



EAP737: Representing Self and Family. Preserving early Tamil studio photography

Dr Zoé Headley, French Institute of Pondicherry
2014 award - Pilot project
£14,632 for 12 months

Between July 2015 and June 2016 the EAP737 team conducted an in-depth survey of photo studios in 14 towns throughout the state of Tamil Nadu seeking out endangered photographic archives. The project was able to carry out a comprehensive survey of 100 photo studios as well as digitise over 1,000 samples of the photographic material, including glass-plate negatives, film negatives and prints.

Further Information

You can contact the EAP team at endangeredarchives@bl.uk

Survey of photography studios

	Studio Name	Opening year and/or closing year	End of manual printing	End of manual negative processing	Archive Content	Assement of quantity	Agreement to digitise
1. CHENNAI	15 studios						
1	Photo Emporium	1927	2000	2008	Film negatives	250	Yes
2	Fine arts college Chennai	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Old Photos	?	Yes
3	The South India Photography Association	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4	Ganthi studio	1952	2000	2000	Film negatives	?	Yes
5	Krishna studio	1945	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
6	Chinnis studio	Unknown	2005	2005	Prints	Few, Not show	Yes
7	G.K.Valu and co	1932	1995	1995	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
8	Sathiyam studio	1938	2000	2000	Glass plates, film negatives	1000	Yes
9	Rangaswami studio	1953	2000	2006	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
10	N.Sen studio	Before 1940	2005	2005	Glass plates/film negatives	More than 10000	Yes
11	Ganga studio	1977	2008	2008	Film negatives	20000	Yes

12	Balaji studio	1979	1987	1987	Film negatives	5000	Yes
13	My Studio	1947	2004	2004	Glass plates/film negatives	2000	Yes
14	Vaman studio	1980	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
15	R.N.Nagaraja Rao	1936	2002	2002	Glass plates/film negatives	Many Cant Guess.	Yes

2. CHIDAMBARAM		3 studios						
16	R.T.Velu studio Karpagam Digital studio Palace Digital studio	1911- Cuddalore / 1935- Annamalai University / 1950-Town	1987	1990's (not exactly mentioned)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
17		March 1965	2003	2004	Prints/Negatives	Not seen	Yes	
18		1968	-	-	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

3. COIMBATORE		19 studios						
19	Crown Studio Kannan Studio India Arts Bureau (IAB)	1947, after Independence	1995	1995	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
20		1962	1996	2005	Negatives	Not seen	Pending	
21	AKP studio	1940	1980	1998	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
22		December 1980	1992's	1992's	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	

23	New Modern studio	1956	1998	1998	Negatives/Prints	3000 to 4000	Pending
24		Seenu studio	1943	200	1998	n.a.	n.a.
25	Kalpna studio	1967	2003-2004	2003	Negatives/Prints	Less quantity	Pending
26		Jose studio	1976	1995	1995	n.a.	n.a.
27	Star studio	1914 - 2014 (100 years)	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
28		RK.Photo Centre	-	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.
29	Savithri Photo House	-	Unknown	Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
30		Sindu studio	1984	2005	2005	Negatives/Print	Not seen
31	Sindu Siva	1996	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	No
32		Krishna studio	1970	1985	1985	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	Not seen
33	Raju's studio	1940	2005	2005	Prints/ Negatives	Not seen	Ok
34		Vijay studio	October 1978	2000	2000	No	No
35	Sivaram studio	January 1936	1998	2000	Negatives/Print	Not seen	Pending
36		The Foto Shoppie	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
37	Photo Park Digital Colour Lab And Studio	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown

4. CUDDALORE		4 studios					
38	Annai studio	November 1972	2000	2005	Prints/Negatives	Many	Yes
39		Saratha studio	1986	1997	2003	Negatives 120	now show, he said come after elections

40	Venkadeshwara studio	1980	2000	2000	Prints	50	Yes
41	Varma studio	Art Field-1970, Photofield-1983	Unknown	Unknown	Prints/Negatives	50	Yes

5. JAYAMKUNDAM		1 studio					
42	Nathan studio	1960	1998	1998	Prints/Nagatives	200	Yes

6. KARAUKUDI		9 studios					
43	New Studio	Unknown/ closed 30 years ago	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
44	R.Dasen Studio Karaikudi Branch	Unknow/ change of owners1947/ closed 2002	1999	1997	Print, negatives, glass-plates	"A lot". Stored in a godown, it is impossible to assess.	Yes
45	Royal Studio Karaikudi	Unknow/closed 15 years ago	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
46	Madurai Saraswati Sala Photo Studio	1933 / change of owners 1954	2000	2006	Negatives	150/250	Yes
47	Metro Photo Service	Unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
48	S.P. Studio. T.S.S. Rao	Unknown/ closed 10 to 15 years ago	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
49	Sundaram Studio	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
50	Vasen Studio	1952	1994	1994	Glass-plates, negatives, prints	905	Digitised

