



# MYSORE GAZETTEER

**VOLUME - II**

**HISTORICAL PART - I**

Edited by - C. HAYAVADANA RAO



Chief Editor - S. ANEES SIRAJ

**KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT  
BENGALURU**



Government of Karnataka

# **MYSORE GAZETTEER**

COMPILED FOR GOVERNMENT

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**HISTORICAL**

PART I

REPRINT

**S. Anees Siraj**

Chief Editor

Karnataka Gazetteer Department

Bengaluru-560 009

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EDITED BY

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## Preface

After the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799, the East India Company resolved to obtain a survey and General statistical account of the territories that attracted attention not only in India, but also in England, France and other European Countries.

Dr. Francis Buchanan was accordingly deputed in 1800, followed by Marquis Wellesley to travel through and report upon "the Dominions of the Raja of Mysore, and the country acquired by the company in the late war from the Sultan as well as that part of Malabar which the Company annexed to their own territories in the former war under Marquis Cornwallis". His report, written from day to day while travelling was sanctioned publication in 1805 and was released in 1807 in three quarto volumes, under the title *A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar*.

The first step towards the compilation of a Gazetteer for each district was taken during 1867 and during the next two years nine manuscript volumes were prepared. Only three however came to be printed, namely one for Mysore District by Mr. Wellesley, one for Kolar, presumably by Krishna Iyengar and one for Coorg by Rev. G. Richter. In 1873, B. L. Rice was appointed editor to bring out one work on uniform plan and was entrusted the compilation of the Gazetteer of Mysore and Coorg. The Gazetteer thus finally



taken the shape of two volumes devoted to Mysore and a third to Coorg, the first treating of Mysore in General and the second of Mysore by Districts, eight in number. This edition was issued in 1876.

Sir William Wilson Hunter, the Editor of the Imperial Gazetteer of India described the first and second editions in an official report of 1877 as better than anything he himself had been able to do even for Bengal. Twenty years later in 1897 Mr. Rice published a revised edition, which won high appreciation. This edition was out of print for some years. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore therefore resolved to publish a new edition of the work.

Orders were accordingly, issued in July 1914 appointing Mr. Rao Bahadur R. Narasimhachar, then Director of Archaeological Research in Mysore as compiler. He was later succeeded in that capacity by Mr. V. R. Tyagaraja Iyer, Director of Statistics and subsequently Superintendent of Census operations, Mysore state during 1921. In Feb. 1924 Rao Bahadur C. Hayavadana Rao was entrusted with this work and was appointed editor.

Since several changes had taken place in the past thirty years in the administration of state, and His Highness's Government deemed it necessary to incorporate them in the new edition, Sri Hayavadana Rao revised the work, introduced changes in the general plan and brought out five volumes in eight books. The single volume of

B.L.Rice dealing with the state in general was expanded into four volumes, entitled 'Descriptive', 'Historical', 'Economic' and 'Administrative'. The volume 'Historical' was brought out in four parts covering from ancient period to modern period in a comprehensive manner. Volume V is devoted to the eight districts. Thus five volumes in the form of eight books were compiled and edited by Sri C.Hayavadana Rao.

It is these volumes, the Department of Gazetteer, took up for scanning and reprinting. For convenience sake, Volume V is split into two books (Part-I and Part-II) each covering four districts. The work has been accomplished with the guidance and support of Sri Govinda M. Karajola Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Kannada and Culture and I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister. Similar has been the support of Sri S.V.Ranganath IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee and Sri Ramesh B.Jhalki IAS, Secretary to Government, Department of Kannada and Culture and Information. I also acknowledge the initiative taken by Sri S.A.Jagannath incharge senior editor, and the co-operation extended by my editorial staff in the completion of this work.

**S.Anees Siraj**  
Chief Editor  
Karnataka Gazetteer Department  
Bengaluru

## PREFACE

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THIS Volume, forming Volume II of the *Mysore Gazetteer*, deals in a comprehensive manner with the History of Mysore. A two-fold plan has been adopted in the treatment of this subject. In view of the progress of archæological research in the State during the past forty years, occasion has been taken to deal in an adequate fashion with the sources from which the materials for the reconstruction of its ancient history are derived. The information scattered in the Journals of the learned Societies and Reports on Archæology has been carefully sifted and collected under appropriate heads. Among these are Epigraphy, Numismatics, Sculpture and Painting, Architecture, etc. The evidence available from these different sources has been brought together to show not merely their utility in elucidating the history of Mysore during its earliest times, for which written records are not available, but also to trace, as far as may be, with their aid, periods of history which would otherwise be wholly a blank. In dealing with that part of the history of Mysore for which written records are to any extent available, a more familiar plan has been adopted. It has been divided into periods



and each period has been treated under convenient sub-heads.

