

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 427

DATED 2-4-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Application for appointment.

Transmitting to the Syndicate of the University of Madras
for necessary action an application for appointment received from
the Mr. A.D. Dickinson, a library expert in America.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.O.)	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.O.)	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

C No. 1193 En

No. 162.

Government of India,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
(General.)

Delhi, the 6th March 1917.

From

The Hon'ble Sir E.D. MacLagan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

Sir,

I am desired to forward a copy of a letter dated the
19th of December 1916 from Mr. A.D. Dickinson, an American
Expert, in which he asks whether he could be employed on
library work in India.

2. The Government of India have replied to Mr. Dickinson
that they are unable in present circumstances to offer him
employment: but, in accordance with the suggestion made in
his postscript, a copy of his letter is forwarded to the
larger provinces and to the Registrar of the Calcutta
University for such further action as they may think
advisable in direct communication with him. I am in this
connection to add that Mr. Dickinson was employed during the
cold weather of 1915-1916 by the Punjab University and it
is understood that he was found to be an energetic and
capable man whose work and instruction were of considerable
value.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

MacLagan

M.R.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Hempstead, N. Y., U.S.A.,

December 19, 1916.

Secretary for the Educational Department,
Government of India, Delhi, India.

Sir:-

I have recently returned from a year in India as Librarian of the University of the Punjab. My work there included (1) a six weeks' course of lectures to librarians on modern library methods, (2) planning and supervising the re-organization of the University Library, (3) writing the 'Punjab Library Primer' for the guidance of my pupils after my departure, - it should be off the Press by the time you receive this letter.

On my way home I visited the Imperial and University libraries in Calcutta, and I hope you will not consider it impertinent if I say that as an expert librarian I was strongly impressed by the need for improvement in both institutions. From what I have seen and heard I think I can risk the assertion that there is not a single well-organized library in British India.

An honest and not wholly selfish desire to have a hand in the splendid work of you British in India has induced me to venture to call your attention to this state of affairs, as I suppose it is the aim of your Department to see that money appropriated to the cause of education is spent to the best advantage. You are spending and have spent a good deal of money for books, and yet - if you can pardon my plain speaking - you have scarcely anything in the country that could be called a library. For an aggregation of books is no more a library than a pile of bricks is a house.

We in America are generally acknowledged to be ahead of the rest of the world in our library methods. The force of

...A.A.U., N.Y., U.S.A.
December 19, 1916.

Secretary for the Educational Department,
Government of India, Delhi, India.

Sir:-

I have recently returned from a year in India as
Librarian of the University of the Punjab. My work there
included (1) a six weeks' course of lectures on libraries
on Indian library methods, (2) planning and supervising the
re-organization of the University Library, (3) writing the
Punjab Library Journal, for the guidance of my publisher
my department, - it should be of the same by the time you
receive this letter.

On my return home I visited the Imperial and University
Library in Calcutta, and I hope you will not consider it
improbable if I say that as an expert librarian I was
actively immersed in the need for improvement in our
libraries. I have now and then heard I have
can with the attention that there is not a single well-

organized library in British India.

An honest and not wholly satisfied feeling to have been in
the epistolary world of your nation in India has induced me to
venture to call your attention to this state of affairs. I
suppose it is to the aim of your department to see that money

appropriated to the cause of education is spent on the

best advantage. From the records and reports I have

heard of only for books, and yet - the year-end report on

plain speaking - you have collected something in the country

that could be called a library. For preservation of

books in a more or less safe place of deposit is a

very important and generally acknowledged to be part of

the work of the State in our library system.

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circumstances had led us to devote a great deal of attention
to library science. There is nothing specially difficult or
abstruse about the matter - nothing specially creditable to
us. The benefactions of our millionaires to libraries have
stimulated their development until in this field we have
gone ahead of the rest of the world. That is all. And
as soon as the world realizes this fact there will be as
great a demand for American librarians as exists for American
dentists. ~~been carried~~ far as I would wish.

I wish it could be made possible for me to be the means of
introducing modern library methods throughout India. It
would make every rupee that you are now spending on books
do the work of five, and it would multiply the benefits to be
derived from expenditures already made; while the total cost
for the whole country would be less than that of a single
ill-planned library building. Efficiency is an over-worked
expression, but nowhere is it more important or less fre-
quently found than in libraries.

My time in Lahore was all too short. If I, or any other
expert librarian, could spend three years in the large cities
of India giving instruction to and supervising the work of
the assembled native librarians, the permanent benefits to the
whole country would be simply incalculable.

The University of the Punjab paid me Rs. 15,000 for nine
months' work. But I suppose there is work to be done at
Simla and other hill stations, so I could arrange to give you
about eleven months' service each year.

I enclose some copy concerning myself which has been pre-
pared for the next edition of 'Who's Who in America', and can
refer you to the University authorities at Lahore for further
information as to my personality, ability, and political
opinions. Mr. Page, our Ambassador at the Court of St.
James, knows me well; he is in fact a member of the firm
of publishers by whom I am now employed. I am greatly

interested in India and the Indians, but heartily in sympathy with the British raj. Have had the pleasure of lecturing upon these subjects several times since my return to this country.

If I came to you for three years I could afford to resign my present position as literary adviser and editor with Doubleday, Page & Co. They granted me only a year's leave to go to Lahore, whence I was obliged to return before my work had been carried as far as I could wish.

