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Kurumbasiddy Era Kanagaratnam collection  
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## Biographical note

Mr R. Kanagaratnam (Kurumbasiddy Era Kanagaratnam) (1 August 1934 -22 June 2016) tirelessly collected Tamil and English newspaper clippings and manuscripts related to political and cultural affairs of Eelam Tamils for almost six decades. Mr. Kanagaratnam was respected for his contributions to the modern archival history of Eelam Tamils as well as his continued focus on the historiography of Tamils living across the larger region, from Fiji Islands to South Africa. His unique contribution to the nation of Eelam Tamils was collecting, archiving, microfilming and at the same time ensuring secure storage of the Tamil and English documents outside the island – all achieved through his focused and relentless efforts.

Mr. Kanagaratnam held an exhibition at the 4th International Tamil Conference in Jaffna in 1974. He has also exhibited a section of his collections in Canada (1996) and in Norway (1997).

Apart from his archival work, Mr. Kanagaratnam also published a number of small pamphlets highlighting the situation of Tamils in Singapore, Malaysia, Burma, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Fiji Islands, Mauritius, Seychelles, Reunion, Indonesia, and South Africa.

He was painfully watching the unfolding genocidal onslaught targeting Vanni while he was exiled in Tamil Nadu since 2008.

Mr. Kanagaratnam had returned to the island 10 months before his death as his health conditions began to deteriorate due to diabetes and blood pressure. Kanagaratnam leaves behind his wife, Pavalarany, who has been assisting him in his work and two daughters who are living outside the island.

**References:** Biography is paraphrased from Mr. Kanagaratnam's obituary:  
<https://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=79&artid=38301>

## Scope and content

1864, 1899-2013

438 microfilm reels of textual records (16 mm and 35 mm)

1.26 m of textual records

The Kurumbasiddy Era Kanagaratnam collection consists of the lifework of Mr. R. Kanagaratnam who collected Tamil and English newspaper clippings and manuscripts related to political and cultural affairs of Eelam Tamils for almost six decades under the institutional name of the International Tamil Archives.

Kanagaratnam's collections document more than a hundred years of Tamil polity, starting from 1889 to December 2013. Although the main part of his collections is newspaper clippings, there are also published and unpublished articles related to social and cultural heritage of the nation of Eelam Tamils.

Newspaper clippings from Morning Star, The Hindu Organ, Eezhakeasari (1930 to 1957), Veerakeasari, Chuthanthiran (since 1952), The Daily News, Sun, Saturday Review (full volume), Eezha-Naadu, Chari-nikar (full volume), Tribune (full volume), Thisai (full volume), Thina-murasu (from 1st issue to 2002), Dhiniapathi, Sunday Times, Sunday Observer, Thinakkural, Chinthaa-ma'ni, Island, Chudar-o'li and Hotspring are some of the collections in the International Tamil Archives. His collections also include 10,000 published and unpublished articles, manuscripts, and around 10,000 cartoons.

The collection is divided into two series:

1. Microfilm reels
2. History of the Eelam Tamils' Struggle for Freedom : clipping collection

**Arrangement:** Original order has been maintained.

**Access:** Open.

### **Series 1: Microfilm reels**

1864, 1899-2013

438 microfilm reels of textual records (16 mm and 35 mm)

Series contains newspapers and textual records such as Ceylon Patriot, Hindu Organ, Sansoni Commission Evidence, Sutantiran, Thainadu, Congress, Eelakesari, Kesari, The Independent, Thina Murasu, Sari Negar, Viduthalai, Tribune, Elath Thamilar Varalalu (or Waralaru), and Tamil Culture. Some reels contain miscellaneous articles or articles that have been organized by theme.

**Note:** 279 reels are unique while the rest are copies; in most cases both a negative and a positive microfilm exist. The second number in the file number refers to the original reel number.

**Arrangement:** Microfilms were arranged by the creator and are numbered by their original listing. Original titles are also used.

