study of Portuguese history of Goa he began to search the Indian inscriptions in order to find out names of Saraswats. Ultimately he wrote some articles in

English under the caption "Flashes from the Past". This is his first approach in the field of historical research.

From 1926 onwards he has engaged himself in doing regular research work in the history of Hindu India in English and of Karnataka in Kannada. Altogether he has written 25 research articles in English on various subjects, namely, deciding the dates, genealogy, chronology, literary antiquity, religion, grammar, philology, history and allied subjects. The articles on some Kannada passages in a Greek farce of the 2nd century A.D., Ptolemy's Hippokousa and Haiga Haiva (North Kanara district) are particularly worthy of mention. His research articles in Kannada exceeded more than 100 in number.

Sri Govinda Pai is not only a poet but he is a good dramatist too. His "Hebberalu" (Thumb) of 1946, a one-act verse-drama with a chorus after the manner of Greek dramas, is well appreciated for its logical argument. It is based on the story of the "Ekalavya" which has been narrated in the Mahabharata. Besides his poetic genius and high research acumen, Sri Govinda Pai knows more than 22 languages, both European and Indian.

About his own plans and works Sri Govinda Pai sincerely expresses: "I have also planned some other longer and shorter plays and poems. But let me speak no more of those babes yet in the womb of time, for when and whether at all they will see the light of the day is known only to their inspirer."



**Sri Vallathole Narayana Menon, the Malayalam
Poet Laureate**

Vallathole is a household name all over Kerala. Among the first-rate poets of Malabar, he is the most widely known and read.

Receptions held in his honour and congratulatory addresses presented to him by the All-Kerala Literary Conference at Nilaswar in April and other public bodies in various parts of Kerala later show that his appointment as Poet Laureate has met with universal approval.

He enjoys an all-India, nay, even international reputation. His charming personality has endeared itself to one and all; there is hardly any place worth mentioning in the West Coast which this Prince of poets has not visited and in which he has not addressed a gathering. In every sense of the term he is the *poet of the people*. He loves his countrymen who love him in return intensely and delights in cultivating intimate contacts with them. Scholarly or literary aloofness has no charm for him. In his presence all feel perfectly at ease—children, young folk and elderly men. There is a child-like simplicity in his manners and behaviour that has made him the 'idol of Kerala.' This admiration, nay adoration, is not confined to the literate or educated class alone.

He is a favourite of the illiterate too. A rickshawala once declined with thanks when the poet offered him his fare. The privilege of having taken such a distinguished customer was more than his fare. He departed after paying his homage to the poet with a reverent bow—no small gain! To raise a lakh of rupees to found the Kalamandalam for the revival of Kathakali which is the poet's second love and the pride of Kerala was never a difficult task for Vallathole.

Besides being an excellent canvasser, his personal contact was deemed an honour by all whom he approached for contributions. Who could say 'no' to this rare propagandist who wins you by his smile, enters your house as a good old friend and entertains you by his humorous conversation, himself though hard of hearing. Since Ezuttacchan, the epic poet and Saint of Kerala, and Kunjan Nambiar, the great satirist, no other man of letters has won the affection and regard of their people through his personality and art like Vallathole—a rare distinction no doubt!

Both by birth and association, Vallathole has inherited the best cultural traditions of Kerala. He hails from the same place

in South Malabar (Mangalam near Tirur) a part of old Vallathupad, whose memory was rendered sacred by the birth of two great literary giants of Kerala, viz., Ezuttacchan and Meppattur Bhattathirippad, another poet-saint who performed the miracle of curing his paralytic attack by praying before the Lord of Guruvayur and composing his famous Hymn in Sanskrit collectively called Narayaneeyam.

The family of Vallathole (house name) in which the poet was born once supplied Prime Ministers to the Vettathu Swarupam (the latest being Konti Menon Karyakkar), an ancient Royal family (Ponnani taluk) well-known as patrons of Kathakali and hundred arts, that became extinct through the vengeance of the Zamorin who could not tolerate their alliance with the Portuguese. His mother Kuttiparu Amma was an enlightened woman herself, having had the advantage of a classical education. The poet's father Katuthot Mullessari Damodaran Moosad was noted as a connoisseur of art and a brilliant conversationalist.

In his early days Vallathole came under the influence of his uncle, Ravunni Menon, a famous scholar, physician and brahmachari. Later he had the good fortune to study *tarika* (logic) under the great scholar Kaikkalangara Rama Variar who was a giant in intellect and an erudite scholar in Sanskrit. These eminent teachers could only lay the foundation of Vallathole's education and literary career. The superstructure was supplied by his own indefatigable efforts and innate genius for poetry.

Even as a boy of fourteen or fifteen Vallathole had started writing poetry. The poet comes at the close of a generation, which in the Malayalam literary field was dominated by Kerala Varma, Venmani Nambudirippad, Kathali Achuyata Menon and Kodur-gallur Tampurans. Trained in the classical mould these luminaries—great in themselves—took to literature more as a pastime than as a genuine passion. Narrative poetry was their favourite sport. *Samasya Puranam* and *Ottaslokam* clothed in *Sringara* or *Bhakti* sentiment were their diversions. As a novice Vallathole also fell into this groove. Here is a specimen of his juvenile composition cast in this mould. It invokes the blessings of Siva.

" May God, with ashes all over his body
Who haunts burial grounds
Conceals the Ganges in his tuft
And adorns his forehead with the Moon
With a retinue of ghosts with untidy hair all round and a
cloth of skin
Grant me my desires."

This involuntary effusion, though revealing no high sentiment, however, gives a vivid picture of the God. The alliteration that appears in the original composition shows also a good command of simple idiomatic Malayalam, not ordinarily expected of a youngster.

Two literary types were in fashion in those days. One was the boat song (*Vanchipattu*), which is a special feature of Malayalam poetry which owes its inspiration to the crystal streams and wide backwaters of Kerala. Boat provides the only means of transport in them and boating is an inevitable item of sports from ancient times in the West Coast. All the leading poets like Ullur, Kundar, Oravankara and R.P. composed a boat song each with a Puranic story as theme.

Vallathole entered the competition last. But his *Tapati Samvaranam* is easily the best of the lot. Its rhythmic beauty and vivid narration bear the marks of Vallathole's unrivalled mastery of the technique of poetic composition. The young poet now won recognition and patronage came from above. A major work like the translation of Valmiki's *Ramayana* was then engaging the attention of the young poet. Kerala Varma blessed it with an appreciative introduction and Appan Tampuran with a detailed foreword.

Mr. Nalappadan, another leading poet of Kerala, in his biographical sketch of Vallathole gives the poem the highest praise. 'Anyone who reads it cannot forget it in his lifetime.' Its later exit from the literary world is therefore a surprise. Many have forgotten it. In the complete edition of Vallathole's works to be undertaken hereafter it is hoped that the compiler will collect the poet's earlier works or at least recover the *Tapati Samvaranam* from oblivion.

Another type of composition which the poets were keen on producing was the '*Mahakavya*' on the Sanskrit model. *Ramachandravilasam*, *Rugmangadacharitam*, *Umakeralam* of the late lamented Ullur came in quick succession. Others were in the making. Vallathole rose to the occasion with his magnificent contribution entitled *Chitrayogam*. It raised a controversy. "Good poetry but a bad story" was the general trend of criticism on it. But it gave the impression that Vallathole's muse is growing from stage to stage and is not stagnant.

Some had to bid good-bye to the poetry as they found the process of production of a *Mahakavya* has exhausted their resources. But Vallathole emerged triumphant fully prepared to undertake greater ventures. In fact these were only the training ground which enabled the future Vallathole to come out in full bloom. He was yet to discover his genius which only sparkled here and there in the labyrinth of productive activity. The translation of Valmiki's *Ramayana* was in itself an education.

At the end of that major work his ear began to give trouble. No treatment was of any avail and he was denied the use of that organ for ever. This calamity has its own reactions on his outlook, temperament and expression. The poet as he lost active contact with the outside world naturally turned inward and found that his genius was still struggling for proper expression and illumination. The first outburst was a lamentation *Badhira-vilapam*, literally lamentation or elegy of the deaf.

In the first stanza he cries with a pang that his ears have ceased to function and remain only as an adornment to his face. In another context he says that he is obliged to avoid company which he sought once with eagerness. The tragic irony reaches its highest watermark when he imagines the cause of his deafness.

"In my eagerness to win a poet's fame
I have written bad poetry and caused pain to the ears of
great men

The sin of that indiscretion might be the cause of my ear-trouble."

While the truth is the reverse of it, the reader can only console the poet by crying with him.

Another event that awakened the poet's genius was the national struggle for Independence that was making rapid strides under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. As a born Nayar he loved fighting for a good cause and he responded with dynamic zeal to the clarion call of the apostle of Ahimsa. His first notable production touching on this gigantic upheaval was "My Teacher," acclaiming Gandhiji as his teacher. These two lines picture Gandhiji in the most characteristic manner.

"My guru triumphs as an incarnation of Yoga

His sacrifice is gain; his humility is elevation."

The fight for freedom called forth two essential qualities from its camp followers, i.e., the natural desire or will which strengthens determination to achieve independence and the courage to fight for it without caring for the consequences.

The determination to defy convention and achieve independence was brought out in an earlier poem *Aniruddhan*, which followed his lamentation. Here the story of Usha and *Aniruddha* is rendered in its final stage. *Aniruddha* accepts the invitation of Usha to visit her in secret in the night. But at the palace gate Bana's sentinels detect his entry and offer battle. He has to fight single-handed and furiously to redeem his honour. But the odds are too much for him. He suffers defeat and is imprisoned.

Usha, though unhappy at the unexpected turn of events, summons courage as befits a heroine who has fallen a victim to foul play. She is glad also that *Aniruddha* has given a good account of himself by facing his enemies alone and receiving only the minimum personal injury. Thoroughly dissatisfied with her father's policy, she sends for his minister and asks his permission to visit *Aniruddha* in jail—a glaring defiance of convention and palace etiquette. His objections were negatived on the ground of *Aniruddha*'s heroic defence of himself which will justify the devotion of any queen to him. She manages to extract his consent and sees her lover. She apologises for her father's shortcomings and informs him of her willingness to go with him and induces him to escape.

