

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 600

DATED

6. 5. 17

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Honorarium.

Declining the grant of an ----- to Mr. R. Ry K. Sitaramayya
in respect of his publications in the popular/science series
in vernaculars.

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.
682	9.6.14	orgl		
659	3.6.14	"		
960	16.10.13	"		
880	23.9.13	"		
573	18.6.13	"		
328	11.6.13	"		
831	11.6.13	"		
192	29.5.13	"		
544	11.6.13	"		

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S. C.).	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

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C.F.—20.

HOME (EDUCATION)

DEPARTMENT.

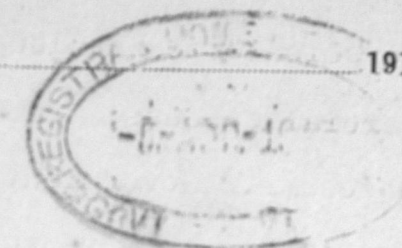
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191

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1917



Subject.

Submitting letter from M.R.Ry. K. Sitaramayya,
Editor and Manager, Suguna Grantha Rathnavali Series, requesting
to patronize the popular science series in Vernacular published
by him.

ENCLOSURES

No.

R. C.

No. 576/1917

Spare copies

Station Madras, Dated the 4th April 1917

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M.A., F.R.H.S., C.I.

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,
MADRAS.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (EDUCATION)

Department.

Sir,

In submitting herewith the enclosed letter from Mr. R. R.
K. Sitaramayya, Editor and Manager, Suguna Grantha Rathnavali
Series, I have the honour to report that I have already
patronized the books in this Series by issuing orders to my
subordinate Officers to purchase sufficient number of copies
for the use of the Institutions under their control. I shall
also take such other opportunities as offer for using these
books in Schools.

This

This Series is a well-meaning attempt on the part of the author to popularize scientific knowledge which was bound not to be a commercial success; but I doubt whether any further assistance from Government than what has already been given is necessary to a venture about which Government have not been consulted. The grant of an honorarium to M. R. Ry. Sitaramaiah would not sell his books and would not therefore help to popularize scientific knowledge. It would merely be a reward for somewhat misdirected effort.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. S. S. S. S.

for Director of Public Instruction.

Me
4-4-17.

Y. V.

K. SITARAMAIAH, B.A., L.T.,
MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

3

19, BUNDAR STREET,
GEORGE TOWN, MADRAS.

8th Jan., 1917.

To

The Director of Public Instruction,
M a d r a s.

Sir,

I have the honour to request you will be so good as to recommend my South Indian Vernacular Series for favour of a grant from the Committee of Finance of His Excellency the Governor's Council.

Enclosed is the scheme concerning this series which shows the work done as well as the work to be done in the series.

This series supplies a real want--the want of suitable books for teaching Science subject in the Vernaculars.

The importance of this series cannot be over-estimated. One special advantage is that it enables all the South Indian peoples to have the same basis in Sciences and Technology upon which a

5
be so good as to see that money does not
stand in the way of further work by a li-
beral grant.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

H. Sitoharavay
— — —

W
H. Sitoharavay
— — —

4
superstructure may easily be reared.

A good amount of work has already been done. As many as eleven primers in different South Indian Vernaculars have been published. These books have been appreciated by the press and the Public; and you were pleased to approve them as suitable for use in Schools.

I request the Government for a liberal grant, as the further work of the series stands much in need of funds. If such co-operation the Government will help the production, of a reliable scientific literature in the South Indian Vernaculars at a comparatively less cost than when it undertakes to do the thing itself.

This is the first series of its kind and I am glad of the work done till now. But any movement requires men as well as money for its complete success. Now when men are available for this useful and important work I hope the Government will

6 5
AN APPEAL TO ALL LOVERS OF INDIA.

A SERIES OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PRIMERS IN
SIMPLE VERNACULAR.

[*"The Suguna Grandha Ratnavali Series."*]

"It is my wish that the homes of my Indian subjects may be brightened by the spread of knowledge"—

H. I. M. King George V.

To

The Hon'ble The Finance Committee of His

Excellency the Governors Council,

Gentlemen, Through the Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

In announcing the publication of the eleventh book of our general series—the Malayalam Physiology Primer—we have great pleasure to place the following before all lovers of India, for their esteemed co-operation. The object of the series is to make the Western knowledge in science and technology available to our countrymen in their own Vernacular by means of primers, popular science publications &c.