No person who writes on the history of Mysore can do so without being indebted to Mr. B. L. Rice, C.I.E. or Mr. R. A. Narasimbachar, M.A., whose laborious research in the field of Archæology has won for them a more than Indian reputation. The present Volume owes much to their scholarly work. The learned and erudite Reports of the Southern and Western Circles of the Archæological Survey of the Government of India, have also been made full use of. The time has long since past when the history of the Chōla, Hoysala, Vijayanagar and other dynasties with which Mysore had much to do in the past, could be written from the inscriptions relating to them found only within the present limits of Mysore, Madras, or Bombay. But for the help derived from all these different sources, a great many points in the early history of Mysore, if not of the whole of India south of the Vindhya, would remain for ever unsolved. An attempt has been made with the aid furnished by these materials to save research from becoming a mere mechanical registration of records. In treating of the more recent period, the records of Fort St. George, which have been made available by the enlightened generosity of the Government of Madras, have been largely laid under contribution. Indeed, it might be remarked, that almost every period of Mysore history has been re-written in the

light of new facts made available by research within the past four decades. Occasion has been taken to correct certain errors that had crept into the last edition of this work in connection with the account of the reign of His Highness Sri-Krishnarāja Wodeyar III. The present version is based on the original documents now available in regard to it. These will be found quoted in the text of this volume in the proper places. It is earnestly to be hoped that the myth of mal-administration that has for some time gathered round the name of this historic personage will now be dissipated for good and ever.

As in the previous Volume, footnotes have been avoided, the authorities being quoted, wherever required, in the body of the text. In regard to spelling of place names, the spelling authorised by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore has been generally adopted, the only change being the substitution of the mark of length (—) for the accent (´) over long vowels.

The chapters forming this Volume have been for the most part drawn up by the Editor. The revised sketch of the section relating to "Kannada," included in Chapter IX "Literature," is from the pen of *Rao Bahadur* R. A. Narasimhachar, M.A. It brings up-to-date the account of Mr. Rice in the last edition. The section on "Persian and Hindustani" in this chapter has had the benefit of revision at the hands of Mr. A. K. Syed Taj Peeran Saheb, B.A., Chairman, Board of Studies in Persian and

Urdū, in the Mysore University. Material help has been rendered by Mr. P. R. Krishnaswami, M.A., in the drafting of the Chapter on "Mysore in Modern Literature." The late lamented *Rao Bahadur* H. Krishna Sastri, B.A. Epigraphist to the Government of India, obligingly read through in proof the greater part of this Volume. His suggestions have proved invaluable.

In the preparation of the Index, care has been taken to make each entry comprehensive.

Full acknowledgments to various writers on the different topics dealt with in this Volume will be found in the Bibliography given at the end of each Chapter. It is hardly to be expected that in controversial points, especially in regard to the dates and periods of rule of the Kings of the Ganga, Pallava and other ancient dynasties, the views expressed in the sections dealing with them, will command universal acceptance. But it is earnestly hoped that critics will concede that no pains have been spared to provide them with the necessary data for readily checking the conclusions arrived at.

This volume is, for the sake of convenience of handling, bound in four separate Parts. The Index will be found at the end of Part IV.

BANGALORE,  
12th May 1930.

C. HAYAVADANA RAO,  
Editor.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## GENERAL PLAN.

	PAGE
SOURCES AND PERIODS OF MYSORE HISTORY ...	1
PRE-HISTORY AND PROTO-HISTORY OF MYSORE ...	8
ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HISTORICAL PERIOD	
EPIGRAPHY ... ..	44
NUMISMATICS ... ..	73
SCULPTURE AND PAINTING ... ..	130
ARCHITECTURE ... ..	343
OTHER ALLIED FINE ARTS ... ..	391
PALM-LEAF AND OTHER MSS. ... ..	399
LITERATURE :	401
(i) SANSKRIT ... ..	402
(ii) PRAKRIT ... ..	422
(iii) KANNADA ... ..	425
(iv) TELUGU ... ..	443
(v) TAMIL ... ..	445
(iv) PERSIAN AND HINDUSTANI ... ..	447
MYSORE IN MODERN LITERATURE ... ..	454
HISTORICAL PERIOD ... ..	462
ROLL OF HONOUR ... ..	3124

## CHAPTER I.

### SOURCES AND PERIODS OF MYSORE HISTORY.

Sources of Mysore History ... ..	1
Antiquities ... ..	2
Written Records ... ..	3
Legends and Coins ... ..	4
Books ... ..	4
Periods of Mysore History ... ..	7