He is made of sterner stuff. He is the grandson of Lord Sri Krishna who will certainly come to save him by challenging Bana

direct and he won't get out as a thief unnoticed and cast a slur on his grandfather's honour. He asks her not to remain in jail for a moment and spoil her reputation. She returns. The poet ends here dramatically. *Aniruddhan* forms an important landmark in the poetic career of Vallathole. He gives up the narrative form and takes to the dramatic method which is more effective in its approach and appeal. This poem of about 50 stanzas was welcomed as a masterpiece that marked Vallathole out as a future Mahakavi.

The sentiments expressed by Usha and *Aniruddhan* are refreshingly new and full of vigour. In answer to the Minister's objections Usha says:—

Aryaputra (Aniruddha) came in response to my invitation!

He did not come of his own accord.

One commits the crime and another goes to jail.

Is that the law of Bali Vamsa?

Aniruddha consoles Usha thus:—

"Oh! My Love! you are above my life.

Don't cry, my breast can stand thousand arrows from the enemy."

But a tear drop from Usha's eye

Is too strong for Aniruddha to resist."

It will be seen that *Aniruddha* gave a new message of independence that extols pure love as a supreme gift containing in itself justification enough to defy human convention or usage. It also conveyed a special significance to the social make-up of Kerala. To turn this mental attitude to the political field was an easy task.

After *Aniruddhan* and *Gurunathan*—Vallathole's genius took a new turn. His inner personality speaks in every line he wrote later. The nationalists of Kerala found his poems immensely useful in their propaganda. His one poem was worth months of propaganda. There is hardly any item—non-violence, temple entry, Harijan uplift, charka, khadar—which did not receive additional emphasis from him. His poem on "Flag Salutation" is now sung all over Malabar during Congress processions. It begins:

*" Not enough, Not enough.
The flag of Bharata Devi
Must rise higher and higher."*

Space hardly permits a detailed study or criticism of Vallathole's poetry in all its aspects. Both in quality and quantity it is unequalled and unsurpassed.

We shall, however, conclude with a brief reference to two prominent traits of his character which supply the keynote to his poetical outlook.

He is every inch a Keralite. His ready response to the National Call is the direct outcome of his consciousness of and admiration for the martial traditions of Kerala which as a Nayar he expressed and respected. He asks his countrymen in various poems whether the blood of their heroic ancestors is still not running through their veins. This underlying note constitutes the special charm of his poetry to the people of Kerala. But his love of Kerala is no impediment to his national outlook. It only enriches and illumines the latter. His poetic imagination enables him to view Bharata Varsha as a bigger entity of which his own birth place Malabar, according to him, is a necessary part—nay, an important part.

In the cultural make-up of a Keraleeya love of Art is an essential ingredient and Poet Vallathole has this to a pre-eminent degree. Their Kathakali is the noblest product of this trait in their character. It is therefore, in the nature of things that Vallathole became a lover of Kathakali Art. I was for long thinking that Kathakali is his second love. But as he grows older his second love seems to encroach on the province of the first.

His endeavours to revive the Kathakali Art and give it a new lease, have been almost superhuman. The publicity he has given to it has brought it to the notice of Art lovers all over the world. The vigour of its dance-technique, the subtlety of its facial expression, the rhythm and force of its movements are its unique features, that have secured for it recognition all the world over. For this recognition the people of Kerala are indebted to Vallathole.

May our Poet Vallathole live long (he is already 71) to gather fresh laurels and distinction and show the beacon light of oriental culture and art to the whole world !



**Mahamahopadhyaya K. S. Krishnamurthi Sastri,
the Sanskrit Poet Laureate**

Mahamahopadhyaya K. S. Krishnamurthi Sastri was born in Kattuputtur, a village in Musiri taluk in Tiruchirappalli District. His father Venkatasubramania Iyer belonged to a family noted for its religious and literary pursuits. He had his elementary education in the Kulittalai High School. Though he was very mischievous as a boy, even at that age he impressed his teachers by his wonderful powers of memory. The routine of the school never attracted him. But "on the day of reckoning", he would snatch the first prize.

He was, from his boyhood, very much interested in Harikatha Kalakshepams and other religious discourses and he never missed any of them in his village. As ill-luck would have it, his parents were deprived of their income and his education had to be

interrupted. Young Kittu (pet name), therefore discontinued his studies in the High School. With great difficulty, he was later on admitted into a Sastra Patasala, an event which marks a turning point in his life. Had it not been for this, he would not have had the opportunity of learning Sanskrit.

His first Guru was Bhuvanaghavachariar of Karur Patasala under whom he had his higher studies in Sanskrit. His quick grasp made him progress rapidly in his studies and at a comparatively early age he could appreciate and even teach Kalidasa's works like the *Raghuvamsam*. As his talents were of a high order, prominent people of the locality gave him all encouragement and help. Endowed with the gift of a good voice, his recitations and his discourses were well attended. Three years of study at Tiruvadi made him a good scholar in Sanskrit. His histrionic talents too found scope in the dramas staged in the Patasala.

Even as a student, he started composing poetry in Sanskrit. Some of his poems were highly commended by Sri Sankarachariar of Kamakotipeetam and other patrons. Sanskrit classics captivated him and he sought one Guru after another. After leaving Tiruvadi, he sat at the feet of Sri Gopala Sastrigal of Kumbakonam and from there went to Chidambaram, another seat of Sanskrit learning. After such study, he grew into a full-fledged Sanskrit scholar specially proficient in grammar, and a poet.

An occasion arose for him to exhibit his talents for versification when the Government conferred the title of Mahamahopadhyaya on Sri Leela Dandapani Dikshidar and a public reception was held to honour him in that connexion. Krishnamurthi's poem in praise of Sri Dikshidar was applauded by the audience who predicted that he also would one day attain that distinction. The prophecy was fulfilled in 1946 when the Government of India awarded him also the great distinction.

A greater honour was in store for this great scholar and poet and that came through his appointment as the Poet Laureate in Sanskrit by the popular Government of this Province. Several honours have come to him in addition to this. His Holiness Sri Sankaracharia Swamigal of Kamakotipeetam, and His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, who are all great scholars themselves,

have recognized his high merits in token whereof the titles of Sathkatha Kanteerava, Vyakarna Stapaka and Panditharaja have been conferred on him.

Sri Sastrigal is now 54 years old and is Chief Professor of Vyakarnam in the Rameswaram Devasthanam Patasala at Mathurai. Even though he had more attractive offers, he prefers the dignity of a teacher to other lucrative jobs. He is the author of twenty poems most of which have been published in Sanskrit journals and many of them have been issued as separate booklets also. His poem called *Prakrithi Vilas* which is a collection of eight poems dealing with various aspects of nature like night, the mountain and the breeze, etc., has been highly appreciated.

The *Mahatma Vijaya*, another work of his, is a *Champu* poem, which deals with Mahatmaji. Sri Sastri is the author of various other works like *Sathi Vilasa Kavya* of the highly classical type dealing with epic themes.

He writes Sanskrit with extreme felicity. His style is simple and his language chaste. His poems are melodious and full of refreshing ideas. There is variety in his poetry, vitality and freshness in composition.

May this great poet and scholar be blessed with many more years of useful life continuing to shed lustre and culture!

77

~~129~~

149

V. Ramalingam Pillai,

NET LAUREATE.

Namakkal 13/

4-9-49

To

J. M. Lobo Prabhu, Esq., I. C. S.

Secretary to the Government of Madras

Sir,

I have herewith sent in my travelling allowance bill, as per your communication of 26-8-49.

Owing to infirmity I had to engage a taxi from Central Station to my staying place and to Rajaji Hall.

I am sure you will recommend the same. Thanking you very much I am

Yours faithfully
Ramalingam

Letter No. 69117-92/492 Edn. dated 21-9-49.

Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai,
Poet Laureate in Tamil, Namakkal (Salem Dt.)
(with a T.A. Bill) By Regd. Post.

Ref:- Your letter dated 4-9-49 with the Travelling Allowance Bill for Rs.83-12-0.

I am directed to forward herewith duly counter-
signed your T.A. Bill for Rs.83-12-0, ~~passed for payment~~
~~as desired by you~~ The Bill may be presented for
payment at the District Treasury, Salem.

Y. P.,

8
19/11/19

9. $\frac{100}{19.949}$

20/9/14

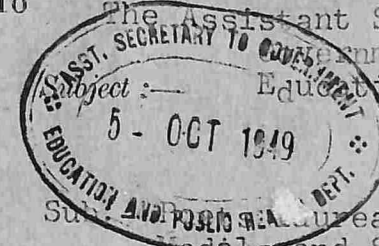
135

No. T9 Edn. VI/ Madras, 28th September 1949

FROM

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL, MADRAS,

To The Assistant Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education & Public Health,
Madras 9



Subject: - Public Durbar
Medals and Shawals-bills- Pass
order.

Ref:- Govt. Memo No. 26382-G2/49-16
Dn. dt. 26-8-1949.

The cheques for the two amounts referred to in Govt. memo cited above have been kept ready and the parties have been intimated to take payment at this office counter.

It is, however, observed that the amounts have not been claimed in proper bill forms by the department of the Government and the invoices have not been accepted and passed for payment. It is requested that the above procedure may be arranged to be adopted in future.

A copy of the Govt. order may kindly be arranged to be communicated through finance department.

[Signature]
Assistant Accounts Officer.

rns

Section with and
10/60

p. 135 c.f.

81 (19)

22 157 137

E.H.P.H (92)

Memo. No 26382-92/49-Edm. dated 10-10-49.

Sub:- Poets Laureate - Public Durbar - Payment for the purchase of Medals and Shawls

Ref:- From the A. G. No. T9 Edm. VI/138 dated 28-9-49.

The instructions contained in the Accountant General's letter cited above are noted.

