

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 615

DATED 21. 5. 97.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Govt Prize for South Indian Palaeography
Making an addition to rule of 4 of the existing
rules regarding the —, and ordering its publica-
tion in the Fort at Gunge and all Dist fa-
cilities.

J 23/5/97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C No 2275 of 97	12706 of 97						

Government {1897} of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Recd. } 1897. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 615, 21st May 1897.

MAY.

Government Prize for South Indian Palæography.

Making an addition to rule 4 of the existing rules regarding the —, and ordering its publication in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 953, Public, dated 20th November 1895.*

ORDER—No. 615, Public, dated 21st May 1897.

*

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*

*

*

4. The following addition will be made to rule 4 of the existing rules regarding the "Government prize for South Indian Palæography", and will be published in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes:—

"Candidates should forward their essays, which should not bear the author's name, in sealed envelopes and with a covering letter to the Director of Public Instruction, who will pass the essays on to the examiners without informing them of the identity of the writers."

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Educational Department,
,, all Collectors,
,, the Registrar of the University of Madras,
,, the Superintendent, Government Press,

Exd. A. Raitt.

[Pub.]
30
1,000—25-7-06

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 615

DATED 21st May 1897

102
24/5

[Despatch Abstract.]

Govt Prize for South Indian Palæography
Directing payment to the heirs of the late Rao Bahadur D. Sundaram Pillai of half the ~~first~~ prize for his dissertation on "Some early coins of Travancore"; and making an addition to rule 4 of the existing rules regarding the — and ordering its publication in the Fort St. George and all Dist. Gazettes.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C no	2275	of 97					

(1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1421



From The Director of Public Instruction,
Madras

Order

No. C/10

Dated 8th April 1897.

Received 9

Registered 10

Enclosures / Five /

Spare copies

SUBJECT

Submitting
the examiners appor
the essay of M. R. Py
Pillar of Trivandrum on
Indian Palaeography.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. 10

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras, *8th April* 189

No. C-10

1421.

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D. Sc., LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

*The Honourable the Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort St George*

SIR,

*With reference to G.O. n^o 958, Publi-
dated 20th November 1895, I have the honour
to submit the reports of the examiners appoi-
to value the essay sent in by M. R. By P. Sundar
Pillai of Trivandrum.*

*2. By an oversight the two examiners did not
communicate with one another before addressing
me in their letters, dated, 23rd January & 15th March.
Accordingly I requested Dr. Hultsch to put
himself in communication with Dr. Noerle
so that, if they could not come to an agree-*

might request government to appoint an
additional examiner as provided for by the rules.
result is, as will be seen by Dr. Hoernle's
letter of 1st instant and Dr. Hultze's letter
of 6th instant, that they are now agreed that
essay does not deserve the Prize.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. Duncan
Director of Public Instruction.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C 14

Santhoshan
Santhoshan
Pension (1897) Department.
Public

CURRENT No. 678

From *The Director of
Public Instruction*

No. 4600.

Dated 30 April 1897.

Received 1 May 1897

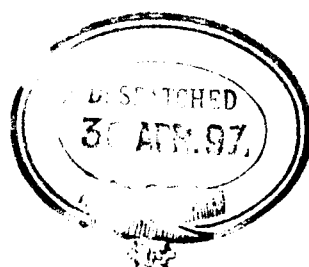
Registered 3-5-97.

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT

*Reporting the death of Rao
Bahadur P. Sundaram
Pillay, Professor, Trivandrum
College.*



CURRENT No. 1178

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras, 30 April 1897.

No. 4600.

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D. Sc., LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department.

SIR,

With reference to my letter No. *C 10* of 18 April 1897 submitting the decision of the Examiner of the Essay sent in by Rao Bahadur P. Sundaram Pillai for the Government prize of Rs. 500 for Indian Palaeography, I regret to have to report that the author of the essay died at Trivandrum on the 26th instant. By his death vernacular learning in Southern India has sustained great loss.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D. Duncan

Director of Public Instruction.

