### THE END OF THE RAJ WAS ALSO THE END OF THE LAVISH-LIFE-STYLE OF THE MAHARAJAS

THE KAPURTHALA PAPERS.-----By:- Jatinder Sethi.(All Copyrights Reserved)

Private correspondence between the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala and his eldest son, the heirapparent Tikka Raja Permjit Singh reveal nature of relationship between the Father & Son, especially after the end of the Raj.



His Highness Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala and his eldest son Tikka Raja Permjit Singh, his heirapparent to the State

were both well-known throughout the world, not only for their frequent travel around the globe, their close connections with the Heads and Royalty of the other Countries of the World, including the British Monarch but were also known for their numerous love affairs with foreign beauties, and their lavish gifts to woo the ladies to their bed-rooms.

Diwan Jarmani Dass, in his books "Maharaja" and "Maharani" describes very vividly their rich-life style in the hay days of the RAJ, and the kind of money spent, without a twitch of the eye, in buying gifts like Diamonds, apartments abroad for their fancied ladies. He highlights the life style of the Maharaja Jagatjit

Singh of Kapurthala, and his son Prince Permjit Singh, the Tikka Raja., among

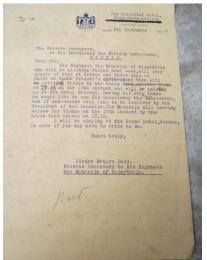
others.

Dewan Jarmani Dass, once being a long time employ of the Maharajas, was privy to their every day life style. Like him so was Dewan Mathra Dass, Private Secretary of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala.

And this piece is from the letters, routed through

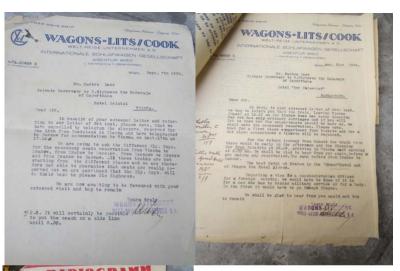
the Private Secretary, Dewan Mathra Dass, who also saw the end of this kingsize life style after the Independence and the death of Maharaja of Kapurthala.

# But what a life style!



Just for an example, look at some of the correspondence between the Private Secretary and a travel agent in Vienna, about train –booking for their travel Itinerary during 1936. And notice the letter to the British Ambassador in Warsaw, telegrams requesting meetings with various dignitaries, and their response.







And some photogtraphs of the Maharaja with foreign friends, and Lord & Lady Mountbatten (on top) (when they visited the Palace at Kapurthala.) Most of these photos, including one of himself, were given to loyal Private Secretary, Dewan Mathra Dass. It seems that during the RAJ getting the autographed photos of ones Masters, Royality, their family members was a proof of ones loyality and faithfulness.



You You can see Dewan Mathra Dass ,without hat,the Private Secretary, standing next to the Maharaja in the third photo,and at extreme right in the last .Even the above letters are all addressed to the Private Secretary, Kapurthala.

Private Secretary to the Maharaja was a very important post, as he was privy to all confidential and personal matters of the Maharaja. He lived in the reflected glory of the Ruler, his Master.

See the kind of "invites" he gets, besides being with the Maharaj all the time and where ever he went.. A letter from the ADC of the Governer of Bombay for lunch with Dewani Sahiba.. And the







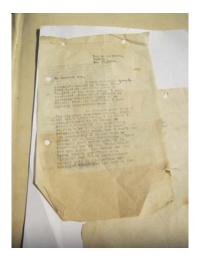
Order from the Buckingham Palace. And an autographed photo from the Patiala Maharaja.