**Access:** Open.

### **Series 2: History of the Eelam Tamils' Struggle for Freedom : clipping collection**

1952-2011

1.26 m of textual records

Series is comprised of newspaper clippings related to Tamils from Tamil and English newspapers. Kurumbasiddy Ira. Kanagaratnam and Pavalarani Kanagaratnam began collecting and compiling the clippings in 1956.

**Note:** The second number in the file number refers to the original 'bundle' number. Each section or bundle was wrapped in paper and tied with string, which has since been removed for preservation.

**Arrangement:** Original order and original numbering has been preserved.

Access: Open.

## Appendix

### Series 1: Microfilm reels

Reel number	Reel title	Date range
1-1	Ceylon Patriot	1864
	Hindu Organ	1899-1920 (1914 not avail.)
1-2	Hindu Organ	1921-1929
	The Sansoni Commission Evidence	no date
2-52	Suthantiran	Jun. 1947-Dec. 1948
2-53	Suthantiran	Dec. 1948-Dec. 1949
2-54	Suthantiran	Dec. 1949- Jun. 1951
2-55	Suthantiran	Jun. 1951-Dec. 1951
1-3	Sutantiran	[1952]
1-4	Sutantiran	1977, 1980, Jan. 1955-Dec. 1955, 1977
1-5	Sutantiran	1977, 1980, 1981
1-6	Sutantiran	1981-1982
	Thainadu	1995-1996
	Congress	Feb. 1975-Sep. 1975
1-7	Eelakesari	1930-1934
1-8	Eelakesari	1933-1936
1-9	Eelakesari	1935-1937
1-10	Eelakesari	1937-1939
1-11	Eelakesari	1938-1940
1-12	Eelakesari	1941-1942
1-13	Eelakesari	1942-1945
1-14	Eelakesari	1945-1949
1-15	Eelakesari	1948-1949, 1930-1951
1-16	Eelakesari	1950-1953
1-17	Eelakesari	1953-1956
1-18	Eelakesari	1955-1958
1-7	Eelakesari	1930-1934
1-8	Eelakesari	1933-1936
1-19	Kesari	May 1946-May 1948
	The Independent	Jan. 1977-1978
1-20	Thina Murasu	May 1993-Aug. 1994
1-21	Thina Murasu	Jan. 1995-Dec. 1995
1-22	Thina Murasu	Jan. 1995-Jan. 1997
1-23	Thina Murasu	Jan. 1997-Apr. 1998
1-24	Thina Murasu	Apr. 1998- Jun. 1999
1-25	Thina Murasu	Jun. 1999-Dec. 1999

<b>Reel number</b>	<b>Reel title</b>	<b>Date range</b>
1-26	Sari Negar	1990- Jan. 96
1-27	Sari Negar	1995-Jan. 99
1-28	Sari Negar	Jan. 1998-Jan. 2000
	Viduthalai	1967-1973
1-29	Tribune	May 1954-Dec 1966
1-30	Tribune	1966-1969
1-31	Tribune	1972-1976
1-32	Tribune	1976-1977
1-33	Elath Thamilar Varalalu (or Waralaru)	1930-1944
1-34	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1944-1952
1-35	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1952-1955
1-36	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1956-1957
1-37	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1957-1958
1-38	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1958-1959
1-39	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1959
1-40	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1967
1-41	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1967-1968
1-42	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1968
1-43	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1968-1969
1-44	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1969
1-45	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1969-1970
1-46	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1970
1-47	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1970
1-48	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996
1-49	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996
2-50	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996
2-51	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996
2-56	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996
2-57	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1996-1997
2-58	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-59	Microfilmed records I.T.A. Kandy	no date
2-60	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-61	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	n.d.
2-62	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-63	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-64	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-65	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	1997
2-66	Tamil Culture	no date
2-67	Tamil Culture	no date
2-68	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-69	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-70	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-71	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-72	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date

