

STATE ARCHIVES ANDHRA PRADESH

Two Decades of Development
1956-1976



E004649

Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur

DIRECTORS OF STATE ARCHIVES

Sri R. M. Joshi, M.A.	1956-1958
Smt. S. Phatak, M.A.	1958
Dr. V. K. Bawa, I.A.S.	1958-1960
Sri Hadi Bilgrami, LL.B.	1960-1961
Dr. V. K. Bawa, I.A.S.	1961-1962
Sri Hadi Bilgrami, LL.B.	1962-1965
Dr. V. K. Bawa, I.A.S.	1965-1968
Sri M. A. Waheed Khan, F.R.A.S.	1969-1970
Sri P. Sitapati, I.A.S.	1970-1971
Sri M. A. Woheed Khan, F.R.A.S.	1971-1972
Dr. (Miss) Sarojini Regani, M.A., Ph.D.	1972-1974
Sri E. Vedavyas, I.A.S.	1974
Sri S. Venkataramaiah, I.A.S.	1974-

INTRODUCTION

State Archives is a repository of the administrative and historical records of the State of Andhra Pradesh and possesses not only the recent administrative records of the state but also the records of the Deccan in Persian, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu and English from 1406 A.D. covering the reigns of the ruling dynasties like the Bahmani, Qutub shahi, Adil shahi and also of the Mughals from the days of Emperor Shah Jahan as well as those Asaf Jahs (Nizams).

CENTRAL RECORD OFFICE

The origin of the State Archives of Andhra Pradesh goes back to the year 1894. In that year the entire records of the "Daftar-e-Diwani", "Daftar-e-Mal" etc., which were under the custody of certain Jagirdar families, were taken over by the Nizam's Government and a new office called "Daftar-e-Diwani" was created for preserving these records. It was raised to the status of a Directorate in the year 1924 and was redesignated as the "Central Record Office" in the year 1950 by the then Government of Hyderabad.

ANDHRA RECORD OFFICE

After the formation of Andhra State in 1953 all the records pertaining exclusively to the Andhra Districts were separated from Madras Record Office and transferred to the newly created Andhra Record Office at Kurnool.

After the formation of Andhra Pradesh on 1st November, 1956 the Andhra Record Office was continued as a branch of the "Central Record Office", Hyderabad at Kurnool till 31st April, 1957. It was merged with the Central Record Office, Hyderabad on 1st May, 1957, and the records of the Secretariat departments (G.Os.) of Andhra area including Board of Revenue Records, Survey records, proceedings volumes, Gazettes, Electoral Rolls, confidential records etc., dating from 1920-1952 were transferred to the Central Record Office at Hyderabad located at Erram Manzil, Hyderabad. In the year 1962 the Department was reorganised on the pattern of the National Archives of India and technical Posts of Archivists and Assistant Archivists were sanctioned by Government and the department was renamed as State Archives.

The formation of Andhra Pradesh paved the way for the speedier growth of this Department and this department developed gradually from a mere record office into a modern Archives with scientific preservation of records, their documentation and dissemination of the mine of information available in the records to the researchers in various fields. As such the fast accumulation of the records from various sources created acute accommodation problem and hence the need for a spacious building with modern amenities was felt.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING

The old building of this office was inadequate to accommodate the incoming records. During 1961-62

Government of Andhra Pradesh accepted the proposals for the reorganisation of this Office and allocated a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs during 3rd five-year plan for the construction of a new building suitable to archival set up and administration. A new building was constructed in the Osmania University Campus on a 5 acre site leased by the Osmania University. The foundation stone for this building was laid on 13th September, 1962 by late Prof. Humayun Kabir, the then Union Minister and it was inaugurated on 6th July, 1965 by late Sri Lal Bahadur Sastri, Prime Minister of India. The building was occupied in October 1965.

This building has a large-stack area in two floors each measuring 210' x 75' to house records estimated to occupy a linear space of 76,000 feet and is insulated from the Administrative Block to avoid all possible hazards. The Administrative Block consists of spacious halls for visitor's room, Museum, Library, Documentation Cell, Information and Research Room, Photo-duplication Unit, Research Cells, Publication wing, and rooms for the reception of records, their fumigation and repairs etc.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM REPOSITORY AT SECRETARIAT

An interim repository was established in the year 1964 in the new block (Secretariat Annexe) constructed for the purpose in the premises of the Secretariat to receive and preserve the accumulated series of Secretariat records with the following staff:

- (1) One Archivist.
- (2) 2 Assistant Archivists.
- (3) 5 L.D.C's.
- (4) One Typist.
- (5) 8 Record Assistants and one Attender.