A copy of the Memorandum No. 26382-92/49-16 Edm. dated 26-8-49 is forwarded herewith to the Accountant-General, through the Finance Department..

Des.
10/11/49.
p 69 y
To The A. G. the Finance.
(with copy of M. 69-700 f.)
~~(The A. G. the Finance)~~

8
6/10/49.

7-10-49

61049

1949-50

Handwritten text in Devanagari script, likely a letter or official communication.

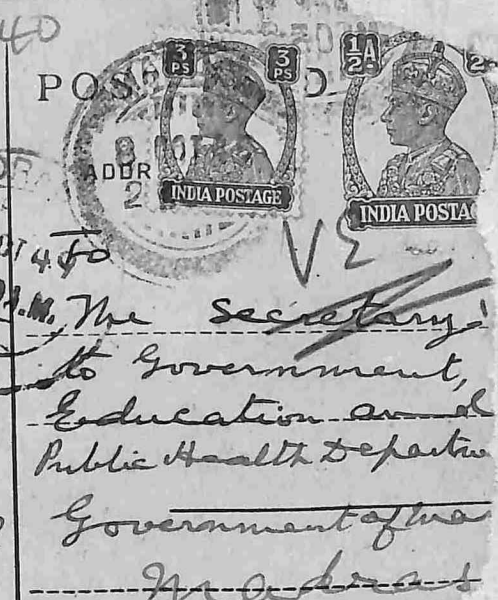
Handwritten text in Devanagari script, continuing the communication.

Handwritten signature or initials in Devanagari script.

AS4 Rameswarani Benasthavan Pataseb.
Sri 77829 maddura. 8-10-1949
Sub: T.A. bill for journey connected with
attendance at the public durbar on 14.8.49.
Ref: 94 OCT 1949
G.O. dated 9th Sept 1949.
As now as I was receipt of my T.A bill duly
countersigned, I presented the same at the District
Treasury for payment. The Treasury office
refuses to make payment in spite of my
repeated approaches on the plea that no
advice has been received from you in that

office so far. may 9/40
request you to kindly
arrange to send advice
to the Treasury matter
at a very early date
treating the matter
as urgent.

yours faithfully.
K.S. Krishnamurti
Sastrigal
(Poet-Laureate for
Sanskrit.)



C.No. 26382/49.

83 161 141

E. & P.H. (G2).

Memo. No. 26382-G2/49-23 Edn. dated 12-10-49.

Sub:- Poets Laureate - Durbar held on 14-8-49 -
Claim of Travelling Allowance - Delay in
honouring the T.A. Bill of Sri K.S. Krishnamurthi
Sastrigal, Poet Laureate in Sanskrit.

Ref:- Govt. Memo. No. 26382-G2/49-15, Edn. dated
26-8-49.

From Sri K.S. Krishnamurti Sastrigal, Mathurai,
letter dated 8-10-49.

A copy of the letter received from Sri K.S.
Krishnamurti Sastrigal, Poet Laureate for Sanskrit,
referred to above is forwarded to the Accountant-
General, Madras, in which the Poet Laureate has states
that his T.A. Bill countersigned by the Secretary of
yet
this Department has not been paid by the Dt. Treasury,
Mathurai, on presentation.

2. The attention of the A.G. is invited to the
Govt. Memo. cited above and he is requested to issue
instructions to the Dt. Treasury, Mathurai, to pay
the amount of the T.A. Bill of the Poet Laureate.

Disburse the amount due to the
Poet Laureate in respect of his T.A.
Bill without any further
delay -
11/10/49.

To

The A.G.

Copy to Sri K.S. Krishna-
murti Sastrigal,
Poet Laureate for Sanskrit,
Rameswaram Devasthanam
Patasala, Mathurai.

142
No. T.9. Edn.VI. 190. Office of the Accountant-General, Madras.

Fort St. George, dated 19th October 1949.

Enclosures.

FROM

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,
MADRAS,

TO

The Treasury Officer,
Mathurai.

81720

SIR,

Subject: Poet Laureate - Durbar held on the 14th
instant - claim of Travelling allowance -
payment authorised.

....

In enclosing a copy of Government Memo No. 26382-
G.2./49-15 Education dated 26-8-1949 I authorise you to
honour the travelling allowance bill of Mahamahopadhyaya
Sri. K.S. Krishnamoorthi Sastrigal, Poet Laureate in
Sanskrit, in respect of his journey to attend the Public
Durbar on the 14th August 1949. The bill will be counter-
signed by the Secretary, Education and Public Health
Department Madras.

The amount when paid should be debited to "37
Education - E. General - Miscellaneous - other grants"
in Sub Account 15 provincial.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. T.A. Ramachari,
Asst. Accounts Officer.

T.A.M.



144
Tg Edw VI. 192. 9. 19. 10. 49

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Education and Public Health Department, for information. The other poets Laureate have been requested to state where they wish to draw their travelling allowance bills. On receipt of their replies action will be taken to arrange for the payment of their travelling allowance bills.

J. Ramchandran
Asst. Accounts Officer.

Special

4 - APR 1949

26382



(Original removed for another file.)

pages 125-126 of (R)

85
Secretary, E. P. H.

Gr ✓ (92)

.165

Government have recently decided to award prizes to poet laureates in the several languages. It would be most appropriate that all the selected poet laureates should assemble at a public ^{darbar} gathering at which His Excellency the Governor would preside and award the prizes to them. This suggestion was made last year and I do not know what the final decision was. However, a meeting may be convened and a date fixed to suit the convenience of His Excellency. This may be attended to expeditiously.

O.P.R.
4/4/49

Edw VI
(92)

Itm (Agri) made the suggestion referred to in the above minute. Please see his minute on p6 of h f in G O No 2536 Edw VI. Dated 6. 10. 1948. The suggestion was not pursued. It is for order whether the Selection Committee constituted by G.O. in the G O mentioned

3
 post laureates hold office for a period of three years - No 87, E
 273448

We have already issued instructions to
 Treasury officers concerned for the payment of
 the honorarium of Rs 1000/- ^{before 31-3-49} payable for 1948-49
 to each of the
 five poet laureates. The honoraria payable at the rate of Rs 1000/- ^{and for the three succeeding years}
 for the years 1949-50 will be drawn by the
 poet laureates before the 31st December of
 each year - vide para 3 of the go. 273448

K If a laureate is to be held they will have
 to be paid travelling allowance.
 Finance may see prior to circulation

S/T Fin

10 seems necessary
 that incidental expenditure
 should be borne, if the awards
 are to be made known and to
 serve the purpose of selecting
 the appropriate laureate

6/8/49 / Fin

The case has been remitted to Finance
 with reference to K above. Fin may agree
 to the payment of T.A. if a Darbar is held

9/4/49

9/4/49

(92)

Fin No 239608 x 2
 9.4.49

23960

28068
 APR 1949

P.T.D.

86/3 167 3
 (83) E.H.P. (92)

2632/49

273448

Attention is directed to the
 instructions of the previous Premier
 with page 11 of the order in which
 the poet laureates for Tamil
 Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and
 Sanskrit have been appointed.
 It is understood that the hono-
 rarium of Rs 1000 for which
 they are eligible has been
 paid for each of them before
 31st March 1949, for as far as
 the last financial year is
 concerned -

It is for orders whether
 any Darbar should be held
 to which the poet laureates
 should be invited
 and if so, when it should
 be held -

H.M. (Edn), H. Pr & H.E.

may see -
 The honorarium is payable before 31-12-49

9.4.49

273448

273448

433
 27 APR 1949

H.E. may be invited to fix a date for the darbar
 for distribution of awards to poet laureates, some time
 before the end of this year.

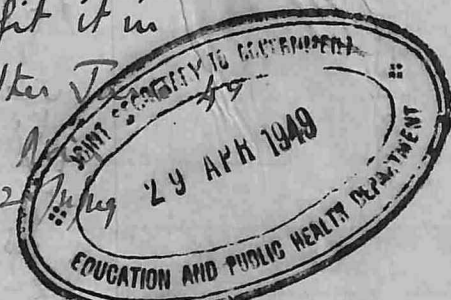
H.M. (Edn) 11/4
 H.Pr. 11/4
 H.E.

As far as Telugu poet is concerned, he has
 been invited, as he is confined to bed. This can be
 done only in his own home. A hon. official Committee has
 been formed to celebrate the award in a fitting manner
 and I hope they will participate in the celebration.

11/4

168
P.S. 65 H.E. will be very pleased to present the awards at a public durbar. Presumably the durbar will be held in Madras. As H.E.'s programme is at present uncertain, he will fix a date sometime later so as to fit it in with his return to Madras sometime after 17 November.

433
2670



H.M. (Edn) may see the P.S.'s note above -

29.4.49.

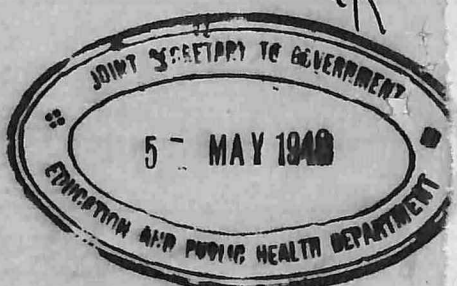
3-5-49

3/5
H.M. (Edn)

H.M. (Edn) 5/5

The file may lie over till 1-5-1949.

5.5.49.



169
Extract from the minutes of the Hon'ble Minister for Education, in D. Letter No. 46676-82/49-1 dated 22-6-49.

"H.Pr. may sign the F.C. a.i."

A formal ceremony of investing or inducting these Poet Laureates has to be held. H.E. may grant them the insignia. It may be a sort of a Durbar in the Rajaji Hall. Steps may be taken for this please."

K. M. (adhava Menon),
22-6-49
H.M. (Edn.)

P.S. K. (umaraswami Raja),
22-6-49

/True extract/



With reference to the above minute, attention is invited to the P.S.'s note on the previous page as regards H.E.'s programme -

The case may now be sent to P.L.G. for remarks.