28

C. 13/4/97.
R 2074157

[G.]
26
1.0/-14-12-96.

Public DEPARTMENT
C. No. ~~100~~ 100

3. H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
1. THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.
2. THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.
Essay on Palaeography

FOR ORDERS.

I regret the decision of the
Examiners but suppose we must
accept it. In commending it, however,
I should add some words of
praise of Sundaram Pillai's re-
searches. I think, by the way, that
in recognition of his labours he
was made a Rao Bahadur some-
thing of the kind a little
time ago. My list of titles & titles
has not been sent up to
*Somelary Secretary of Travancore.
date, however, I cannot
be sure.

HS JG
13/4/97 15/4/97^{OH}

My list of titles has disappeared
Please send me another copy.
JG

*copy of this letter has not
been furnished.

I regret also the decision of the Examiners
I think we must accept it. I think it was not

The advisability of
encouraging the study of Palaeography was fully considered
in the notes in p. 786 dated 9.9.96
The report was submitted
in accordance with the revised
rules approved in p. 950
dated 12.9.96, the reports of
Dr. Hultsch and Harnack
with the view of securing
the best of the handwriting
of Trivandrum.
The report is not
one of unqualified praise,
but he nevertheless at first
considered the essay worthy
of the prize - vide his letter
of 11.9.96, but on Dr. Hultsch
writing to him, he has changed
his opinion and now
states

D. Hultsch ^{reminds} that the author will have to pass through a long and arduous study of the minutiae of Epigraphy before he can expect to carry off) prize on it."

I will be observed
that no Essay has a depth
on the prize.

flagged. Dr. Hultsch ^{reminds} that the author will have to pass through a long and arduous study of the minutiae of Epigraphy before he can expect to carry (off) prize on it. It does not appear that Dr. Hoernle's method of deciding is particularly satisfactory one, but the Examiners have "come to an agreement" vide rule 6 at. so that the appointment of an additional Examiner or examiners is not necessary. Indeed it would be difficult to find them. It will be observed that no essay has a say in the prize. It is submitted that the verdict of the savants may be accepted, and the

Order
The book
accepts the
opinion of the
Examiners

V. P. I. (p)

12/4/97

I think that where you have
Mr. ~~Hugh~~ ^{W. H.} Leland's experience
in cryptography is a very special
subject, at least of that
kind - J.D.

much encouragement is given
to the study of Indian Paleography,
then an Essay which is otherwise
praiseworthy, & considered fit
for the prize is rejected by the
examiners on the ground that
the author ^{capable of reading} ~~knowledge of~~ Sanskrit
& vernacular ^{inscriptions} ~~epigraphy~~ is not
perfect, & that he must have
obtained assistance from others,
as he is no way bound to do without
his own assistance

1. Honble Mr. Bliss C. 22.
 2. Hon. Mr. Grove C. 22.
 [25 A.]
 1,000-21-3-98.

Public DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 14214 1678

Essay on Palaeography

18
7/5/97

18
7/5/97

FOR ORDERS.

Resubmitted to the Honble
 Members with reference to H.E.
 the Governor's note.

The "Hindu" of the 26th inst.
 reports the death of MRRY. Rao
 Bahadur P. Sundram Pillai -
 He was granted the title of Rao
 Bahadur in the Birthday
 honours of May 1895. (Hindu
 go. no. 256 Coll. 3 22-4-95)
 The list of Titles and Titleholders,
 corrected up to date is in the
 Press. Copies will be sub-
 mitted to Honble Members
 as soon as the Press
 supplies them. It has been asked
 to expedite the work.

Yes. I was sorry to hear
 of his death which was re-
 ported in the M. M. Under
 the circumstances perhaps it is not ne-
 cessary to grant the half prize -
 I agree with the rest of H.E.'s note.

18
7/5/97
 I quite agree with H.E. & wish
 to add himself to the effect he
 suggests and he added what existing
 rules. Now Sundram Pillai is
 dead the grant of the half prize
 will do no good to him, but it
 will please his surviving friends
 & relations, & encourage others
 to undertake researches of the
 same kind as he undertook. Up
 till now the prize has been given
 to no one, & if we do not
 give it to him, we are
 not doing justice to his
 services. I think the
 committee should be asked to
 consider this.

