

of the likeness to the original. From Photographs, which Vasudeva Raja, with whom I believe you are acquainted has sent me—we are all assured that the portrait is a pleasing and faithful reproduction of me. That you should have been able to archive so much success on the slender materials at your disposal is gratifying to myself as I know it is to you, and now I beg you to accept my warm thanks, for the beautiful memento of yourself and of your work as an artist, which you have been so kind as to present me.

I had seen some of your paintings at Trivandrum and the Art Exhibitions in Madras, but until I had read the sketch of your life, I had no idea of the extent of your work as a painter. The illustrations of the book are perfectly lovely and as reproduction that can be trusted as accurate of Indian types, dress and life and as exponents of Indian classics and romance are of special value. I shall always treasure the volume, not only for its beauty and interest, but also as a token of the kindness and goodwill of its author.

I remain, Dear Mr Ravi Varma

Yours sincerely

[sd] H.E. Havelock

Wednesday 2<sup>th</sup> July 190)

This morning Kesava Pillai of Gapiela[?] brought me my pattom Money for the second Malabar [*sic*] [Malayalam] half year ending with

Karkadagam [Karkatakam] amounting to Rs 45-15. This is the last day of my oil-treatment. From tomorrow for nine days I have [term in Malayali]. I find the time very irksome. I am now engaged in writing an account of the art of painting in Travancore for Mr Nagamaiah's Travancore Manual.<sup>224</sup> It is difficult to get reliable information on the early state of art in this country.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 190)

Wrote two letters under yesterday's date addressed to the Raja of South Vellur and the other to the Hon'ble Mr Subbu Rao of Rajamandri on the subject of remitting of the balances of the prices of the paintings executed for them, viz. the portraits of the Raja and his father, and the King Emperor for some public body at Cocanada. I forgot to include the price of Mr Subba Rao's bust in the bill sent to the Raja.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 190)

I have discovered certain old records containing particulars of certain events connected with our family. Our late uncle Ithammar Visakham Thirunal Valiya Koil Thampuran<sup>225</sup> has left a piece of paper containing the names and dates of births of certain of our ancestors. I came upon them when examining a heap of old papers which had been preserved by our uncle but which had been allowed to be eaten by worms.



Thursda~ 1 st August 190)

While examining the old records and papers which our late uncle Ithammar or Vishakam Tirunal Valiya Koil Thampuran had preserved I came upon certain old scraps of paper containing some account of our ancestry and the names of some of the prominent persons in it. From those accounts I am trying to write a connected[?] [concise] history of our family from the earliest times and to prepare a genealogical tree.

Monda~ )rd August 190)

What tempted me to examine the old papers was Nagamaiah's [Nagam Aiya] request to supply him with some information's [sic] of the Kilimanur house of nobility for insertion in the manual of Travancore he is now engaged in writing. Had I not examined the records now every trace of authentic information would have perished with the decaying papers.

T uesda~ +th August 190)

I trust that in future every effort will be made to preserve the account I have prepared and to follow it up without break. I have got one written in Malayalam and another in English. I have mentioned only such of our uncles as have either been the heads of the family or were connected by marriage with the royal family and such of our grand mothers as have contributed to the perpetuation of the line. The births and deaths of some of the older generation cannot be found. We are indebted to that sagacious noble hearted and talented uncle Ithammar who died in Malayalam year 1872[?] having brought our family to a state of prosperity it had not known before. His name deserves to be remembered forever with the founders of our home in Travancore.

5aturda~ 8th August 190)

I got from Ms R. MacLure, Pharmacists, Madras, two bottles of my mixture and one bottle of Rubinat Water prescribed for me by Major Robertson of the Government Hospital. I paid Rs 5-10.

5unda~ 9th August 190)

I began to take the mixture this morning, my oil treatment having been over by yesterday.

Monda~ 10th August 190)

This morning at 7.30 I planted a little to the south-east of the new Proverthy Cutcherry of this athikaram[?] [Kilimanur] near our ancient burning ground saplings of the Banyan tree as also a [Pipal tree] both the plants not even a span high. These are to mark the year in which my cousin Raja Raja Varma, the husband of the late Junior





Rani of Travancore died and in which my elder brother Ravi Varma, the renowned artist became the head of the family, viz 1903-1028

Malabar year.