Subsequently in the year 1966 one post of Assistant Director was sanctioned for discharging various functions of this branch.

The Records of Andhra Pradesh Government of nearly 10 years series are preserved in this branch and the records of over 10 years duration are transferred to the main office. The Interim Repository preserves the records covering the period 1880-1956 and renders reference service to all the departments of the Secretariat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

An oriental manuscripts library was established in this office in 1967 with a view to salvage various valuable and rare manuscripts in the entire state for making them available to scholars. Later it was shifted to State Central Library building and declared open as a separate branch of this department on 25th July, 1969 by Sri P. V. Narasimha Rao, the then Education Minister. In 1971 it was raised to the status of a Research Institute and a post of Joint Director was

sanctioned by Government for its management under the control of this Department. Several rare and valuable paper manuscripts, palm leaf manuscripts, manuscript books in several languages and scripts were purchased and 7 publications of manuscripts with critical editions were brought out. The A.P.O.M.L. and R.I. was separated from State Archives and made an Independent Directorate on 1st January, 1975.

SURVEY AND ACQUISITION OF RECORDS

Under the scheme of centralisation of records this department has acquired lakhs of records from the Government and private sources during the two decades and the inflow of records in the department is a continuous process. As the records are the original sources of information and a national asset, they have to be prevented from destruction and conserved for posterity and made available to researchers.

RECONSTITUTION OF R.H.R.S.C.

After the formation of Andhra Pradesh the Regional Historical Records Survey Committee was reconstituted with the following objectives:

1. To take a comprehensive survey of records and historical materials in the State.
2. To take steps for the acquisition of records and manuscripts in private custody and for preservation, classification and study of important historical documents and bringing them to the notice of scholars.

3 To procure copies of such records and manuscripts as may exist outside the State and having a bearing on the history of the Deccan.

Action on the resolutions passed by the committee viz., creation of posts of Research Assistants for surveying Records, acquisition of copies of manuscripts of Mackenzie and Brown and Elliot and Taylor collections and of Saraswathi Mahal Library, Tanjore; acquisition of original records of Andhra Districts from Tamil Nadu Archives; preparation of Indexes and Guides to District Records; publication of Jama-bandi Account manuscripts of Northern Circars; acquisition of Records from Samasthanams etc., has been taken.

The Records in the private custody were surveyed by Research Assistants of this Department and the reports on the material collected by them were sent to the National Archives of India for incorporating in the National Register for private records.

A preliminary survey of records was undertaken in respect of the following offices with permission of the concerned Heads of Departments for collecting data regarding the nature and categories of records, their subject, period and research value etc.

1. Office of the Commissioner of Labour.
2. Inspector General of Prisons.
3. Director, Public Instruction.
4. Inspector General of Registration and Stamps.

5. Jagir Administrator.
6. Director of Industries.
7. Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

A survey of the old records of Paigahs and subedaris of erstwhile Hyderabad was conducted in the Board of Revenue and action for their transfer is being taken. The records of the Salarjung Estate excepting those pertaining to Estate districts, were acquired. It is proposed to acquire records from Samasthanams, ex-zamindars and noble families. The records of certain families have been surveyed and action for their transfer is being taken.

In the year 1968 the original records of the District Collectorates of Andhra and the Registration Department comprising of 2167 volumes covering the period upto 1857 were obtained from Tamil Nadu Archives.

Government approved the proposals to centralise the vernacular records of District Collectorates in the State Archives. The records preserved in 10 district collectorates were inspected by this Department.

Microfilm copies of all the manuscripts in the Mackenzie & Brown collections and 5 volumes of Taylor local tracts and 2 volumes of Elliot's collection in Telugu were acquired in April, 1968 from Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras. Microfilm copies of the unpublished Telugu Manuscripts with indices were obtained from Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore.

The collection of Sri B. Ramaraya Kavi, the Collection of Sri G. V. Subba Rao of Amalapuram, the collection of Sri A. T. Mudaliar of Kanchipuram, note books of Sri T. Prakasam and the diaries of Sri Gurajada Appa Rao containing manuscripts, personal papers, memoirs and books are some out of the several records collected during the decades.

During the two decades 34,085 files, 16,813 fly leaves, 67 registers, 312 Muntakhabs (Atiyat Mal Records). 2,22,555 Siyahas, 1,19,200 strong almirah documents, 240 volumes of Gazettes, 1,36,200 G.Os. of Secretariat Departments, 12,116 G.Os. from Tamil Nadu Archives, 5,800 proceedings of Board of Revenue, 5,086 proceedings of Collectorate records, 2,086 volumes of District records, 6,60,000 volumes of Krishna Collectorate records, 2,780 volumes of the History of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh records, 7,87,848 survey records, 4,018 bundles of Electoral rolls and over 30,000 printed reports were received in the main office for preservation.