Reel number	Reel title	Date range
2-73	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-74	Elath Thamilar Varalalu	no date
2-75 to 6-204	Microfilmed records I.T.A. KANDY (Various articles from newspapers; 129 reels in total)	no date
6-204 to 7-275	History of the Tamils of Sri Lanka (Various articles from newspapers; 71 reels in total)	1998-Oct. 2003
7-u1	Special (1985 Jun-Dec)	Jun.-Dec. 1985
7-u2	Special (1990 Sep-Dec)	Sep.-Dec. 1990
7-TN-1	Various clippings	1952-2002
7-TN-2	Various clippings	2003-2008
7-TN-3	Various clippings	Jan. 2003-Apr. 2009
7-TN-4	Various clippings	May 2009-Dec. 2009
7-TN-5	Articles	n.d.
7-TN-6	Various clippings	Jan. 2010-Dec. 2010
7-TN-7	Various clippings	Jan. 2011-Apr. 2011
7-TN-8	Various clippings	May-Dec. 2011
7-TN-9	Various clippings	Jan.-Dec. 2012
7-TN-10	Various clippings	Jan.-Jul. 2013
7-TN-11	Various clippings, Genocide in Sri Lanka book	Jan.-Dec. 2009; Aug.-Dec. 2013

### Series 2: History of the Eelam Tamils' Struggle for Freedom : clipping collection

File number	Date range	Description	Pages
8-1	1952-1987	Contains a brief introduction for the collection, The History of the Eelam Tamils' Struggle for Freedom: Historical Records; compiled by Kurumbasiddy Ira. Kanagaratnam and Pavalarani Kanagaratnam.	7
8-2	1988	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, images, and poetry from <i>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</i> , a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	6
8-3	1990	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, images, and poetry from <i>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</i> , a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	8
8-4	1991	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, images, and poetry from <i>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</i> , a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	13

File number	Date range	Description	Pages
8-5	1997	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and images from Nantaṅ, a sociopolitical bi-monthly publication.	7
8-6	1998	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, images, book reviews, and poetry from Cintanaiyāḷaṅ, a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	4
8-7	1999	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, interviews, and images from Nantaṅ, a sociopolitical bi-monthly publication and Cintanaiyāḷaṅ, a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	42
8-8	2000	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles and images from Nantaṅ, a sociopolitical bi-monthly publication and Cintanaiyāḷaṅ, a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	34
8-9	2001	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, poetry, and images from Nantaṅ, a sociopolitical bi-monthly publication and Cintanaiyāḷaṅ, a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai.	8
8-10	2002	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, poetry, and images from Nantaṅ, a sociopolitical bi-monthly publication, Cintanaiyāḷaṅ, a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai, Periyar Era, and Tamilil̥ Tēcam, a special publication from the Tamilil Nationalist Front Conference.	24
9-11	2003	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from Cintanaiyāḷaṅ (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), Uḷaikkum Makkaḷ Tamilakam, and Tamilar Kaṅṅōṭṭam.	11
9-12	2004	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from Cintanaiyāḷaṅ (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), Tamilar Kaṅṅōṭṭam, Valliṅam. Tāymaṅ, and Cemparutti (Malaysia).	27
9-13	2005	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from Cintanaiyāḷaṅ (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), Tamilar Kaṅṅōṭṭam, Cemparutti (Malaysia), āṅanta vikaṭaṅ, and Periyar Era.	46