28/6
25.6.49

28/6
P.S. 6

PSG

His Excellency agreed to a Durbar in Madras on 14th August 1949. E&PH may kindly send, for His Excellency's perusal, the details of the proposed programme of the function with tentative timings. It is noted that the Durbar will be held at the Rajaji Hall.

Porudam Nair
PSG. 3/7/49



HM (Edn & Law) & HM Pr. may see the notes of the P.S.G.

As regards arrangements for the Durbar, the D.P.I. may ~~make~~ make them - The draft memo below is for

approval

approval -

P.W.D. may see to see print & circulation

E&PH. H. 46. 263 P2-92

49-2 dated 6-7-49.

4749

Please see the E&PH. kept.

notes and the orders in circulation from H.P.I. ante and the draft memo below. The engagement has been fixed for the Rajaji Hall on the 14th August 49. It may be reserved for the Durbar. The orders will be in the form of a reservation. It is proposed to send a copy of the orders.

The file may be returned to E&PH with a request to circulate the draft H.P.I. also.

E&PH (92)

It has separately been decided in circulation, separately that a medal costing about Rs 100/- should be made and presented to each Poet Laureate on the occasion of the proposed Durbar on the 14th August. The expenditure on this medal will be in addition to the expenditure on the honorarium to be paid to the Poets at the rate of Rs 1000/- each.

The order is already issued to them on the occasion of the production of a stamped receipt - It is for orders whether as a special case, the occasion of the Durbar may be availed of for giving the Poets this year's honorarium by a cheque to be handed over to them with the medal.

proposed. It is observed that the Telugu
Poet Laureate cannot attend the
function - the other four will
apparently be present to
receive the title (medal) personally -
Apparently their T.A. to Madras
will have to be borne by
the Govt. - This for consideration
whether they may be allowed
a single second class fare to and
fro - Please see K. on p 2 ante -
Finance may see the
case again, before circulation -

157.48.

The draft below may issue
after perusal by H.M. (Fin).
The question of payment of
travelling allowance may be taken
up after the issue of the draft

15-7-49
H.M. (Fin) may issue
draft in addition
to the draft already issued
for the purpose of the
presentation of the medal
to the Poet Laureate
and the other four
Poets. The draft for the
Poet Laureate may be
issued for a single second
class fare to and fro
Madras. The draft for the
other four Poets may be
issued for a single second
class fare to and fro
Madras. The draft for the
Poet Laureate may be
issued for a single second
class fare to and fro
Madras. The draft for the
other four Poets may be
issued for a single second
class fare to and fro
Madras.



VERY URGENT

Secy. E.P.H.

It has been suggested that the Poet Laureateship may
be formally conferred on those people who have been selected
as Poet Laureates at a function arranged for it. It would
be better if H.E. the Governor confers the insignia. In that
connection I would suggest that a sort of crest may be given
for each Poet Laureate. The crest may be a round starlike
thing, about two inches in diameter with the Madras Government
emblem on it and ASTHANAKAVI written in the languages concerned
underneath with a gold chain, all told costing not more than
Rs.500/- each. We may, if necessary, ask the Superintendent,
School of Arts, to have a proper design of the crest.

It is understood that in regard to the Poet Laureate
in Telugu, it will not be possible for him to leave Vijayawada
for Madras and so the function will have to be arranged at
Vijayawada at a very early date.

This may go to H.M.(Finance) and H.Pr. for approval
of my suggestion above.

H.M. (Fin)
H.Pr.

For information - Poet Laureates have been
appointed for a period of five years with an honorarium
of Rs 1,000/- annually. The expenditure on the
insignia proposed will be in addition to that already
sanctioned.

H.M. (Fin).
H.Pr.

The Poet Laureate is given the honorarium of Rs 1,000/-
annually. But the incurring of expenditure of Rs 500/-
additionally for the presentation of crest would be superfluous
and unnecessary. The issue of certificates to them would
be quite sufficient. If, however, it is felt that some such
presentation as suggested above is necessary, I think a medal

(PTO)

-2-

14.7 u

JH M (Fin)

Hein (Eon + Land) / May

See Honble Premier's Minute -

SECRETARY, GEN. A. J. P. DE
14 JUL 1949
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYA

$$\frac{14:245}{15/7}$$

147 (LE 84)

This expenditure is on } 10

have insignia is only $\frac{1}{2}$ to
once in 5 years. I am not
particular of the amount. The

Isverre ^{acted} Col. of the 1st ^{regt} ~~1st~~

~~a~~ maybe met for this. I
only suggested the song - and had no
idea what it was. I was told

a gold chain was necessary. We may
instead of the chain have a good ribbon
but I am told a shawl is customary.

Any how get the design & detail of Cost

Very rapidly:

16.7

121

1570

Obtain a medal
for Gold medal, with ribbon
or with silver chain

116

16 JUL 1940
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Achon Fatic

pp. 7-8 of

$$\frac{402}{21 \cdot 7 \cdot 49}$$

(Filed as letter No. 26382-92/49-4Edu.
dated 21-7-49.)

The quotations received from Messrs. Vummidi Ramiah Chetty Guruswamy Chetty & Co., are at p.9 c.f. The Partner of the Firm has informed me over the phone that the estimate of Rs.100/- in respect of the silver Medal includes the cost of a silver chain to be attached to the silver Medal which will be supplied by the Firm. The charges on account of engraving the letters "ASTHANAKAVI" in the 5 different languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Sanskrit) on the back of the Medal will be about 8 Annas at the rate of 1 anna per letter. Thus, the cost of each silver Medal with the emblem of the Govt. of Madras embossed in gold at the centre and the words "ASTHANAKAVI" engraved in the back will be Rs.100/8/-. The cost of each Gold Medal weighing four Sovereigns has been estimated at Rs.350/- each. To this should be added engraving charges of the words "ASTHANAKAVI" on the back of the Medal, which may be not less than 8 annas. I have ascertained over the phone from Messrs. Kishinchang Chellarm & Co., that the cost of a Kashmir shawl ranges from Rs.25/- to Rs.45/-.

✓without chain and
Rs.450/- with a Gold
chain.

P.T.O.

The file may be circulated to H.M.(E.&L.) for orders on the selection of Medal and also whether shawls should be purchased for the five Poet Laureates. After a decision is reached on these points, further action with reference to 'X' on p.8 ante and also on the question of payment of Travelling Allowance to the Poet Laureates will be taken.

21-7-49

I thought a plain medal would have the appearance of a sports medal and therefore gave the idea for the design at page 10. The embossure has to be in a different colour and metal than the background, and as a gold with platinum embossure would be too expensive, the present design with silver of about 3 to 4 gms of silver + gold 1/4 tda is recommended. Design (1) seems to be better.

If a shawl is considered necessary, it may cost about Rs 40/-

H.N. (E+L)
H.O.

I prefer design 2. The words Asthanakavi may be on the main side itself and on the reverse. It can be on either side of the shawl. A shawl may be purchased from more than one place.

The Poet Laureates have been informed of the arrangements.



1.8.49

20/8/49

2700
3-8-49

Issue telegram, as drafted, and send p.c with other information. Review draft for medals as indicated.

1/1
2/8

(Issued the 3 telegrams as drafted by Secy. on 1-8-49.)

The representative of the jewellery firm was sent for and he was asked to state whether he would agree to the name "ASTHANAKAVI" being written in the respective languages at the bottom of the Medal in gold letters. He has agreed to execute the work subject to the payment of an additional fee of Rs.15/- per Medal. Secretary has obtained oral orders of H.M.(E.&L) for this alteration. H.M.(E.&L) has approved design (1). A draft letter to the manufacturer is put up for approval. It may issue after perusal by H.M.(E.&L) and H.Pr.

The Poet Laureates in Kannada, Sanskrit and Malayalam have agreed to attending the Durbar on the 14th. (The reply from the Poet Laureate in Tamil is awaited.)

113 and 150 f
acceptance since received and put up at P.19 of.

1 AUG 1949

2849

Pub. may return to the printer. Further work. E.H.P. 26.2.1382-92/49. 2-8-49.

Pub (a.v.) (98th as letter No. 2.6382-92/49 dated 2.8.49.)

1/3
2/8

91 (48)

177

they will have to be allowed a daily allowance of Rs.5/- at least, for their halt on the 14th. The Poets will be informed of this also. A draft letter of intimation to the Poet Laureates is submitted for approval. Finance may see it before issue.

As's note
in the margin
in policy

Immediate

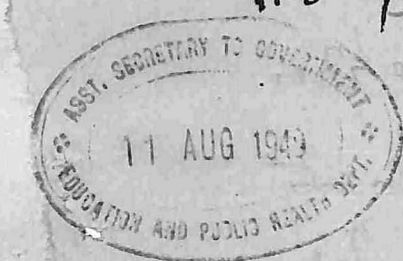
10.8.49

10/8/49

E.H.P.H. No. 26382-92/49



Fin No 52239/49



[Based as letter No. 26382-92/49-10, Edn. dated 11-8-49.]

10.4.94

From Unumid; Ramiah Chetti, Gurnstromi Chetti - Bill dated 13.8.49

10.5.94

From Paramananda Dass Chota Dass & Sons - Letter - 17.8.49

10.5.94

From Sri. Vallathol Narayana Menon - Letter dated 15.8.49 -

Please see the bills on pages 49 and 53 of regarding medals and shawls for Poet Laureate. The A.G. may be

A shawl is necessary. It should be of good material + I would not mind even if each one costs Rs.100-Rs.150. As regards ready "shawl notes" G.H. will be dealt before then.

3/8

G.H.

Samples of shawls may be obtained for my inspection. Draft notes should be prepared by 8th 10/8

59126

arrangements being made

Pw (G.H.) (informed)

Resubmitted.