Thursda~ J 1 th August 190)

I have often wondered on looking at the two gigantic Banyan trees, the one growing in front of our palace and the other before the temple of Yetta Kamman who planted them and at what time. Had they thought of recording the same, how much of my present disappointment and ignorance could have been avoided.

Wednesda~ 12th August j 90)

Received a letter by yesterday's post from Sir Arthur Havelock, now Governor of Tasmania acknowledging our letter and the illustrated biographical sketch of my brother and expressing his pleasure at our success in painting a truthful likeness of His Excellency for the Madras Government House.226

Last night there died a blind girl three years old in our family. We all feel thankful to God for having removed the poor thing from this earth for if she had lived to womanhood her life would have been very miserable.

Frida~ J+th August 190)

Sent a copy of Brother's biography to the Raja of South Vollar and wrote to him reminding him of the omission of Rs 200 from the bill of Rs 700 already sent.

Saturda~ 15th August J 90)

Received a letter from Ms P. Krishna Rao B.A. & B.L. Deputy Collector now at Kollegal, Coimbatore District regarding the despatch of his father's portrait.

Sunda~ 16th August 190)

Wrote to the private secretary to the Thakore Sahib of Gondal that we shall execute the portrait for Rs 1500 if in dress and for Rs 2000 if in Durbar Dress. The Railway from Bombay to Gondal and back should also be paid.

Monda~ J 7th August J 90)

Wrote to Mr N. Subba Rao, Rajahmundry [Rajamandri] requesting him to arrange for the remittance of the price of the King Emperor's portrait, executed for the Cocanadu Town Hall, and also to the Travancore Sirkar Agent, Tinnevely, asking him if he has despatched the case of paintings addressed to the Raja of Kurupam.



Tuesday 18th August 1903

Received a copy of the Descriptive list of Pictures in the Government House, Madras, prepared by Lieut. Co!. H.D. Love R.E. as a gift from His Excellency Lord Amphill, Governor of Madras. A letter to thank His Excellency has been written but will be posted tomorrow as it is too late today.

Friday 21st August 1903

Registered letter sent to Sidda Lingappa of Mysore. The Rev. Mr Osborne and Mrs Osborne who have their mission house at Attingale paid us a visit this morning at about 9.30. We received them in our studio. They were pleased with [the] appearance of the palace as seen from the arched gateway in the front as also with the studio room. We gave them refreshments such as fruits, biscuit[s] and tea. They were next introduced to the ladies of our household who were much pleased.

Saturday 22nd August 1903

Mrs Bassy Osborne on her return to Attingale sent for our children some beautiful dolls and toys and cards with coloured pictures to the younger ladies and a silk handkerchief which has been once used by Mrs Osborne's mother, as a present to the Grand Mother of the young Senior Rani on her father's side. A strange present indeed.

Sunday 23rd August 1903

Yesterday a registered letter was sent to Pararmanand Das Bhagavan Das of Hyderabad to send us back the portrait of the Nizam now in their possession.

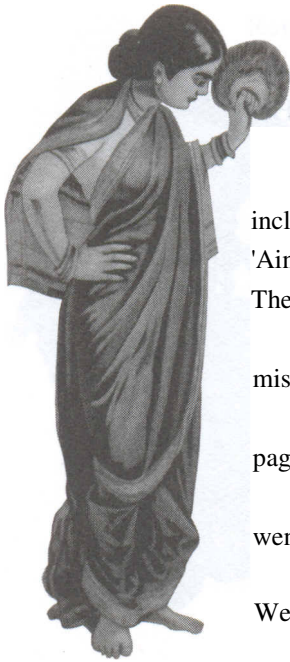
Monday 24th August 1903

We went this morning to our ancestral estate called Vaiyattam Karu [term given in Malayalam]. Our party consisted of my eldest brother the Valiya Koil Thampuran, my cousin K.R.R, myself, the nephews and two Namboodris besides twenty or twenty-five followers who were attracted by the hope of getting a hearty meal. We took breakfast at the old Attur Temple. Of the ancient structure now only the base remains which is neatly and artistically worked in granite stone. After inspecting the estates returned in the evening.