File number	Date range	Description	Pages
9-14	2006	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, political cartoons, and poetry from <u>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</u> (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), <u>Tamiḷar Kaṇṇōṭṭam</u> , <u>Cemparutti</u> (Malaysia), <u>āṇanta vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Periyar Era</u> , <u>Uḷaikkum Makkaḷ Tamiḷakam</u> , <u>Maṇmoḷi</u> , <u>Kumutam</u> , <u>Uṇmai</u> , and <u>Tiṇattanti</u> .	60
10-15	2007	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from <u>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</u> (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), <u>Tamiḷar Kaṇṇōṭṭam</u> , <u>Cemparutti</u> (Malaysia), <u>āṇanta vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Periyar Era</u> , <u>Uḷaikkum Makkaḷ Tamiḷakam</u> , <u>Maṇmoḷi</u> , <u>Kumutam</u> , <u>Uṇmai</u> , <u>Tiṇattanti</u> , <u>Pukaḷccelvi</u> , <u>Tamiḷttēcam</u> , <u>Uyirmai</u> , and <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> .	69
10-16	2008	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, images, and poetry from <u>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</u> (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), <u>Tamiḷar Kaṇṇōṭṭam</u> , <u>āṇanta vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Periyar Era</u> , <u>Kumutam</u> , <u>Tiṇattanti</u> , <u>Pukaḷccelvi</u> , <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Frontline</u> , <u>Nakkīraṇ</u> , <u>Jaṇa Cakti</u> , <u>Tamiḷ ōcai</u> , <u>Tiṇakaraṇ</u> , and <u>Kalki</u> .	155
11-17	2008	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, political cartoons, and poetry from <u>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</u> (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), <u>āṇanta vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Kumutam</u> , <u>Tiṇattanti</u> , <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Nakkīraṇ</u> , <u>Jaṇa Cakti</u> , <u>Tamiḷ ōcai</u> , <u>Kalki</u> , <u>Kumutam Rippōṭṭar</u> , <u>Intiyā tuṭē</u> , <u>Tiṇappulari</u> , <u>Amrutā</u> , and <u>Annajāt</u> .	211
12-18	2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, poetry, and images from <u>Tamiḷiḷ ōcai</u> , <u>Kuṅkumam</u> , <u>Tiṇappulari</u> , <u>Jaṇa Cakti</u> , <u>Rippōṭṭar</u> , <u>Cintaṇaiyāḷaṇ</u> , <u>KumuTamil</u> , <u>āṇanta vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Nakkīraṇ</u> , <u>Periyar Era</u> and <u>TamililWin.com</u> .	184
(13 & 17)-19	Feb. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles and essays from <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Nakkīraṇ</u> , <u>Jaṇa Cakti</u> , <u>Tamiḷ ōcai</u> , <u>Kumutam Rippōṭṭar</u> , <u>Puraṭcip Periyār Muḷakkam</u> , and <u>Tiṇappulari</u> .	374
14-20	2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, poetry, and images from <u>Tamiḷiḷ ōcai</u> , <u>Tiṇappulari</u> , <u>Jaṇa Cakti</u> , <u>KumuTamil</u> , <u>Jūṇiyar Vikaṭaṇ</u> , <u>Nakkīraṇ</u> , <u>Tiṇakkural</u> , <u>Cuṭar Oḷi</u> , <u>Vīrakēcari</u> , <u>Tiṇattanti</u> , <u>Mālai Muracu</u> , <u>Pukaḷccelvi</u> , <u>Yātum ūrē</u> , <u>Aruṇaṇ</u> , <u>Valarum Tamiḷiḷ Ulakam</u> , <u>Tamiḷt Tēciya Tamiḷiḷar Kaṇṇōṭṭam</u> , and <u>Periyar Era</u> .	252