18
29/12/97

Public Dept

Read again

Co. N° 958 Subd 120. 11.95

Co. 1421 and 1678

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

Order

(Print para 3 only)

H. E. the Governor in Council accepts with regret the decision of the Examiners that the Essay by the late M.Ry. Rao Bahadur P. Sundaram Pillai, entitled ^{"A Dissertation on the Early Sovereigns of Travancore"} ~~Some~~ ^{is not of sufficient merit to entitle it to the prize.} ~~decide the prize.~~ ^{South Indian & Malabar people} view however of ~~the~~ many good points which make it ^{the 9 in C is pleased} the ~~first~~ ^{to sanction the payment of half the} ~~to award there to~~ ^{amount} ~~half the amount of~~ the prize, ~~viz Rs 250.~~ ^{which} ~~that sum~~ will be ^{made} paid to the heirs of the late M.Ry. Rao Bahadur Sundaram Pillai, the ^{report} intelligence of whose death ^{the Govt} has received with much regret.

Note

The essay not having been awarded the full prize is apparently not to be printed at Govt expense, vide rule 7 info. 958 Subd 120. 11.95 C. Orders are however solicited on this point.

cc

Whereby vernacular learning in Southern India has sustained a great loss,

Para 2 is with ref to the last two lines of the order for the 11.95 Subd 120.

The Govt

that the reasons assigned by the Examiners for not considering the essay worthy of the prize are the ~~absence~~ want of a familiarity with the minutiae of Epigraphy, and the absence of transcripts in the original language of the inscriptions, translations of which are given in the text, a conditio sine qua non in a contribution to South Indian Palaeography.

3. The following addition will be made to rule 4 of the ^{existing} rules regarding the foot prize for South Indian Palaeography (inserted in the rules set ^{above}) and will be published in the Fort St George and all District Gazette:-

"Candidates should forward their essays, which should not bear the author's name

"name, under sealed
"covers to the Director
"of Public Instruction
"who will pass ^{them} on
"to the Examiners
"without informing
"them of the identity
"of the writers"
From order

C.O.
11/5/97

To
The D.P.I. (9201)
" Asst Secy (9201)
" Educ Dept
" All Collectors
" Registrar of the University
" Supdt, Govt Press

} Para 3 of
order only.

When given for copying 24
When copied 24
When examined 25/5
When signed } 1897

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -

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

R 14/59 R 15/59
Gossay on Palaeography

Public Department.

Read again G.O. No. ⁶⁵⁸ 597 Public d/
and 11-26 [G. Nos. 1431 and 1778.]
Order No. 6152 21st May 1897
(Print para 3 only)

NO-11-96/C. Nos. 1421 and 1478.]

Submitted to the Hon. Wm. Blair Co. 2
As the document was signed
to the agreement of my
size. IV. Two or three
Cordons of 1000

Order of 1871

This is a sentence
about

14/5/79

Submitted Mrs. Anne H. Ford
with license to the State of the
County of Blaine.

Whe given - 10
1575797.
1

2. This decision His Excellency the Governor in Council is himself with regret bound to accept.

4. The following addition will be made to rule 4 of the standing rules regarding the Language of the Court for South India:

4. The following addition will be made to rule 4 of the standing rules regarding the language of the Court for South India:

Palaeography" and will be published in
in the Fort Saint George and all District
Gazettes:-

"Candidates should forward
"their Essays, which should not bear the
"author's name, in sealed envelopes and
"with a covering letter to the Director
"of Public Instruction, who will pass
"the Essay on to the Examiners without
"informing them of the identity of the
"writers."

CS. 12/5/97

/From orders/

12/5/97

To

Director
The Dept. of Pub. Instrn. (a 2-o) in MS
" Acct. Genl. (p & o) in MS.
" Educl. Dept.
" All Collectors } Para 8 of
" Registrar of the Uni- } order only
versity of Madras }
" Supdt., Govt. Press }

copy sent to Press.

arned for signature.

atched in print.