Tuesday 25th August 1903

A Copy of the Census Report of Travancore for 1901 has been received today. There are 3 Volumes of which the first treats of the people of this state of their customs and manners etc. When speaking of the Malayala Kshatriyas the author gives prominence to Koil Thampurans and describes that we-the Koil Thampurans of Kilimanur-went first to settle in





Travancore for marital alliances with the royal family. There are according to the last Census 175 houses and 8006 persons in Kilimanur.

**F**rida~ 28th August 190)

I and Ithamar went to the Kotakal estate to make a list of all the articles including domestic utensils and implements of husbandry and cattle. We first visited 'Aint[?] hill' and 'Cotton Hill' and decided to build the proposed bungalow on the latter. The...

[One page of the notebook containing the second part of the diary is missing here.]

[Tuesday 1st September 1903] [This is the undated rest of the previous page's entry.]

...where we arrived at about 7.30. Nephew Rama Varma was there. We went to sleep about 11.30. The night was windy.

**Wednesda~** 2nd September 190)

A wet and rainy morning with a strong gale flowing from the sea. We walked round the estate notwithstanding the rain, and visited the uncultivated portion to the west of the canal for concerting measures to utilize it. At about 2 p.m. the rain ceased and we embarked for Trivandrum where we arrived at about 9 in the evening. We had to wait till 11.30 to get our supper, which had to be prepared. It was midnight when I went to bed. The night was clear and the moon shone bright.

**Thursda~** 3rd September 190)

I paid my respects to RH. The Maharaja at about 2.30 p.m. I met at the palace Mr Raja Rama Rao, Dewan Peshkar and Mr Ponnamb~lani Pillai, Assistant Superintendent of Police. On my return from the palace I took coffee and next visited the Ranis. They were playing, the senior of them dyeing in tumeric water a small cloth for Onam tomorrow. Their teacher was there and he showed us some of the new books and maps got down for their use.

**Frida~** 4th September 190)

The Onam day, the great national festival of Malabar. We had our bath early in the morning and at about 9 went to the palace where we had our breakfast and next received Onam presents from the Maharaja. We next visited the Senior Rani and got presents from her. There are ten of us here from Kilimanur including the boys attending College and High School. When we went to the palace this morning we inspected some of the old pictures there.

**Saturda~** 5th September 190)

It is a pity that the Onam fete is not kept[?] by the people now as they used to do some years ago. During my boyhood I used to hear by day the sounds of mirth and merriment from boys engaged in different kinds of games



and by night the singing of women as they oscillated on swings. But nowadays they are becoming rarer and I am afraid in the near future may altogether cease. It is highly necessary to revise these games and swinging and other exercises during the festival.

Monda:J 7th September 1903

In the morning we received a visit from Messrs Ramaswamy Iyer, Inspector of Schools and Vaikunta Iyer, Engineer [in] connection with the Industrial School opened at Nagacoil mainly through[?] their exertion and invited my brother and me to pay a visit to the institution and address the leading men on the necessity of it. In the evening we both paid a visit to the Dewan and told him about our proposed visit to Nagarcoil and certain other matters connected with Kilimanur.

T uesda:J 8th September 1903

This morning at 8.30 I went to the general hospital with my grand nephew Ithamar studying in the Junior B.A. class and my nephew Ravi Varma. The former suffering from bleeding in the nose and the latter from inflammation in the right ear. Poonen seemed to think both cases trivial and prescribed for both. I next went to the library and paid subscription for the current and next months Cinnam and Kanni<sup>227</sup> and returned home with two books one on painting and the other on colour.

Wednesda:J 9th September 1903

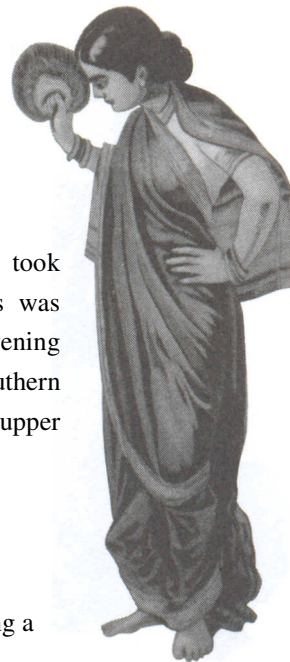
Received a reply from the palace granting me permission to visit the old paintings in the different parts of the Palace and take down notes of the dates of their execution, the names of the artists, and such historical information as I can [gather] from them. I mean to set about the work on my return from the cape and N agarcoil. At the latter place a technical school has been started and my brother and myself have been invited by the promoters to inspect it and give our opinion on it.

