GLOSSARY

adiyar  agrestic bondmen
amil    local tax collectors
amsam   administrative unit (an order above desam)
angadi  bazaar, market
arthan  security
arzee, arji (harji)  petition
atiyayma servility
attaikkol annual revenue
avakasom right
brahmaswam the brahmin property
cartaz   portuguese permit to trade in the Indian ocean
changatam temple servants
chanta   market place/weekly bazaar
chekon   ezhava warrior
cherikkal royal land (pandaravaga/kandulavu)
chunkam  toll
desam    village
desavazhi village head, local authority responsible for the natuvazhi
devaswam temple property
fanam    gold or silver coins of different value
gurukkal trainer of kalari
hobali, hovali  
district

idangazhi  
liquid measure on the west coast

1 idangazhi = 1.8696 litres

illam  
nambutiri houses

jama/jamma  
assessment of revenue

jamabandi  
tax assessment, state revenue of land

janmam  
birth, hereditary ownership

janmam-kanam-
maryadai  
ownerwhip-leased regulations

janmappanayam  
mortgage on a property, on which an additional advance
is given.

jati  
caste

jivitam  
life time

kachams  
strict rules regulations by brahmins and naduvazhis

kalari  
school of martial art/art of fencing

kammalars  
artisans

kanakkaran  
leaseholder

kanam  
purchase of a janmam, mortgage, credit

kanti  
a unit of measure for weight, between 500lb and 560lb

karalan  
tenants of temples

karanavar  
male head of the family

katamai  
compulsory duty

kavu  
shrine

khudadad sarkar  
god's government/state

kilyakkam  
brahmanical codes
kolkar  native militia organised by the british
kovilakam  branch of the royal family
kudiyan  inhabitants, lease holders
kur  seniority rank
kuzhikkanam  rents for cultivation of jungle land
makkathayam  inheritance by son
malikhana  pension
marumakkathayam  inheritance by sister's son
maryada  social custom
mela  periodical fair
menon  belongs to elite nayar family, accountant by profession
moopans  headman (revenue collectors)
muppu  seniority
mura  rank
nadu  district
naduvazhi  head of a natu
niguti, negdee  tax
nirattipper  lands transfer with libation of water
otti  a piece of land
paimash  measurement of land
panayam  pledging of land
para  liquid measure: 1 para equals 10 itangazhis
parambu  elevated land
parankis  portuguese
pattam  lease
pattam  rent
pattamkar  leaseholder
pedi  fear
purayitam  household
rakshabhogam  protection money
ryot  peasant
sambhandham  nair women's relation with brahmin
sanketam  protection force under temples
serishtadar  administrative official
swarupam  territorial unit
tahsildar  head tax official
tara  administrative unit
taravadu  family unit forming a household and unit of land ownership
tavali  collateral of the branch of a family unit (taravadu), ownership of this branch.
thangal  muslim spiritual leader
theendal  pollution by caste
theruvu  street
tukri  division, district
tukridar  overseer of division or district
uralan  temple trustees
variym  temple committee
varrum  share of produce
verumpattam  simple lease