The records preserved in Archives (in several languages and scripts) can be broadly grouped into

- (1) Printed books.
- (2) Manuscripts.
- (3) Personal papers and individual documents.
- (4) Family papers.
- (5) Private collections.

- (6) Records of Old Daftars 1724-1853.
- (7) Secretariat records of Ex-Hyderabad State 1853-1956.
- (8) Secretariat records of the Madras State 1920-1953.
- (9) Secretariat records of the Andhra State and Andhra Pradesh State 1953-1965.
- (10) District Records of erstwhile Madras presidency (Andhra Region).

The records received were at first fumigated in the fumigation chamber and the fragile and brittle records conserved by laminating them with chiffon or tissue paper. The bastas were replaced by special carton boxes designed to hold the records being manufactured by the Carton Box Unit of this Office.

INDEXING OF RECORDS AND PREPARATION OF REFERENCE MEDIA

The records received have been arranged in series subject-wise and department-wise in chronological order in various records sections of the Department. The records are being indexed and finding aids are being prepared for facility of researchers. Catalogues of documents, guides to District Records and guides to State Archives are some of the finding aids being prepared for publication. Calendars of the family and private collections are also under preparation. To speed up the work of cataloguing of Mughal and

Asafiya records in this Department, the Government have sanctioned a post of Research Officer in December, 1975.

WEEDING OF RÊCORDS

The records (especially files and documents) are weeded out from the administrative and historical point of view and only the records useful for posterity are retained and those which are of no value are destroyed. During the first decade 9,36,870 records were weeded out and during the second decade, 4,03,357 records were weeded. The lists of R. Disposals (of 30 years old) considered by the collectors to be fit for destruction are being examined by this Department based on their historical value as per Governments instructions.

LIBRARY

The reference library of State Archives was formed in 1929. The library has a good collection of rare books, biographies and dictionaries with specialisation in political, economic, social and cultural history of India. The collection of the library has increased from 4,680 books in 1956 to 11,210 books (in English, Telugu, Persian, Urdu, Marathi) as at present. The library caters to the needs of research scholars in providing rare books, latest printed works and Research Thesis on the History of Deccan and Andhra Pradesh in particular and the Indian History in general. It also supplements the reference and research activities of the Department.

FORMATION OF DOCUMENTATION CELL

This cell was organised in the year 1968 to acquire and house all kinds of printed material such as official and non-official reports (published and unpublished), seminar proceedings, newspapers, periodicals etc. of historical importance (relating to the oldest to upto-date periods) with a view to render service to research scholars for collecting material required for their research topics and also to render reference service to Government in general. In this connection the cell has so far acquired over 30,000 printed reports from various departments and district collectorates in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the acquisition is in progress. A Remington index turn-table 80 was purchased for indexing the printed material.

The documentation cell is still in the formative stage as there is a continuous flow of information from a number of sources. The cell thus at present maintains reference service and answers queries of researchers and Government and supplies them with required information.

A map unit has been set up in the year 1970 with a view to acquire and conserve maps of historical importance for rendering service to Research Scholars and Government. In this connection the cell has acquired several hundred Geographical maps, plans and topographical maps etc. of the cities and towns in erstwhile Hyderabad State and Madras presidency and the acquisition is in progress. Map stands are provided

for their up-keep and preservation. The preparation of cartographic catalogue has been started and is in progress.

ORGANISATION OF REPROGRAPHY UNIT

A photography unit was started in the year 1956 with a dupliphot printer. It has gradually grown into a full fledged Reprography Unit with an upto-date Laboratory with the following equipment.

1. 'Recordak' Microfile Camera for taking 35 m.m. microfilm negatives of manuscripts, documents etc.
2. 'Recordak' Archival Reader for reading microfilm.
3. 'Carl Zeiss' duplicating printer for taking positives copies of 35 mm. microfilm.
4. Rolleiflex Camera.
5. 'Panaprint' Electrostatic photocopier for taking Xerox copies of manuscripts, documents etc.
6. Refrigerator: to keep the unexposed raw film for their better preservation and longer life.
7. Film Drier and other miscellaneous equipment.

Every year raw film and photographic chemicals are purchased from out of the amount provided under non plan. An Air conditioner was purchased in the year 1975 and installed in the Xerox room for the safety of the equipment and the photographic materials.

During the first decade 636 photo prints, 1,283 dupli-phot negatives and 1,302 dupli-phot positives were prepared and supplied to research scholars and Institutions.