It is a well-known fact that the mother tongue is the best medium for imparting knowledge. Much of the knowledge concerning sciences, arts, industries &c., is, at present, available only to the English-educated few among our countrymen. Books on such subjects as above written in simple and homely Vernacular will be helpful to mothers to train their children and to the non-English-knowing public to acquire a knowledge of the sciences and modern achievements.

If an observant child asks the mother why a dog makes noise when it runs about, whereas a cat does not, she is, in most cases, unable to answer that simple question. We have not given our women facilities. Female education is at a low ebb and we have no home libraries worth the name.

7

It has been said that the average Indian is far less informed than the average citizen of the Western countries. A very prominent cause is that there are no books in the vernacular treating of modern sciences and technology in an easy and simple language. England, France, Germany and Japan owe their prosperity to science which has been presented to their countrymen in their own languages. Although we may not hope to turn our agricultural country into an industrial one also immediately by such vernacular publications we must commence that work soon and hasten on with it.

We have, therefore, decided to publish a series of books in simple style in the chief vernacular languages of South India to make the Western knowledge and culture available to our countrymen in their own mother tongue. "Sugana Grandha Ratnavali" is the name given to this series and it consists of illustrated books on various subjects of scientific interest or technical usefulness written in simple and homely vernaculars. The series includes illustrated primers on such scientific subjects as physics, chemistry, physiology, zoology &c.; on such technical subjects as dyeing, photography, electroplating &c.; on such modern achievements of science as aeroplanes, balloons, wireless telegraphy &c.; on such commercial subjects as commercial geography &c., and books on "popular science."

Since the commencement of our efforts in this direction large sacrifices of labour as well as capital have been made and as many as eleven illustrated primers were published in different South Indian Languages. The working board consists of well-known gentlemen who have given a whole life-time for the training of the youth and who have taken enthusiastically to the work for the sake of the great cause.

The scheme as well as the books published thus far, were all appreciated by competent judges as the accompanying "opinions" show. How well they have been received by the Press and the Public must be a source of some satisfaction to all lovers of our country who have, at heart, the spread of scientific and technical knowledge among our countrymen through the vernaculars. Most of the books published have been approved by the Department of Education as suitable for school reading and the rest have been recently submitted for its consideration.

The following is the list of books already published:—(1) Telugu Botany Primer (2) Canarese Zoology Primer (3) Tamil Physiology Primer (4) Telugu Physical Science Primer (5) Tamil Zoology Primer (6) Telugu Zoology Primer (7) Telugu Physio-

38 6

logy Primer (8) Telugu Arithmetic Primer (9) Telugu Spacework Primer (10) Telugu Hindudesa Rajyangapaddati. (11) Malayalam Physiology Primer.

What remains to be done is much more than what has already been done. Several manuscripts await publication. The knowledge contained in these books was, till now, available only to those that studied in the College classes; now, however, it is available to all that know the vernacular only.

But soon after the publication of the books we found that their sales could not sustain our efforts for a speedy publication of the series. Excepting the books circulated by some public bodies among their members, they did not find their way into educated homes as we anticipated they would. This, perhaps, is not unnatural in a country like India where the percentage of educated people is very small and a taste for scientific literature amongst them has yet to be created. Science is practically unknown to the masses.

A successful and speedy publication of these books has, thus, become purely a matter of funds and all well-wishers of India are requested to contribute liberally to this important Educational movement. Some idea of the large outlay required may be formed when it is understood that the estimate for blocks diagrams, engravings &c., (for the first forty books of the series) alone, has exceeded eighteen thousands of rupees.

The initial donations of Lovers of India will be utilized for paying up outstandings and equipping ourselves with materials required for printing &c.; their annual grants will be utilized for making sustained efforts.

All contributions, small or large, are received thankfully and all of the contributors are supplied with the publications of the series free of cost; the higher contributors receive a larger number of each of them so that they may distribute the books among schools or among educated homes and poorer countrymen who may not be able to purchase them or who may not feel the desire to do so never having as yet felt the thirst for knowledge.

By offering larger number of books to the higher contributors we do not pretend to hold out any inducement to them; nor can we consider the books given to them any adequate return for their generous grants and contributions. We are not supplying any demand. Our only aim is to make the Western knowledge and culture available to our countrymen in their

9

own Vernacular without depending upon the sales of the publications, to cause the books to be spread among the people widely and thus to create a taste for scientific knowledge and observation, and scientific habits of thought in our masses. Lovers of India will, therefore, bear in mind that, in patronising our efforts, they are doing a great service to the country.

