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A Descriptive Catalogue of  
Persian Letters from Arcot and Baroda

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## PREFACE

Among the miscellaneous documents preserved in the India Office Library are twelve letters originating from Arcot and two from Baroda. Unfortunately their provenance is unrecorded. Seven were transferred from the Librarian's drawer (Day Book, IOR: MSS Eur E 239) to the manuscript collection and were accessioned on 23 November 1927. The remaining seven were presumably added to the collection at a later date to judge by their higher India Office (10) numbers. Despite the absence of any accession date they were almost certainly part of the same collection.

The Arcot letters from the first three Wālājāhs of Arcot are addressed to the Directors of the (British) East India Company, the Prince of Wales and King George III. The two letters from Baroda are addressed to the (British) East India Company.

The documents have been catalogued in chronological sequence according to the following plan.

### A Nature of the document and date

The documents were originally dated and, as was the practice in those days, the date and name of the addressee and the seal of the sender were recorded on the envelope and its band. Unfortunately the envelopes and bands of most of the letters have not been preserved. The addresses and dates have therefore been calculated from internal evidence.

Regarding the addressees it was the tradition in India that ceremonial forms of address were decided at the court and kept in a book of ceremonial addresses (alqāb-nāma) in the Chancery Office (Dāru'l-Inshā) of the Kings and Nuwābs. The addressees of the documents have generally been determined on the basis of the ceremonial forms of address (alqāb).

The documents have been dated on the basis of the facts specified in the footnotes. Since dates were originally in the Hijrah Era, that form is supplied first, followed by the corresponding date in the Gregorian Era. The corresponding dates have been reckoned from Wüstenfeld and Mahler's Wüstenfeld-Mahler'sche Vergleichungs-Tabellen der mohammedanischen und christlichen Zeitrechnung (Leipzig 1926).

### B Summary

A summary of each document gives the main points contained in it. In places where an English equivalent for a word was felt to be inadequate the original Persian word has been given in parentheses. Factual information on the historical background has been provided in the footnotes.

### C Enclosures and endorsements

Wherever there are endorsements or enclosures with the document they have been explained. Any additional notes made by the users of the documents are mentioned in the footnotes.

### D Seals

The seals affixed to the letters have been described. The India Office Library (IOL) seal indicates the date of the accession of the document, and the number it has been given.

### E Physical description

Information has been supplied on (i) the size, (ii) the script and (iii) illumination. All the documents are in a good state of preservation.

The system of transliteration adopted is that used by F. Steingass in A comprehensive Persian-English dictionary (London, 1892).

I wish to thank Mr B C Bloomfield, Director of the India Office Library and Records, for inviting me to prepare this catalogue and for providing me with all facilities.

Thanks are also due to Mrs Ursula Sims-Williams of the India Office Library for her co-operation and for supplying data regarding the provenance of the records.

I am extremely grateful to my friend Mr Salim al-Din Quraishi whose scholarly co-operation in finding information on the historical perspective of the documents has been a great help.

Finally I must thank my friends Mr Alan Moller of the British Council and his wife Suzanne for their very useful suggestions.

March 1981, London

M.Z.A.S.

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1 IO 4364

- A A will (wasfiyat-nāma) dated 27 Zū'l-hijja 1190 (6 February 1777) recorded by Amīru'l-Hind Nuwāb Muḥammad 'Alī Khān Wālājāh I of Arcot.
- B The Nuwāb states that on 27 Zū'l-hijja 1190, corresponding to Friday 7 February 1777,<sup>2</sup> he records his will as Ṣubadār of the Carnatic and as an ally of the King of Great Britain in conformity with:
- i The British constitution (dastūr-i-British).
  - ii Muslim practice.
  - iii The justice ('adālat) of his country.
- He declares that:
- i His second son, Amīru'l-Umarā, will succeed him, and after him his fourth son, 'Abdu'llāh Khān Bahādūr.
  - ii His other sons and daughters, brothers and members of his household shall be assigned jāgīrs.
- A copy of this will is communicated to the Governor-General. The Nuwāb reserves his right to incorporate any changes in it. A further copy, together with a letter, is sent to the King of Great Britain so that it may be preserved and properly implemented.
- C There are two notes on the top of the document reading:
- i Hūwa'l-karīm (He (God) is munificent) in place of bismi'llāh, as this was a tradition of the Wālājāhs of Arcot.
  - ii Secret document.
- D The seal is missing with the envelope and its band.
- E
- i Size: 20.5 x 33 cm.
  - ii Script: Very bad hand-writing, perhaps due to ill health, in the hand of the Nuwāb himself.
  - iii Silver sprinkled hand-made paper.