The shawls have been selected, and the Medals which are under preparation are expected by the 12th. The final programme of the Durbar ^{has been} ~~is expected to be~~ settled in a day. The National Cadet Corps will present the Guard of Honour to His Excellency on arrival ^{to attend the function} and Major Joshi of the National Cadet Corps has been ^{asked to arrange for this} ~~informed accordingly~~ and he is to have a rehearsal on the 13th which will be witnessed by the Secretary and H.M.(E.& L.). The girl volunteers of the Congress will sing the Prayer song and the National Anthem at the Durbar. Mrs. Manjubashini Subrahmanyam has been written to ^{to} arrange for this, as ordered by H.M.

Formal intimation of the Durbar may now be given to the Poets Laureate. As ordered by H.M., the Poets will be allowed a single First Class fare. It is presumed

Separate file

Z on p. 8 an

be asked to make payment to
 the firms on production of stamped
 Receipts. - The draft memo below
 is for approval. 16

2. Please see the representa-
 tion from the Malayalam Poet Laureate
 on page 57 of and Mr's observations
 on that page. - The Poets have been

allowed a single I Class fare and
 Rs 5 daily allowance (for one day)
 for attending the Durbar on 14th
 14th August. - Mr has testified

to the correctness of the statements
 in the Poets' letter that the
 Poet has to ~~depend on~~ take
 his son along with him, owing
 to his physical disability (deafness)

In the circumstances two I Class
 fares (to & fro) & Rs 10/- daily
 allowance may be allowed to
 the Malayalam Poet - The draft
 letter (Draft) is for approval -

3. Finance may see the
 case

18.8.49

19/8 / Jun 19/8



Gr. 92 (90) 181 Fin (C-11)

Please see previous Fin. No. exp. 15...

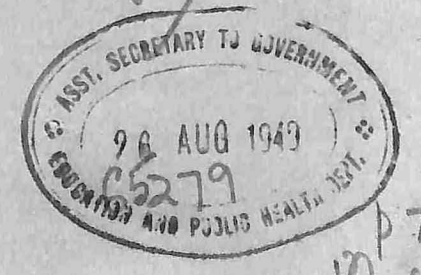
...the following...
 ...the circumstances at our...
 ...the proposal to allow 2 Fin...
 ...Class fares and a daily allowance...
 ...to V. Narayana Menon, Poet Laureate...
 ...Malayalam for attending the Durbar...
 ...held on 14.8.1949...
 ...be agreed to in Fin...

2. The scheme for the creation of Poet...
 ...awards of prizes for...
 ...in various languages was...
 ...as a new service in 1947-8 and a...
 ...mentary grant was...
 ...in March 1948...
 ...the...
 ...the...
 ...the...
 ...the...

The drafts may be drafted.

Three Fin. (P-1)

54175
 26.8.49



17 and 12
 also 12
 other memos
 to be sent

[Issued Letter No 26382-49/49-17 Edn dt 26.8.49]

25-8-49

25

29 May

E 26.4

18.8.49

21/8/49

Sub:- Poet Laureates - Confirmation of title to Kannada and Sanskrit Poet Laureates - Brief notes on.

Main file created 5/7/49
#Pr. on 22-7-49

Please see the letters in the current file from Sri K. Narasinga Rao, Associate Professor, Christian College, and Dr. C. Kunhan Raja, Professor of Sanskrit, University of Madras, who were asked to send notes in connection with the Poet Laureates Durbar to be held on 14-8-49, on the subjects Kannada and Sanskrit respectively. They have stated that the manuscripts and life sketches relating to these two Poet Laureates have been sent to the Director of Information and Publicity. P.W. (I. & P.) may be requested to ~~obtain and~~ furnish to this Department with the notes and sketches referred to above, at an early date.

Copies of summaries which they may have prepared of the career & achievements of the Kannada & the Sanskrit Poet Laureates. They are required for the use of the Hon (S. & L) on the occasion of the Durbar on the 14th August.

27.7.49

EJPH/G2

No. 26382 G2/G-SEd

29/7/49



JP. L.D. 42109/49

2.8.49

The note above of 24.7.49 may be perused. E and P. H may be informed that articles on the poet laureates are under preparation and that copies will be sent to them when ready.

1.8.49

ETP.H. (92)

With Reference to PW (ETP)'s note above, Nat. Dept. may be informed that at the Durbar for the Poet Laureates on the 14th, the Chief Secretary, in inviting H.E. the Govr. to award the title on the Poet Laureates, will read ~~from~~ brief notes regarding the attainments of the recipients -

PW (ETP) has requested to arrange for furnishing the Pub. (Poll) Dept. with copies of the ~~the~~ brief notes on the Poet Laureates for Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Sanskrit (The Telugu Poet will not attend the Durbar). These notes may be supplied by the 7th or 8th.

4.8.49

P.W. (ETP) may kindly expedite as the notes have to be shown to Chief Secretary, who has to read them. These notes, as apart from longer notes which may be distributed, may be brief

Works (ETP)

ETP.H. 4.6.5715T-4949

x 316 ETP

4/8 / PW (14P)

Public works dept

being restricted to the ground of the award. The notes of E and P.H. on pp 2.3 above may be perused. They want brief notes about the poets, the notes being restricted to the grounds of award.

The materials available in this dept relate to the life and works of the poets. A note with reference to the information available will be furnished to E & P.H. The ground of award will be known only to the Chairmen of the Committees and may perhaps be ascertained from them. The notes prepared by this dept will be sent to E and P.H. on 9.8.49.

20/8/49

GJP. U.O. 4816 1/87

5-8-49

(92)



60136

The qualification for the poet laureates is that the persons chosen must be those with a capacity for writing poetry

poetry of a high order. So the
~~ground~~ Reason for the Committee's
 selection which has been accepted
 by the Govt. is that of all
 persons possessing poetic faculties,
 the gentlemen selected have
 that qualification in the highest
 degree. The Committee have
 evidently come to this conclusion
 on a scrutiny of the works
 of several candidates in respect
 of each of the languages. (For
 instance in the case of Tamil,
 a poet who is considered to
 possess ~~superior~~ merit somewhat
 superior to the gentleman now
 selected had to be excluded
 from the field of selection as
 he belongs to Travancore and
 to Madras Province -) It does
 not appear that in the circumstances
 any details as to the grounds of
 selection are required, apart
 from brief details of their
 literary qualifications, and of the
 works they have, ~~and~~ if any,
 to their credit. It will suffice
 if short ~~the~~ notes are
 prepared giving these details -
 PW (JH) may see
 again.

Desikavina
 yakam Pillai
 of Travancore

6848
 PW (JH)
 together
 with some indication

of their place in the
 particular literature

6/8

DP 6/8 D 71+0

Ed. P. H. W. 6. 57151-42/49-3
 6-8-49.

GJP. U. 4400/49-1
 9-8-49.



Submitted to Secretary

6848

It is for reference
 to the S. P. C.
 is linked -
 6848

Ed. P. H. (92)

24
27 (OK) 18/25
Speech delivered by Hon'ble Sri Madhava Menon,
Minister for Education and Law on the occasion of the
award of the Insignia ^{for} of Poet Laureateship.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen:

During the days of the British administration the English language had assumed major importance as the language of the Government and the Courts and as the medium of instruction in Schools and Colleges. Whatever advantages accrued from the assignment of this position to English, it is well known that, thereby, ^{our own} the Indian languages came to be neglected. With the attainment of freedom on the 15th August 1947 and the establishment of a popular Government at the Centre and in the Provinces, the Government took up for active consideration the steps to be taken for revivifying our ancient languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Sanskrit, not only with a view to affording facilities to authors of merit in those languages to give free play to their literary talent, but with a view also to making available to the common man general information on all branches of culture.

Languages are the indestructible expressions of the culture and spirit of a people. They are the pride and the badge of the different peoples of the world. Their wealth reflects not only the intellectual but also the moral and physical greatness of the people. That our own languages have survived the historical vicissitudes of the country is at once a tribute to their greatness and to the character of the people. That they have continued to be rich both in thought and expression was the augury of the independence which the country has won to-day. Therefore, in attaching importance to the revival of our languages the Government have been concerned with the wider issue of enlarging the greater

life of the people of the country.

Poetry is to language what a flower is to a plant. From the earliest times man has tried to put his finest thoughts into ~~musical~~ words, the ~~letter~~ to enshrine them. From our ancestors we have accordingly inherited the Regveda, through centuries during which everything else has perished. Similarly the Ramayan and the Mahabarat have survived, on account of their imperishable quality, all the ravages of time and chance. Attention by Govt. to poetry therefore is no luxury; it is attention to the seeds of the larger life by which a people lives.

Poetry is not only a link with the past; it is also a link with the future. The poet Shelly regarded poets as the unacknowledged legislators of the world, those who see into the inwardness of events and point to new and unknown ways. We owe to poets that they have exposed social injustices, long before they were removed. That poets beautify and glorify ^{life} is, of course, well known.

In our own existence, in which there are few of the pleasures known to other countries, the Ramayan and the various songs of the common people have supplied much of the joy in life. It would not be exaggeration to agree that in our very poverty, the poet by his magic "has transfigured to A better sound, a finer view ^{all} that is beneath the Sun And - loveliest tale of all that's true. He tells that you come to spring And that spring returns to you."

In these circumstances, the institution of the Poet Laureate was integral to our past civilisation. In the Courts of ancient Kings, poets and Scholars were honoured and flourished. Under a democracy, the houses of the people are the courts of the rulers in which our Poets deserve to be installed. My predecessor Sri Avinashilingam Chettiar accordingly came to the conclusion that in each of the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kanada and Sanskrit

languages, the poet laureate should be designated.

Five Selection Committees were consequently constituted, on each of which there were ^{representatives of} Vice-Chancellors of ~~two~~ Universities. They have selected:

- (1) Sri Namakkal Kavignar
Ramalingam Pillai, Namakkal (Salem Dt.)
for Tamil.
- (2) Sathavadhani Kalaprapurna
Sri Chellapilla Venkata Sastri Garu,
Vijayawada - For Telugu.
- (3) Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon, Mangalam,
Tirur, South Malabar - for Malayalam
- (4) Sri M. Govinda Pai, Manjeshwar (South Kanara
District) - for Kannada
- (5) Mahamahopadhyaya Sri K.S. Krishnamurti Sastri-
gal, Mathurai - for Sanskrit.