## CHAPTER II.

## PRE-HISTORY AND PROTO-HISTORY OF MYSORE.

	PAGE
Pre-History of Mysore	8
Proto-History of Mysore	8
Vedic Gods	8
<i>Mahābhārata</i> Heroes	10
Heroes of the <i>Rāmāyana</i>	11
Purānic Personages and Places	15
Agasthya	16
Asuras and Rākshasas	17
Haihayas	18
Parasurāma	19
Rāma	21
Kishkindha	22
Pāndavas	26
Janamējaya	34
Alleged Janamējaya Grants	35
Chronology of Events	39
The <i>Purānas</i>	40

## CHAPTER III.

## ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE HISTORICAL PERIOD:—EPIGRAPHY.

## Epigraphical Records of the State:—

Their character and extent	44
Languages used in Inscriptions	46
Eras mentioned in Inscriptions	48
The value of Inscriptions	50
Materials used for recording Inscriptions	53
The Contents of Inscriptions	65
Essential Nature of Inscriptions	70

## CHAPTER IV.

## NUMISMATICS.

Antiquity of Mysore Coinage	73
Purānas or Punch-marked Coins—Silver and Lead	73

	PAGE
Finds of Sātavāhana Coins in Mysore ... ..	73
Find of a Chinese Brass Coin in Mysore ... ..	76
Age of Purānas ... ..	77
Roman Coins in Mysore ... ..	81
Silver Denarii of the early Emperors ... ..	81
Gold Coins ... ..	82
(i) Ganga Kings ... ..	84
(ii) Kadamba Kings ... ..	84
(iii) Western Chalukyas ... ..	84
(iv) Kalachūris ... ..	85
(v) Chōlas and others ... ..	85
(vi) Hoysalas ... ..	85
(vii) Gajapatis of Orissa, etc. ... ..	87
(viii) Vijayanagar Dynasty ... ..	87
(ix) Nāyaks of Ikkeri ... ..	91
(x) Nāyaks of Chitaldrug ... ..	91
(xi) Bijāpur Sultāns and Mahrattas ... ..	92
(xii) Mughal Coinage in Mysore ... ..	93
(xiii) Kempe Gauda ... ..	94
(xiv) Mysore Rājas ... ..	94
(xv) Haidar Ali ... ..	95
(xvi) Tipū Sultān's Coinage ... ..	96
(a) His Mint-towns ... ..	97
(b) The Eras on his Coins ... ..	98
(c) Cyclic Years on his Coins <i>abjad</i> and <i>abtath</i> Systems ... ..	99
(d) The Month Names ... ..	100
(e) The Letter Dates ... ..	100
(f) The Names of his Coins ... ..	101
(g) His Gold Coins ... ..	103
(xvii) Kerala or Malabar Coins—Vira Rāya fanams... ..	105
(xviii) Restored Mysore Dynasty—Krishna-Raja Wodeyar III ... ..	107
(xix) British East India Company ... ..	107
Silver Coins ... ..	108
(i) Tipū Sultān's Silver Coins ... ..	108
(ii) Krishna-Rāja Wodeyar III ... ..	110

	PAGE
(iii) Mughal Emperors ... ..	112
(iv) British East India Company ... ..	112
Copper Coins ... ..	115
(i) Chōlas ... ..	115
(ii) Vijayanagar Dynasty ... ..	115
(iii) Early Mysore Kings ... ..	115
(iv) Haidar Ali ... ..	116
(v) Tipū Sultān ... ..	117
(vi) Minor Chiefs ... ..	121
(vii) Krishna-Rāja Wodeyar III ... ..	122
(viii) British East India Company ... ..	123
(ix) Dutch East India Company ... ..	125
Coins in Circulation ... ..	125
Coins and Accounts ... ..	125
Coins mentioned in inscriptions ... ..	127
Coin Collections ... ..	128
BIBLIOGRAPHY ... ..	129

## CHAPTER V.

### SCULPTURE AND PAINTING.

#### *A. Sculpture.*

I. Monuments in Wood and Stone ... ..	130
Place of Mysore Sculpture in Indian Art ... ..	130
Image Worship and Sculpture ... ..	131
Materials of Sculpture ... ..	133
Classes of Sculpture ... ..	134
Sculpture and Religion ... ..	136
Periods of Sculptural Art in Mysore ... ..	139

#### *Early Period.*

(a) Buddhist ... ..	139
(i) Mauryan Times : 3rd century B. C. ... ..	139
(ii) Sātavāhanas : 1st and 2nd century A. D. ... ..	140
Malvalli Pillar Stone ... ..	142
Index Labels ... ..	143