2 IO 4248

- A A letter dated <sup>3</sup> [1795] from Amīru'l-Hind Nuwāb Muḥammad 'Alī Khān Wālājāh I addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.
- B The Nuwāb expresses his gratification at the fifty-five year relationship which exists between his family and the East India Company and offers compliments on the day-to-day success of the Company

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1 Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, son of Anwaru'd-Dīn Khān, was the first Wālājāh of Arcot and Ṣubadār of the Carnatic from 1749 till his death on 29 Rabī' I 1210 (13 October 1795). For further details about him see Nainar, S.M.H: Sources of the history of the Nawwābs of the Carnatic, vol II (Madras, 1939).

2 This should be 6 February 1777.

3 This date is based on the fact that James Macpherson was appointed Attorney at the court of the Nuwāb of Arcot in 1795 (see note 5 below).

He complains that he has not received any correspondence from the Company and requests that he be informed by post when British ships are due to land at the ports of Arcot.

He asks them to return the copy of his will which he sent a few years ago explaining that it is to be deemed cancelled in view of the agreement concluded with Lord Cornwallis in 1792.<sup>4</sup> He advises them<sup>5</sup> to return the will through his solicitor (wakīl), Mr James Macpherson, and informs them that he has similarly called back copies of the said will from the governments of Bengal and Madras.

He closes with his best wishes.

- C
- i Hūwa'l-karīm and bismillāh are written on the top.
  - ii A descriptive note.<sup>6</sup>
- D
- i Seal, date and various other particulars are missing with the envelope and its band.
  - ii Seal of IOL dated November 1926.
- E
- i Size: 25.5 x 46 cm.
  - ii Script: dīwānī tending to shikasta
  - iii Written on paper with a large margin at the top and with flowers painted in gold on the right hand side. The text has been boxed in a floral band and the entire background is golden.

3 IO 4249

- A A letter dated<sup>7</sup> [September 1796] from 'Umdatul-Umarā Nuwāb Ghulām Ḥusain Khān Wālājāh II<sup>8</sup> addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.

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4 For the treaty concluded between the East India Company and the Nuwāb of Arcot in 1792 see Aitchison, C.U.: A collection of treaties, engagements and sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries vol. 10, (Calcutta, 1930), pp. 63-71.

5 James Macpherson (d. 1824) was Attorney at the Court of the Nuwāb of Arcot from 1795-1801. See Hill, S C: Catalogue of the Home Miscellaneous Series of the India Office Records (London, 1927).

6 A brief note in English attempting a partial description is kept with the document.

7 This date has been ascertained from two facts: i) this letter is in response to a letter dated 31 August 1786 and ii) the Nuwāb was very much annoyed with the attitude of Lord Hobart at this time. It does not seem likely that he would have delayed replying to the Company's letter in the circumstances (see note 9 below).

8 'Umdatul-Umarā Nuwāb Ghulām Ḥusain Khān Wālājāh II was the eldest son of Wālājāh I. He became ruler of Arcot on 2 Rabī' II 1210 (16 October 1795) and ruled till his death on 4 Rabī' I 1216 (15 July 1801), (Nainar: op. cit., vol. III (Madras 1940), pp. 50, 82-3).

After a ceremonial address the Nuwāb acknowledges the receipt of a letter dated 31 August 1796 from the Directors of the East India Company. He thanks them for the feelings expressed at the death of his father and the concern shown regarding the affairs of Arcot. These sentiments reflect the greatness of his late father on the one hand and of the Directors of the East India Company on the other as well as the strong ties of friendship between them. He thanks them for the fact that he was enthroned in accordance with the will of his father and assures them that he will be as reliable a friend as his father was. He expresses his gratitude that his rights have been protected according to the guarantee given by the Company in the Treaty of 1792.

