

**B. RATHINA NAICKER & SONS – ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN
SIDDHA LITERATURE PUBLICATION****R. Manickavasagam^{*1}, C. Senthamil Rajam² and B. Purosothaman³**

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ABSTRACT

Siddha system of medicine is having vast medical knowledge of the ethnic Tamil People. This medical wisdom was passed through oral tradition through the ages and later converted into written script in ancient times. A lot of Siddha medical literature had been written in palm leaf manuscripts and they were preserved carefully by renowned Siddha Vaidyars and passed through generation after generation family traditions. After the Industrial Revolution happened in Europe in 18th century, which had also created impact in Indian sub - continent in development of printing industry. That was the critical period for Siddha system when the available palm manuscripts were re - published into printed books. Collection, protection and reprint of old manuscripts were the very challengeable task on those days.

U.V.Saminatha Iyer – Grandfather of Tamil language collected,

protected and reprinted the ancient Tamil literatures especially Ancient Tamil grammar. His contribution towards the Tamil language is well-known and recognised by Tamilians. Like him, some other people collected, protected and reprinted the most important Siddha literatures on those days, but they were not given reputation and recognition. There are three unforgettable contributors in the history of the Siddha literatures republication. 1. *B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot (Thirumahal Vilasa Pathipagam), Chennai*, 2. *Rama. Gurusamy Konar book Shop (Ramachandra vilasam Pathipagam), Kal Mandapam, Madurai*, 3. *Thamarai Noolagam, Chennai*. They were the unsung heroes of Siddha literature

republication for their extraordinary contribution. Among the Above 3 Contributors, the role of *B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot* – The private publisher who are the pioneer in the Siddha text publications is notable. They are having 97 years long history of publication and till existing whereas *Rama.Gurusamy Konar book Shop* is not functioning now and *Thamarai Noolagam* was started only 65 years later than the *B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot*. We have mentioned elaborately the history, developments, hurdle overcome by *B.Rathina Naicker & Sons book depot* in this Article.

KEYWORDS: Siddha Publishers, Siddha Literature, Siddha Books.

1.1 B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot – An Introduction

B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot is one of the oldest private Siddha book publishers (**Saraswathi Mahal Noolagam, Tanjavur, Tamilnadu is believed to be the oldest Govt. Institution in Publishing Siddha Books**) who are till existing in Tamilnadu. They are publishing Siddha Literatures for the past 97 years (1920 – 2017). The speciality of this publication is that, they are publishing the seven Books of renowned Siddha Vaidyar *C. Kannusamy pillai (Perumurai Pocket Vaidhyam is not in Printing)* and 19th century's famous Vaidyars like *Sirumanavur Munisamy Mudhaliar (Mooligai Marmam – 4 Volumes, Seetharam Prasad etc. (Anuboga Vaithya Deva Rakasiyam - 4 Volumes)*. They are also publishing lot of *Siddhar Moola Noolgal* like “*Thirumoolar Karukidai Vaithyam, Agathiyar Thailamuraikal 600*” etc. They also publishing “*18 Siddhargal Mattu Vagadam*”- a book consists diagnostic, treatment aspects of veterinary diseases. The details list of their book publications will be listed out in separate table.

2.1 Birth of B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot

It was established by *B.R.Rengasamy Naicker* in memory with name of his father “**Thiru B.Rathina Naicker**” as “**B.Rathina Naicker & Sons Book Depot**” in 1920. Now it is looking forward its Centenary year Celebrations in 2019. Now it is managed by 4th Generation of **Thiru B.Rathina Naicker**.

2.2 Introduction - B.Rathina Naicker & Sons

2.2.1 B. Rathina Naicker

He was born and brought up in Madras presidency and well known bookseller in Madras (now Chennai). He ran a Book shop near by *Kandan kottam, Chennai*. He Purchased and sold books almost from all kind of famous Tamil publishers in and outside Tamilnadu. He also

imported some Tamil Books from Burma and Srilanka. He also had the separate gallery for second hand books sale. Book Lovers throughout the Tamilnadu had a faith that all Tamil publications could be available in his bookshop.

2.2.2 B. R. Rengasamy Naicker

He was the Third son of B.Rathina naicker, was born in 1898. Like his father, he was very interested in reading, collecting and selling of Tamil Publications from Childhood. Unfortunately in his life time, at the age of 19, his father was dead. Then he decided to leave the study and looked over his father's Book Shop. With his nature of work and contribution in Book shop, He earned lot of good customers. He had a chance to get publication rights of some Tamil books and he tried to publish by his own company.

