The Heirs of Vijayanagara
THE HEIRS OF VIJAYANAGARA

Court Politics in Early Modern South India

Lennart Bes

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Cover illustration: Detail of a textile hanging (one of seven related panels), probably produced in south-east India around the early seventeenth century, depicting a south Indian court, Brooklyn Museum, Museum Expedition 1913-1914, Museum Collection Fund, no. 14.719.7 (courtesy Brooklyn Museum).
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The rulers ... were the following:

King Raghunatha Nayaka ruled the kingdom of Cholamandalam [Tanjavur].
The king of Tiruchirappalli [Madurai] was Muttu Virappa Nayaka.
The previous king in the kingdom of Senji was Senji Varadappa Nayaka.
The name of the king of Ikkeri was Basavappa Nayaka.
The name of the king of Mysore was Srirangadeva [sic].

All of them were kings without a crown.

— Tamil scholars in Tanjavur listing the kings who ruled the “Tamils,” in response to a question posed by German Pietist missionaries in 1712

(Daniel Jeyaraj and Richard Fox Young (eds), Hindu-Christian Epistolary Self-Disclosures: “Malabarian Correspondence” between German Pietist Missionaries and South Indian Hindus (1712-1714) (Wiesbaden, 2013), 258-9)