AGAIN G.O. No.
189

SENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DUTY

PAPERS NOT FILED UP UNTIL GRANT FOR DEPARTOR
IN ORIGINAL

10 copies

N.B.-

As per order
It is not to be printed
Printed at the printing
the printing office

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED.

Order complete.
Letter only.
Order complete with letter.

21-11-12

[^G₃₅]

Dec 615 21-5-12

The Collectors of
The District Magistrates of

Anantapur. 8
North Arcot, Chittoor. 8
South Arcot, Cuddalore. 8
Bellary. 8
South Canara, Mangalore. 8
Chingleput, Saidapet. 8
Coimbatore. 8
Cuddapah. 8
Ganjam, Chatrapur. 8
Godavari, Cocanada. 8
Kistna, Masulipatam. 8
Kurnool. 8
~~Madras (when necessary).~~
Madura. 8
Malabar, Calicut. 12
Nilgiris, Ootacamund. 8
Nellore. 8
Salem. 8
Tanjore. 9
Tinnevely. 8
Trichinopoly. 8
Vizagapatam. 8

In the letter
to be sent
we see with
pms 3 of the
original letter
as corrected
R. 10/1/07

The Examiner of Specimens
that the ~~specimen~~ ^{copy} ~~letter~~
R. R. P. Sudarain Dillay
submitted a translation on
"Some Early Sovereigns of Travancore"
is defective deficient. It
on the ground that the
contains mere translations
of a few descriptions while
manuscript them in the
original language in
condition does not show

in a contribution to S.
Indian Palaeography,
are missing and that
the spelling of vernacular
& especially Sanskrit
words is faulty, not
~~fully intelligible~~
page of ~~the specimen~~
~~copy of the specimen~~
~~of the specimen~~

Of sufficient excellence to warrant
its being the type of the letter

2. This decision the
Govt. in Council ~~seems~~
feels ~~immediately~~ ^{with} regret to
3. The paper is however
~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} the Examiner
advised to be ~~to be~~
Therefore one of its considerations
must and under these
circumstances 10/8

I direct the payment of the
 bill of the late F. S. Ellery
 upon the account of the York
 has been with regret, of
 half the large sum of
 \$250.

2nd

This

has been
the most

to be seen. The

take it. 98

on the

order with the

17/18/19

17/18/19

the 4.1.19

England

last the

14/1/19

Five Incls to encl 14.21 Pub. of 9.7.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 38. Confidential. Mysore,
23rd Jan 1897.

From

Mr. E. Hultman,
Govt. Inspector,

To
The Honourable Mr. J. Duncan,
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to your
endorsement No. 13005 of the
2nd ultimo, I have the honour
to return, by registered post, to
Mr. Sahadur P. Sundaram Pillai
dissertation, and to submit the
following remarks.

After the draft
is used by them
he from

LP

2/15/87

Altered & submitted for approval

108
2/15/87

See
attached
not 2/15/87

No. 38. Confidential. Mysore,
23rd Jan 1897.

From

Dr. E. Hultsch,
Govt. Epigraphist,

To
The Honourable Dr. J. Duncan,
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to your
endorsement No. 73005 of the
2nd ultimo, I have the honour
to return, by registered post, to
Nao Bahadur P. Sundaram Pillai's
dissertation, and to submit the
following remarks.

June Early Savignys of Travancore
in the 4th Malabar Library is an
exceedingly well written historical
essay. The two conclusions which
the author draws on pp. 113 and
116 of his manuscript, are
important and interesting. The
same applies to several of his digressions
and casual notes. But I am unable
to recommend his paper for the
Government prize, because it
contains mere translations of a
few inscriptions, while transcripts
of them in the original language
— a credit to our own in
a contribution to South-Indian
Onomatology — are missing.

