

E. dl (1915) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. *1245 E. dl*

DATED *19. 11. 15*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Gout Oriental MSS Library.

*Sanctioning the
continuance for a further period
of one year, of the temporary party
constituted under G.O. No. 10762 of
the 15th September 1914 for the
purpose of searching for and
acquiring Oriental MSS of interest
and value in private hands*



CN: 3657 & P

C.F.-20.

DEPARTMENT.

Received 191 . Registered 26.10.1915.

Subject.

Submitting for orders of Government extracts from a report of the Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, in connection with the question of the continuance of the temporary search party employed for the collection of rare oriental manuscripts.

ENCLOSURES
No.
Spare copies

N. Ref on C No. 8 1 1 7 / 15

Station Madras, Dated the 23rd October 1915

From (Name) The Honble Mr. J.H.Stone, M.A., F.R.H.S., C.I.E.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,

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

Sir,

2/ 3
N. Ref on Cur No. 8117/15 dated October 1915

Submitted to Government together with extracts from
the Curator's report Cur No. 156/15 dated 5th October 1915.

pages 3-6
infra

2. As I have no means of judging of the value of the manuscripts obtained, I refrain from making any recommendation, but the fact that so much of the year has been spent in only two places suggests that the operations of the search party are likely to extend to far more than the decade so hopefully mentioned by the Curator.

portion K
page 5 infra

3. Provision has been made for the charges connected with the search party in the Budget Estimate for 1916-1917.

C. W. Thompson
For Director of Public Instruction.

N.V.S.

3, 1
Extracts from the letter of the Curator, Government
Oriental Manuscripts Library, Ref on Cur No. 156/15
5th October 1915.
4

Preliminary preparation. By way of preliminary preparation the new members of the temporary staff were required to acquaint themselves with the lists of Manuscripts in the library and they were also engaged for some time in acquainting themselves with various scripts and in preparing up-to-date catalogues in Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu which would be necessary for search work.

Among the several districts known to contain private libraries, the Godavari District was selected as the first field of experiment, as in the previous years of the Library work, periodical search was mostly confined to Southern districts and as there was sufficient evidence to think that nothing by way of a thorough and systematic search of Manuscripts was ever before conducted in that district by any antiquarian scholar. Among the various modes of collecting information as to the existence of manuscripts in any village, it was considered that printed forms with a number of items to be duly filled up by the village officers would be effective in making available, useful and exhaustive information regarding the names of owners and in facilitating access to the various collections of manuscripts. Accordingly printed forms were sent through the Tahsildars of the various Taluks to every village in the Godavari District. It naturally took some time before they were duly filled up and returned to my office. In the meanwhile a public notice was also put up in the District Gazette, wherein the chief objects of the library search sanctioned by Government were explained. Nevertheless the ignorant masses on some vague and groundless give any information.

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a result of which most of the village -officers in the District were led to send nil-statements. But when the actual search was commenced, depending mainly upon official and private enquiries, it was found possible, though after considerable difficulty, to persuade owners of manuscripts everywhere to help the public cause; and they were eventually able to see for themselves that no coercion was employed either in the examination or acquisition of manuscripts. Their fears were slowly, but completely, dispelled, so much so that in a few instances they themselves volunteered to exhibit their own manuscript collections. But a few months had to elapse before complete confidence could be inspired in their hearts.

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The work turned out. The total number of private libraries examined comes to 123 of which 56 belong to Amalapuram Taluk and 50 to Razole: the remainder representing those which were found to be available in certain other Taluks of the District, during the special Assistant's preliminary tour and whose examination it was considered inexpedient to put off. In selecting private libraries for examination, good care was taken not to ignore even apparently insignificant ones, as they also in several cases contributed rare works not available elsewhere.

The approximate number of volumes now examined is 10865 of which 799 are noted as important works for purposes of acquisition or reference. The total number of manuscripts actually acquired for the Library on presentation and by purchase and transcription is 400, the greater part of this representing those that have been taken on loan for transcription. Only in four cases where the owners stubbornly declined to lend their manuscripts under any circumstances, it was found necessary to appoint at the residences of these owners, temporary copyists for transcribing the selected manuscripts.