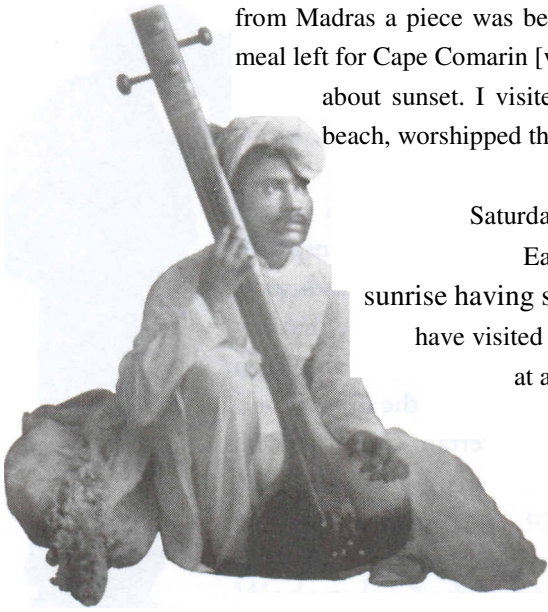
Thursda:J 10th September 1903

My brother and I left Trivandrum early this morning in transit carriage, took breakfast at Nayyatinkara where Mr Ramaswamy Iyer, Inspector of schools was awaiting us. We had coffee at KattatUrai, arrived at Nagarcoil at about 9 in the evening and were guests of Mr Vaikuntam Iyer the able executive Engineer of the southern division. A strong cool breeze was blowing the whole night. When we finished supper and retired it was past midnight.

F rida:J 11th September 1903

Early this morning we visited the Technical institute. There are Engineering, Weaving and Carpentry classes. In the weaving class a boy was engaged in making a country cloth in a hand loom, and in a fly shuttle loom imported





from Madras a piece was being woven. Carpentry classes very [+++]. After a hearty meal left for Cape Comarin [which is] about 9 miles and arrived there about sunset. I visited this place for the first time. Walked round the rocky beach, worshipped the deity in the main temple.

Saturday 2nd September 1900)

Early in the morning I walked to the beach and watched the sunrise having seen him [sic] set last evening. I may now verily say I have visited India from Himalaya to the Cape. Arrived at Suchindram at about 9 a.m. The sculpture and carving on black stone [is] splendid. The temple worth [a] close study. Arrived at Nagarcoil and attended a meeting in connection with the institute were [sic] Brother addressed the meeting in Malayalam Tamil on the ability of it.

Sunday 3rd September 1900)

Left Nagarcoil last night, [arrived at] four this morning at Nayyatinkara and reached Trivandrum again in the evening. Mr Ramaswamy Iyer who takes keen interest in the institute was our companion through out the trip.

Monday 4th September 1900)

Received a Hundi for Rs 500 on a Bombay native firm from Mr Permanand Das Bhagavan Das of Hyderabad for a portrait of H.H. the Nizam and it was acknowledged in a letter written this day. We had to lower the price so much as the picture would be purchased by none out of Hyderabad. Anyhow I am glad that we have got rid of it.228

Tuesday 5th September 1900)

Received a cheque for Rs 300 from Sir Arthur Mundrial Fund being the balance due for a portrait of the Ex-Governor. In the afternoon visited the old pictures in the different parts of the palace. None of the old pictures could[?] be made out. Of course the best pictures are those by the European painters. We were[sic] are pleased to hear that the Ooman Palli Kara [Omanpallikara] appeal was dismissed by the Dewan. The other party intends instituting a civil suit against US.229

Wednesday 6th September 1900)

The late Mr Chentsal Rao's bust was despatched to Tinnevely to be railed to Mr Bhashica Achary, Saidapet and a Letter to that effect has been written to Mr P[?] Krishna Rao, deputy Collector. The money due still for the portrait is Rs 150. The Rupees 500 received from Hyderabad, has been this day deposited in our Chettiar's banking firm on interest. We had to pay a commission Rs 3



for cashing the cheque. Wrote again a letter to the Travancore Sirkar agent at Tinnevely about the despatch of the Portrait of Mr Chentsal Rao.