He is greatly concerned with the news that the Directors of the Company proposed certain changes in the Treaty of 1792 at the time of his enthronement. He is open to any fresh proposals which benefit the Company and enhance his position among the rulers of India. He is confident that they will not propose anything which may degrade his position as that would be absolutely against the principles of friendship. A friend feels strong with the strength of a friend. He hopes that the Company will look after his interests and in turn he will look after theirs.

He has learnt that the Company expects him to pay more money towards the maintenance of the British army. It is good that British forces have increased, but this increase is not just to protect him but also due to the expansion of British territories. He has already been paying money to the Company over and above the terms of agreement and it does not seem right that such a demand should be made. He is hurt and feels undignified to hear that the Company has doubts about his paying the money regularly in future.

He is aware that the changes were originally proposed to the East India Company by Lord Hobart. He cannot therefore just be a silent observer.

The Directors are well aware of the intricacies of statecraft. They do not need to concern themselves with the internal affairs of Arcot. Their only concern should be that the instalments are paid regularly as they already are.

The report that the prosperity of his dominions is decreasing is baseless and nothing but a device to defame him. The Nuwāb claims that all his subjects are happy and prosperous and as far as he can see they do not suffer at all. The social and economic conditions continue as they were when the treaty of 1792 was concluded.

No specific irregularity to support this statement has been given. The contents of the Treaty of 1792 are extremely clear and comprehensive. Moreover it has endured the practical test of five years and has proved satisfactory in every way. The Company is receiving money regularly and he feels properly protected. There is therefore no need to make any alteration.

The Nuwāb, of course, does not have any reason to propose changes. He greatly respects those who framed the Treaty. He adds that he will not agree to any changes in it.

Regarding the point that he has been borrowing money at a very high rate of interest, the Nuwāb points out that this is a personal matter and of no concern to the Company. He refutes the charge that he is spending the state revenue regardless of the heads of expenditure specified in the Treaty. He argues that the provisions of the Treaty are well known to him and there is no possibility of violating them. Moreover he has never been a defaulter on the payment of money to the Company. The Company may, according to the Treaty, interfere only when an instalment is overdue.

He states that all the charges framed against him are baseless and undignifying. He feels that all these misunderstandings have been created by Lord Hobart.<sup>9</sup> He is confident that his letter will show that the report and recommendations of Lord Hobart were wrong and the product of his crooked thinking.

The changes in the Treaty of 1792 are not reasonably justifiable. They are contrary to the principles of justice and fidelity and are all aimed at proving that the Nuwāb is incapable of occupying the seat of government and should therefore be dethroned. Why should he accept such a destructive measure?

He closes the letter with reassurances of his sincere friendship and loyalty and hopes that the Directors will understand the situation and maintain their friendship.

C Same as in document no.2 (IO 4248).

D Seal is lost with the band of its envelope.

E i Size: f.1: 23.5 x 44 cm.; ff. 2,3,4 & 5: 11 x 40 cm.

ii Script: shikasta

iii Similar to no.2 (IO 4248).

The envelope contains only the ceremonial part of address while the name of the addressee is missing with the band.

iv The letter was further kept in a purple cloth bag with tamarind or mango trees woven on it at close intervals. The cloth is an example of one of the varieties of 18th century Indian textiles.

#### 4 IO 4358

A A letter dated <sup>10</sup> [Şafar 1216/June 1801] from 'Umdatul-Umarā Nuwāb Ghulām Ḥusain Khān Wālājāh II addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.

B The Nuwāb writes that he regards the East India Company as his best friend and he therefore wants to entrust it with the task of safeguarding his will. He further states that he has executed a will (waṣīyat-nāma) regarding the distribution of his property (tafrīq-i-sarmāya) among his sons and 'family'. He wants his will to be honoured as are the wills of the Princes of England. He is sending a sealed copy of his will to the King and another to the Directors of the East India Company with a request that the same should be opened after his death and put into effect.

9 Lord Hobart was Governor of Madras from 1794 to 1798. For a detailed account of his behaviour to the Nuwāb from Arcot's point of view see Nainar: op. cit., vol. III, pp.44, 51-52. For further details about Lord Hobart see IOR: O/6/24 no. 906.

