

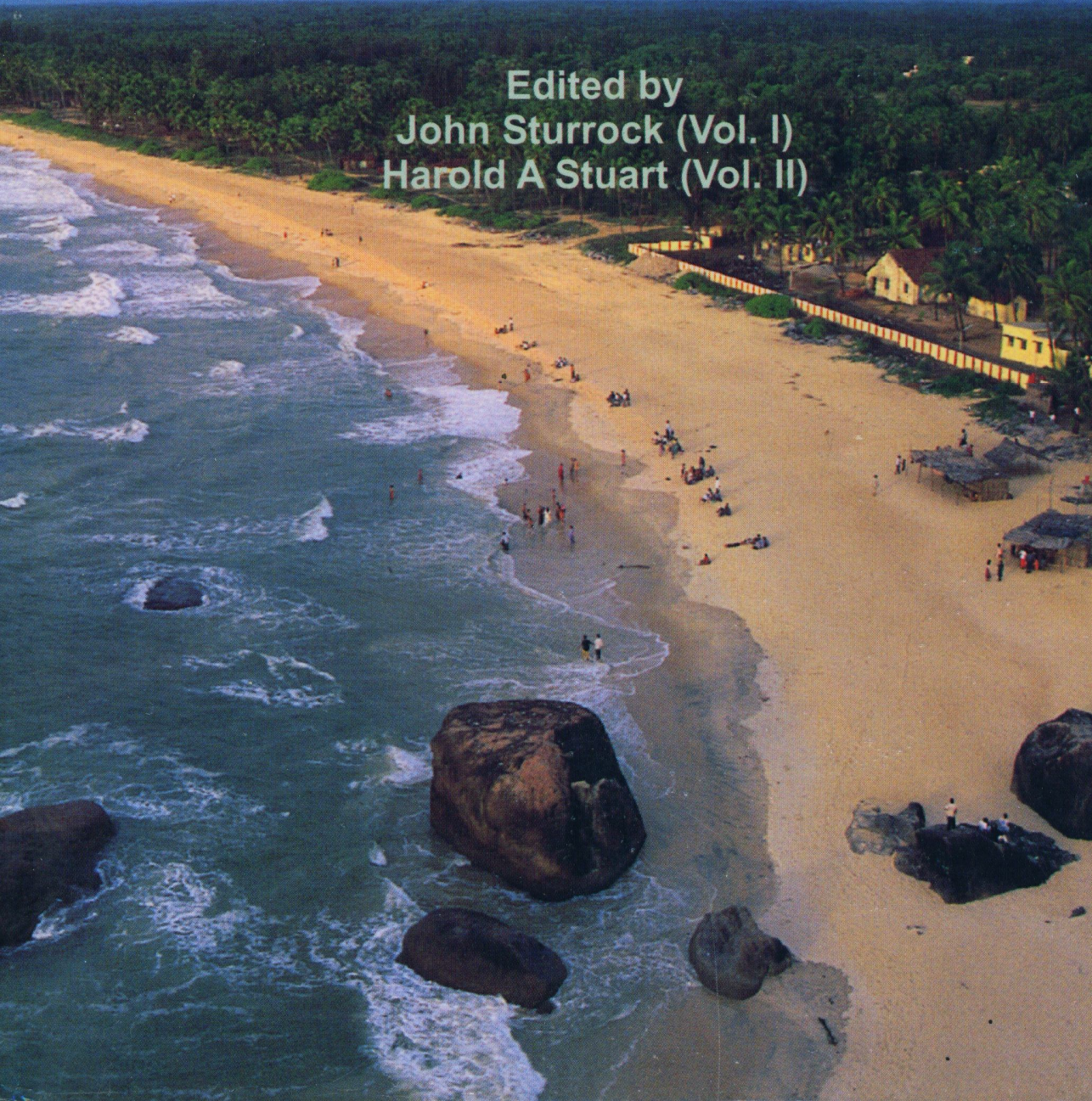
GAZETTEER OF INDIA



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

SOUTH CANARA

Edited by
John Sturrock (Vol. I)
Harold A Stuart (Vol. II)



MADRAS DISTRICT MANUALS.



SOUTH CANARA.

NOTICE.

It is requested that any errors or omissions detected in this book may be brought to the notice of the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE (SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT), Chepauk, Madras. Additional information on any matter connected with the subjects dealt with in the *Manual* would also be gratefully received, especially if such notes are the result of personal knowledge or observation.

MADRAS DISTRICT MANUALS

SOUTH CANARA.

COMPILED BY

J. STURROCK, I.C.S.

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Preface

This volume has been compiled under some difficulties, as there was no complete manual available for reference and assistance. I have, however, received considerable help from the Honorable Mr. Sturrock, the author of the first volume, and the Collector of the district has kindly had all the proofs examined in his office.

I take this opportunity of according my best thanks to Diwan Bahadur P. Rajaratna Mudaliar, Secretary to the Board of Revenue (Settlement Department), for the statement showing the nature of the season for a series of years; to the Director of Public Instruction for the special statistics of education; to the various tahsildars of the district for information regarding occupations; to Mr. A.M. Slight, Head Assistant Collector of the district, and to the Collector's sheristadar for notes on the economic condition of the people; and to the Superintendent of the Government Press for his ready courtesy and advice in connection with the printing of the volume.

H. A. STUART.

PREFACE TO VOLUME I.

THE greater part of this volume was written in 1884-87, but for want of books of reference in South Canara, I was unable to take up the History chapter until I went on furlough to England in 1889-90. After my return to India, I found no time, amidst the pressure of other duties, to compile the statistical chapters, which had necessarily been left to the last, and in 1892 it was decided that Volume II, which is to be devoted to statistics, should be undertaken in connection with the revision of the other District Manuals, which is now in progress.