# BUT all this vanished, both for the Rulers, and their dedicated servants

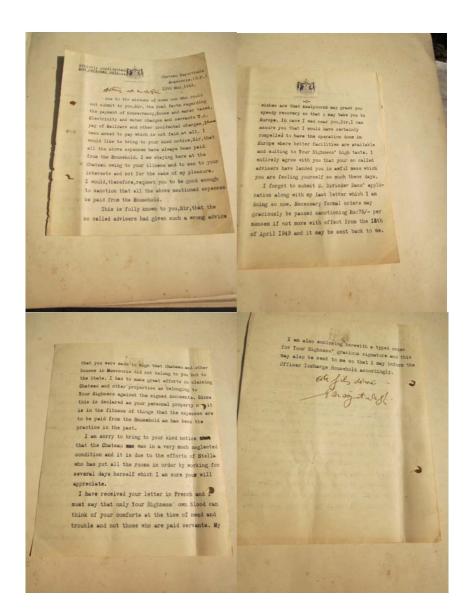
### MONEY BECOMES CAUSE OF TENSION.

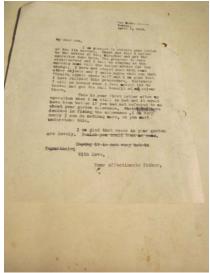
And the money became a concern even for the Maharajas. See the reply, sent by the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh in response to the letter from his son asking for some payments which should be made by the Maharaja, and not him, the Tikka Raja. The Maharaja disagrees and cites his decreased income as one of the reasons.

Also see the 4 page letter("Strictly Confidential &Personal") written by Tikka, to which the Maharaja had replied. Both letters (copies also) are signed personally by them---"JJS" & "Permjit Singh".







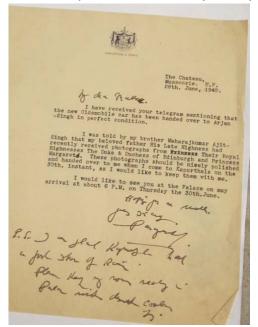


And notice the use of French to show love for his father? Also note the strained tone in the both the letters-the Maharajas and the Tikka Rajas. In fact the strained tone continues in all the corresspondence of this period, after the Independence of India.

For example, this letter, written by Maharaja in reply to his son ,asking for sanction of Garden Allowance ,who is told off quite politely what he shouldn't have done. This was at the time of early stages of Maharajas medical problem for which he had gone toBombay. So instead of just checking on his health, Tikka Sahib is asking for the garden allowance to be sanctioned by His Highness.!

### THE END OF AN EPOCH, BUT REALITY DOESN'T N'T SINK IN.

Especially, for the Tikka Raja, Permjit Singh, after leading a life in a royal style, during his fathers reign, it was difficult for him to reconcile to the new realities at that age. See his signed letter asking the Private Secretary of the Maharaja, (My dear Mathra) immediately after the death of his father, the Maharaja, to let him have the photos of the British Royal Family, which were personally given to H.H. Maharaja Jagatjit



Singh. Cleaned & Polished!!Still a loyal subject!(I wonder if any one can decipher his hand in"P,S, note?This was June 1949 in Independent India!

Another point worth noting in the corresspondence is that the Maharaja, the Tikka Raja and other family members, normally, write the name of the person addressed and the signature always in their own hand. And not typed, including making corrections in their hand even on the last carbon copy. What does it show? Character? Patronage? Royal blood? Personal respect??

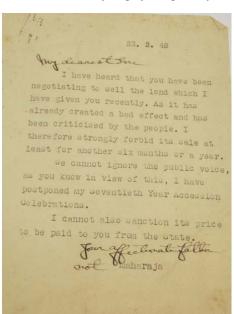
Some of the letters by other members, like the Senior Tikka Rani and other members of the family who didn't have their own staff, are written in hand. Letter from one of the younger sons to his father enquiring about his health. The other hand-written letter is from the Senior Tikka Rani,





who, at that time, happened to be at Cooch Behar Palace, wants the Private Secretary to read her letter to H.H. the Maharaja.