	PAGE
(iii) Chālukyan Times: 11th to 13th century ...	144
Jayanti Pra-Bauddha Vihara ...	145
Worship of Tāra Bhagavati ...	146
Image of Tāra described ...	147
Nature of Buddhism prevalent in Mysore	149
Buddhism after the 13th century in Mysore	151
(b) Brāhman ...	152
(i) Early Kadambas: 3rd to 6th century A. D., Talgunda Pillar ...	152
(ii, Gangas: 2nd to 7th century A. D. ...	154
(iii) Rashtrakūtas: 779 A. D. to 892 A. D. ...	155
Māvali sculptured slabs ...	155
The Māvali Virakal ...	158
(iv) Chōlas: 1004 A. D. to 1116 A. D. ...	159
Agara Temple (Yelandur) 10th century A. D. ...	160
Ranganātha Temple at Seringapatam ...	160
Sculpture at Arkēsvara Temple at Hale Alur, Circa 1023 A. D. ...	161
Kōlāramma Temple: Doorway etc., Circa 1023 A. D. ...	164
Sōmēsvara Temple at Kolar ...	165
Siva Temple at Papparajanhalli ...	165
Narasimha Temple at Maddur ...	165
Varadarāja Temple at Maddur ...	166
Hosa Būdanūr Temple ...	166
Chandēsveri Temple, Vogata, 1028 A. D.	166
Temples at Kaivara, Circa 11th century A. D. ...	167
Dharmēsvara Temple, Kondarhalli, Hos- kote Taluk, 1065 A. D. ...	168
Vaidisvara Temple, Talakad, Circa 1100 A. D. ...	168
Agastyēsvara Temple at T-Narasipur, Circa 1100 A. D. ...	168
Sōmēsvara Temple at Husigala, Circa 1100 A. D. ...	169
Virakals and Mahāsatikals ...	169

	PAGE
(v) Later Kadambas under Chālukya Suzerainty.	
10th to 14th century A. D.     ...     ...	170
Gandabhērunda Pillar, 1047 A. D.     ...     ...	171
Sūla Brahma Stone, 1060 A. D.     ...     ...	173
Gunagalla Yōgi's Image, 1071 A. D.     ...     ...	174
Virakals of the Period: Virakal at Hale	
Soraba, 1093 A. D.     ...     ...	175
(vi) Kalachūryas     ...     ...     ...	177
Lost monuments of Kēsava temple at	
Baligami, 1159 A. D.     ...     ...	177
Sculpture in Kēdārēsvara Temple, Baligami	178
Tripurāntaka Temple, Baligami, 1070 A. D.	179
Representation of Tripura Legend on	
Doorway     ...     ...     ...	179
Pillar Sculpture     ...     ...     ...	183
The Stone Screens     ...     ...     ...	188
Panchatantra stories in sculpture     ...     ...	189
Temples at Kuppattur, <i>Circa</i> 1070 A. D.	190
Sōmēsvara Temple, Bandalike, 12th cen-	
tury     ...     ...     ...	190
Trimūrti Temple, <i>Circa</i> 1200 A. D.     ...     ...	191
Panchalinga Temple, Baligami 12th	
century A. D.     ...     ...     ...	192
Jalasayana Temple, Belagami ...     ...     ...	195
Nilakanta Shrine at Belagami...     ...     ...	195
Anantasayana Temple at Belagami     ...     ...	195
Ranganātha Temple, Kumsi, <i>Circa</i> 1200	
A. D.     ...     ...     ...	195
A typical Virakal of the 12th century     ...     ...	195
(vii) Hoysalas: 11th to 14th century     ...     ...	198
Vishnuvardhana's Reign, 1113 A. D. to	
1141 A. D.     ...     ...     ...	199
Lakshmidēvi Temple, Dodda Gaddavalli,	
1113 A. D.     ...     ...     ...	199
Kēsava Temple, Belur, 1117 A. D.     ...     ...	200
Kappe Chennigarāya Temple     ...     ...     ...	203
Vira Nārāyana Temple     ...     ...     ...	204
Halebid Temple, <i>Circa</i> 1141 A. D.     ...     ...	206