In 1920, He was started a book shop in the name of his father as "**B.Rathina Naicker & Sons**" and was started his own publication house in the name of "*Thirumahal Vilasa Achagam*". "*Athichudi*"- was the 1st book published by him in the name of his publication. In 1924, He was published a Siddhar Books which consists slogans and poem of the 18 Siddhars in the name of "*18 Siddhars Periya Gnana Kovai*". This book gained more popularity among the all Hindu religious book readers and spiritualists like saivaites and vaishnavites. This Book is the most reprinted and most number of sold book of their publication. Implementation of Big font in books was introduced first in the history of Tamilnadu publication by them only. Based on this, the other publications, adopted the big font implementation in Book Publication. It was famously known as *Periya Ezhuthu* (Big Font) Books. Title of the books also holds this name as "*Periya Ezhuthu Shri Maha Bhagta vijayam*".

2.2.2.1 Siddhar Book Publication

He was very closely worked together with **Vaidhyar C.Kannusamy Pillai** from 1933. He was published **Vaidhyar C.Kannusamy Pillai 7 books one by one** (*Paramabarai Vaidhyam*) Book was Published after his death with help of his **Son K.Radhakrishanan L.I.M**). He honoured Vaidhyar C.Kannusamy Pillai with nickname as "**Vaitya Vithvan Mani**". After Release of Vaidhyar C.Kannusamy Pillai's "*Sikitcha Rathna Deepam*", Both of them gained popularity among the Siddha Vaithyars throughout Madras Presidency. First one is for his excellence in Siddha Practice and second one is for Sharing the Knowledge of **Vaidhyar C.Kannusamy Pillai** to common by his Publication.

In 1926, He published a Siddha Book in the Name of “*Anuboga Vaithya Deva Ragasiyam*” written by famous “*Vaidhyar Seetharam Prasad*”. This book was again Republished in 1949, with the narration of Dr K.Radhakrishanan L.I.M, Son of Vaidyar C.Kannusamy Pillai. This book was believed to be the hand book of Siddha Medicines by Siddha Vaithyar on those days. He was also Published Books written by *Sirumanavur Munusamy Mudhaliyar* – “*Moolikai Marmam, Sugantha Parimala Sathiram*”*etc and Vaidhyar Thulasingar’s “Kaimurai Pocket Vaithyam*”. Apart from These Books, He was also published and reprinted lot of Siddha Classical Palm leaf Manuscripts into printed books. He was also published a book on Unani Medicine Named as “*Unani Thathu Viruththi Bodini*” was written by Hakeem P.M. Abdullah Sayeebu. All the books published by B.Rathina Naicker & Sons and Thiru Mahal Vilasa Achakam were made into available almost all parts of Tamilnadu and also in other states. These books are also export to **Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, South Africa, Burma, Srilanka and US.** A Lot of research articles also published by research scholars of various Universities. Particularly “**Tamil printing History 1858-1932**” which mentioned about the contribution of B.Rathina Naicker & Sons and *Thiru Mahal Vilasa Achakam* for tamil publication industry.

This publication also honoured with lot of Awards felicitation from various institution. They got Best **Publisher Award, Best Book Seller Award** are all the some awards. Due to his hard work and contribution, this publication lasting for 97 years will soon step into the centenary celebrations. B.Rathina Naicker was died in 1970 at age of 72.

2.3 B. R. Balakrishnan Naicker

He is the grandson of late B.Rathina Naicker and second Son of Late.B.R.Rengasamy Naicker. He also published all books which are published by his father. He got an Award as “**Seyal Neri Selvar**” given by *Tamilnadu Nalvazhi Nilayam* in 1991. He was died at the age of 68 in 2004.

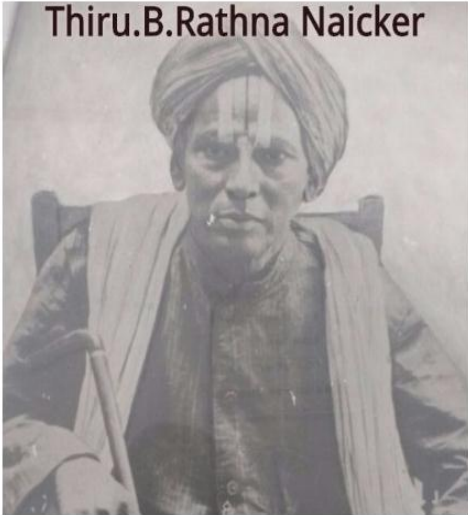
2.4B. Purusothaman Naicker

He is the grandson of late B.R.Rengasamy Naicker and second Son of Late. B.R.Balakrishnan Naicker. He is now looking forward the publication work for the past 13 years. On behalf of B.Rathina Naicker & Sons and Thiru Mahal Vilasa Achakam, he got Life time achievement Award in Golden jubilee celebrations of Govt. Siddha Medical College; Palayomkottai in 2014. He is the 4th Generation Siddha Book Publisher.