51	S.K.Cinasami Studio	1947	2000	2000	Print, negatives, glass-plates	Yet unknown	Yes
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7. KUMBAKONAM		2 studios						
52	Nallapillai Studio	1878	No info	No info	Glass plate negatives	200	Yes	
53	Kannaiya Studio	1935	1995	1995	Glass plate and film negatives	Not seen yet	Yes	

8. MADURAI		10 studios						
54	Moon Light studio	October 1964	1995	1998	Negatives	4000 to 5000	Yes	
55	Kumar studio	1996	2000	2000	No	No	No	
56	Ganesh studio	July 1971	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Pending	Yet unknown	Pending	
57	Lakshmi studio	1984	2001	1990	No	No	No	
58	Thangam studio	February 1952	2004	2004	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
59	Ruby studio	1967	1989	2002	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
60	Vamana studio	1964	2000	2000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
61	Athavan studio	1950's	2015	still doing it	Glass Plate/Film	Yet unknown	Pending	
62	Ganga studio	December 1978	2004	2004	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
63	Rasi studio	1936	2000	2000	Negatives	60 to 70 kgs	Pending	

9. MEENCURUTI		1 studio						
64	Uma studio	1960	2004	2004	Prints	25	Yes	

10. POLLACHI		2 studios						
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65	Danu studio	1986/2000	2000	2000	Negatives/ Print	Little Quantity	Yes
66	Mathi Kalai kudam	1962	2004	2004	Nagatives/ Print	Little Quantity	Yes

1. PONDICHERRY		13 studios						
67	Vyram (digital Studio & Video)	1989	2004	2004	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
68	Jothi Studio	1977	2002	2002	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
69	A.S. Vasan Arts & Photo Services	1972	2000	2000	Old photos, family photos, etc	A lot	Yes	
70	Star (digital) photo studio and video	1984	2000	2000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
71	Lucky Photo	1947 (initial name: Leo Photo works)	1986	1986	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
72	Nerhu photo	1962	1996	1996	35 mm colour negatives	n.a.	n.a.	
73	Leo Lakshman photo studio	1936	1995	1995	120, 2B, Glass	Pending	Pending	
74	Babuji photo	1933	1990	1990	Camera, Print, 120, 2B Neagtives	Pending	Pending	
75	Royal studio	1968 (77)	2010	2007	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
76	Sri Kalki studio	1988	Printing to Leo Studio	Printing to Leo Studio	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
77	C.V. Photography	1985	2008	2008	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
78	Anand studio	1983	1994	1994	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
79	Gopi studio	1965	1994	1994	Pending	Pending	Yes	

80	Vijaya	1967	2004	2004	Enlarger, 2B Negatives	15 Nos	Yes
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12. TINDIVANAM		2 studios					
81	Jothi studio	September 1957	2000 (not exactly mentioned)	2008	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	3 Boxes	Pending
82	Murthy studio	November 1954	not yet stoped till now in prosses	2007	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	40 Nos	Pending

13. TIRUNELVELI		12 studios					
83	Ajantha studio	June 1960	2006	2006	Film/Negative	Not seen	Yes
84	Marar studio	1944	2006	2003	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	500	Yes
85	Central studio	1962	1990	1990	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	Not seen	Yes
86	Balu studio	1976	2014		Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	50	Yes
87	Chitra studio	1964	1994	1994	Prints	Less than 50	Yes
88	Mithra studio	1972	1990	1994	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	More than 400	Yes
89	Kalpana studio	1972	2004	2004	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	500	Yes

90	Palani studio	1981	2007	2005	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	50	Yes
91	Maruthi Photo store	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
92	Fancy studio	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
93	St. Saviour college	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown
94	Mangalam studio	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown

14. VILLUPURAM		7 studios					
95	R.T.Velu	May 1975	1984	2004	Prints	50 prints	Yes
96	R.T.Velu	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Yet unknown	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	150 prints	Yes
97	Anbu studio	1971	1983	2008	Prints/ Negatives/ Glass plates	25 prints	Yes
98	Senthil studio	1987	2000	2006	Prints	not show	Pending
99	Chitra studio	1965	2008	2008	Prints	not show	Pending
100	Thambi studio	1972	Unknown	Unknown	Prints	not show	Yes