But the old Maharaja Jagatjit Sing was quite down to earth, well reconciled, and understood the mood of

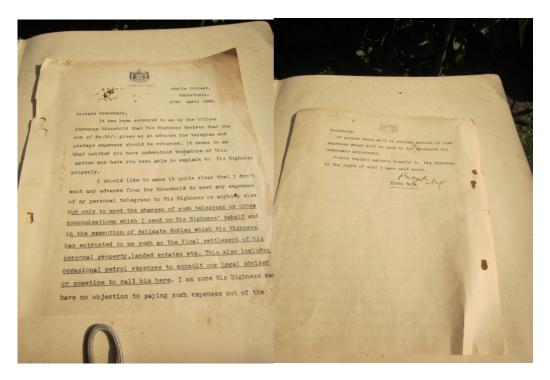


the public. See the letter he wrote to his son that shows the matured Maharaja. (The Title on the top "My dearest Son" is in the hand of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh; and notice the end of the letter, where the Maharaja in his famous handwriting says "your affectionate father and the word "not "is added to keep in harsh tone of the content. Also notice that the letter is from "Maharaja" to make it official. He forbids the sale of some land by the Tikka to avoid Public outcry. And because of the public opinion, the Maharaja had postponed his seventieth Year Accession Celebrations. He ends with "I cannot also sanction the price to be paid to you from my State"!

INDIA GAINED INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULERS OF THE RAJ LEFT THE SHORES DECLARING THE END OF THE RAJ.

The poor Indian Rajas were left in the lurch! Some adjusted to the new environment. Some found it difficult.

These KAPURTHALA PAPERS, carbon copies of the correspondence, give some glimpse of the life-after, of the Ruler & his employees. Most of the correspondence, carbon copies of the letters,( as their were no copying machines nor Desk Tops; but one depended upon the faithful Remington Typewriter!) relate to the period of sickness of the H.H. Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, from which he never recovered. During all this period the Maharaja was staying mostly at the Taj Hotel, Bombay while being attended by doctor Col.Mirajkar and others. The Private Secretary, Dewan Mathra Dass, and his personal physician, Dr.Mahraj Dass were also with him at the Taj Hotel. And the via-media for all this correspondence was Dewan Mathra Dass, the trusted, devoted Private Secretary of long time, and privy to this correspondence.

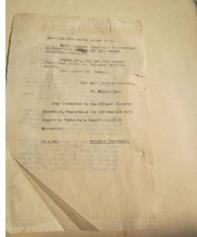


Tikka Raja Permjit Singh, also called Prince Permjit Singh by Jarmani Dass, remained heir–apparent till the age of 63, and became" Maharaja", in fact assigned the title to himself, after the death of his father, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, and that too when all princely privileges were taken away by the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Patel. As Dewan Jarmani Dass, in his book, says that he was a frustrated Prince who never reigned the State.

Till then Tikka Raja had to take formal approval from the Maharaja, his father, for every thing in life. Even the use of crockery/cutlery/servants in the Mussoorie house, which belonged to the Maharaja. Or even advance of Rs.50/(See letter above where the H.H.Maharaja wants the advance to be returned.) and use of a Rickshaw in Mussoorie. !

This letter shows the sanction being given by the Maharaja to Tikkas request, for use of crockery but with a





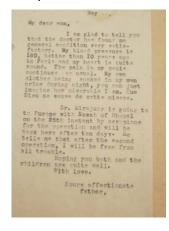
strong proviso; that Tikka Sahib will have to "make good "if anything is broken!

And he had to sign the inventory before the cupboard lock was opened .Order from the Maharaja! And the ORDER accordingly was sent to Household Staff by the Private Secretary.

It was in 1949 around March/April, His Highness the Maharaja Jagatjit Sing who was

believed to suffering from Prostrate and high blood pressure was sent to Bombay for treatment, by the well-known doctor of that time,Col.Mirajkar.