	PAGE
Narasimha I—1141 A. D. to 1173 A. D. ...	209
Sivaganga, Circa 1150 A. D. ...	209
Ānekonda Temple, 1160 A. D. ...	210
Gōvindēsvara Temple, 1160 A. D. ...	210
Hullekere Temple, 1163 A. D. ...	210
Sōmēsvara Temple, Suttur, 1169 A. D. ...	211
Nākēsvara Temple, 1170 A. D. ...	211
Brahmēsvara Temple, Kikkeri, 1171 A. D. ...	211
Būchēsvara Temple, Koramangala, 1173 A. D. ...	211
Ballāla II, 1173 A. D. to 1220 A. D. ...	212
Amritēsvara Temple, Amritapura, 1196 A. D. ...	213
Kēdārēsvara Temple, 1219 A. D. ...	214
Temples at Arakere and Bendekere, Circa 1200 A. D. ...	215
Mavattanahalli Temple, Circa 1200 A. D. ...	216
Chattanahalli Temple, Circa 1200 A. D. ...	216
Virabhadra Temple, Halebid, Circa 1220 A. D. ...	217
Īsvara Temple, Arsikere, Circa 1220 A. D. ...	218
Īsvara Temple, Nanditavare, Chitaldrug District, Circa 1220 A. D. ...	218
Narasimha II, 1220 A. D. to 1235 A. D. ...	219
Hariharēsvara Temple, Harihar, 1224 A. D. ...	219
Its Doorway ...	221
Its Lamp Pillar ...	222
Its Rangamantapa Ceilings ...	222
Galagēsvara Temple, Heggare, 1232 A. D. ...	222
Kallēsvara Temple, Heggare, 1232 A. D. ...	223
Sōmēsvara, 1233 A. D. to 1254 A. D. ...	223
Kēsava and Sōmēsvara Temples, Haranhalli, 1234 A. D. ...	224
Mallikārjuna Temple, Basaralu, 1235 A. D. ...	224
Panchalingēsvara Temple, Gōvindanhalli, Circa 1237 A. D. ...	225
Lakshminarasimha Temple, Nuggihalli, 1249 A. D. ...	225
Sadāsiva Temple, Nuggihalli, 1249 A. D. ...	226
Īsvara Temple, Nandigudi, Circa 1250 A. D. ...	226
Chennakēsava Temple, Aralaguppe, Circa 1250 A. D. ...	227
Lakshminarasimha Temple, Javagal, Circa 1250 A. D. ...	227

	PAGE
Garuda Pillars at Agrahara Bachehalli, Circa 1254 A. D. ... ..	227
Narasimha III, 1354 A. D. to 1291 A. D. ... ..	228
Kēsava Temple, Somnathapur, 1268 A. D. ... ..	228
Ballāla III, 1291 A. D. to 1342 A. D. ... ..	231
Other Hoysala Temples :—	
At Mosale ... ..	231
At Mudgere ... ..	232
Leading Examples of Hoysala Sculpture ... ..	232
Chennakēsava at Belur ... ..	232
Uchchista-Ganapati at Nanjangud ... ..	232
Nritta-Ganapati, Hoysalēsvara Temple, Halebid ... ..	233
Varāha, Chennakēsava Temple at Belur ... ..	234
Kēvala (or Yoga) Narasimha at Halebid ... ..	234
Trivikrama, Belur, and Trivikrama, Nuggehalli ... ..	235
Gāna Gōpāla, Halebid ... ..	237
Gōvardhana-dhara Krishna, Nuggehalli and Halebid Chaturvimsati or Twenty-four names of Vishnu at Belur and Seringapatam ... ..	238 239
Dattatrēya, Halebid ... ..	240
Lakshmi-Nārāyana, Belur ... ..	241
Hayagrīva, Nuggehalli ... ..	241
Ādimūrti, Nuggehalli ... ..	241
Jalasāyin, Halebid ... ..	242
Kari-Varada ... ..	243
Manmatha and Rati at Halebid and Nuggehalli ... ..	244
Āditya (Sun), Nuggehalli and Sūrya-nārāyana, Belur ... ..	244
Sarasvatī with Vina, Halebid, and Sarasvatī dancing, Halebid ... ..	244
Brahma, Halebid ... ..	245
Kshētrapāla, Halebid ... ..	245
Dakshināmūrti, Nanjangud ... ..	246
Vrishabhavāhanamūrti, Halebid ... ..	247
Rāvananugrahamūrti at Chennakēsava Temple, Belur ... ..	247
Gajāsurasamhāramūrti at Amritēsvara Temple, Amrita- pura and Hoyasalēsvara Temple at Halebid ... ..	248
Sapta-mātrika Group, Belur ... ..	250
Virakals of Hoysala Period ... ..	251