Here will be inscribed, when available from the Director of Information and Publicity, a brief note on the size of the various literatures, and the place of the poet laureates

Closely allied to the Scheme of poet laureates is the scheme for the award of prizes for the best ~~new~~ books in the four regional languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. Six prizes of Rs 500/- each for Tamil and Telugu and of Rs 250/- each for Kannada and Malayalam have been awarded to the following:

TAMIL.

1. Sri M.P. Somasundaram - Poems and Songs
2. Sri T.K. Manikkavasagam - Mathematics, Astronomy and Engineering.
3. Sri R. Tirukutasundaram - Children's literature
4. Sri A.V. Subramahmanyam - Medicine and Hygiene
5. Sri K.S. Nagarajan - Educational methods, Philosophy and Physiology.
6. Sri Jamadagni - Natural Science.

TELUGU.

1. Sri Gadiyaram Venkata Sesa Sastry - Poems and Songs
2. Sri Jammalamadaka Madhavarama Sarma - Prose Works - Literary Criticism
- Sri N. Venkata Rao

(Prize to be divided equally)

HE
in letter
side lined
been
pages 2-4
of the book

28/192

- (3) Sri M. Bapineedu (X) Children's literature
Sri G.V. Sitapati (X)

(Prize to be divided equally)

- (4) Sri Goteti Jogiraju Agriculture
(5) Sri M. Somasekhara Sarma History
(6) Dr. G. Narayanamurti Hygiene

KANNADA.

- (1) Sri Ranganatha Diwakar History
(2) Sri K. Vittal Shenoy Science
(3) Sri M. Ranga Rao Novel
(4) Sri B. Venkataramana Bhat Poetry
(5) Sri M. Thimmapayya Criticism
(6) Sri Gamaki Gunduramayya Children's Literature.

MALAYALAM.

- (1) Sri V. Sreedhara Menon Poems and songs
(2) Sri Karoor Neelakanta Pillai Short story
(3) Sri S.K. Pottakad Novel and Drama
(4) Sri M.C. Nambudripad Physics and Chemistry
(5) Sri K.E. Job History, Economics,
Politics and Sociology.
(6) Sri P.N. Moosath Educational methods,
Philosophy and Psychology.

In the institution of laureateship and prizes the Madras Government trusts they have taken an appropriate step in their educational policy. It is their earnest desire that this policy should embrace the enlightenment of everyone in the province. Compulsory education on the basic pattern is the first step which the Government are taking in respect of children. In respect of adults, the Government of India have offered an annual grant of about 18 lakhs, which it is intended immediately to use to establish adult schools in the premises of the existing secondary and larger primary schools. In this connection full use will be made of Audio Visual aids, so that science may facilitate and expedite the difficult task of educating the old. In respect of secondary education,

bifurcated courses are being introduced, to supply a practical basis, so that the country is duly supplied with the technicians required for its progress. University education is growing of itself the colleges having increased from 78 in 1939 to 107 in 1949, which is evidence of the success of secondary education. We are not neglecting other activities. In the matter of physical training this province takes pride of place. For music, we are established, with a grant from the Government of India, the Karnataka College of music. For military training, we have sanctioned the enlistment of 6000 cadets, some of whom have provided the Guard of Honour to-day. It is the earnest endeavour of the Madras Government to create by its educational activities the proper human foundations for its own future and for the greatness of the country.

Any material reward to a poet, which he never expects, will be too small. Nonetheless to signify our regard, the Government have decided to present a medal and shawl to-day, and an honorarium of Rs 1000/- annually for five years to the chosen laureates. I invite Your Excellency kindly to award the insignia of our regard to the laureates.

No. 26382-92/49

100⁵ (21) 31/197 E.H. (92)

Poet-Laurate - Dunbar
on the 14th August

As desired by Secy, a note
on the Scheme of Poet-Laurate
is submitted -

2. In accordance with Secre-
tary's suggestion which has been
approved by HM, the scheme
for the award of prizes for
books is also dealt with in the
note. HM has agreed to men-
tion the names of the persons
who have secured these prizes
in the course of his speech on
the occasion -

149-

2

by

3. Notes on the attachments of the Treks are stated. He under preparation by the Director, I.P. who is separately being asked to forward them to Public, direct

48-49



I would like to see done as soon as possible, notes on the poets, and the history of the literature they represent, as reference to them is to be made in H.N.'s speech

4/8 Dg IHP

The collection of the notes is, in a few cases, not complete yet. They will be put up to Secy (E.P.H.) on the 9th

10/5/49

Secy (E.P.H.)

92760 431-3684
E.H.P.H. 26382 5-8-49
- 92/49-74-48-49

101

29

199

33

Draft of address is placed below for approval. It will be completed, when information is received from D. of I and P about the merits of the Poets

If H.N. approves copies of the address may be printed for distribution to the audience

H.N. (E.P.H.)

6/8

Approved: Stanley

LM

9/8

19/6

C.No. 2638/49.

102
original draft 38 203
E. & P.H. Dept. (G2).

Memorandum No. _____ Edn. dated _____.

Sub:- Poets Laureate - Durbar held on the 14th August -
Claim of Travelling Allowance - Instructions.

The Poets Laureates are ^{requested to} ~~informed~~ that they may claim ^{and daily} travelling allowances admissible to them in connection with their attendance at the Public Durbar ^(that is, a single class fare to & fro and a daily allowance of Rs. 5/-) on the 14th and forward the Bills to the Director of Public Instruction for his countersignature. ^{A T.A. Bill} The form is forwarded herewith for their use - The D.P.I. is requested to countersign the T.A. Bills of

the 4 Poets Laureates, ~~for~~ for Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Sanskrit, who attended the Public Durbar. ^{on the 14th August 1949} ~~The T.A. Bill presented by the Kannada Poet Laureate is forwarded to the Director for necessary action -~~

The Poets Laureate are requested to present the Bills after countersignature by the D.P.I., at the Accountant-General's Office, Madras, or ^{at} the concerned District Treasury for payment. ~~The M.T.O. Form No. 43 is forwarded herewith to the Poets Laureate in Tamil, Malayalam, and Sanskrit at one each for their use.~~

In addition to the single First Class Railway fare and the Daily Allowance of Rs. 5/- on the 14th, ~~for~~ ~~even~~ a mileage of Two annas per mile may be allowed as a special case where it is claimed.

The expenditure will be debited to "37. r. Education - General - Miscellaneous - A.(1). 8. Other grants".

The Director is requested to take action to provide funds by reappropriation or otherwise.

The Accountant-General is requested to authorize the payment of the amounts claimed ^{either at his office or at the District Treasury} pending provision of funds.

To

Sri Namakkal Kavignar
V. Ramalingam Pillai, Poet Laureate in Tamil,
c/o. Chinna Annamalai,
Tamil Pannai, Theagaroya-
nagar.

Sri Vallathol Narayana
Menon, Poet Laureate in Mala-
yalam, c/o. C.G. Kurup Esq.,
No. 1, Bishop Whallers Avenue-East,
P.T.O.

x These are the
Rates agreed to
for them in
the main file.
(Now in
Finance)

5. $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$

Fin. (CSR)

Regarding 'A' at the bottom of p. 3. above
and 'B' at p. 10. C.F., E.P.H. may
be informed that the memo No. 26382/49-2
dated 28.8.49 has been communicated
to the A.G. in Fin. Encl. No. 55943/CSR/49-1.4

10.9.49

12.9.49

E-1011

Fin. No. 5946/49
12/9/49



70308

Letter No. 104 (101) 39 E.P.H. (G2).
Edn. dated 207

To
Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai,
Poet Laureate in Tamil,
Namakkal (Salem Dt.) with enclosure.

Sir,

Ref:- Your letter dated 4-9-49 with the T.A. Bill.

With reference to your letter cited above, I am
directed to state ^{you are eligible for} only a single I Class railway fare
plus a Daily Allowance of Rs.5/- for the 14th August and
with a mileage at the rate of 2 Annas per mile for the
actual distance ^{travelled by road.} ~~of a road journey where it was performed~~
~~have been sanctioned.~~ The additional claims made in
your T.A. Bill ^{for} Rs.16/8/- for Taxi hire and Rs.2-8-0
on account of detention for the train at Salem are not
therefore admissible. A revised T.A. Bill for a total
sum of Rs.65-12-0 on the above basis is prepared and
sent herewith for your signature ^{after affixing one anna stamp} and return to Govern-
ment for countersigning the same.

12/9/49.

Y. F.,

Y. F.,

Note:-

Please see the letter and T.A. Bill received from
Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai, Tamil Poet Laureate, at pp.1-3
c.f. It will be observed at p.3 c.f. that the Poet
Laureate has claimed Rs.16-8-0 for Taxi hire from the
Central Stn. to his ^{temporary at Myaganapur} residence and to Rajaji Hall and
back owing to infirmity and another Rs.2-8-0 as his
addl. expense at Salem Jn. while waiting for the train.
Only a First Class fare plus a D.A. of Rs.5/- and a
mileage at As.2 per mile where it is performed, were
sanctioned to each of the Poets Laureates who attended

p.t.o.

40008

-2-
by *CSL*

the Durbar on the 14th August. In the circumstances, the draft letter overleaf to the Poet Laureate forwarding a revised T.A. Bill for his signature ^{and return} is for approval.

13/9/49
13.9.49
14.9.49

S

Finance may see the amount retrenched is small and it may be gracious to allow it, particularly as the poet pleads infirmity.



14/9
Fin
CSL

The proposal of Rs. 83/12- may be accepted. (For somewhat similar reasons an extra I cl. fare was allowed to the Malayalam Poet Laureate.)

E d. P. H. W. 6. 69117-49/49
14-9-49

RS
CSL

16/9/49
E d. H (492)

Finance have agreed to the Secretary's proposal above. A draft letter to Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai, Poet Laureate, is submitted for approval. The original T.A. Bill of Sri V. Ramalingam Pillai for Rs. 83/12- is submitted for countersignature.