Maharaja was accompanied by his personal doctor, Dr. Maharaj Dass, and his long-time Private Secretary, Dewan Mathra Dass, from Kapurthala. See the letters Maharaja wrote, from Taj Hotel, to his son about his medical problem. These letters reveal the agony of Maharaja, in spite of not having co-habited for last three







months. And he is unable to control passing of urine! Some of the letters are inFrench, the language in which even Tikka Raja was proficient as the Maharaja himself was a known Francophile.

In fact, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh sent all sons to England and Europe for studies. See one of the earlier photographs of the Maharaja with his sons. (Its taken from a book "KAPURTHALA STATE-Its Past and Present", Compiled By "AN OFFICIAL" and published by The PIONEER PRESS,ALLAHABAD in 1921. The book traces back history to the dawn of 18<sup>th</sup> century and the "Ahluwalia Misal, of the Sikh Confederacy, driving its



its name from"Ahlu"village in the Lahore district which was still owned by the Rulers of Kapurthala in1921 when this book was published,

Dewan Mathra Dass, like Dewan Jarmani Dass before him, was awarded the title of Rai Bahadur by the British Government on the personal recommendations of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh who, on September 8<sup>th</sup> 1938 had written a letter to Sir Harold Wilberforce-Bell, The Resident of Punjab based in Lahore, while the Maharaja was holidaying in Cannes, for this award. Dewan Mathra Das received his SANADS of "Rai Sahib" first, in 1938, and then later on, in 1946 was conferred the title of "Rai Bahadur" by Vice Roy, Wavell, Field Marshal (FM).

Before getting the title of Rai Bahadur from the Vice Roy, Mathra Dass was also conferred the title of "Dewan "by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh himself in 1938. (See the announcement published in English & Urdu).





Dewan Mathra Das, before becoming Private Secretary of the H.H. Maharaja Jagatjit Singh ,was in the staff of Tikka Raja Permjit Singh(since 1913) for many years, as Second Secretary. In fact Tikka Raja Sahib, was so

happy with his work & loyalty that he recommended to his father, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, that he should be awarded the Title of "RAJA", but the Maharaja "Not allowed" it (See the letter of Tikka Sahib with his signatures, and the famous signatures (initials "JJS") by H.H. Maharaja Jagatjit Singh. By this time Dewan Mathra Dass was Private Secretary of the Maharaja himself. And very close to him. Yet the Maharaja did not think it as a deserving case.

Again shows the Maharajas mature judgment against the



impulsiveness of the Tikka Raja. See another letter where Tikka Raja is requesting the Maharaja to transfer the land rights to Dewan Mathra Dass.

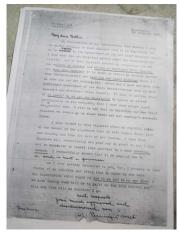
And the same Dewan Mathra Dass was sacked immediately after the death of the Maharaja.

Maharaja Jagatjit Singh was known to be a very mature, fair and responsible administrator. One of the reasons he was very much liked by the British Rulers. And his own personal staff who loved him.

Whereas Tikka Raja Permjit Singh,

who wasn't, perhaps, involved at all in the administration of the Kapurthala State, during the reign of his father, was quite, in the words of Jarmani Dass, frustrated Prince. Read the letter he wrote to his "my dear father", complaining about not being consulted in the selection of the Chief Minister for the State. He writes "it's an insult to my age and experience"! And he underlines it." Your most aggrieved and disillusioned son" is written in his hand. Relations continue to be strained.

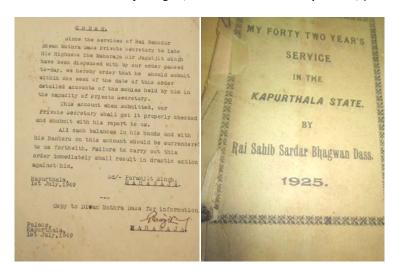




From this, unrevealed correspondence, it seems that Prince (Tikka Raja) Permjit Singh was quite an impulsive gentleman. For example, Dewan Mathra Dass, an old, long time loyal employee of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, and earlier Prince Permjit Singh himself, and who earlier had recommended him for the Title of "Raja", and other benefits (like making him also in charge of Royal Horses in Mussoorie at extra pay of Rs.25 per annum, and transferring the land ,where he had built his house, to him) was sacked overnight, with all privileges, pensions stopped, just few days after the "Kirya" of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh.