So far as we have been able to see, this is the only effective way in which scientific education can be introduced into educated homes and reliable scientific literature in the Vernaculars can be brought into existence. Unless lovers of India co-operate with us in this way useful books of this kind for which there is no market demand cannot come into existence.

English publications have almost the whole of the civilised world for their market. But our reading public being, comparatively, a very small one such co-operation as this is necessary for the progress of our people. As a well known local Daily expressed "The question is not, whether there is a demand for Vernacular Science primers but whether there is a public opinion that people should know something about science. If there is such an opinion, every educated man has a responsibility in the matter." May every lover of India realize this responsibility!

Address for communications and remittances is :—Mr. K. Sitaramaiya, B.A., L.T., (Madras Christian College.) General Editor and Manager, Suguna Grandha Ratnavali Series, 19, Bandar Street, G. T., Madras.

The importance of this movement cannot be overestimated. One special advantage is that it enables all our South Indian brethren to have the same basis and foundation in sciences and Technology upon which it will be easy for others to rear a super-structure.

Awaiting your esteemed grant,

I remain,

Yours very faithfully,

K. SITARAMA IYA,

General Editor & Manager,

S. G. R. Series.

MADRAS, }
6th Jan. 1917 }

10

A FEW OPINIONS OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC ON THE SERIES.

1. *The Madras Mail*.—".....We can conceive of no better task than this for any lover of India to undertake..."

"Mr. Sitaramaiya is doing praiseworthy work in writing science primers in the vernaculars for the benefit and enlightenment of those ignorant of English.....The author has done everything to make the exposition of the subject easy and popular. The work on which Mr. Sitaramaiya is engaged is an onerous and large undertaking and it deserves the support and patronage alike of the landed aristocracy and the Educational authorities of Madras, Mysore and Travancore." [2-10.14].

2. *The Madras Times*.—"Mr. K. Sitaramaiya of the Madras Christian College is doing good work in the way of publishing a series of scientific primers in Tamil, Telugu and Canarese..... It has been a common complaint that it is difficult to teach sciences to Indian boys because there are no vernacular text books, and the series should supply a real want...." [13-10-14].

3. *The New India*.—"..... One object in view in publishing this series is to present in all the important languages of South India, primers in scientific subjects written in simple style and illustrated with necessary pictures and diagrams. It is the first time that any attempt to publish such books is made in this part of the country and we understand that its success is due almost entirely to the untiring efforts of the general Editor Mr. Sitaramaiya, who has not spared either time or money to achieve his noble object.

These primers serve a very useful purpose and, if the present movement should be persisted in, must result in advancing to a considerable extent the knowledge of the masses in scientific matters. Of course, works like those issued in this series are till now rarely read by the people except as a matter of duty, though under the patronage of popular writers—of whom we have painfully few—they may reach a very wide circle. But all the same, few unbiassed critics can deny the utility of such publications as those under review. Besides strengthening the position of the vernaculars in several ways they enable the educationists to extend the teaching of science to the Elementary schools and, thus, add considerably to the store of knowledge of the masses in the subjects dealt with in the series. These advantages both of first rate importance under existing circumstances in thi

country must induce all patriotic persons to support the progress of the series." [10-9-14].

4. *The Indian Patriot*.—Easily understood by the woman at home and meant to be easily understood, the "Sugana Grandha Ratnavali Series" will be a scientific treasure house. From those who have the books before them, expression of admiration for their author is easily forthcoming... These books have been very highly commended by vernacular scholars. Every book that has hitherto been published has been very well done... Educational enterprises like the one which Mr. Sitaramaiya has set out deserve the support of the wealthy who ought to be able to take in large numbers of copies and distribute them to those who would read them and thus create a demand and taste. The question is not whether there is a demand for the vernacular science primers but whether there is a public opinion that the people should know something about the sciences. If there is such an opinion, every educated man has a responsibility in the matter..." [20-8-14].

5. *The Hindu*.—"...These primers are written in a simple easy and popular style, with copious illustrations and are suited to create an interest in the subjects... The author deserves to be congratulated on his primers and for the great care with which he has written them..."

