

## HISTORY OF TRANQUEBAR FORT IN TAMIL NADU A STUDY

E. Siva

*Phd Research Scholar, Department of History, Annamalai University  
Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu*

### Abstract

*The state Department of Archaeology is doing excavation in various places from the prehistoric period to the historic period, most of the excavations were done in the historic sites like Gangaikondacholapuram, poompuhar, etc., The archaeological Importance of the area, The Tarangampadi excavation was done near the rampart wall, This was done to know the nature or the foundation before conserving the wall, This is excavation for conservation. A rampart part wall was constructed Ground the tarangampadi fort in 1620 AD. This rampart wall was damaged due to storms, so it looked like a mound. The state Department at Archaeology laid a frail, the year 2001, the base of the whole rampart wall was not exposed with in the single teach, so in the next year 2002 there more trenches were laid at lower level say off steps, This rampart wall was constructed with burnt bricks in headers,*

**Keywords:** *Tarangampadi Fort, Agananuru, purananuru, Natrinai, Roghunatha Nayak, excavation*

### Historical back ground

This part city is in existence since the sangam period, with varying degree of importance, the sangam works like purananuru (391) Agananuru (100) Natrinai (131) refer to this city as poraiyaru, The sangam poet kalladanar praised the elder (kilan) of poraiyarunarrerpperian, who posed with the chariot.

Another sangampoem, Natrinai (131) refer to this place as poraiyaru, the relevant lines say narrerpperiyen, kalkamalporaiyaruanna, Beyond the reference cited above nothing could be discerned from sangam literature, much to the date relating to this place emerges, from the medieval period.

Their strongholdssamtheNagapattinam. Torrangambadi, madras and pondichery were located in the Tamil country. The major Indian powers of the times mysore, the marathy, and the Tamil country the Importance for the European Powers.

### Tarangampadi (Tranuebar) Fort

Tarangampadi, the historical port, lies on the east coast in poraiyarutaluk of Nagapattinamdist, it is situated on the Nagapattinam, Chidambaram road at the distance of 10 km south of kaveripoom-pattinam, the celebrated chola port of sangam Age and 7km north of karaikkal, the river poraiyar locally called uppanaru has a confluence with the bay of Bangal on the southern side of the fort.

The fort was first built in 1620 AD. Though most parts of the fort had been reconstructed several times fortunately we could recall the original plan and other additional structures based on the plans made from time to time, which are available.

Tarangampadi fort consisted of two large structures, they were the rampart wall and the main building, the rampart wall was a fairly large four sided the there inner sides of the fort wall, a single storied building was constructed, these rooms were used for barracks, ware house, kitchen and jail, new, the rooms on the southern side are in good condition but the rooms on the western and northern sides have been completely damaged, on the eastern side of the fort there was a two - storied building of the fort, the fort was surrounded by a most and access to the fort was over a draw bridge this most has completely disappeared, the sea on the eastern side and the river on the southern side protected it.

A flagstaff is built on a higher platform. A dome like structure found in the terrace on the center part of the main building is built like an elephant back. It is divided into four compartments, these four domes are ties with iron roads, In the second phase of the work, the outer fortification wall has been built by providing a moat in between the inner and outer fortification wall, to bring the water from the adjoining uppanar river to the moat, they made a water inlet in the southwest corner of the outer fortification wall.

The national Archives in Copenhagen, Den-mark is a treasure house of Tanjore and Tranquebar of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The royal library and the national museum in the Copenhagen house more then 350 plam - leaf collections form Indian from old almanacs to the diaries of local eatechists to Aranacholakavirayar'sramaNatakam. As is often said, when available history needs to be stadied from both sides and here the records in den mark come as a great helf.

Most Historians assume that RoghunathaNayak rated between 1600 and 1634 uridhagirisam, an authority on the Nayaks of Tanjore writes, "considering the duration of all the individual reigns of the TanjoreNayaks its becomes evident the Rayhunatha, the most illustrious ruler of this family had but a relatively short regin and his death will have to be placed about AD. 163" onthe question of who succeed RaghunathaNayak. Indian historians disagree, on the successor to the throne, there are many clams and counter - claims Uriddhagirisan mentions two sons of Raghutha, Namely Achyata and Ramabhadra, two brother of the nayaka, whom we had shut up in persion after pulling out their eyes to remore all possibility to succeeding.

#### **Aim of the Excavation**

The information gathered from different sources clearly suggests that this place continued in existence for a long period of time, the fort bilt on in 1620 AD also went into different stages of construction and subsequent destruction. The exposed rampart wall could not give any idea on the nature of construction and subsequent so it was planned to

take up a small preliminary excavation near the fortification wall to identify the different phases of the construction.

### **Layout of the Tranches**

In total, four trenches were laid in which the trench 1(TGI-1) in the year 2001 and the remaining there in 2002 (TGI-2) TGI-3, TGI-4, the TGI-1 was laid at the northern entrance of the rampart wall TGI-2 was near the inner edge but on western side of the northern gate (present main entrance) to avoid and prevent any further damage, the trenches were laid where the wall was completely, damaged, therefore, the trenches Occupied different levels, the Nature of deposit in the TGI-1 and TGI is given below for beff or understanding.

### **Description of the cutting**

The trail trench TGI-1 was laid on the rampart wall l'n 2001, It in easured 2x2 meters and was oriented in south - north direction, the removal of the humus exposed the sand mixed with soil, below this year 75 cm breadth of rampart wall was exposed, 1.25 cm, to overcome this the area of the trench was extended a further 50 cm on either side and this made the total extension to 1m at the depth of one meter brick paved floor was exposed. Full bricks as well has half bricks were used for the floor, above this floor there layers ware noticed.

### **Stratigraphy**

One need not expect any occupational debris in the rampart wall and the aim of the excavation also was to expose the nature of construction rather than the exposure of any cultural material, there were exposed at different levels yielded eight layers in total, the fusion of stratification that was found l'nall the four layers can be under stood in the following layers.

### **Pottery**

The potsherds collected from Tarangampadi excavation were red were, black were and Chinese ware red were sherds occurred in large quality, the fabric of the red ware was mostly coarse and a few sherds might have been prepared out of better clay, one shared shows a beautiful Chinese lady in blue color on the exterior surface, the dress and the appearance of the face are interesting.

### **Conclusion**

After finding out the Nature of the construction conservation has been carried out, Importance for the European powers.

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