He also dismissed the services of Dr.Maharaj Dass, (elder brother of Dewan Mathra Dass) who was the personal physician of the Maharaja, (and Chief Medical Officer of the State) and whose father was also in the employee of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh for over 40 years as a Revenue minister(starting as a teacher. Keeping with the practice of those times of publishing pamphlets in praise of their Ruler, he also printed a booklet "MY FORTY TWO YEARS SERVICE IN THE KAPURTHALA STATE"

The point to note in this Order, dismissing the services of Dewan Mathra Dass, is that it is NOW signed by the "MAHARAJA- Permjit Singh"; and its from PALACE Kapurthala, (the Maharajas abode)



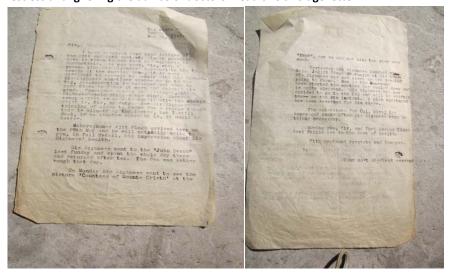
These two gentlemen, Personal Secretary Dewan Mathra Dass and personal physician, Dr. Maharaj Dass were responsible for organizing and looking after the treatment of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, while in Bombay. As all the State Guest Houses of various rajas were already occupied by Heads of other States, the Maharaja and his accompanied physician and Personal Secretary settled down at hotel Taj after a brief stay in the nursing home for an initial check-up by Col Mirajkar.

Kapurthala Maharaja had to wait for quite long time as Col.Mirajkar was busy attending on Newab of Bhopal, and were flying to Paris for some operation which Bhopal wanted done in Paris ad not in Bombay. In the meantime, The Private Secretary Dewan Mathra Dass was sending "Medical Reports" about the progress of treatment of the Maharaja, to Tikka Raja, almost on a daily basis. And also handling all the other correspondence of the Maharaja.

In spite of all efforts, long stay at Taj,attendance by number of other eminent doctors, His Highness Farzand-Dilband ,Rashik-ul-ithad-i-inglishia ,Raja Rajgan ,H.H.Sir Jagatjit Singh,G.C.S.I,G.C.I.E,G.B.E.,the Ruler of Kapurthala State could not escape death ,and he passed away in Bombay around 18<sup>/</sup> 19 June 1949.His body was flown by air up to Adampur and then to his Palace at Kapurthala. It is believed that the cremation took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June, ashes taken to Haridwar and final Kirya performed on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1949.

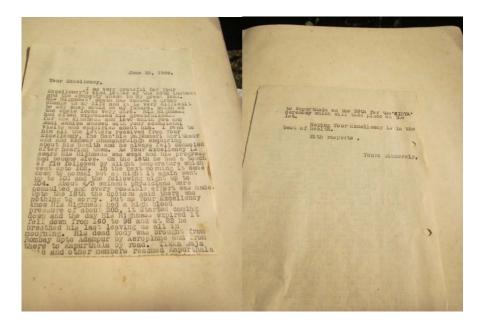
Its pathetic to read the couple of letters (shown above) of The Maharaja -, who was so agile, active handsome and healthy,-written to his son, Tikka Permjit Singh about his inability to control and passing

urine in his pants, and wetting himself. And one cannot but admire that till the end, while at Taj waiting undergoing treatment, he was actively involved till the last day replying to all correspondence relating to the administration of the State and personal matters. One can see, once so active, the Maharaja feeling restless and ignoring the advice of doctors. Read this two age letter



by the Private Secretary to Tikka Sahib mentioning the difficulty to order and control movements of a person like His Highness .It says that the Maharaja went off to JuhuBeach, and another day went and saw a movie "Countess of Monte Cristo" in Eros cinema !Which he didn't like.