19.9.49
20/9/49
21/9

[Letter No. 69117-49/49-2 Edn. dt. 21-9-49] - p. 133 c.f.

105 C.S. *Gr*
109 41

p. 135 c.f.

From the A. G. No. T9 Edn. VI/138 dated 28-9-49.

A draft memo. to the Asstt. General with reference to his letter at p. 135 c.f., is submitted below for approval.

E d. P. H. W. 6. 26382-49/49-1 dated 7-10-49.

6/10/49
7-10-49
Finance



Fin. W. O. 65418 CSR/49
8-10-49.



[Issued as Memo. No. 26382-49/49-22 Edn. dt. 10-10-49.]

From Sri K. S. Krishnamurti Sasthriyal, letter dt. 8-10-49

Please see the letter from Sri K. S. Krishnamurti Sasthriyal, Sanskrit Poet Laureate, at p. 139 c.f. The Poet Laureate states that his T. A. Bill has not yet been paid by the St. Treasury, Mathurais, and that the Treasury says that they have not received advice from the A. G. A draft memo. to A. G. drawing his attention to Govt. Memo. dated 26-8-49, is submitted below for approval.

p. 61 c.f.

11/10/49
11.10.49

(Memo. No. 26382-49/49-23 Edn. dated 12-10-49.)
(C. No. 91720/49, From A. G. T. 9, Edn. VI, 190 d 19.10.49)

p. 141

26 P.H.
G.

Please see the Copy of the letter from the d. g. on p 143 etc. It is may be seen that he has issued necessary instructions to the St. Treasury Ma. Ammi to disburse the amount due to Sri H.S. Krishnamoorthy Sasthigal, Poet Laureate in Sanskrit, in respect of his 2. a. bill. No further action seems necessary for the present in this file -

The papers may now be

M. Docket

Order (des) 3302 Edu.d. 28.10.49

Recorded.

Has not bill already been considered by Secy? Should we not send a reply to the poet laureate?

Sub: Poet Laureates holding of Public

Copy of bill on the 14.12.1949
Papers recorded.

26/10/49

The bill has already been countersigned by the Secy - A Copy of the Memo on p 141 of - has gone to the Poet - This will perhaps do -

27/10/49

26/10/49

24/11/49

106

103

all

The inauguration of the Poet Laureateships in five languages in Madras Province is a unique occasion in the history of India, marking as it does the formal recognition of poetic talents by a people's Government. Madras has taken the lead in India to set up an institution the like of which only Great Britain has so far maintained. The richness and variety of our languages and culture warrants the Government's action in having five Poet Laureateships to one of the English; Yet, in the ultimate analysis the five literary personalities who have been chosen to grace the Laureateships as the present incumbents are each pre-eminent in his particular literary world. They are -- Mahamahopadyaya K.S. Krishnamurthi Sastry (Sanskrit), Sri Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai (Tamil), Brahmasri Chellapilla Venkata Sastry (Telugu), Sri Vallathol Narayana Menon (Malayalam) and Sri M. Govinda. Pai (Kannada).

By appointing these luminaries to the respective Poet Laureateships Government have not only honoured their scholarships and achievements, encouraged and raised the status of regional languages, and fostered the cult of poetry in the Province, They have also established a high standard of attainment as pre-requisite qualification, so that future aspirants for these posts of honour may aim high to kindle the peoples' imagination.

From time immemorial poets have always had an honoured place in Indian Society. Myths, Puranas and Epics describe the esteemed position poets held in the Assembly of the learned, in the palaces of the kings, social gatherings and public meetings. And this tradition of honouring poets, by State and public is manifested through history. The Hindu and Moghul periods in Indian history offer many examples of the tributes monarchs have paid to both court poets and wandering minstrels. The social history of the various ancient

104

South Indian Kingdoms likewise bear testimony to the high regard the people of the South and their rulers had for the poets and poetry.

The latter day eclipse of the poet from the scene of his former triumphs is no reflection on the literary merit of his compositions. With the advent of British Rule the times were of turmoil and turbulence. The three ^{phases} ~~stages~~ of the taking over -- Trade, Conquest and Administration -- left the people cowed and lost without the moorings of their traditional culture and civilisation. The re-oriented pattern of life in British India -- and the Indian States -- provided no inspiration for major poets nor scope for encouraging their subdued Muse.

Yet men of letters were not wanting in this land, so rich in literary tradition, who bided their time, blended the old usage with the new technique and recorded the passing of the years in their glorious poetry. In strict conformity with the logic of events it is, therefore, quite proper that we should be honouring five contemporary poets who have preserved the link of continuity in our cultural heritage. For having achieved freedom two years ago under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of ~~the~~ Nation, on the eve of the third year in the Independence Era, we hasten to pay appropriate tribute to the five poets Laureates of the five languages flourishing in South India -- Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

It is a significant, but by no means, a strange phenomenon that the five poets Laureates (of Madras Province) have contributed greatly to the freedom struggle ^{for freedom} through the genius of their poetry.

108

Never divorced in feeling or fellowship from the non-violent Satyagraha, that raged for three decades against the armed might of one of the most powerful nations on earth, our poets laureate/ were not ~~innumerable~~ "idle dreamers of an empty day," who asked themselves petulantly like William Morris, "why should I strive to set the crooked straight." On the contrary, every one of our laureates identified himself with the martyr heroes and set to word-music not only ~~the~~ the moral achievements of the Mahatma and his men, but also the new code that would build a new India around the charka, Harijan, Kisan and worker. Mahamahopadyaya Krishnamurthi Sastrigal, our Sanskrit Laureate has written the MAHATMA VIJAYA, a Champu poem which deals with Mahatma Gandhi. Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai, the Tamil Laureate has sung many a poem not only about the National Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, ~~Pandit~~ Jawaharlal Nehru, Tilak, V. V. Chidambaram Pillai and others, but has also composed popular pieces on the constructive programme of the freedom movement as prohibition, Harijan uplift, village industries and temple entry.

Vallathol Narayana Menon, has like wise a commendable record of freedom poetry. Nationalist to the core, he too has sung with unrivalled vigour on the ^{nationalism} struggle and nation-building activities. His poem "Flag Salutation," is sung all over Malabar whenever the Tri-Colour is hoisted.

Brahma Sri Chellapilla Venkata Sastry, the Telugu Laureate is nearly 80 today, weak and bed-ridden. Yet he retains a lively interest in current affairs and his recent contributions (to ~~the~~ ^{national} ~~news~~ ^{papers}) on topics like temple entry, Harijans, Communism provide interesting sidelights to his general theory of life.

Sri Govinda Pai, the Kannada Laureate, evinces an equally passionate love for liberty. In his VAISAKHI there is a memorable passage on Independence in which he ~~warns~~ warns an alien nation against imposing its will on a slave country.

109 -4- 106
Sri Govinda Pai has also written moving pieces on themes like 'Quit India,' and 'the Assassination of Gandhiji.'

But the preceding remarks on the link between our new Poet Laureates and the Independence Movement should not be taken to mean that the present incumbents of these new posts were appointed with their political background in mind. These literary personalities have been made ~~the first poets laureates~~ ^{in our hands laureates} in this Province ~~because they are poets, -- the best poets -- in the land.~~ (While in the crucible of national ~~war~~ upheaval it is but natural that their poetry should be the molten metal of political struggle; as the contents cool into ingots, we may hope that the metal will be bravely fashioned into other objects, beautiful and useful, purposeful and pleasure giving.)

Our Sānskrit Poet Laureate Mahamahopadyaya K.S.Krishnamurthi Sastrigal, Chief Professor of Vyakarnam in the Rameswaram Devasanam Patasalai at Mathurai, ^{was} born some 54 years ago in Kattuputhur, a village in Musiri Taluk, Tiruchirapalli district, he comes from a family noted for its religious and literary pursuits. Due to domestic difficulties he had to abandon his studies in the high school stage, but he later joined a Sasthra Patasala to study Sanskrit. Here he developed an immense love for the language and he continued his Sanskrit studies in Kumbakonam and Chidambaram. By now he had begun to compose verses and dramas in Sanskrit and soon savants like Sri Sankaracharya of Kamakoti Peedam and the Maharajah of Cochin were attracted by his compositions. The Mahamahopadyaya who prefers a dignity of a teacher to other lucrative posts, is the author of some 20 poems including a nat cycle, Prakurthi Vilas, and the classical Sathi Vilasa Kanya. Scholars applaud his style as simple, language as chaste and diction melodious.

This is
recognized
by the
com
pet
at
who
study
poetry
and
and

100 107 219

Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai, our Tamil Laureate is essentially a product of the freedom struggle. Though he has been a Congressman from 1944, Sri Ramalingam Pillai became a poet of note only when the Satyagraha days began. His stirring verses rallied thousands of youths to the banner of the non-violent struggle. Sri Ramalingam Pillai was born in October 1888 in Namakkal, Salem District in a simple middle-class family. He proved bright in his studies and good at Tamil but his ruling passion then was painting for which he had exceptional aptitude. After a year at College and a spell of clerking and teaching Sri Ramalingam Pillai became a professional painter. But the Gandhian avalanche set him off his ~~four~~ feet and he found new tongue to sing the glory of the National struggle.

Sri Ramalingam Pillai has a particularly happy talent for rhyme and ~~rich~~ rhythm; and this makes ~~and this makes~~ his poems as pulsating as a military march, as easy as a nursery rhyme. ~~With~~ All his high ideals and deep feelings make them emotional upsurges that appeal directly to the heart. His lines on the "Non-violent War," "The Spinning Wheel," "The Creator," are excellent examples of his special genius. And there is a mystic prophetic mission in his lyrical version of the Mahatma's foreboding of martyrdom, lines whose echoes will never die to one who has read them once. Sri Ramalingam Pillai remains a peoples' poet because the masses read and remember his lilting lines.

