

April 21, 1965

Dear Dr. Lisker:

May I trouble you again with questions concerning my India papers from the Cairo Geniza?

They repeatedly refer to one PDYAR, whose name is also prefeded by the article, which indicates that it was a title or office rather than a personal name. The man was a shipowner, possessing several ships and a kind of representative of the merchants. Now yer, I understand, must have been a quite frequent ending (in which languageand in what meaning? I refer to A.Appadorai, Economic conditions in Southern India, Madras 1956). One of his ships, travelling to Aden was commanded by a Muslim. You remember of course, that Hebrew does not indicate short vowels. Thus the first element in the word could be read Padi, Pada etc. Also Fada, but I understand there was no F in the scuthern Indian languages at that time. Has the word a meaning?

Another question. An Indian valuable fabric extremely often sent as a present was lalas or lälis or läna(i)s, described in the Persian dictionaries as a very fine red silken material. In Persian, läl is one of the words for red, and I understand the same is the case in Hindustani. I should like to know (a) whether the fabric as such is known from literature or inscriptions and if any details about it are to be found; (b) the best pronunciation; I suppose lalas is nearer the original than lanas, or is perhaps lalis preferable?.

With many thanks in advance,

Sincerely yours,

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