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General:- Various causes, especially the presumption on the part of many villagers that every manuscript has become available in print, and the labour and cost of restoring injured manuscripts, contribute to hasten their decay in private hands; and there are good reasons to apprehend that in a decade or two, more than half the number of manuscripts in private collections may become extinct. In every village where the search party found manuscripts available for examination, profound regret has been expressed that this systematic search had not been carried on by the Government a decade earlier, when it would have been found possible to save from ill-fated oblivion, many a large collection of valuable manuscripts now lost or injured beyond redemption. However the scheme of search now being worked out under the auspices of Government could certainly be expected to stay in an effective manner the progress of further decay of the literary treasures of the country. The total output of the work thus far turned out by the search party both in respect of quantity and quality, appears to me to be satisfactory and encouraging and full of promise for the future. If the search party be allowed to continue its useful work with unabated zeal and vigour for about a decade, it may be reasonably hoped that the laudable work of search and collection now begun in certain parts of the Presidency could be successfully completed in all the districts of the Presidency and the adjoining Native States, as contemplated in the scheme sanctioned by Government. In conclusion I may observe that the future work of the search party will be of far greater value and will yield far better results than during the period under report, particularly because a good deal of valuable experience has been gained during this period and the way for further progress has been rendered smoother by overcoming a considerable number of initial difficulties. I may here add that extracts from paras 6 and 7 of this Report will be communicated in due course, to each of the members of the advisory committee constituted under

109626 the Co.O. in this connection for information.
18-7-14

/True copy/

C. W. Harrison

For Director of Public Instruction.

N.V.S.

NOTES.

Previous papers

903 ECL 7 16.8.15
 - & a subsequent 5.0.15
 completion of building
 for Unit 2 Library

115 ECL 7 6.2.15

1096 ECL 7 12.9.14

47 Pub 7 7.1.14

565 ECL 7 14.6.13

375 .. 7 1.5.12

223 .. 7 9.3.12

Previous papers

21.8.11 803 ECL 7
 - & a subsequent 5.0.15
 completion of building
 for Unit 2 Library

11.5.11 803 ECL 7

11.8.11 803 ECL 7

11.1.11 803 ECL 7

1.1.11 803 ECL 7

1.1.11 803 ECL 7

1.1.11 803 ECL 7

NOTES

OFFICE NOTE.

C.F. 16-17-2-14.

Eol 8

SUBJECT. Continuation of the Search Party, Constituted
under G.O. No. 1096 Eol 9 of 12th Sept 14

From the D.P.D. No 8117/15 of 23rd October 1915.

Register No. 3657 Eol

Please see ^{the} ~~the~~ and orders in
G.O. No. 1096 Eol 9 of the 18th
September 1914. ~~in which~~ The Curator of the Oriental
MSS Library, ^{originally} ~~proposed~~ proposed to employ a party,
consisting of a special assistant to the Curator,
four pandits and two peons, to search for and acquire
in a systematic manner, oriental MSS of interest
and value now in private hands. This party, he proposed
to employ temporarily, for a period of 5 years during
which time he expected to fairly exhaust the search
in the whole Presidency. But the D.P.D. was of opinion
that the party need not, at the outset, be constituted
for more than two years, since by that time the Uni-
versity was expected to take over under its control
the Oriental MSS Library. When the Library is trans-
ferred to the University, the charges on account of it
are to be met from the recurring grant of Rs 65,000
sanctioned by the Govt of India in 1912. and the
charges on account of the search party and ~~the~~ other
expenses.

pages 3M and also

para 3(ii)(a) on p. 7 of
Notes to G.O. 1096
18.9.14 (D)

page 3 and also
para 4 on p. 7 of - do.

para 7 on p. 11 of do.

expenses incidental to it will have to be met from its own funds ^{in the future}. ~~as proposed, the University of Madras~~ ^{in the future} ~~be expected to defray the expenses~~. In ~~this~~ ^{the} connection ~~the~~ Chief Secretary remarked " " " " but in view of the possibility that the University may take over the Library within two years, I would sanction the scheme (of the Search party) for one year only in the "first place" - ~~Accordingly in 1906~~ ^{Accordingly in 1906} ~~the party was~~ ^{the party was} constituted only for one year at the outset.