	PAGE
(c) Jain ... ..	252
(1) Jains pillars, statues, bastis, etc.	
(i) Gangas	
Priority of wooden over stone sculpture ...	252
Conversion of wooden into stone temples ...	252
The earliest Jain Monuments ... ..	253
Jinālayas ... ..	254
Stambhas ... ..	256
Kūge Brahmadēva Pillar, 974 A. D. ...	256
Tyāgada Brahmadēva Pillar, 983 A. D. ...	256
Statues ... ..	257
The Gommatēsvara Statue, 983 A. D. ...	257
Fergusson's description of the Gummata ...	263
Workman's estimate ... ..	264
In praise of the statue ... ..	265
Date of the statue ... ..	268
The Bharatēsvara statue, <i>Circa</i> 10th century.	269
Virakals :	
The Begur Stone 890 A. D. ... ..	270
Miscellaneous Sculpture :—	
A Domestic Scene—The Doddahundi Stone, 921 A. D. ... ..	271
A Hunting Scene on the Atakur Stone, 950 A. D. ... ..	273
Sculptural Representations of Elephant, <i>Circa</i> 900 A. D. and 907 A. D. ... ..	274
(ii) Western Chālukyas—	
Sōmēsvara II—	
Pillar of Victory at Sāntinātha Basti, Bali- gami, 1159 A. D. ... ..	275
Vikramāditya—	
Brahma Jinālaya, Kuppattur, 1077 A. D. ...	276
Jain Basadis at Humcha, 1077 A. D. ...	276
Tattakere, etc. Basadis 1085 A. D. ...	277
Bannikere Basadi, 1113 A. D. ...	277

(iii) Hoysalas—				
Vinayāditya—				
Temples at Sosevur or Angadi, <i>Circa</i> 1050				
A. D.	...	...	...	277
Jain Temple, Hale Belgola, 1094 A. D.			...	278
Basti at Hatna, <i>Circa</i> 1100 A. D.			...	279
Restoration of Jain Temples by Punīsa, 1116				
A. D.	...	...	...	279
Trikūta Basti, Chamarajnagar, 1116 A. D.			...	279
Tērina Basti, Sravana-Belgola, 1117 A. D.			...	279
Vishnuvardhana—				
Kattale Basti on Chandragiri Hill, Sravana				
Belgola, 1118 A. D.	...	...	...	280
Basti at Jinanāthapura, 1117 A. D.			...	280
Other Bastis of the Reign		...	...	281
Narasimha I—				
Ehandāri-Basti, Sravana-Belgola, 1141 A. D.				281
Beautification of Chandragupta Basti, <i>Circa</i>				
1145 A. D.	...	...	...	282
Santisvara Basti, Nittur, 1150 A. D.			...	283
Pārsvanātha Basti, Heggere, 1160 A. D.			...	283
Mahānavami Mantapa, Sravana Belgola, 1176				
A. D.	...	...	...	284
Ballāla II—				
Akkana Basti, Sravana-Belgola 1181 A. D.			...	284
Sāntinātha Basti, Magudi, 1182 A. D.			...	285
Sāntinātha Basti Sravana-Belgola, 1200 A. D.				286
Lofty Jain Image, Basti-Hoskote, <i>Circa</i> 1200				
A. D.	...	...	...	286
Brahmadēva Pillar, Kambadahalli Basti, <i>Circa</i>				
1200 A. D.	...	...	...	287
Ballāla III—				
Mangāyi Basti, Sravana-Belgola, 1325 A. D....				287
(2) Jain Tombs :				
Silākūtas at Jinanāthapura 1213 A. D.			...	287
Nishidis at Halebid, 1295 A. D.			...	288

*Mediæval Period.*

## (a) Brāhman :

(1) Stone Sculpture		
(i) Vijayanagar Kings, 1336-1565 A. D.	...	288
Types of Monuments	... ..	288
(1) Temples	... ..	288
Vidyāsankara Temple, Sringeri, 1356 A. D.	...	289
Sārada Temple, Sringeri	... ..	289
Virupāksha Temple, Virupakshipura, <i>Circa</i> 1420 A. D.	... ..	289
Mantaps at Melkote, 1458 A. D.	...	290
Varāhasvāmi Temple, at Mysore 1499 A. D.		290
Gaurīsvara Temple, Yelandur, 1500 A. D.	...	290
Mallikārjuna Temple, Pankajanballi, <i>Circa</i> 1510 A. D.	... ..	291
Aghorēsvara Temple, Ikkeri, <i>Circa</i> 1560 A.D.	...	291
Temples at Avani, 16th Century additions	...	292
Gōpālkrishna Temple at Krishnaraja Sagara <i>Circa</i> 1560 A. D.	... ..	292
Temples at Terakanāmbi, 1640 A. D.	...	293
Bull on Chāmundi Hill at Mysore, 1664 A. D.		295
Double Temple of Rāmēsvara and Virabhadra, Keladi, <i>Circa</i> 1681 A. D.	... ..	295
Sōmēsvara Temple at Magadi, 1712 A. D....		296
Temple at Jambitige, Koppa Taluk, 1733 A.D.		297
(2) Mahāsatikals	... ..	297
(ii) The Pālegars of Mysore, <i>Circa</i> 1600-1750 A. D.	... ..	297
Decline of Sculptural Art	... ..	297
(iii) Mysore Kings from Rāja-Wodeyar to Krishna- Rāja-Wodeyar III, 1617 to 1800 A. D.	...	298
Paravāsu-Deva Temple, near Gundlupet, <i>Circa</i> 1700 A. D.	... ..	298
Ahōbala Narasimha Temple, Niratadi, Chitaldrug District, <i>Circa</i> 1700 A. D.	... ..	298
Sculptured Stone at Chitaldrug Park, 1761 A. D.		299
(iv) Notable or Unusual Sculpture, 14th to 16 cen- tury	... ..	299