In the compilation of this portion of the Manual, I have had the advantage of the use of note-books left by the late Messrs. Hebbert and Spencer of the Madras Civil Service, who had successively been entrusted with the work, but neither of whom had been able to carry it through, and I take this opportunity of thanking the many officials and residents of South Canara who so willingly gave me any information I asked for, notably in connection with the chapter on The People. My special acknowledgments are due to Mr. J. C. Fernandez, B.A., M.L., now District Munsiff of Shiyali, who afforded me much assistance in the compilation and arrangement of materials for chapters I, IV and V. I have also freely availed myself of extracts from an article on Canara contributed to *Fraser's Magazine* by Mr. M. J. Walhouse, who was for many years District and Sessions Judge of Mangalore. The information in the chapter on Population has been largely added to by Mr. H. A. Stuart from notes taken for the Census of 1891.

Surgeon-Major W. A. Lee was kind enough to write for me a Medico-topographical and Statistical chapter, but under the scheme for the revised edition of the District Manuals this subject is to be dealt with in the second or statistical volume. I have consequently been unable to secure its appearance in this volume.

J. S.

Chief Editor's Note

The discerning readers of Gazetteers are probably aware that the first attempts in compiling Gazetteers, for a defined geographical area like a district or a region were initiated by the East India Company for several districts comprised in the then British India. These were indeed a treasure trove of information, and were the most comprehensive single source of knowledge showcasing the past and contemporary conditions of a district or a region. These Gazetteers contained a myriad variety of features, which unfolded the panorama of the variegated life of the people, and the areas they inhabited. The various chapters contained therein, dealt with various subjects along with illustrations, general appendices, a select bibliography, alphabetical indexes and maps.

Before the re-organisation of the states, and during the period of the British, in respect of the districts like Dharwad, Bijapur, Belgaum and Kanara (as it was then called) and which were parts of the Bombay Presidency, the then Bombay Presidency Government, initiated a scheme of publication of District Gazetteers for all the aforesaid districts. South Canara was bifurcated from the old Kanara district in 1862 and formed into a separate district. From then on South Canara District came to be incorporated under the Madras Presidency. In the year 1894 the first volume of the South Canara Manual edited by John Sturrock was published by the then Madras Presidency. Subsequently Harold A. Stuart edited the second volume of the South Canara Manual in the year 1895.

Eversince the establishment of a separate Gazetteer Department for the State of Mysore in 1958, the Karnataka Gazetteer Department (as it is presently called) has published separate Gazetteers for all the 20 districts incorporated under it, after the states re-organisation, except the seven newly constituted districts of Haveri, Gadag, Chamarajnagar, Bagalkot, Koppal, Davangere and Udupi. The department has plans to publish separate Gazetteers for these districts in a phased manner.

While the Gazetteer Department has plans afoot to bring out revised editions of one or two districts formed after unification, every year, the department has also found it essential to undertake the reprinting of the old and valuable Gazetteers, with a view to make available, such source material, monumental in nature as they were the first dedicated

attempts to record the several details of the districts very useful for purposes of research as well as for general reading. Under this plan, the department has already reprinted the old Bijapur Gazetteer compiled by James Macnabb Campbell (1884) in the year 2002, which has received tremendous response from the public.

In the same series the department has undertaken this venture of reprinting and publishing the old South Canara Manual Volume-I edited by John Sturrock in the year 1894, as also the second volume of the South Canara Manual which was compiled by Harold Stuart in 1895. Mr. Stuart has profusely thanked John Sturrock for the help rendered to him. During those days, the taluk of Kasargod (Now in Kerala) was a part of the South Canara district. The department is indeed very happy to place in the hands of the readers, this most useful volume, that depicts the details, of multi-faceted life of the people, their lifestyles, manners, social habits and customs; art and architecture of those times; trade and commerce carried on by them; their banking; academic pursuits; their agriculture and a variety of other subjects in graphic details, as they existed in the late 19th century. These two volumes published in 1894 and 1895 respectively have now been made into a single volume with a view to enable the readers to get the required information in one single volume.

I hope that this volume will receive favourable response from the readers.

We owe our gratitude to Smt. Rani Satish, Hon'ble Minister for Kannada and Culture whose continued encouragement has enabled us to undertake the ventures of this nature. Similarly our gratitude is also due to Sri. B.S. Patil, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, who is also the Chairman of Gazetteer Advisory Committee, whose inspiration and encouragement are always to be counted upon. I also express my gratitude to Sri. C.S. Kedar, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Kannada and Culture Department, who has evinced a great interest and involvement in introducing innovative schemes in the department, like the reprinting of old Gazetteers and ushering in e-Governance in the department, in addition to its regular functions.

I profusely thank the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore, who has readily come forward to spare beautiful photographs of early times which have greatly enriched the antic value of this volume. I take this opportunity to thank the Director,

Information and Publicity and Commissioner, Tourism Department for providing excellent photographs which have enhanced the quality of this volume. I am proud of the Gazetteer staff members who have whole heartedly striven hard to bring out this volume in a short span of time. Sri. S.A.Jagannath, Senior Editor (Incharge), and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator, have discharged their function of overseeing the printing work of this volume. I appreciate their good work. The special qualities of scanning of old and brittle pages of this Gazetteer, has been done with the software tool, called 'Vyasa' developed by the Mahabharatha Samshodhana Pratishthana, Bangalore, which has helped a great deal in enhancing the quality of the printing work. I thank them for their contribution. M/S. Vinayaka Offset Printers have done an excellent job in printing this volume in the most presentable form. Their work needs to be applauded.

T.A. Parthasarathi KAS
Chief Editor
Karnataka Gazetteer

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