10 This date has been ascertained from the fact that Nuwāb 'Umdatul-Umarā fell ill on 7 Zū'l-ḥijja 1215 (21 April 1801) and expired on 4 Rabī' I 1216 (15 July 1801). He recorded a will (waṣīyat-nāma) during his illness some-time in Şafar 1216. (July 1801) (Nainar: op. cit., vol. III, pp. 163, 172-5, 182-3).

He closes the letter expressing his good wishes and hopes that they will be friends with his successor as well.

C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).

D i Seal, date, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.  
ii The no. 4358 is marked on the back.

E i Size: 23.5 x 47 cm.  
ii Script: dīwānī tending to shikasta  
iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

5 IO 4359

A A letter dated [early August 1801]<sup>11</sup> from 'Azīm 'd-Daula WĀlājāh III<sup>12</sup> of Arcot addressed to King George III, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.<sup>13</sup>

B The Nuwāb has the pleasure of informing the King that he has been enthroned Nuwāb of the Carnatic (on 31 July 1801) by the representatives of His Majesty, namely the Governor of the Council in Chennapatan<sup>14</sup>, in place of his uncle ('Umdatul-Umarā WĀlājāh II) who passed away on 15 July 1801.

He expresses his deep feelings of gratitude for this judicious action and favour. He closes the letter with his best wishes and hopes that he will merit the same kindness as his father received.

C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).

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11 This date has been ascertained from the date of enthronement of 'Azīm 'd-Daula as this letter was written immediately after it (see note 12 below).

12 'Azīm 'd-Daula WĀlājāh III was enthroned Nuwāb of Arcot on 19 Rabi' I' (31 July 1801) and ruled till his death on 9 Shawwāl 1234 (August 1819) (Nainar: op. cit., vol. IV (Madras 1944), pp. 13, 19).

13 In this letter George III has been addressed with many titles including King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, and Protector of the Christian faith. As a matter of fact 'After union with Ireland by proclamation of 1 January 1801, in virtue of statute 39 and 40 Geo. III, c. 67, George was henceforth styled: 'By the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland K., defender of the faith.' The title 'K. of France' was thus dropped.' (Powicke, F.M. and Fryde, E.B.: Handbook of British chronology (London, 1961), p. 43).

14 During this period Madras was called Chennapatan, (Nainar: op. cit., vol. I (Madras 1937), p. 98).

D Seal and names of the sender and addressee, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.

E i Size: 24 x 46 cm.  
ii Script: very bad nasta'liq  
iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

6 IO 4361

A A letter dated [early August 1801]<sup>15</sup> from 'Azīmu'd-Daula Nuwāb Wālājāh III addressed to the Prince of Wales 16.

B The Nuwāb recalls the sincere attachment of his household to the Prince over the years. He tells the Prince how he was placed in the seat (masnad) of government of the Carnatic by the Governor and the Council of Chennapata after the death of his uncle Nuwāb 'Umdatul-Umarā.

He expresses his hope that the Prince will put in a good word for him to His Majesty, the King of England,<sup>17</sup> so that the King may look kindly on him.

C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).

D Seal, date, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.

E i Size: 23.5 x 45 cm.  
ii Script: bad nasta'liq  
iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

7 IO 4250

A A letter dated [early August 1801]<sup>18</sup> from 'Azīmu'd-Daula Nuwāb Wālājāh III addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.

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15 See note 11 of no. 5 (IO 4359).

16 George IV, son of George III and Charlotte, became Prince of Wales on 19 August 1762 and continued to be so until 5 February 1811 when he became Regent due to the insanity of George III (Powicke and Fryde, op. cit.).

17 King George III

18 See note 11 of no. 5 (IO 4359).

B The Nūwāb says that the Governor of the Council at Chennapatan placed him on the seat (masnad) of his ancestral state (riyāsāt) upon the death of his uncle (‘Umdatū’l-Umarā Wālājāh II) on 15 July 1801. He is therefore pleased to communicate his thanks to the Directors of the Company and assures them of his unfailing friendship.

He further expresses his hope that he will always receive the same kindness as his ancestors. He closes the letter saying that further matters will be made known through a letter from the Rt Hon Lord [Edward] Clive 19.