The spelling of vernacular words,
especially of Sanskrit ones, is often
faulty. The author will have
to pass through a long and
arduous study of the monum.
of Epigraphy before he can
expect to carry prizes on it.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

L. Huetz
Epigraphist.

No. 146.

Obfcurum,
6th April 1897.

100

From

Dr. E. Kultrachy
Government Geographer,



The Honourable Dr. J. Duncan,
Director of Public Instruction,
Malabar.

Sir,

In reply to your D.O. of
21st ultimo, I have the honour
to enclose a letter from Dr.
Kocumle, in which he agrees
with me that Mr. P. Sundaram
Pillai's Essay does not deserve
the Government prize for South-
Indian Palaeography. My first

letter on the subject is returned
herewith, also Dr. Hume's two first
letters. I have the honour to be,

Sr,

Your most obedient servant,

E. Hullway

Epigraphist.

Calcutta

Wednesday

11 April 1879

My dear Mr. Barwick

I have just received a copy
of the first number of the
series in the department of the
Crown I write my Report on
the ~~first~~ Pillar, Essay, I should
have hesitated to recommend
him for the prize but in
this Essay (having the plea
out of the national industry) is an
excellent one. and this estimate

REVIEW OF PROFESSOR PILLAI'S ESSAY.

THIS is a very neat piece of historical research founded on the examination and interpretation of original documents. It refers to the elucidation (1) of the true line of kings of Travancore in the 7th century of the Malabar era, and incidentally (2) of the true extent of the Travancore kingdom in that century.

The original documents on which it is based are (1) certain stone inscriptions affixed to the walls of certain temples in Travancore, and (2) certain manuscript contemporary chronicles, preserved in the Padmanābha Svāmī temple in Trivandram (page 12*).

The study of these documents indicates very considerable proficiency, on the part of Professor Pillai, in South-Indian epigraphy and palæography. They are all contemporary, *i.e.*, of the 7th century M. E. (or roughly of the 15th century A. D.), and accordingly composed in the old Tamil and Malayalam languages, and written in old Grantha characters. I have not seen them, nor if they were accessible to me, should I possess the special knowledge required for reading them. I cannot, therefore, test the correctness or accuracy of Professor Pillai's readings or interpretations, and it may be that on minor details these may be open to question, but on the whole, and with respect to the main points, *i.e.*, dates and royal names, there is no apparent reason to doubt the correctness of his readings. For this we have the two facts—the obvious consistency of the dates and names among themselves, and the experience of Professor Pillai in Tamil palæography. I may add that in his researches into the ancient chronicles, the Professor was confronted by special difficulties, arising partly from the utterly unsystematic way in which these chronicles appear to be arranged, and partly from the unwillingness of the record-keepers to permit their chronicles to be examined (pages 14, 15). Mr. Pillai's perseverance in overcoming these obstacles is praiseworthy.

Nor have I any hesitation in agreeing with Professor Pillai in the main conclusions which he draws from the facts as read by him in those ancient documents. These undoubtedly are correct. In the case of a few subordinate points I have not been fully convinced by his arguments. In some of these he seems to me to have extracted more from his evidence than it warrants; in others the evidence is not so fully worked out as it would be desirable. I shall detail this in the following remarks.

The main object of Professor Pillai's research into these ancient documents is to elucidate and establish the true history of the Royal House of Travancore in the 7th century of the Malabar (or Kollam) era, *i.e.*, roughly, the 15th century A. D. (the year 1 M. E. or Kollam = 824-25 A. D.). I may here mention that in his present dissertation, the Professor merely continues a line of original research which he commenced some years ago. In 1894 he published three essays dealing with the Royal House of Travancore in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th centuries M. E., and in 1895 he followed them up with a fourth essay, dealing with the 6th century. The dissertation now under review continues this research over the 7th century M. E. There can be no question whatever as to the great importance of this series of original researches into the early history of Travancore. The information on this subject which was hitherto available is not only very fragmentary, but, as now appears, altogether false or misleading.