The details of the last moments of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh are given in a letters of Dewan Mathra Dass which he sent in reply to Mahraj Singh, (ADC to the Bombay Governor?). Dewan Mathra Dass, in this letter refers to the British principal "The King is dead Long live the King" which was immediately followed by the Tikka Raja Permjit Singh to declare himself the "MAHARAJA". The Private Secretary, who was immediately sacked, refers to his own bleak and uncertain future after the death of his old Master (and, at the same time, death of his mother also). The letter shows that the new Maharaja not only sacked all the staff but also s



sold all the horses in Mussoorie which belonged to the old Maharaja.

### THE CORRESPONDENCE

All this correspondence (only part shown here) reveal the character and kind of relations Tikka Raja had with his father and staff. One can however, see the graciousness of Tikka "MAHARAJA", who in spite of sacking the Private Secretary Dewan Mathra Dass, on the spur of the moment, sends a condolence letter on

the death of his mother.



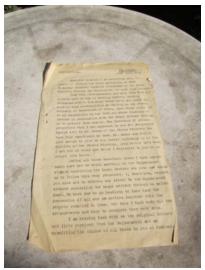
Interesting thing is that all correspondence was via the Private Secretary, Dewan Mathra Dass, and rarely directly.

One can notice the affection of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh for his elder son in the letters relating to his sickness and other personal matters. But the Maharajas attitude and response to money, State matters were quite different. Strict, authoritative, as a Ruler, not a father, but fair and correct.

On the other hand, Tikka Raja, to establish his credentials with the Maharaja, his father, tries to show his effectiveness by the kind of efforts he made to get Maharajas properties converted from State Properties to Personal properties' of the Maharaja, including the Kapurthala House in Delhi. He says that he will provide full

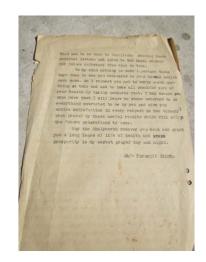
satisfaction to the Maharaja for all the work entrusted to him .This of-course was done shortly before the death of the Maharaja, and the benefit of this transfer went to Tikka when he became the MAHARAJA

In spite of all this, the old Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, his father, still had some doubts which he wanted cleared He wants his son to contact the Rajparmukh, which happened to be Patiala, and clarify about his pension and payments. He is not fully satisfied with the job his son has done. In this two-page letter, the Maharaja, also prohibits him the use of his Rickshaw in Mussoorie.



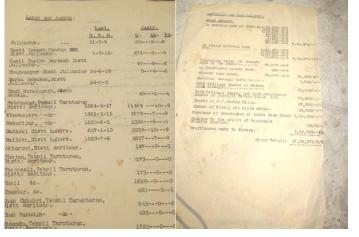






### PROPERTIES, JAGIRS & FDS. etc Which became the Personl Wealth of the Maharaja (see part of the list





### And Lets not Forget the Cars, Elephants & Horses.



There were six Cars, two
Elephants and Ten
horses (which Permjit Sold
after becoming the
Maharaja, according to one
of the letters mentioned
above.



### SOME OTHER CORRESSPONDENCE.

There are quite a few other letters which can be seen providing a historical view of the times .For example 2 dozen Alfonso mangoes Tikka Raja wanted to be sent to him at Mussoorie. He reminds the Private Secretary Dewan Mathra Dass, who was in Bombay for the Maharajas treatment, in all letters to find and send mangoes..Finally 3 dozen mangoes were sent.

Guess the price of 3 dozen Alfonso mangoes at that time ?Rs 24!!Bought from Crawford Market.

Now look at some other pieces of interest. Another bill, signed by the Maharaja"JJS".From L"ROUFF,Paris

dated 1936, on one of the many visits of Maharaja of Kapurthala.