C i Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).  
ii A descriptive note 20.

D i The seal of ‘Azīmu’d-Daula Amīru’l-Hind Wālājāh engraved in 1210 (1795-6) is affixed to the band of the envelope.  
ii Seal of IOL dated 25 November 1926 with the accession no. 4250.

E i Size: 24 x 46 cm.  
ii Script: carelessly written nasta‘līq tending to dīwānī and shikasta.  
iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

The envelope and its band have been preserved.

B IO 4360

A letter dated [early August 1801]<sup>21</sup> from ‘Azīmu’d-Daula Nuwāb Wālājāh III addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.

B The Nuwāb says that upon the death of his uncle (Nuwāb ‘Umdatū’l-Umarā Wālājāh II) on 15 July 1801 the Governor of the Council at Chennapatan placed him on the seat (masnad) of his ancestral state (riyāsāt). He is therefore pleased to communicate his thanks to the Directors of the Company and assures them of his unfailing friendship.

He further expresses his hope that he will always receive the same kindness as his ancestors. He closes the letter saying that further matters will be made known through a letter from the Rt. Hon. Lord [Edward] Clive.

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19 Edward, second Lord Clive, Earl of Powis (1754-1839) was the eldest son of Robert, Lord Clive, Governor of Bengal. He assumed the office of Governor of Madras on 5 September 1799 and resigned on 30 August 1803 (Lists of the heads of administrations in India and of the India Office in England (Delhi, 1939), p. 40).

20 A brief note in English attempting a partial description is kept with the document.

21 See note 1 of no. 5 (IO 4359).

- C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).
- D Seal and names of the sender and addressee, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.
- E i Size: 24 x 46 cm.  
 ii Script: very bad nasta'liq.  
 iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

9 IO 4251

- A A petition dated 14 Rabī' II 1216 (24 August, 1801) from Anwaru'd-Daula Ḥusām Jang Saifu'l-Mulk Muḥammad Anwar Khān<sup>22</sup> addressed to the Chairman, Court of Directors, East India Company, London.
- B Expressing his great confidence in the judiciousness of the East India Company, the petitioner protests against the succession of 'Azīmu'd-Daula, son of Amīru'l-Umarā, and advances his own superior claims. He refers to the established relationship between the house of the Wālājāhs and the Company and attempts to win favour with the addressee.  
 His first argument against the succession of 'Azīmu'd-Daula is that it was contrary to Islamic law (Dīn wa Shar') as all the law books state that a grandson may not inherit a share of the estate while the sons of the deceased are living.  
 Secondly, most members of the household are old enough to be the father of 'Azīmu'd-Daula and feel indignant at being dominated by him.  
 Thirdly, he claims to be the senior most member of the house of Wālājāh and is therefore the legitimate successor.
- C The following statement of facts (fard-i-ḥaqīqat) is enclosed with the petition.  
 i According to a firmān issued by Shāh 'Alam Bahādur (1758-1806), the Emperor of Hindustan, the territories (mulk) of the Carnatic were assigned in perpetuity (altamghā) to the late Wālājāh.  
 ii The late Wālājāh had the following five sons born to one wife:  
     'Umdatul-Umarā  
     Amīru'l-Umarā  
     Sultānūl-Umarā (also called Saifu'l-Mulk)  
     Ḥusāmu'l-Mulk  
     Naṣīru'l-Mulk  
 iii Amīru'l-Umarā, the second son, died during the life-time of his father.

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22 He was the third son of Nuwāb Muḥammad 'Alī Khān Wālājāh I (Nainar: op. cit., vol. IV, pp. 9-12).