The principal result of Professor Pillai's researches is the proof that in the 7th century of the Malabar era, the country of Travancore was under a "double sovereignty" (paragraph 44, page 113), being ruled by "two co-ordinate, though cognate, lines of sovereigns" (paragraph 46, page 117; cf. page 115 and page 8). These two lines of sovereigns were respectively called (1) the *Mutta* (or Senior) Tiruvadi of Tiruppāppūr, and (2) the *Mutta* (or Senior) Tiruvadi of Chiravāy (pages 88, 113). As to the existence of these two co-ordinate lines of kings it is hardly possible to admit a doubt. The evidence of the documents produced by Professor Pillai seems unimpeachable. Moreover,

* These references are to paragraphs and pages of the manuscript essay of Professor Pillai.

that they were cognate lines, i.e., that they were branches of the same Royal House—the Tiruppāppūr line, the “older,” and the Chiravāy, the “younger,”—appears to be unquestionable (pages 94, 114). I do not think, however, that the Professor's evidence bears out his further contention, that both these Royal branches equally possessed “plenary sovereign powers” (page 115). The mere fact that two contemporary sovereigns issued a proclamation conjointly, and made appointments in the same town but in two different temples, does not necessarily prove that they both possessed “plenary” powers. It is quite compatible with some kind of mutual limitation, though in what the limitation consisted the available evidence seems to be insufficient to show. The possession of “plenary” powers by two independent sovereigns ruling over the same area would surely have soon led to an intolerable state of confusion, and could not have endured through a period of (at least) more than one century, for the chronicle quoted on page 111 shows that the double sovereignty still existed in 763 M. E.

Professor Pillai seems to think that such a dual form of government is a unique phenomenon in the world (page 115). But in fact a very similar instance of a double government existed in India itself in the 7th century A. D., namely, in the Nepal valley. That valley was ruled contemporaneously by two Royal Houses—one Sūryavaṃśi, the other Thākuri, both residing in the same town (Kāṭhmāṇḍū), but in two different palaces. Their jurisdiction must undoubtedly have been mutually limited, though here too the available evidence does not quite clearly show what the limitation was. (See Fleet's *Gupta Inscriptions*, Introduction, pages 189, 190.)

Professor Pillai's researches have brought to light the following two series of contemporary kings:—

M. E.	A. D.	Tiruppāppūr line.	Chiravāy line.
613-14	1437-38	Vira Rāma Mārtāṇḍa.	
636	1460	Ditto.	
644	1468		Āditya.
654	1478	Vira Iravi.	
655	1479		Vira Mārtāṇḍa.
659	1483	Āditya	Vira Rāma.
665	1489	Vira Iravi.	
674-78	1498-1502	Vira Iravi Iravi.	
679	1503	Ditto	Vira Rāma Mārtāṇḍa.
680-87	1504-11	Ditto.	

In 613-14 M. E., Vira Rāma Mārtāṇḍa (called Vēnāṭṭu) appears to have still held the sole sovereignty. In 636 M. E. he first appears as a representative of the Tiruppāppūr line, which would show that the fission of the Royal House into two branches took place at some time between 614 and 636 M. E., but not that Vira Rāma was, as Professor Pillai argues (page 119), sole sovereign up to 636 M. E. In any case, Vira Rāma Mārtāṇḍa was the first of the separate Tiruppāppūr line. Whether Āditya, who appears in 644 M. E., was similarly the first of the Chiravāy line, the evidence procured by Professor Pillai does not show. There are several other points in the above table of succession which one would like to see cleared up, but on which, as Professor Pillai himself admits, his evidence throws no light; thus, e.g., the genealogical relation of the several members of the two lines. It may confidently be hoped that further research in the same class of original documents, either by Professor Pillai or others, may furnish the information which is still wanting. But there can be no doubt as to the great importance of the information already provided by Professor Pillai. How important it is can easily be understood by comparing the Professor's list of Travancore kings with the lists hitherto accepted as more or less trustworthy; see pages 119-123, also Sewell's *Sketch of the Dynasties of Southern India*, pages 97-99.

