

Educational (191²) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 739 A

DATED 13. 8. 12

[Despatch Abstract.]

International Congress of Orientalists.

Receiving letter from the Right Honourable Sec^y of State for India transmitted through the Govt of India a copy of a report by Mr. F. W. Thomas upon his delegate to the Orientalists Congress at Athens, forwarded by the Government of India.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

[$\frac{E. \& L.}{68}$]
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EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT FILE.

CONTENTS.

[P.T.O. FOR PUT UP PAPERS.]

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S. C.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S. C.)	Despatcher to note the return of the papers to the departments concerned.

ESTCN-2023
No. 1621 Reg-23-72

Government of India,
Department of Education.
Simla, the 16th July 1912.

India Office, London,
7th June 1912.

Public (Records),
No. 10.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor
General of India in Council
A copy of the undermentioned papers is forwarded

to the Government of Madras,
for information.

In continuation of my Despatch No. 10 Public (Records), dated
29th March 1912, regarding the recent International Congress of
Orientalists, I transmit herewith,
for the information of Your Excellency's Government, a copy of a report
which has been furnished to me by Dr. F. W. Thomas, who attended
the Congress as the representative of India.



By order,
I have conveyed to the Madras Government an expression of my thanks for
their services on that occasion.

Yours faithfully,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) CREWE.

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Despatch from the Secretary of State No: 10 Public (Records)
dated the 7th June 1912 and enclosure.

7A

India Office, London,
7th June 1912.

Public (Records),
No. 10.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor
General of India in Council.

My Lord,

In continuation of my Despatch No. 5, Public (Records), dated
29th March 1912, regarding the
International Congress of recent International Congress of
Orientalists. Orientalists, I transmit herewith,
for the information of Your Excellency's Government, a copy of a report
which has been furnished to me by Dr. F. W. Thomas, who attended
the Congress as the representative of India.

2. I have conveyed to Dr. Thomas an expression of my thanks for
his services on that occasion.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) CREWE.

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ENCLOSURE.

Report of Mr. F. W. Thomas upon his delegation to the Orientalist
Congress at Athens, 6th to 14th April 1912.

Sir,

6th May 1912.

Upon receipt of your communication dated 21st March 1912, I made arrangements for attending the Congress of Orientalists at Athens, and on the 29th I left England with a view to securing a passage upon one of the Austrian Lloyd steamers at Brindisi. In spite of the congestion of traffic which at the time had preoccupied the various routes to Greece, I succeeded in obtaining accommodation upon a boat which left Brindisi on the 2nd of April, and I had accordingly no difficulty in reaching Athens in time for the preliminary meeting on the 6th.

The previously circulated bulletins had foreshadowed a concurrence of the Congress with the celebrations of the University Jubilee, in view of which circumstance a number of the delegates were charged with a double commission. The time also was Easter, and the National Fête was due on the 8th and 9th of the month. These coincidences had, no doubt, a tendency to diminish the separate *éclat* of the Congress, and in the first days, perhaps, even to interfere with, or postpone, its work. On the other hand, they lent importance to the joint proceedings, and both the ceremonial gatherings and the numerous private receptions were in several instances honoured by the presence of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, His Royal Highness the Prince Royal, and other members of the Royal Family.

The formal inauguration of the Congress (and the Jubilee) took place upon the Akropolis on the 7th, when addresses were delivered by the Prince Royal and others, the Congress being represented by Count A. de Gubernatis, who at the preliminary meeting had been elected President. On the 10th the delegates were received by the Prince Royal in his palace; there were also receptions by the General Secretary of the Congress, M. Spyridion P. Lambros, Rector of the University, by the American School of Classical Studies together with the British School of Archaeology, by the German Archaeological Institute, by the University, by the students, by the Parnassus Society, and by Madame Schliemann. Many of the British visitors were also received by the British Ambassador on the last day of the Congress. An excursion to Eleusis took place on the 9th, when those who journeyed by sea had an opportunity of realising the circumstances of the battle of Salamis.

In respect of numbers, the Congress did not seem to fall short of its predecessors. Well-known scholars belonging to all countries were absent; but it cannot be said that any countries were markedly under-represented. From Russia, Germany, and Italy there were very good contingents. England had officially deputed Professor Margoliouth; Ceylon, Professor Rhys Davids; the British Academy and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Wales (Bangor), Dublin had sent Canon Driver, Professor Macdonell, Professors Bevan and Rapson, Professor T. W. Arnold, Professor Lehmann-Haupt, Professor Eggeling, Professor T. W. Davies, and Professor Mahaffy respectively. Among those who were present in a private capacity may be mentioned the Rev. Dr. Johns, Master of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, the eminent Assyriologist; Mr. Amedroz, Mr. W. H. Brooks, Mr. Grahame Bailey, Mr. H. Baynes, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Ridding. I noted the presence of three natives of India, Messrs. Laddu, Sorabji, and Todar Mall, all Government of India Scholars.