During the second decade 93,040 frames of micro negatives, 2,00,805 frames of micro-positives, 1,135 photo enlargements of various sizes, 256 photo negatives, 261 photo prints, 207 dupli-phot negatives, 207 dupli-phot prints and 300 Xerox copies were prepared and supplied to the research scholars and Institutions.

Besides rendering microfilming and Xerox services the unit preserves several microfilm copies of valuable records and books like the famous Mackenzie and Brown Collections and manuscript collection of Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME

The study of political economic and social history of Andhra Pradesh and the Deccan has been a neglected field, both among historians and among research scholars of allied disciplines such as Economics, Political Science, Sociology and Public Administration. A critical study of the past 300 years of history is an essential pre-requisite for achieving emotional integration and a sound understanding of history.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, realising the need to promote historical research in the modern history of Andhra Pradesh and the Deccan have instituted Research Fellowships in the State Archives from 1966 each carrying a stipend of Rs. 300 per month

for full time and Rs. 125 per month each for part-time fellowships. During the decade 23 full time and 37 part time Research Fellows were selected and awarded scholarships, 7 full time and 9 part time Research Fellows were awarded Ph. D. degrees by the concerned universities. 5 Research Fellows submitted their theses and are awaiting results.

MONOGRAPHS SERIES SCHEME

In order to encourage the writing and publishing of research monographs on modern history of Andhra Pradesh and the Deccan (based on original sources) and on the technical aspects of archives keeping, Government instituted the monograph series scheme in the year 1966-67. During the decade 12 monographs were published and one monograph is under revision.

Besides the Research Fellows selected under the Research Fellowship scheme of this office, bonafide research scholars of other institutions are also permitted to consult records preserved in this office. During the decades 392 Indian research scholars and 29 foreign research scholars were permitted to consult records.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

With a view to benefit the technical staff of this office and the Research Fellows lectures by eminent speakers on subjects relating to History, Social Sciences etc. and on topics of research value are being arranged periodically. During the decade 36 lectures were held.

TRAINING IN PALEOGRAPHY:

With a view to facilitate research scholars in the use of old Persian records, arrangements have been made for their training in paleography in the Department.

PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

During the decades following publications were brought out by this office.

MUGHAL AND ASAF JAHI RECORD SERIES

1. Selected documents of Aurangzeb's reign (1659-1706).
2. The diplomatic correspondence between Mir Nizam Ali Khan and the East India Company.
3. Farmans and Sanads of the Deccan Sultans (1406-1686).

MARATHI RECORD SERIES

4. Poona Akhbars Vol. III (1782-1794).

MONOGRAPH SERIES

5. A Brief History of Andhra Pradesh.
6. Finances and fiscal policy of Hyderabad State.
7. Rate schools of Godavari.

ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS SERIES

The following publications were brought out when the Oriental Manuscript Library was a branch of this Department.

8. Seetha Kalyanam.
9. Sringora Padamulu.
10. Indumati Parinayamu.
11. Sree Geeta Govindam—Geeta Sankaram.
12. Radha Vamsidhara Vilasa Natak.
13. Kashiyaatra Charitra.
14. Naradeeya Puranam.

SILVER JUBILEE SERISE

On the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebrations of Indian Independence the following books were published:

15. Highlights of Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh.
16. Andhralo Swatantra Samaramu (Telugu).
17. Desam Pilupu (Telugu).

The two publications viz., 'Highlights of Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh' and 'Andhralo Swatantra Samaramu' have been included in the B.A. degree syllabus of Sri Venkateswara and Andhra Universities. The inclusion of the publication "Desam Pilupu" in the syllabus for High Schools is under consideration of Government.

In 1974, a felicitation volume in honour of the renowned historian Prof. H. K. Sherwani was brought out. Eminent Scholars from all over the world contributed to this volume. The theme was "Studies in foreign relations of India" (from ancient times to 1947).

FREEDOM STRUGGLE SERIES

Besides the above publications this department also brought out 4 volumes each of 'The History of Freedom Struggle in Hyderabad' (covering the period from 1800 to 1947) and the 'History of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh' (covering the period from 1800 to 1947) under the directions of the State Committee of History of Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh. The IVth Volume of the History of Freedom struggle in Andhra Pradesh was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri J. Vengala Rao, on 11th March, 1976 at Jubilee Hall.

'ITIHAS'

A half yearly Research Journal in History and Indology entitled 'Itihas' is being published since 1973 and so far 6 issues covering three volumes have been brought out.