The second important result of Professor Pillai's researches is the discovery of the true extent of the Travancore kingdom in the 7th century M. E. (pages 3, 116). They clearly show that in that century the kingdom of Travancore included nearly the whole of the present Tinnevely district, the north-eastern boundary being formed by the river Vaippār, and the eastern by the sea-coast. The document relied on by Professor Pillai leaves considerable obscurity regarding the boundaries of the kingdom on the

west and north-west; nor are either of the two explanations suggested by the Professor (pages 74-76) altogether satisfactory. On this point further light is needed. That the kingdom, of course, included the whole of Travancore up to the western sea-coast goes without saying. The Professor further proceeds with an attempt to identify the 18 districts into which the kingdom is said to have been divided in the 7th century M. E., and even for 300 years earlier (page 78). Most of these identifications may be accepted as correct. His remarks about the origin of the river name Tāmraparṇī, being a Sanskritized corruption of the old vernacular Tanporunai, and about the identity of the district Tanporunaikkarai as being the district of the basin of the Tāmraparṇī river, appear to me to be very happy (pages 84-87). With regard to some other identifications, like that of Chiravāy (page 91), the residence of the Chiravāy line of kings, my knowledge of the minutiae of South Indian geography does not allow me to offer any opinion.

Incidentally the author of the essay occasionally digresses into the discussion of matters which have no direct bearing on the main subject of his dissertation. Such, e.g., are the etymology of the term Nambūripād, which is suggested to be a contraction of Nambūri (or Nambi) Tiruvadi Pādu, or “the footprints of the holy feet of our Lord” (pages 25-27), and the origin and use of the terms Pishāra and Paṇḍāra, the former being a part of the title of the highest sacerdotal dignitary in Travancore (page 33), the latter, of the title of “the heads of the purely native monasteries throughout the Tamil province” (page 35). At the same time, the former, in the form Pishāradi, is the name of the low non-Brahmanic Ambalavāsi sect (page 35), while the latter also designates the pure Brahmanic Vēlāla priests in the Tanjore district (page 35). Professor Pillai's explanation of the evolution of this curious nomenclature, as involving the much-disguised survival of the originally Jain monastic title of Bhaṭṭāraka, is very interesting and suggestive. [By the way, the author's ideas of Jainism and Buddhism seem to be curiously “mixed,” to judge from a passage of his on page 31.]

Though outside the real scope of the essay, such digressions as these may be gladly accepted on account of their intrinsic interest and the suggestive way in which they are discussed. They certainly add to the interest and the pleasure with which one cannot help reading the Professor's dissertation. All the more it is a pity that he should have allowed himself to be enticed away from the sober path of scientific research into introducing, for the sake of a securing a “popular style” (Introduction, page 1), matters of a quite trivial and irrelevant. Such, e.g., are his gossip account of a fruitless hunt after a certain inscription of “the rest of the world” in the 7th century M. E. (pages 126-137). Some 25 pages, out of a total of 137, have been bestowed on these and similar trivialities, which might with advantage have been omitted, or disposed of, in two or three pages. I doubt whether they make an intrinsically abstruse or dry subject attractive to the “popular mind,” while they certainly offend the serious student of history. This, however, is a remediable blemish in an essay which otherwise deserves great praise, both for what it has accomplished and the promise it holds out of further fruitful research into the ancient records of a still obscure part of the history of Travancore.

From

To



Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle
Principal, Calcutta Madrasah

The Honorable Mr. D. Duncan M.A.,
Calcutta Madrasah, 15th March, 1897

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 1340, dated 11th February 1897, I have the honour to enclose a printed copy of a review of Professor Pillai's ~~on~~ "Dissertation on some Early Sovereigns of Travancore", which fully sets forth my opinion of the value of the Professor's Essay. I may add that, in my opinion, his dissertation merits the award of the Government prize for South Indian Palaeography.

The original Manuscript Dissertation is returned in a separate insured parcel, together with two printed pamphlets of Professor Pillai, and ten additional printed copies of my review.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
your most obedt. Servt.
A. F. R. Hoernle
Principal

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