	PAGE
Gōpālakrīṣhna Temple, Patronahalli, Kolar District	299
Vēnugōpāpālasvāmi Temple, Devanhalli	299
Ādinārāyana Temple, Dodballapur	300
Virabhadra Temple, Mel-Koppa	300
Ānjanēya Temple, Sidlaghatta	300
Vaidyēsvara Temple, Mambali (Agara, Yelandur Taluk)	300
Vēnkataramana Temple, Chikkanayakanhalli	300
Ādinārāyana Temple, Hutri-durga	301
Figure of Hanumān, Bettadapura	301
Narasimha and Sōmēsvara Temples, Kunigal	301
Gangādhārēsvara Temple, Turuvekere	302
Chennakēsava Temple, Anekal	303
Bail Ganapati at Holalkere	303
Ornamental Stone cot at Oriental Manuscripts Library, Mysore	303
Shrine at Doddpet, Mysore City 19th century	303
Stambhas (or Pillars) of different kinds, 14th to 17th century	303
Soumyakēsava Temple, Nagamangala...	304
Jvarahārēsvara Temple, Kandavara, Kolar District	304
Vēnkataramana Temple, Midigesi, Tumkur District	304
Ranganātha Temple, Ummattur	304
Rāma Temple, Kadaba	305
Kailasēsvara Temple Kadaba	305
Ranganātha Temple, Tattakere	305
Lakshminarasimha Temple, Nuggihalli	305
Virabhadra Temple, Savandrug	305
Santemallappa Temple, Oderhalli	306
Tērumallēsvara Temple, Hiriyyur	306
Mallikārjuna Temple, Pankajanahalli	306
Avimuktēsvara Temple, Hoskote	306
Amrita-Mallikārjuna Temple, Anekal	307
Bhavānisankar Temple, Anekal	307
Sōmēsvara Temple, Amritur (Kunigal Taluk)	307
Hanumān Shrine, Amritur (Kunigal Taluk)	307
(b) Jain	307

	PAGE
Mysore Artists :	
(1) Hoysala Period ... ..	310
(2) Vijayanagar Period ... ..	319
(3) Mysore Rājas ... ..	319
II Monumental Brass, Copper and Bronze	
(a) Brāhman ... ..	320
(b) Jain ... ..	328
III Jewellery in sculpture ... ..	329
IV Weapons in sculpture:—	
Early Period ... ..	332
Gangas: 10th Century A. D. ... ..	332
Vijayanagar Period: 14th Cent ... ..	332
<i>B. Painting.</i>	
(i) Hindu ... ..	333
Painting, a recognized Art ... ..	333
Painting subordinated to sculpture ... ..	333
Painting and Embellishment of Temples ... ..	334
Some Examples from Mysore ... ..	335
In Jaina <i>Matha</i> at Sravana-Belgola, 19th Cent. ... ..	338
(ii) Muhammadan ... ..	339
(a) Mural Paintings at the Darya Daulat ... ..	339
(b) At Tipū Sultān's Palace, Bangalore ... ..	340
(c) Preparation of Colours ... ..	340
BIBLIOGRAPHY ... ..	342

## CHAPTER VI.

### ARCHITECTURE.

#### I. *Civil Architecture.*

##### A. BUILDINGS.

The Story of Mysore Architecture ... ..	343
The Importance of its Study ... ..	344
Early Architecture—In Wood ... ..	345
Beginnings of Stone Architecture ... ..	345