As the need for promoting original and systematic research in History is increasingly felt, it is hoped that the journal would not only supplement and enrich the knowledge of history already available, but also serve in interpreting and presenting new trends in historical writing methods and approach.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS UNDER PROGRESS

(i) *Who's Who in freedom struggle in Andhra Pradesh:*

It is proposed to publish the life-sketches of Freedom Fighters of all the districts of the State in 3 volumes. Out of the 3 volumes, the press copies of

the 1st and 2nd volumes consisting of alphabetically arranged life-sketches of freedom fighters of 14 districts of Andhra Pradesh have been sent to the press.

(ii) *A descriptive catalogue of the Mughal records pertaining to the period of Shah Jahan.*

This office initiated the scheme to publish a catalogue of records pertaining to Shah Jahan's reign in seven volumes, out of which 2 volumes have been completed and one volume is in press.

(iii) *Publication of Documents of Aurangzeb's Reign.*

It is proposed to publish 100 documents of Aurangzeb's reign available in this office pertaining to the Economic History of that period. The Institute of Oriental Studies, U. S. S. R. has come forward to take up the publication work at its own cost if a press copy of the said work with English translation is furnished to them. The press copy is ready and is under review by an expert.

(iv) *Publication of Guides to District Records.*

A separate scheme has been taken up by this Department to publish Indices and Guides to the Collectorate records of the ceded districts (brought from Tamil Nadu Archives) covering the period 1836-1857 as these guides will be of immense help to research scholars in collecting information of Socio-economic history of Andhra Pradesh. The work is in progress.

(v) *Critical Edition of Draksharama inscriptions :*

The transcription of the Sanskrit and Telugu inscriptions relating to the Draksharama temple from the Mackenzie and Brown and Elliot Taylor collections is in progress.

(vi) *Publishing of "The original text of Mackenzie and Brown Collections".*

As a first phase the transcription of the Kaifiyats of Guntur district from the Mackenzie and Brown collections and their taluq wise arrangement has been taken up and the work is in progress.

Besides the above the following research projects are also under progress :

(vii) *Publishing of "Glimpses of Social and Economic Conditions in the Ceded districts as gleaned from Mackenzie Local Tracts" (Pre-Industrial Age.).*

(viii) *Kaifiyats of Northern Circars.*

(ix) *'The diary reports of Mackenzie Clerks'.*

(x) *Publication of Jamabandi Account Manuscript of Northern Circars.*

(xi) *Compilation of "A guide to State Archives".*

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL OFFICE AT TIRUPATHI

A regional office of State Archives was established at Tirupathi in December 1973 in order to centralise the old records of Rayalaseema and Nellore pertaining to the period from 1857 to 1930. The Collectorate

records of the Cuddapah and Chittoor districts have been centralised so far. The records from the remaining districts of Nellore, Kurnool and Anantapur are under acquisition. It is also proposed to establish Regional Offices at Vizag and Guntur. The Syndicate of the Andhra University, Waltair have approved this office proposal to establish a Regional Office in the University Campus. The purpose of locating these offices at the University Centres is to collect records from the neighbouring districts and make them available to research scholars working in various topics of the Universities and to foster research on topics of local historical importance.

SETTING UP OF A FILM ARCHIVES.

It is proposed to setup a new branch namely 'Film Archives' to acquire and preserve prints of rare South Indian Films of 1930's and 1940's which are of great artistic and cultural value.

The Director, State Archives has been asked to study the organisation and functioning of National Film Archives, Poona and prepare a scheme. Leading Film Producers, Distributors and Artists are being invited to participate in the new activity and render advice. It is also proposed to convey a meeting of leading film personalities to discuss various points like purchase, donation of films for preservation in the proposed Archive and other matters connected with its set up.

On the basis of discussions of the meeting and information from National Film Archives Poona a detailed scheme will be submitted to Government.

ORGANISATION OF MUSÉUM

In order to give wider publicity to the activities of the Department an Archival Museum was organised. Samples of original records and photographs of important and interesting documents reflecting the socio-economic, administrative and political history of the Deccan with notes introducing the history of the period and other details have been displayed in the show cases.

In addition to the records the Archival Museum also holds a beautiful collection of postal stamps, seals and coins of former Hyderabad State. The Museum also helps scholars to choose their topics or discover new material for their research projects.

Many eminent visitors from India and abroad specially students visited the Department to see the material available for research purpose as well as the work being done for the reconstruction of history of the Deccan.

This Department participated in a number of Exhibitions organised on various occasions in and out of the State and also attended the conferences and sessions of the Indian History Congress, Indian Historical Records Commission, Institute of Historical Studies, etc., held on different occasions. The Director of State Archives also attended the 7th International Council on Archives held at Moscow in August, 1972.

PRINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS, HYDERABAD.

1976