

Educational (1913) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 468 Ed. No.

DATED 21-5-1913.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Connemara Public Library — Recording letter
from the Principal Librarian — Submit-
ting remarks on the suggestions made by
Messrs. Sundaram Aiyar, Journalist-Madras
regarding the — in his letter published in
the Madras Standard of the 12th March last.

V. Sundaram Aiyar,
JOURNALIST.
(The Advertiser Agency.)



C. 11208 2/40 Kachalasura Agraharam,
MADRAS.
T. 4-13 March 29, 1913.

The Chief Secretary

The Government of Madras,
Madras.



Sir,

May I invite your attention to a note under my signature appearing in the columns of the Madras Standard of March 12, under the heading "The Coimbatore Public Library", in which I have made a few suggestions in the interest of the public? I will be glad if you will be pleased to go through my suggestion with a view to take any action in the matter.

I beg to remain,

Sr,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

V. Sundaram Aiyar.

In Rpts 170. b. d.
25/4/13

✓ 3
Educational Dept

CN^o 1098
1120.

Endorsement No. 1120-120
25.4.13

Referred to the Principal
Librarian, Commemara Public
Library, for remarks.

R

Despatch
22/4/13

His attention
2.4.13 is invited to G. O.
27/4/13 No 654 D. 18-7-12
and his letter No 202 Ck.
D. 25-6-12.

To the Principal Librarian,
Commemara Public Library
with CN^o 1120 in original to
be returned with reply.

Noted in CB

W.S.
20.4.13

W
19413

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Received 191 . Registered 287 1913.

Subject.

Submitting remarks on the suggestions made by
Mr. V. Sundaram Aiyar, Journalist, Madras regarding
the Commemorative Public Library in his letter published
in the Madras Standard of the 12th March last.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

One

Spare copies

No. 109 B. L.

Station Madras, Dated the 26th April 1913.

From (Name) J. R. Henderson, Esq. M. A., C. M., & L. S.

(Designation) Principal Librarian, Commemorative Public Library.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

Sir,

With reference to Endorsement No. 1120-1 Edu-
cational, dated 21st instant, I have the honour
to submit the following remarks on the sug-
gestions made by Mr. V. Sundaram Aiyar, jour-
nalist, Madras, regarding the Commemorative Public
Library in his letter published in the Madras
Standard of the 12th March last.

2. Mr. Sundaram Aiyar complains that
"in the catalogues laid on the table in-
variably it is the names of the authors
that are indexed and not the names

of the general subjects," and suggests that "if a classified index is taken of the general subjects it would prove of immense advantage." The catalogues referred to are the folio catalogues placed on the library counter of books, arranged according to authors' names. The newspaper correspondent's suggestion, I have the honour to observe, is made under a misapprehension that there are no subject-indexes maintained in the Library in addition to the Authors' names catalogue. In this connection I have the honour to invite attention to paragraph 3 of my letter N^o 89 C.S. dated 6th April 1910 recorded in G.O. N^o 283 Educational dated 24th May 1910 from which it will be seen that separate indexes relating to the several subjects were published from 1896 to 1900, and that further for the convenience of readers folio copies are maintained in the Library containing the entries in the printed indexes with manuscript additions made from time to time relating to subsequent accessions.

As regards the revised subject index

Catalogue now under preparation, I have the honour to state that the work has been almost completed and that it will be shortly sent to Press. Every endeavour will be made to bring it out at an early date.

3. Mr. Sundaram Aiyar next suggests that, when new editions of a book are published, it is advisable that the old editions should be removed; and adds that no useful purpose seems to be served by retaining for example the Lawrence Ayrham Almanacks from 1882 down to 1913. With reference to this suggestion, I have the honour to observe that in many cases the earlier editions are still of use and cannot be removed without full consideration. To quote only a single instance, the publication of the eleventh edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica has not entirely superseded the ninth and tenth editions which contain important articles by leading writers which have not been reproduced in the last edition. To take the example quoted by the newspaper correspondent, it cannot, I think, be said that the publication of a recent

annual volume of the Lawrence Asylum Press Almanack has rendered previous volumes useless or superfluous, as the latter will still be useful for reference, especially with the advance of time. As I have stated, the removal of earlier editions is a matter which requires careful consideration, and need not, I think, be taken up till there is pressure of room for books in the Library. I have accordingly the honour to submit that no action is now necessary with reference to the suggestion in question.