File number	Date range	Description	Pages
15-21	2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, poetry, and images from Tārāmati, Jaṇacakti, Tamilīl ōcai, IcaitTamilīl, Taṇmāṇam, Pukaḷccelvi, Mukam, Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Tiṇappulari, Nakkīraṇ, Vaḷarum Tamilīl Ulakam, KumuTamil Rippōṭṭar, Yātum ūrē, Iniyā, ēḷaitācaṇ, and Periyar Era.	136
16-22	2009	[Removed for preservation]	
17-23	June 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, political cartoons, and poetry from Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Tiṇappulari, Express News Service, The New Indian Express, Aruṇaṇ, Naṛramil, Vaṇṇappūnkā, Mīṭci, and Pukaḷccelvi.	130
18-24	July 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Tiṇappulari, Vaṇṇappūnkā, Pukaḷccelvi, and Payaṇam.	92
18-25	Aug. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and political cartoons from Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Pukaḷccelvi, and Naṛramil.	64
18-26	Sept. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles and essays from Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Pukaḷccelvi, Tiṇamaṇi, Aruṇaṇ, Taṇmāṇam, The Hindu, and Tamilwin.com.	84
19-27	Oct. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles and essays from Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Tiṇamaṇi, Periyar Era, Tamilaka Araciyal, Nerrikkāṇ, tamilaka araciyal, nerrikkāṇ, and Nāḷai Viṭiyum.	124
19-28	Nov. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles, essays, and poetry from Cintāṇaiyāḷaṇ (a monthly publication by the Marxist Periyarist Communist Party in Chennai), āṇanta vikaṭaṇ, Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Tiṇamaṇi, Teṇṇāciyac Ceyti, Cauntara Cukaṇ, Nerrikkāṇ, Taṇmāṇam, and Tamilwin.com.	120
20-29	Dec. 2009	Contains a mix of original and photocopied clippings of news articles and essays from āṇanta vikaṭaṇ, Kumutam, Tiṇattanti, Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṇ, Nakkīraṇ, Jaṇa Cakti, Tamil ōcai, Kalki, Kumutam Rippōṭṭar, Amrutā, Mīṭci, Pukaḷccelvi, Cūriyar Katir, Tiṇamaṇi, Teṇ āciyac ceyti, and Varudal.com.	120
20-30	2009	Contains a collection of special essays and politically significant events related to the freedom struggle of Eelam Tamils.	90

File number	Date range	Description	Pages
20-31	2009	Contains an essay series titled, Mukavari Alla Mukam, written by Kaṇmaṇi and published in Tiṇappulari, a daily newspaper from Tamilil Nadu. The series stopped with the 25th essay as they stopped publishing the newspaper; could not obtain a few essays.	24
20-32	2008-2009	Contains an essay series titled, īlatTamililarkaḷ ilaṅkaiyiṅ maintarkaḷē written by Irāvaṇaṅ and published in Tamilil ōcai from Tamilil Nadu. The series stopped with the 64th essay; could not obtain 3 essays (23, 31, 50).	33
21-33	2008-2010	Contains an essay series titled, YutTamil Caraṇam written by Pā. Irākavaṅ and published in KumuTamil Rippōṭṭar, a weekly from Tamilil Nadu. Irā. Mayūtarāṅ from Mayiliṭṭi helped to collect this essay series.	81
21-34	2008-2011	Contains an essay series titled, Taṅkatturai, Kuṭṭimaṇi, Jekaṅ written by Karikāḷaṅ and published in Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṅ, a weekly from Tamilil Nadu. Irā. Mayūtarāṅ from Mayiliṭṭi helped to collect this essay series.	43
21-35	2009	Contains an essay series titled, īlatTamililār pōrāṭṭa varalāru written by Pāvai Cantiraṅ and published in Tiṇamaṇi, a daily newspaper from Tamilil Nadu. Irā. Mayūtarāṅ from Mayiliṭṭi provided a significant amount of these essays.	107
22-36	2009-2010	Contains original and photocopied clippings of an essay series titled, Ilaṅkait Tamililār VaralārꞤuc Cuvāṭukaḷ and published in Tiṇattanti, a daily newspaper from Tamilil Nadu.	90
22-37	2009-2011	Contains an essay series titled, Muḷvali: Tirumāvalavaṅiṅ Irattap Pativu and published in Jūṇiyar Vikāṭaṅ, a weekly from Tamilil Nadu.	26