Satavadani Brahammasri Chellapilla Venkata Sastry, the Telugu Laureate was born in Yenam, (French Territory). But he really belongs to East Godavari district where he later settled down. He studied Sanskrit and Telugu here, and then proceeded to Benares for perfecting his knowledge of Sanskrit, the language of the Scholars. Early in life he took to poetry and he particularly revelled in 'Sathavadanam' a form of composition peculiar to Telugu language and literature which requires

The name of Vallathol Narayana Menon, our Malayalam Laureate, is a household word in Kerala. Most widely read of all poets in Malabar, he is loved and respected for his child-like demeanour and charming manner. Vallathol was born in Mangalam (near Tirur), South Malabar, in a respectable family of highly enlightened views. Both his parents were able scholars and the formative years of the poet were spent in an atmosphere of earnest intellectual study.

Vallathol started composing at a young age and in the early stages he was under the influence of the convention in the school. But his TAPATI SAMVARANAM in the traditional Vahenipattu fashion (boat song), bore the impress of a new unfettered genius. In similar zeal he tackled the onerous task of translating the Valmiki Ramayana. Again Vallathol triumphed with unabated vigour in the composition of CHITRA YOGAM, a Mahakavya on the Sanskrit model; this exhausting production usually proves too much for the average poet.

In Aniruddham, Vallathol probes hidden depths of true love and lays bare the hollowness of conventional passion. Gurunathan is his political credo, wherein Vallathol accepts the Gandhian way of life. The poet is now greatly interested in the revival of Katha Kali the dance drama of Malabar, a worthy endeavour for a Mahakavi.

Sri M. Govinda Pai, the Kannada Laureate, is a personality of rare distinction. He is a poet of acumen, research scholar in history, a student of comparative religion and a linguist who has mastered over 22 languages. Sri M. Govinda Pai was born in 1883 at Mancheswar, South Kanara, in a well-known Vaishnava Saraswath family. After matriculating from a Mangalore school he joined college. But his studies were disrupted by various factors and he gave up a formal university education after passing in English and Sanskrit both with high

113 110 227
ranks in the B.A., examination.

As a poet Sri Govinda Pai was responsible for the innovation of writing poems without the 'prasa', alliterative second letter, a rigid feature of Kannada poetry. It was this same revolutionary outlook that made him adapt the Shakespearean sound to Kannada poetry and translated the Rubayat. Sri Govinda Pai took to the study of religions and his Gommat Jina Stuti on Jainism, Golgotha on Christianity and Vysakhi on Bhuddism are notable works. Nanda Deepa is a moving elegy on the death of his wife. Regarding his future work Sri Govinda Pai says:-- "But let me speak no more of those ~~days~~ babes yet in the womb of time, for when and whether at all they will see the light of day is known only to their Inspirer."

It is a cynical truism that the first hundred years of the poet are the hardest; the inference being that posterity is the better judge of literary merit rather than the contemporary reading public. This drastic method of letting lapse in decades decide the enduring quality of his works has put many a worthy poet on the shelf, eating his heart out ~~for~~ for a little appreciation and slight encouragement.

It therefore, stands to the credit of the people and Government of this Province, that we are able to honour a prophet not only in his own land, but also in his lifetime. Proximity should not dazzle judgement, but neither should familiarity acidulate criticism. From this sensible standpoint a dispassionate study of contemporary poetic talents in the Province was made, and the final selection resulting in the appointment of these poets as our first Laureates, reflects the peoples' verdict. ~~Mahatma~~ It was ^{who} Gandhiji declared: "I want art and literature that can speak to the millions," and the award of these laureateships is an honour done to these peoples' poets.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Government of Madras.
Public (Political) Department.

Circular Memorandum No. 5111/49-3, dated the 15th October 1949.

Sub: Government functions - Invitees - Absence of officers
invited for Government functions - Instructions - Issued.

82893

In connection with the award of the Insignia of Poet Laureateships by His Excellency the Governor, a Durbar was held on 14-8-1949 at the Rajaji Hall, Mount Road, Madras. A number of invitees failed to attend the function; but conspicuous amongst these were several Government officials. This poor response has evoked some adverse criticism in sections of the local press, especially as seats had been reserved for all the distinguished invitees and many of the chairs were lying unoccupied. The Government have also observed that some of the officials were absent at the Independence Day Parade on the next day.

2. Such poor response by Government officials is to be regretted and the Government hope that their officials will not fail to respond to invitations for important official functions on future occasions. If, for any reason, an officer is unable to

p.t.o.

- 2 -

attend a function, the fact may be intimated in advance to the organisers of the function, so that the impression created in the eyes of the public, as in the Poet Laureates Durbar, may be avoided.

A. Ramesh chander
13.4.49.
(C.S. RAILACHANDRAN.)

For Chief Secretary to Government.

To all Heads of Departments in the City.
the Departments of the Secretariat.
Copy to other Heads of Departments including Collectors and District Judges.
Copy to the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

mdk.11/10-

filed.

29.10.49. 31-10-49

102

C.F. 304.

OFFICE OF THE

Date

TELEPHONE

MESSAGE

From

D.P.I.

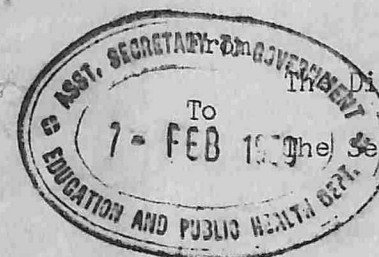
Secy.

E.P.H.

T.H. No 2421 49-14/2/5

Kindly let me know
urgently the amount of
T.A. Bill of the Poet
Laureate asked for
payment by secretariat
E.P.H. with ref. to Govt.
Memo 26382-62/49-15
A.I. 268-49 The particulars
are required for the
inclusion of the amount
in the final revised B.E.
6081949-50.

116 113
Post copy of telephonic message No. 2471 L.3/49
dated 4th January 1950. *gr* 3



The Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

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

94/4
675/②
Kindly let me know urgently, the amount of T.A. Bills of the Poets Laurate passed for payment by the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department with reference to Government Memo 26382-G2/49-15 Edn dated 26-8-49. The particulars are required for inclusion of the amount in the Final Revised Budget Estimates for 1949--50.

Thiruvalluvar
for Director of Public Instruction

Vk 4.2

Xu 4/2

86/6/42/50

p-75/R
to go.

T.M.

From the Secretary to Govt.
E. & P. H. Dept.

Edu. d.

To the A. eg.

Poet Laureates - amount of T.A. Bills.

Please furnish urgently the ^{actual} ~~total~~ amount of T.A. Bills of the Poet Laureates passed for payment with ref. to. Govt. Memo. No 26382/9/1948 d 26.8.49, ~~as the figures are required for inclusion in the R. E. for 1950.~~

in connection with their journeys to attend the Poet Laureate Dinner on the 14th Aug. 1948.

Note: The exact amount is not easily available. The above T.M. to the A. eg. is for approval.

9.2.50. 100
9.2.50

this will mean delay. The draft on the next page may come.

100

To T-M 10/2/50.
 Re: - your AM of the 4th Feb.
 re: J.A. & book laminates.
 The figures may be obtained from the A.S.

PC
 Issued
 10/2/50
 10/2/50

From

K.C.V. Nampoothiry,
 Karimbeth-Madam,
 Niranam P.O.,
 Via, Mavelikkara,
 Travancore.

To

The Chief Secretary,
 Madras.

Sir,

May we the undersigned applicants humbly approach you to allow us to let you know to make arrangements and conveniences to have an Akshara Sloka competition also during the auspicious functions in the Madras Durbar which is settled to be conducted on the 14th August as seen in the publication of the News-papers of the 15th July viz. in Malayala Manorama, Malayala Rajom, Powra Dhawany etc., please if you are good enough to do so let us be given reply to be ready for preparation and to attend the Durbar for Akshara Sloka competition.

Along with this application for all the details of programme and your kind and favourable reply within this cover we send you stamps so that you may kindly be careful in sending up the reply quickly.

We have at various occasions of processions of the like nature in Cochin, Trivandrum got many certificates and Medals etc., now with the old taste and desire to meet you great men in the Madras Durbar to make acquaintances with you and be loved by you with your greater and nobler instructions of advices also in the matter and form and nature of Akshara Sloka competitions in and out of the countries for and abroad.

We have got the certificates from the undernamed Pandits of Mers: V. Krishnan Thampy B.A., P.S. Achthan Pillai M.A. & M.L., Socranad Kunjan Pillai M.A., R. Narayana Panicker B.A. & L.T., G.P. Sekhar, A.G. Krishna Varior, P.K. Narayana Pillai, P.S. Purushothaman Namboori, P. Ananthan Pillai, M.A., Kavithilakas Vatakkumkur Raja Raja Varma Raja, and Vallathol Narayana Menon. Besides these Vallathol Narayana Menon gave the first prize in the procession of "Venmani Sadabda" at Vellarappallil, And in the last year got the first prize and a certificate in the Exhibition of Sree Chithira Thirunal at Trivandrum.

Sub (1st)
 4578/49-1
 13-8-49

We remain,
 Sir,
 Yours ever humble and sincere.

Niranam.
 21st July '49



K.C.V. Nampoothiry. *[Signature]*
 M.K. Narayana Pillai. *[Signature]*

A circular library stamp from the University of Toronto Libraries. The text "UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES" is curved along the top inner edge. The year "1954" is stamped in the center. The text "JAN 2 1954" is curved along the bottom inner edge.

It is too late now
even if the farm
was considered
feasible. Lodge
Bismuth Lake to
Lodge 1/2

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ 2 \overline{) 26} \\ \underline{26} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

116

C.No. 62088/49.

E. 4P. H (92)

Letter No. 620 88/92/49-1 Edm. dated 19-8-49.

Sri K.C.V. Nampoothery;
Karimbeth-Madom, Niranam P.O.,
(Via) Mavilikkara (Travancore)

Akshara Stotra Competition

(4) I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 25th July 1949

yours faithfully,

Note M. Lee Say's order on

16-848. 2 y- To be added to the main file before it is removed.