4. Mr. Sundaram Aiyar suggests lastly that, "as at present conducted no reader can get a general catalogue to be taken home," catalogues should be printed and sold to the public at say a price of four annas per copy. Here again he appears to be under a misapprehension. A catalogue of books arranged according to authors' names was issued in 1908, priced at Rs. 2 a copy

and four supplements containing entries of books subsequently added have been issued up to date. The Catalogue and supplements are sold at cost price as fixed by the Superintendent, Government Press.

5. The original enclosure which accompanied the endorsement under reply is returned herewith.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

J. R. Kendum.

Principal Librarian,
Connemara Public Library.

D.R.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *The Hindu*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Date— *13 March 1913*

C. 109589
1-4-13

The Connemara Public Library.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HINDU."

SIR.—The Connemara Public Library of Madras is being frequented by a large class of readers and the Government has been maintaining it at a high cost in the interest of the public. It is incumbent on the authorities therefore to remove the hardships the public are put to and I make the following few suggestions in the hope that they will be taken by them in right earnest to effect further improvements:—

1. In the catalogues laid on the table, invariably it is the names of the authors that are indexed and not the names of the general subjects. One who wants to know for example, what books have to be consulted on Political Economy rarely finds any in the general subject and turning to India one finds under Adam Smith "Wealth of Nations," under Gide, "Political Economy," under Mill, "Representative Government," and so on. If a classified index is taken of the general subjects it would be of immense use and according to the general rules of public libraries a book is to be indexed under many headings to facilitate reference.

2. When new editions of the same book are published the old editions may be removed. No useful purpose seems to be served by retaining for example, the Lawrence Asylum Almanacs from 1882 down to 1913.

3. As at present conducted no reader can get a general catalogue to be taken home, to think leisurely of what books to consult on particular subjects. If catalogues are printed and sold to the public they cannot but prize them too high. The catalogue may be priced at 4 annas a copy and I don't think that such a trifle will be grudged by any. This is indeed worth a trial.

These are it seems to me some of the drawbacks that are to be remedied and it is to be hoped that the suggestions will be considered by the authorities in the interest of the wider public.

Y. SUNDARAM AIYAR.

GEORGETOWN.

I think the com. plan is real.

The Catalogue can with advantage be made more useful and more informing.

15 3 13

Edict. may take this up
27. 3/13

If it is only a com. plan Catalogue it is certainly my suggestion. A Public Library ought to have a list of authors Catalogues combined, in separate sections; but as there is the sentiment that it is difficult to prepare Catalogue in a proper way.

PR 26/3
Rev. Mr. Aiyar

Q & R.

It seems best to obtain the remarks of the Principal Librarian on Sundaram Aiyar's letter which may be referred to him. Attention is solicited to gnos 280 Sold, 24-10 & 654 Sold, 18-7-12.

2. A draft endorsement is submitted for approval.

24.13
24.13
18/4/13

19.4.13

page 2 of CF.
pages 3 to 7 of CF.

[Memo. No. 1120-1 Sold, 21-4-13]

From the Principal Librarian, Commemorative Public Library,
No. 109 d, 26.4.13.

pages ante.

The suggestions of Mr. Sundaram Aiyar relate to —

- (i) the preparation of a subject catalogue,
- (ii) the destruction of old editions of books as soon as new editions are received, and
- (iii) the cheap sale of the catalogues.

pages 5 to 7 of CF.

2. Taking the last two suggestions first, it is submitted that in the circumstances stated in paras 3 & 4 of the Principal Librarian's letter, no specific action is called for on them. The index when issued will also be available for sale & the price of catalogue will be determined with reference to cost of printing.

3. As regards suggestion (i), it is submitted, that the only subject indexes now in the library are those published between 1896 to 1900. The indexes of books added to the library since 1901 ~~are not available~~ ~~and therefore the circumstances cannot be taken into consideration~~. The matter has, however, been engaging the attention of Govt for some time past.

pages of CF.

- Q. Please see Gons. 283 Ecd, 24-5-10, and 654 Ecd.
- R. 18-7-12. As the Principal Librarian reports that work has been almost completed the papers may merely be recorded.
3. A draft order is submitted for approval.

PA
19-5-12
Ca
20/5/12

dft. 18/5

” ” ” ” ” 191

" " 1393 " " Principes Liberales " 109 Cl. " 26 = 4- 1913

Commemora Public Library

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191

ORDER.

Mi

No. 468, dated 21.5.1913

Recorded

$\frac{44}{49.5.13}$
 $\frac{69}{20571}$

11/24/5

To the Principal Librarian
(910)

Rec'd & Exch'd of
22-5-13

21)

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENTS WITH DETAIL.

PAPERS NOT READ UP, BEING KEPT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

Copy in full
Not to be copied.
Copy abstract only.
Copy heading only