# There were pure takener that weetly and or collected to the facility of the collected to their back to facility of the facility of the back that they are not weather to postery of the back that they are not weather to postery collected or are the facility of the facilit

### **AUTHENTCITY OF THE SOURCE OF THIS PIECE.**

This information of that period is obtained from the correspondence which took place between father, son and other members of the Kapurthala royal family and officials.

As mentioned earlier, since in those days there were no Desk-Tops, no Computers, no Copying Xerox machines, one was fully dependent on the faithful Typewriter for typing. And the Carbon paper for making copies of all correspondence. And the number of copies required of the original for Record was left to the

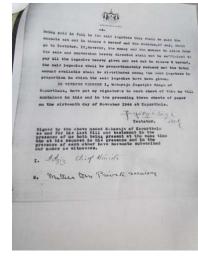
Private Secretary. It was also the job of the Private Secretary to type

all confidential letters.

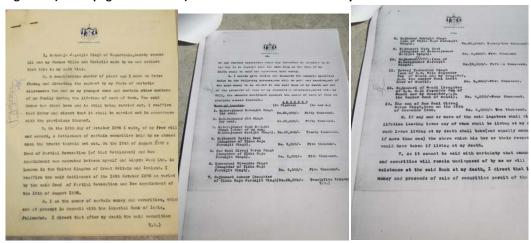
But the carbon copies, unlike the modern computer print -outs which fade away, are still quite readable. And this above information is taken from the carbon copies, perhaps the last carbon paper. Which may have been in the personal file of the Private Secretary of the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala

The authencity of the correspondence is not at stake, as most of the correspondence, including most of the carbon copies were either signed or initialed by the writers. And witnessed by the Chief Minister (at that time) and Mathra Dass, Private Secretary.

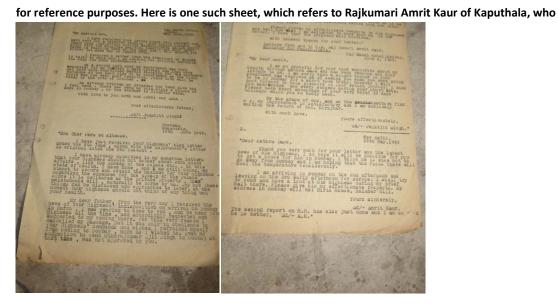
Moreover some of the letters are on the monogrammed letterheads, like the "My Last Will" signed by the Jagatjit Singh (the famous



signature) on all pages of the Will (This Will was made in 1944.may be as a routine



In fact it seems a record of all correspondence was kept, including the replies sent, in the old fashioned way



became the Health (?) Minister in Pt. Nehru's Cabinet.Mahrajas letter to her and her reply is recorded .The other is the record of letter written to Tikka Raja by the Maharaja and Tikkas reply. Perhaps these records were kept, if the originals got lost or misplaced.

AND HERE ARE FEW OF OTHER ITEMS, INCLUDING PICTURES FROM THE COLLECTION, OF THAT GONE BY TIMES.

This collage of old documents tells its own story of the period.

Here are two photos. One, where the Private Secretary is dancing with some foreign lady, obviously in a foreign locale. This exactly like the one of Dewan Jarmani Dass published his photo in his book, Maharaja.



They both lived in the reflected glory of their Masters, the Maharajas and enjoyed the lavish life-style no less than their Masters. As long as it lasted!

Maharaja had given this photo of himself to his Privete Secretary. The legend, in his hand, has faded away. Here is a collage of photo prints of that time, of the Maharaja, taken from the torn pages of albums.



AND few pictures of H.H.the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala with his staff and their



Families and Household Staff,Some royal children.

And photos of few Madels given to Dewan Mathra Das, Private Secretary, by the British.



# THE END

Finally what happened to all the people, including the Private Secretary and other staff, is not much known. Lot of them, presumably , must have passed away.

That was really an end of an epoch.

Author:= JATINDER SETHI (ALL RIGHTS RESERVED By the Author.|)