

ENVELOPE A-XX: Sthala Purana, Alagar Kovil, Madura

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1. Portions of booklet

"THIRUMALAIRUNJOLAIMALAI" (SRI ALAGAR KOVIL)

by K.N.Radha Krishna, foreward by Sri C.Rajagopalachari

When in 1799 the Govt. took over administration, the Devasthanam records went into custody of the East India Co. A Mr.Hurdis, the 1st Collector of Madura put immense work into creating comprehensive records dealing with temple practices, temple properties and administration, a sort of "Magna Carta" that allowed correct functioning of the temple from 1801 to 1863 at which point the administration of religious institutions was handed over to Temple Committees. But for unknown reasons the Devasthanam records were NOT handed over. This led to total chaos,since the newly constituted committees had zero previous experience with administering the temple.

- No one knew what properties the Devasthanam possessed, what income was derived therefrom, what rites and ceremonies were to be performed

- This led to temple properties (whole villages) being lost and the usurpation of the Sri Alagar Hills by the Govt, all this making the temple a practically landless institution and threatening it's very existence.

Sri Rajagopalachari's foreward which begins "How one wishes that our Stala Puranas were written by men who had more confidence in truth and depended less on pious propoganda" seems to have no connexion to the portion of the booklet that we see here.

15 pages [Typed 15 pages]

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