Thursday 17th September 1903

Wrote three letters today one to Mr Bhashica Achary of Saidapet about the despatch of Mr Chentsal Rao's portrait, one to Mr Schleicher intimating to him the compulsory postponement of our departure for Bombay and requesting him to remit the Rs 10,000 and its interest from January last to us before the 1st October as in that day a bargain has to be struck for the purchase of lands, and an other to Mr Shriram Pant on the same subject.

Friday 18th September 1903

We visited Mr Nagamiah settlement, Dewan Peshkar, who, it is rumoured is in the running for the next Dewan Peshkarship. We have just finished his old mother's portrait and he expressed himself highly pleased with it. I gave him the short account I have written of our family for his state manual. He thought that it was rather too short. He wants us to give him as much information as we can relating to the Maharaja's court and manner of today.

Saturday 19th September 1903

This morning at 7.30 I attended a meeting of the School of Arts Committee at which it was resolved-among other things-to establish a cabinet meeting of department in connection with the School of Arts. I next visited the drawing class in which my nephew Ravi Varma and Raja Raja Varma or Kunjunni are receiving lessons on Saturdays. Returned home after visiting the library.

Sunday 20th September 1903

This afternoon we called on Shankara Sub bar Iyer, the late Dewan. His son in law Mr Rama Iyer, 1st Class Magistrate was also present. We had a short sitting from the veteran statesman but could not finish the portrait.

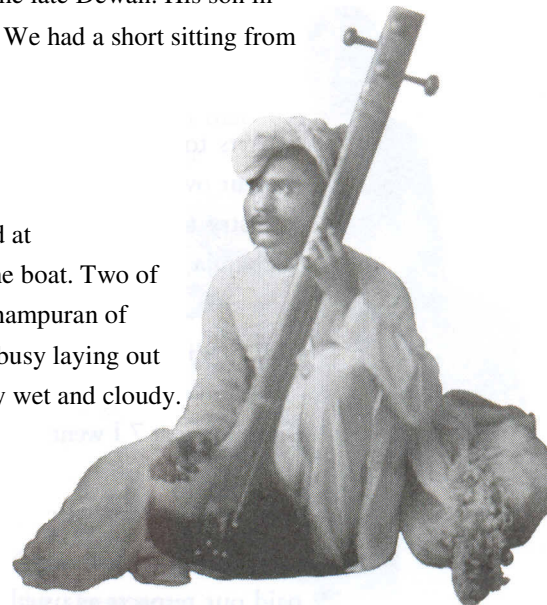
Monday 21st September 1903

Kilimanur.

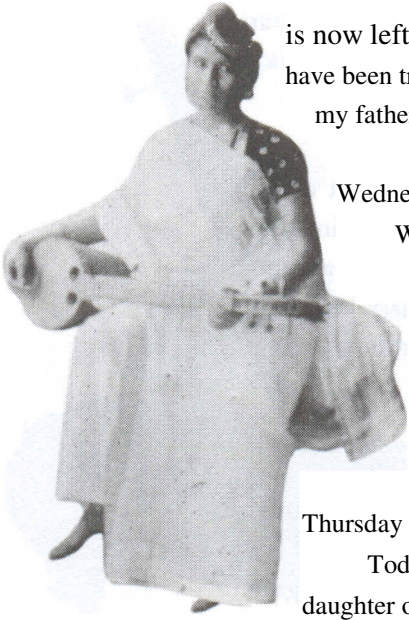
Having left Trivandrum last night at about 10 arrived at Kilimanur at 10 in the morning. I had very little sleep in the boat. Two of my young nephews studying in Trivandrum and a Koil Thampuran of Karama came with me. I found that nephew Ithamar was busy laying out the ground in front of my home with flower beds. The day wet and cloudy.

Tuesday 22nd September 1903

Remitted a money order for Rs 50 to Mr Hassonally Abdulally in payment of his bill. There







is now left only a balance of Rs. 2-5-6 till the month of [+++] of this year. I have been trying since my arrival here to retouch and finish the sketch of my father's head painted a few months previous to his death.