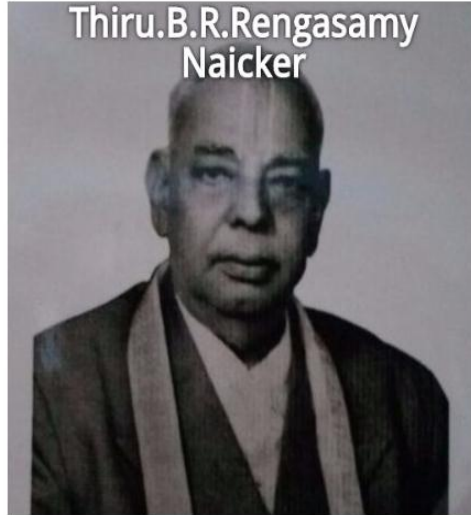
List of Siddha Publications - **B.Rathina Naicker Books depot**

| S. No | Name Of the Book | Author Name |
|-------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Paramabarai Vaithyam | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 2 | Chikitcha Rathna Deepam | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 3 | Vaidhya Sinthamani | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 4 | Gunapadam – Thathu Jeeva Varkam | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 5 | Gunapadam – Moolikai Varkam | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 6 | Kannusamiyam Ennum Vaithya Sekaram | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 7 | Perumurai Pocket Vaithyam (Not in Print) | Vaidhyar C. Kannusamy Pillai |
| 8 | Athma Rakshamirtham Ennum Vaitya Sara sankirakam | |
| 9 | Moolikai Marmam | Sirumanavur Munusamy Mudhaliyar |
| 10 | Sugandha Parimala Sathiram | Sirumanavur Munusamy Mudhaliyar |
| 11 | Kanaka Sathiram | Sirumanavur Munusamy Mudhaliyar |
| 12 | Thriru Nethra Sinthamani | |
| 13 | Parvathi Paraniyam Ennum Visa Vaidhya Sinthamani | Sirumanavur Munusamy Mudhaliyar |
| 14 | Anuboga Vaithya Deva Ragasiyam | Seetharam Prasad |
| 15 | Gnana Vetityan | Mangadu Vadivelu Mudhaliyar |
| 16 | Mooligai Jala Rathnam | Korakottai Vadivelu Chettiyar |
| 17 | Vaidhya Mooligai Agarathi | Kandhasamy Mudhaliyar |
| 18 | Thanjai Vaithya Raja Sinthamani | |
| 19 | Kaimurai Pocket Vaithyam | Thulasinkar |
| 20 | Therayar Thalai Varka Surukkam | Therayar |
| 21 | Bogar 700 | Bogar |
| 22 | 18 Siddharkal Pasu Vaidya Mattu Vagadam | 18 Siddharkal |
| 23 | 18 Siddharkal Vadha Kovai | 18 Siddharkal |
| 24 | 18 Siddharkal Naadi Sathiram | 18 Siddharkal |
| 25 | 18 Siddharkal Vaidhya Silarai Kovai | 18 Siddharkal |
| 26 | Agathiyar Pancha Patchi Saathiram | Agathiyar |
| 27 | Agathiyar Vaidya Rathna Surukkam | Agathiyar |
| 28 | Agathiyar Thaila Muraigal | Agathiyar |
| 29 | Agathiyar Guru Naadi Sathiram | Agathiyar |
| 30 | Thirumoolar Vaithya Karukidai | Thirumoolar |
| 31 | Kan katu Vithaikal | Deventhra nath Pandithar |
| 32 | Noi Illa Vazhvu | ----- |
| 33 | Vaidya Malai Agarathi | ----- |
| 34 | Vaithya Arichuvadi | ----- |
| 35 | Sarira Marma Sathiram | ----- |
| 36 | Anubava Siddha Maruthuvamuraigal | ----- |

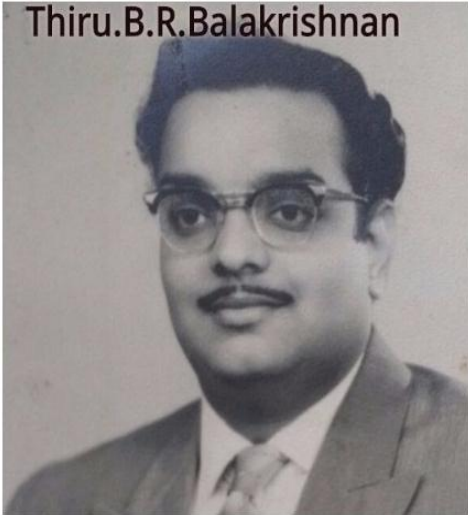
Thiru.B.Rathna Naicker



Thiru.B.R.Rengasamy Naicker



Thiru.B.R.Balakrishnan



Thiru.B.Purusothaman

