

Introduction to Digitized Tamil documents on Sri Ranganathasavmi Temple, Srirangam

The digitized document is titled, **A Second Collection of the Papers Relating to Sri Ranganathasavmi Temple, Its Management and etc.** These papers were collected by Kovalagudi S. Rangaswami Aiyangar of Srirangam and were printed in 1894 by the Southern Star Press and Dodson Press, Trichinopoly. Situated in the district of Tiruchirapalli or Trichinopoly, Srirangam is an island surrounded by river Cauvery and Kollidam (tributary of Cauvery) and is approximately seven kilometers from the town of Tiruchi. This 600 acre island-town is enclosed within the seven walls of the gigantic Visnu temple called the Ranganathaswami Temple or the Periya Koyil.

These papers contain information about the administration, conflicts within the temple and issue of temple rights. They also provide us with information about court cases filed by different groups, claiming the same set of temple honours and resources. A large number of these court cases deal with the Vatakalai-Tenkalai conflict within the Srivaisnava community.

This collection can be useful for those who are interested in the history of religion, religious institution and the relationship between the traditional structures and colonial administration in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It can be useful for analyzing religion and religious identities in the colonial period and can contribute towards the highly debatable issue of whether Hinduism was a colonial construct or did it have an earlier genesis.