- iv Wālājāh lived for about 8 years after the death of his son, Amīru'l-Umarā.
  - v 'Umdatul-Umarā, being the eldest son, succeeded his father and ruled for six years.
  - vi 'Umdatul-Umarā had no legitimate son (farzandi-yaqīnī). He had a son born to a dancing girl and named him Tāju'l-Umarā.
  - vii 'Umdatul-Umarā declared his son (Tāju'l-Umarā) his successor in the will (wasīyat-nāma) which he recorded just before his death. But members of the household did not agree because he was illegitimate (kam-nasab). At the same time his talks with Lord Clive and the Governor of Madras failed.
  - viii The next in line for the succession was the petitioner but he was totally ignored, and putting Amīru'l-Umarā's son on the seat (masnad) was quite unwarranted.
  - ix Two sealed documents were sent by the members of the household to the Governor of the Council. One disapproved the son of Amīru'l-Umarā while the other reluctantly approved the son of 'Umdatul-Umarā.
  - x The petitioner had already asked the Governor of Madras as to how one legally debarred from inheritance could be declared a legitimate successor. The reply was that the Islamic laws of inheritance apply to personal effects only and not to estates (riyāsat). But this is not true. Islamic laws apply to everything. Were it not so, every palanquin bearer and every gardener would have become a chieftain (ra'īs).
  - xi He closes this statement of fact (fard-i-ḥaqīqat) with an appeal to the Chairman of the Court to revise his decision and be judicious by declaring the most senior member of the household as the rightful successor.
  - xii A descriptive note. <sup>23</sup>
- D
- i Seal of Anwaru'd-Daula Ḥusām Jang Saifu'l-Mulk Muḥammad Anwar Khān Bahādur is affixed on the band of the envelope.
  - ii Seal of IOL dated 23 November 1926.
- E
- i Size: 19.7 x 34.5 cm.
  - ii Script: ta'liq.
  - iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

10 IO 4362

- A A letter dated [September 1803]<sup>24</sup> from 'Azīmu'd-Daula Nuwāb Wālājāh III of Arcot addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.

23 A note in English briefly attempting a partial description is kept with the document.

24 This date has been ascertained from the fact that it was sent through Edward, Lord Clive who sailed for England on 12 September 1803, (List of the heads of administrations in India and of the India Office in England (Delhi, 1939), p. 40).

- B The Nuwāb invites their attention to his earlier letter dated 5 August (1801) in which he thanked them for their help in placing him in the seat (masnad) of government of the Carnatic. As he has heard that the Rt Hon Lord (Edward) Clive intends to leave for England he thinks it a good opportunity to send a letter through him.
- C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).
- D Seal, date, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.
- E i Size: 23.5 x 45.5 cm.  
 ii Script: bad nasta'liq.  
 iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

11 IO 4363

- A A letter dated [December 1813]<sup>25</sup> from 'Azīmu'd-Daula Nuwāb Wālājāh III addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.
- B The Nuwāb states that it is an appropriate occasion to reassure the Company of his unfailing friendship now that Lieut-General John Abercromby<sup>2</sup> is returning to England.  
 The Nuwāb is pleased to tell them that he has had very good relations with the said General as well as with all the ex-Governors of Madras and Governor-Generals of Bengal. He reassures them of his friendship and hopes it will be reciprocated.
- C Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).
- D Seal, date, etc, are missing with the envelope and its band.
- E i Size: 24.5 x 46.7 cm.  
 ii Script: fair ta'liq.  
 iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

25 This date has been ascertained from John Abercromby's return to England (see note 26 below).

26 John Abercromby (1772-1817) was appointed Commander-in-Chief and temporary Governor of Madras in 1812. In May 1813 Mr Hugh Elliot assumed the governorship and in December of the same year General Abercromby's health was so much impaired by the climate that he had to go home (Dictionary of national biography (DNB)).

12    IO 4252

- A    A letter dated [late in the year 1816]<sup>27</sup> from 'Azīmu'd-Daula Nuwāb WĀlājāh III addressed to the Directors of the East India Company.
- B    The Nuwāb congratulates the Directors on the recent victory of the British forces in Europe (wilāyat) which has established a peace which will be long lasting.<sup>28</sup>  
      He also congratulates them on the marriage of Princess Charlotte of Wales to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld.<sup>29</sup>
- C    i    Same as in document no. 2 (IO 4248).  
      ii    An endorsement in English, apparently made by the document's users, says that it is a letter from the Nuwāb of Arcot congratulating the East India Company on the marriage of Prince Leopold.  
      iii    A descriptive note 30,
- D    i    The envelope containing the address has been preserved but its band containing the impression of the seal is missing.  
      ii    Seal of IOL dated 23 November 1926.
- E    i    Size: 25 x 47 cm.  
      ii    Script: good nasta'liq.  
      iii    Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

13    IO 4253

- A    A letter dated 25 Zū'l-ga'da 1224 (2 January 1810) from Mahārāja Anand Rāo Gāikwār<sup>31</sup>, addressed to the Hon East India Company.

