Around the turn of the century, one group of men in Madras City emerged as pre-eminent in the business of mediating between the newly important institutions of provincial capital and the many interests who needed to exert influence within them. These men were bound together by their success and were loosely referred to as the Mylapore set. At the core of the group were some of the most successful lawyers and administrators of the province. They were rich and highly educated, their families extended throughout the legal and service communities of the province and their clientele and personal networks stretched all over the region. Their knowledge and their wide range of contacts made them indispensable as advisers and assistants to the bureaucracy; their skills and their access to the bureaucratic era enabled them to serve a plethora of different interests.

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