Wednesday 2)rd September J 90)

We went this morning to the temple of Lalu Kavu to worship the Goddess, since this is the second day of the Navrathrie-Dusserah. On my return home I remitted two money orders one for Rs 6 to the manager of the Malayale Manorama<sup>230</sup> and the other for Rs 4 to the Manorama at Cali cut, the former being the last year's subscription to it and the latter this year's subscription.

Thursday 2+th September J 90)

Today is the 60th birthday of my Cousin Kochu Kunji, the eldest daughter of my aunt Unmiti[?] sister of the late Kerala Varma Kochu Koil Thampuram, the first husband of the late Junior Rani. All the members of our family except my brother and Ravi Varma and Goda Varma are present. Nephew Kerala Varma the father of the young Senior Rani arrived here this morning from Mavelikara.

Friday 25th September 190)

Nephew Kutten and I left Kilimanur this afternoon and after taking some light refreshments at Attingale took [a] boat for Trivandrum at about 8 p.m. There was a great rush of passengers from Kilimanur after the ceremony mostly Namboodris going to Trivandrum for the Maharaja's birth day. The boat hire at Poovampara and Attingale rose to 12 and 14 Fanams.

Saturday 26th September 190)

Trivandrum.

Arrived at Trivandrum at 6 in the morning and at 7 I drove to the School of Arts to attend a special meeting of the Committee. Mr Ferguson was not present owing to indisposition. Passed resolution relating to the cabinet making industry to be shortly opened in the School of Arts. Visited His Highness the Maharaja at 2 p.m.

Sunday 27th September 190)

Cousin K.R.R. arrived this morning with three of our young nephews. In the evening at 7 I went with them to the Poojapurai in the palace to hear the concert.

Monday 28th September 190)

H.H. the Maharaja's forty sixth birthday. We bathed early in the morning paid our respects as usual to His Highness at Thevarathukoikal, and breakfasted



at the palace. At night we, i.e. the nobility, were entertained by His Highness at dinner at the palace according to a custom established by the late Maharaja. We next went to the Jubilee Hall to witness a dramatic performance by the members of the National Unions Club.

Wednesda:J )oth September I 90)

To day is Mahanavami or the 9th day of the Navratri. On this day no one does his calling but enjoys a complete rest not even writing or reading anything. Only after Vidyarambham or 're-initiation of Art' tomorrow will people resume of their work.

Thursda:J I st October 1 90)

This morning we received a cheque for Rs 6000 from Mr Schleicher on the National Bank of India, Madras Branch. The cheque will be sent to the Bank to be placed on fIxed deposit for one year. Wrote a letter to Mr Schleicher acknowledging receipt of the cheque and an other to A.K. Joshi & Co. about arranging a bungalow for us in Bombay, Matunga or Ghatkopar.

F rida:J 2nd October I 90)

Sent a telegram to Mr Schleicher acknowledging receipt of the money. Kunjaru Raja of Ennacud[?] told me this afternoon that while he was returning from North Malabar he had halted at Ernakulam and became acquainted with a Variar whose daughter he said was anxious to become my wife. It appeared that Vishnu Moos of Chiruttaman<sup>231</sup> had told the girl that he would induce me to marry her and got a photo of hers to be shown to me, but he has never done so. His object was to deceive her.

Saturda:J )rd October 190)

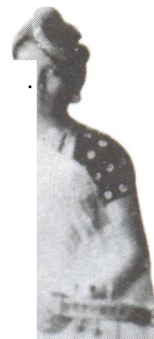
Ennacud Raja who met me again this afternoon at the Sreepadam Palace referred to yesterday's conversation recommending to me to marry the Variar girl who he said was both beautiful and accomplished. But I told him that I knew nothing about the matter, that I had a wife and so could take no second wife<sup>232</sup> without lowering my self in the estimate of people and that Moos was responsible for all the mischief.

Sunda:J +th October 1 90)

This afternoon we went to Mr Sankara Subba Iyer's house and fInished his portrait but we could not quite complete it though we greatly improved it. We are to go again on Wednesday.

Monda:J 5th October 190)

This morning I painted the Nair Lady's picture to be presented. to Shankaran Tampi, the favorite of the Maharaja. In the afternoon



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