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27    This date has been ascertained from the events mentioned in the documents (see notes 28 and 29 below).

28    This perhaps refers to the British defeat of Napoleon in 1815.

29    Charlotte, daughter of George IV, married Prince Leopold, third son of Francis, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, on 2 May 1816 (Powicke, F.M. and Fryde, E.B.: op. cit.).

30    A brief note in English attempting a partial description is kept with the document.

31    Anand Rāo Gāikwār was the eldest son of Govind Rāo Gāikwār. He was of a naturally feeble mind and was very much addicted to the use of opium. He was placed on the seat of government (gaddī) of Baroda in July 1803 (Elliot, F.A.H.: The rulers of Baroda (Bombay, 1879), p. 90).

B The Mahārāja assures the Company of his sincere attachment to them. He is pleased to learn that it has established a Madrassa-i-‘āliya<sup>32</sup> for the benefit of the public. He is therefore happy to send a collection of Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit books through Col Alexander Walker<sup>33</sup> for use in the Madrassa.

He adds that he would be pleased if they would write to him from time to time.

C No enclosures. Hūwa’l-musta‘ān is superscribed.

D i A Marathi seal is fixed on the band of the envelope.  
ii Seal of IOL dated 23 November 1926.

E i Size: 23.5 x 52 cm.  
ii Script: fair ta‘līq.  
iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

14 IO 4254

A A letter dated 25 Zū’l-qa‘da 1224. (2 January 1810) from Fath Singh<sup>34</sup> addressed to the Hon East India Company.

B It is appropriate to send some presents with Col Alexander Walker<sup>35</sup> as he is returning from a visit to Baroda. Nothing very special could be found for a suitable present. However, he is sending a few Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit books for use in Madrassa-i-‘āliya together with a letter from Mahārāja Anand Rāo Gāikwār Sainā Khāṣa Khail Shamshīr Bahādūr. He hopes that the books will be found useful.

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32 Probably the Madrassa-i-‘āliya of Calcutta which was established in 1781 (Taish, M.R.A.: Tawārīkh-i-Dhāka, ed. Ahmad ‘Alī (Arrah, 1910), p.122; Bhattacharya, S.: A dictionary of Indian history (Calcutta, 1976).

33 Col Alexander Walker (1764-1831) was British Resident in Baroda from 11 July 1802 to 1809. He left Baroda on sick leave in 1809 and returned for a short time. He finally left India in 1810 (Elliot, F.A.H.: op. cit., pp. 92-3, 141, 360; also DNB).

34 Fath Singh, son of Govind Rāo, was the younger brother of Mahārāja Anand Rāo Gāikwār of Baroda. He was proclaimed Regent (parthinidhi) on 3 April 1906 by a commission appointed by the East India Company. Fath Singh died young on 23 June 1818 (Elliot, F.A.H.: op. cit., pp. 130-2, 159).

35 See note 33 of no. 13 (IO 4253).

He further writes that he is busy with administrative affairs of state keeping the interest of the Company in mind. He promises that he will strictly observe the terms of the agreement concluded with the Company.<sup>36</sup> He also undertakes to do everything which will strengthen relations between the government (sarkār) of the Gāikwārs and the East India Company. Further details will be communicated by Col Alexander Walker.

He closes the letter with his best wishes and with a request that he may be addressed now and then.

- C
  - i No enclosures. Hūwa' l-mu'izz is superscribed.
  - ii A descriptive note.<sup>37</sup>
- D
  - i A Marathi seal is affixed on the band of the envelope.
  - ii Undated seal of IOL.
- E
  - i Size: 24 x 77 cm.
  - ii Script: fair ta'liq.
  - iii Similar to no. 2 (IO 4248).

36 Two treaties were concluded in 1802 and 1805 between the Gāikwārs and the East India Company (ibid., pp. 130-1).

37 A brief note in English attempting a partial description is kept with the document.