	PAGE
Caves and Cave Temples ... ..	347
Early Buddhist, Brāhmanic and Jain Monuments ...	348
Jain Architecture ... ..	349
Dravidian Architecture ... ..	351
Temples in Dravidian Style in Mysore ...	354
Influence of Hoysala Style ... ..	355
Chalukyan Architecture ... ..	356
Hoysala Architecture ... ..	358
Extent and Number of Hoysala Temples ...	360
Descriptions of the more Important Temples ...	362
(i) Kēdārēsvara at Halebid ... ..	362
(ii) Kēsava at Belur ... ..	367
(iii) Kēsava at Somanathapur ... ..	369
Temples in the Malnad—Kanara style ... ..	369
Lingayat style—Mixed Hindu and Saracenic ...	370
Saracenic Architecture ... ..	370
Bijāpur style ... ..	371
Moghul style ... ..	372
Modern Architecture in Mysore ... ..	377
Later Indo-Saracenic style ... ..	377
Buildings in Classic or Renaissance style ... ..	377
In Gothic Style ... ..	378
In Mixed Style ... ..	378
Modern American Renaissance Structures ... ..	379
Some proposed structures ... ..	379
Modern Buildings of Architectural Interest ... ..	379
 B. STRUCTURES OTHER THAN BUILDINGS. 	
Ornamental Wells, Ponds and Tanks ... ..	382
City Architecture and Town Planning ... ..	386
Bridges ... ..	386
 <i>II. Military Architecture.</i> 	
Forts ... ..	387
 <i>III. Conservation of Ancient Buildings.</i> 	
Application of Ancient Monuments Regulation ...	389
BIBLIOGRAPHY ... ..	390

## CHAPTER VII.

## OTHER ALLIED FINE ARTS.

	PAGE
Other Allied Fine Arts ... ..	391
(a) Engraving ... ..	391
(b) Music ... ..	393
(i) Musical Instruments in Use ... ..	396
(ii) Musical Instruments in Mysore Sculpture	396
BIBLIOGRAPHY ... ..	398

## CHAPTER VIII.

## PALM LEAF AND OTHER MSS.

Palm Leaf and Other Mss. ... ..	399
The Kadata ... ..	399
Introduction of Paper ... ..	400
Collection of Mss. ... ..	400

## CHAPTER IX.

## LITERATURE.

Literary Progress in the State ... ..	401
---------------------------------------	-----

## I. SĀNSKRIT LITERATURE.

5th Century A. D. ... ..	405
7th do do ... ..	407
8th do do ... ..	407
9th do do ... ..	407
10th do do ... ..	408
11th do do ... ..	408
12th do do ... ..	409
13th do do ... ..	409
14th do do ... ..	410
15th do do ... ..	411
16th do do ... ..	412
17th do do ... ..	413
18th do do ... ..	415

	PAGE
19th Century A. D. ... ..	415
Undated Works ... ..	417
Sānskrit Inscriptions ... ..	420

## II. PRĀKRIT LITERATURE.

Prākrit Inscriptions in the State ... ..	422
Prākrit Works ... ..	424

## III. KANNADA LITERATURE.

History and extent of Kannada Literature ... ..	425
Kannada writers of the 10th Century ... ..	428
do do 11th do ... ..	429
do do 12th do ... ..	430
do do 13th do ... ..	431
do do 14th do ... ..	432
do do 15th do ... ..	433
do do 16th do ... ..	433
do do 17th do ... ..	435
do do 18th do ... ..	436
do do 19th do ... ..	437
Oriental Library ... ..	439
Contributions by Europeans ... ..	439
Introduction of Printing ... ..	440
Books, Ancient and Modern ... ..	441
Modern writers ... ..	442
Concluding remarks ... ..	442

## IV. TELUGU LITERATURE.

Co-existence of Telugu with Kannada ... ..	443
Poets in two Languages ... ..	443
Poets during the Vijayanagar Period ... ..	444
Later Telugu Poets in the State ... ..	444
Telugu Inscriptions in the State ... ..	444

	PAGE
Tamil Inscriptions in the State ... ..	445
Literary Barrenness of Chōla Conquest ... ..	446
Translations from Tamil ... ..	446

#### VI. PERSIAN AND HINDUSTĀNI LITERATURE.

Prevalence of Persian and Hindustāni in the State	447
Works of Tipū Sultān ... ..	448
Mir Hussain Kirmāni's History ... ..	448
Other Writers ... ..	449
Persian Calligraphy ... ..	451
BIBLIOGRAPHY ... ..	452

### CHAPTER X.

#### MYSORE IN MODERN LITERATURE.

Early references in English Literature ... ..	454
In Meadows Taylor's Novels ... ..	456
In Leyden's Poems ... ..	457
Sir Walter Scott and Bangalore ... ..	457
Some Prison Poems ... ..	458
Mysore Military Memoirs and Despatches ... ..	458

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