I now turn to the scientific work of the Congress. As will be seen from the annexed copies of Bulletins 6 and 7, the Congress was divided into 11 sections as follows:—

- I. Comparative Philology of the Indo-European Languages.
- II. Comparative History of Oriental Religions, Comparative Mythology and Folk-Lore, &c.
- III. India (Literature, History, Archaeology).
- IV. Iran (Literature, History, Archaeology).
- V. China and Japan. Central Asia.
- VI. Indo-China, Burma, Madagascar, Malaisia.
- VII. Semitic Languages and Literature.
- VIII. Islam (History, Literature, Archaeology).
- IX. Egyptology and African Languages.
- X. Languages, Peoples, and Civilizations of America.
- XI. Greece and the East.

There were also Plenary Sitzings, at which were read all papers accompanied by lime-light illustrations.

The busiest Sections were, no doubt, Nos. VII. and XI., which, however, dealt with matters having little bearing upon India; Nos. IV. and VI., which were scantily represented and for which very few papers had been announced, sat for the most part with Nos. III. and V. respectively. So far as I was able to observe, the attendance was good.

I myself attended chiefly Nos. I. (Comparative Philology) and III. (India); but I was also present at a special meeting of No. VI., and at one or two of the Plenary Sitzings. In general it would seem that, though the Congress produced little of striking importance, a good deal of sound work was reported in most of the Sections. Taking note only of matters which are of concern to India, I may mention in Section I. Mr. Grahame Bailey's paper on "Unknown Modern Indian Vernaculars," and Professor E. W. Hopkins' identification of the Indian god *Kuvera*, in name and function, with the Greek *Kabeiros*. In Section III. I should single out Professor Count Pullé's discourse—in continuation of his previous work—on the historical cartography of Indo-China, Professor Hultzsch's identification of two more *Jātakas* in the Bharhut sculptures, Dr. F. O. Schrader's paper on the *Saṣṭitantra* (Sāṅkhya philosophy), and especially Professor Macdonell's account of the great collection of Sanskrit MSS. recently acquired by the Bodleian Library and of other collections existing in Oxford. To this Section I communicated Dr. Grierson's Progress Report upon the Linguistic Survey. Professor Formichi presented a copy of his new Italian translation of Aśvaghosa's *Buddhacarita*, and read an interesting paper on the subject. Professor Lüders presented a new volume of the *Encyclopædia of Indo-Aryan Research* in the shape of a treatise on Indian Ethnology by Sir J. A. Baines.

In Section V. Mr. C. O. Blagden read a paper "On some old inscriptions from Burma."

In the Section (No. VIII.) dealing with Islam, the paper which aroused the most discussion was, I understand, one by Père Henri Lammens "On the primitive conception of the word *masgid* 'mosque.'" But mention should also be made of those by Professor Goldziher on the theology of Fakhr al Dīn al Rāzī, by Professor Margoliouth on biographies from Vol. VI. of Yakut's *Dictionary of Learned Men*, by M. Louis Massignon on the mystic formula *Anā al Haqq*, and by Professor Becker upon the results of His Highness the Herzog von Mecklenburg's expedition into Inner Africa.

In the Plenary Sitting Professor Chavannes delivered an interesting address dealing with Buddhist sculpture in Northern China. Several papers concerned with subjects remote from India were of high merit.

The collection of books presented by the Secretary of State in Council was duly exhibited.

The concluding general meeting was occupied in the first place with the question of the next Congress. An invitation had been received, in the name of His Highness the Khedive, from Cairo, and Professor Fischer was commissioned by the German government to proffer, if advisable, the hospitality of Leipzig. But there was a somewhat general feeling in favour of Oxford and Cambridge, and the decision was accordingly remitted to an international committee, consisting of single representatives of the several countries. Upon this committee, which may, it is hoped, give a greater continuity to the organisation of the Congress, England is represented by Professor Rhys Davids.

A second matter which occupied the general meeting was the ratification of recommendations of the different sections. Upon the recommendation of Sections III. (India) and VI. (Indo-China) a committee appointed at the Copenhagen Congress to consider the question of transliteration in regard to Indo-Chinese languages (including Tibetan) was authorised to publish in the name of the Congress schemes for the several languages. It is hoped that the committee, which was suggested originally by Professor Kuhn and myself, and which consists further of Professors Cabaton, Conrady, Finot, Dr. Grierson, and Mr. Blagden, may arrive at results which, without aiming at general utility, may serve the purposes of libraries and philological studies.

The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the Greek authorities, to M. Lambros, the General Secretary, for his exhausting and successful labour of organization, and to the students of the University, who had combined to render much courteous assistance.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

I am, &c.,
F. W. THOMAS.

[L. & M.]
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Educational
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Pap ers to be read in Proceedings:

Again G.O., No. , dated

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