If you are at all interested in this project I hope I may have the great pleasure of hearing from you soon, as I have recently received overtures from the library authorities of a Western city and should be sorry to commit myself definitely to them if there is a chance of undertaking a greater work in India.

Yours very respectfully,

A. D. Dickinson.

P.S.- If your Department is unable to take up this matter, I should be greatly indebted if you would pass this letter on to the educational authorities of some university, province or state which might be interested.

Dickinson, Asa Don, librarian and bookman; b.
 Detroit, Mich., May 15, 1876; nephew Don M. Dickinson;
ed. Brooklyn Latin School, Columbia Law School, N.Y.
 State Library School, and by foreign travel and residence;
m. Helen Winslow Dickinson (sic - maiden name) June 6,
 1908. On staff Brooklyn Public Library, 1903-1906,
 where organized Dep't for the Blind' Sec'y Long Island
 Library Club, 1905-1906; Lib'n, Union College Library,
 1906-1907; Lib'n, Leavenworth Free Public Library,
 1907-1910; Library Organizer, Kansas Library Association,
 1908-1910; Lib'n, Washington State College Library,
 1910-1912; on editorial staff Doubleday, Page & Co.,
 1912-1915; organized Punjab libraries for University of
 Punjab, 1915-1916; member American Library Association,
 1903 to date. Author: Punjab Library Primer, 1917.
Editor: Children's Book of Christmas Stories, 1913;
 Europe at War, 1914; The Kaiser, 1914; Children's Book of
 Thanksgiving Stories, 1915; Stories of Achievement, 1916.
Contr'r. to Library Journal, Public Libraries, etc.
Home: Hempstead, N.Y. Office: Country Life Press,
 Garden City, N.Y.

Home Dept.

Le. 1193, from the G. of. S., No. 162, d. Mar. 6. 3. 17.

Subject: Employment for Mr. Dickinson,

Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson.

It will be seen from the G. of. S.'s letter and the application forwarded therewith Mr. Dickinson's special aptitude lies in library work. It does not appear that his services are required either in the Educational Dept: or in the Government Public Library ^(at present) unless it is thought necessary to specifically consult the D. P. S. or

who is the Principal Librarian of the Government Library.

Mr. Henderson, Mr. Dickinson may be told that the Govt: are unable to offer him any suitable appointment but that his application has been ^{(to the University of Madras,} transmitted, & of such action as they may consider in direct communication - to write him.

2. Subject to approval a draft order and a draft letter are submitted.

E. d. 1193-1

17.3.17

12.3.17

we may ^{fit} consult the Supt. Commr. Public Librarian & the D. P. S. no.

CR 15.3.17

D. P. S. Principal Librarian Government Public Library } no.

No 72 8/19.3.17

The University might find some use for
but when one service book and so could
the department if we had found it
there, but not for three years which
is what he appears to want

19. 12



20

The Principal Librarian, Commemorative
Public Library, etc.

Ca

2073/17

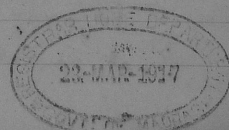
Connemara Public Library
Kiladon, 22nd March 1922

Реш. 68 кл / 22 $\frac{3}{5}$.

В № 712/22-3-17.

I do not think that it would be profitable to engage Mr. Dickinson's services at present in connection with the Commemora Public Library, later on, when the University Library books have been removed to a habitation of their own, a rearrangement of the C. P. L. under expert supervision could no doubt be useful.

22.3.17



Hence Dept.

(Ed. 2)

The D.P.S. does not seem to be next of kind about the employment of Mr. Davidson though he is of opinion that the university and the Dept. might find some use for his services, if the requisite funds were available. In the present state of his finances it is doubtful whether the Govt. will seriously take up the question of engaging him at State expense or even contributing anything to the university should that body find

some work for him. If when the Illinois Commission ² Mr. Davidson does not find

any near prospect for the employment of the expert. The new habitat for the university library is still a long way off as it has been decided that the construction of the new university building should be put off till after the year is over.

In the above circumstances it is perhaps sufficient to communicate a copy of David's letter with enclosure to the

The P.W. Co. according to the papers about this is separately subd.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes in cursive script, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

*802
314*

Application for appointment *Home* DEPARTMENT

Transmitting to the *(Edy)*
 Syndicate of the *univ* of *Natural*
 for necessary action and application
 for appointment received from Mr.
 A. D. Dickinson, a literary expert in
 American.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, dated _____ 191

" " " " _____, " " _____ 191

READ ALSO:-

C. No. *1193* From the *2* of *9*, No. *162*, dated *Feb 6th March 1917*

Dept. of Edy

" " " " *(Sander)*, " " _____ 191

" " " " _____, " " _____ 191

ORDER.

No. *427*, dated *2. 4.* 1917

Mrs:

Mr. Dickinson's
 application received with
 the letter from the Govt:
 of India read above is
 forwarded to the Syndicate
 of the University of Natural
 for such action as they
 may consider desirable to
 take in direct communication
 with him.

*Dept with
enclosure
24/3/17*

*26.3.17
27.3.17*

28.3.17

31.3.17

To The Regt, Univ of
 Natural (Lto with ency)

*to send to Regt
(Lto with ency)*

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

191

BRAD ARJIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LET. AR. OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.E.-

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.