Author of  *Tyagaraja*: Life and Lyrics

Prof. William J Jackson ‘s kind letter

Dear Dr. Kumar, May30, 2014  
  
This is a beautiful book, and I can see that a lot of care and thought has gone into the making of it. I admire the work you have done in the beautiful book.  
I remember fondly going to Bhadrachalam with Rajanikanta Rao, and also learning from TS Parthasarathy in Madras about Ramadas and his lyrics, while studying Tyagaraja's lyrics.  
  
I wrote a poem about a Ramadas story, along with the stories of other saints who got into trouble with rulers:  
*Rescued from Hot Water  
St. Thomas was given money to build a palace for a king  
he used those funds to feed the needy poor instead;  
hearing of this the king summoned Thomas, asking him  
“Trusting you with gold and a mission, what was I thinking,  
Where is my palace?” Thomas, full of faith boldly said  
“Your palace is in heaven far above the changing winds.”  
And the king was shown the heavenly palace in a vision...  
Tax man Ramadas spent a king’s revenues on a temple;  
hearing of this the king was furious, imprisonning him.  
Rama and Lakshmana came with bags of money for the king  
and Ramadas gained his sweet freedom once again...  
Manikkavachakar was supposed to buy horses for a king;  
Shiva had to come as a trickster and rescue him from prison  
when he spent the king’s money on Shiva worship instead.  
Shiva turned some little jackals into horses in a wink  
and took them to the king to pay Manikka’s debt to him.  
(Never mind that at midnight they turned to jackals again.)  
We recall these great souls with obligations to their kings  
who got themselves in crises and had their Lord rescue them.*

Namaskaramandi  
Sincerely,  
Bill

( Prof. William J. Jackson)