2. The work turned out by ~~the~~ ^{search} party during that period is ~~given~~ ^{given} on p. 4 Cf. The Curator now states that if the party be allowed to continue for about a decade, the work of Search and Collection could be successfully completed in all the districts of the Presidency and in the adjoining Native States. ~~and accordingly, order for~~ ~~work~~. The D. P. S., having no means of judging the value of the manuscripts obtained, refrains from making any recommendations but observes "that the operations of the Search party are likely to extend for more than a decade so hopefully mentioned by the "Curator" and he has made provision for the charges connected with that party, in the budget for 1916-17.

3. The University of Madras has, in another connection, expressed that they will not take over the Library until the new University Library Buildings are erected and ready for occupation and there is no prospect of these buildings being completed within one year.

p. 11 of G.O. No. 1096 D 18.9.14

p. 5 Cf.

p. 2 Cf.

p. 18 of G.O. No. 702 D 18.8.15 (7)

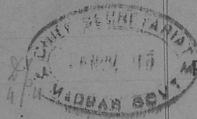
year, since the detailed plans and estimates are still with the Consulting Architect. In these circumstances, it is for consideration whether the Search party may be allowed to continue for ^{a further} another period of one year. Before passing final orders, it is submitted that the Financial Dept. may be consulted w.o.

as
3/11/15

The we may sanction for another year. But if the manuscripts are such "treasures" as they were expected to be, it is disappointing that the Curator gives us no inkling of the literary value of his discoveries.

85

4.11.15



W. 2 u.o.



Recd. 5-11-15

Eolus 3657-1

5.11.15

Financial Dept.

For the A.S.

It is proposed to sanction the continuance for a further period of 1 year, of the temporary Oriental manuscripts search party, whose employment for a period of one year was sanctioned in G.O. No. 1096 Edk, 2.18.9.14. The total cost involved in the proposed retention is about Rs. 11,076. The charge will be met from the provision

- ① 1 Author Rs 100
- 2 Scribe Rs 50 each
- 2 do. Rs 40 each
- 2 pen. Rs 9 each

Para. 3 of G.O. 1096 Edk, 2.18.9.14.

Para 2 of Financial note
2.10.7.14, on page 9 of G.O.
1096 Edk, 2.18.9.14. D

h 155 CAE

cf. Jan. 22 on page 438
B.N. May B.
" vide para 3 of D.P.I. letter
on 7.2.15.

made in the B.E. for 1915-16, and proposed by
the D.P.I. in his Budget Estimate for 1916-17. on
account of purchase and Collection of
oriental manuscripts under "22.I Education -
Miscellaneous". The proposal may, it is submitted
be accepted in Financial.

vue
8.11.15.

CMU
8.11.15

CS
9.11.15

File No. 6958-1
12-11-15



Notes in CO
13/11/15

A draft order is submitted below for

approval

as
16/11/15
JL
15/11/15

8
16.11.15

H. E. Mr. Gannar.

Ltr No. 1054
16.11.15

17.11.



” ” ” ” ” ” 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 365788, From the D.P.I., No. 8447, dated the 23. 10. 1915

" " " ", " "

191

[illegible]

ORDER.

No. 124580, ^{Mis}dated 19-11-1915

The Govt. sanctioned the continuation for a further period of one year, of the temporary party constituted under G.O. No. 1076 of 27th 18th September 1914. ^{for the purpose} ~~for the purpose~~ of the research for and acquiring a systematic knowledge of interest and value ^{new} in private lands.

16.11.15

The D.P.I. (900)✓

Final Depth (G & O Write Notes)

$\therefore A \cdot Q \cdot (g + 0) \checkmark$

CS
15/11/15

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191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FIELD UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

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