6. *The Andhrapatrika*.—"Mr. K. Sitaramaiya of the Madras Christian College is rendering a great service to the country by publishing science primers in all the Dravidian Languages... There can be no doubt whatever that Mr. Sitaramaiya is quite fit to undertake such a task as this. His long experience as a teacher, his educational qualifications and the books he has already published bear out this fact. What has yet to be accomplished is far greater than what has so far been done. Co-operation of patriotic men and lovers of literature is essential for the rapid publication and distribution of these books... We wish every lover of India would co-operate with Mr. Sitaramaiya in the best way he can to make the undertaking a success." [23-9-14].

7. *The Swadesamitran*.—".....A Scientific study of this nature should certainly be spread throughout our vast country... In our daily life we often see people tasting nicely the jack fruit slices over which flies from gutters clustered. Any one that knows the nature of these flies would not do so. It is they that really serve the country who spread such useful knowledge by publishing books of this kind... We are glad that the Jagirdar of Arni has come forward to buy the books and distribute them

free to his subjects. We fully endorse the wish of Mr. Sitaramaiya that many more benevolent gentlemen will come forward to patronize this work... The style is simple, the language is clear and the illustrations are profuse. [26-4-15.]

8. *The Sasilekha* (14-10-14) says—".....There is no use of merely crying loud about patriotism from house tops. True patriotism must be shown in pushing forward such really usefull causes."

9. *The Madhura Vane, Mysore* (19-9-14) Says:—Education the only resource for the progress of a country... The prosperity of a country depends upon the character of her citizens... The study of science is the most important of all studies. It is a well-known fact that the knowledge obtained by the help of one's mother-tongue is very impressive and lasting. It is a misfortune that there are no scientific publications in Canarese language useful to the beginners... The book of Zoology which is newly brought out by Mr. K. Sitaramaiya, B.A., L.T., of the Madras Christian College is useful even to young students, children and women... The style and the language of the book are simple and sweet. It is, undoubtedly, a difficult task to express scientific ideas in such a simple language. Many Canarese authors failed in their attempt for want of public encouragement. We earnestly hope that such a mishap does not befall this attempt...."

10. Dewan Bahadur V. Subramanyam Pantulu Garu, B.A., B.L., Dt. Judge of Cuddapah says—"....."

I am glad to be able to say that the work which you are doing is most invaluable for the country..... I doubted for a time if it would be possible to render scientific treatises into popular Telugu without technical expressions and I am glad to find on reading your books, that you have shown that they could all be rendered into very beautiful, popular and readable Telugu....."

11. Mr. R. Venkatasivudu, M.A., L.T., Head Master, A. E. L. M. College, Guntur, says—".....you have written your small books. Botany, physiology, &c., so well. Your telugu is simple and chaste. I am not only glad but proud of this fact..."

12. The Hon'ble Rev. G. Pittendrigh, M.A., says:—

Your ideal is admirable. It is, as I understand it to produce Science primers in the chief South Indian Vernaculars, which may be used not only in the Elementary classes of schools, but as interesting books in the houses..... there is no doubt regarding the value of the object you have set before yourself. [9-1-15].

13. The Rev. E. M. Macphail, M.A., B.D., says:—
As regards the object with which your series is being produced there cannot be any doubt as to its importance—at least not amongst those who regard Education as a good thing, and believe in the usefulness of the dissemination of accurate knowledge. The future welfare of India depends upon the Education and enlightenment of the masses of the people and that can be achieved only through the Vernaculars. I am not likely to underestimate the value either of higher education or of English Education, but it will be a misfortune for India if while a small section of the community adopts to a greater or less extent modern ideas and ideals the masses of the people remain untouched, and thus the breach between 'the classes' and the masses' is made still wider. To reach the masses the mother tongue is required and I think you are doing a good service to your country in preparing this series. One of the greatest needs of Southern India is good wholesome vernacular literature written in a style which can be understood by the 'man in the street', or, which is even more important, by the woman in the home. The existence of books will I am sure create readers and I wish your venture all success. I hope that you will be able to find among Indian Gentlemen of means not a few who will be willing to help you and your friends by contributing towards this good work." [19-1-15.]

14. The Rev. W. Meston, M.A., B.D., says:—I sincerely trust that Mr. K. Sitaramaiya will meet with much practical sympathy in the literary efforts which for some years past he has been making and which he still continues to make. His various books are inspired by a desire to open to all the rich stores of accurate knowledge. I know that he possesses a gift for imparting knowledge in English and the manner in which this is done in his vernacular primers is well spoken of by competent judges. Mr. Sitaramaiya has spared neither time, labour, nor money in what he has already done. His time and money are limited, but as there seems to be no limit to his enthusiastic labour, I hope that the active support of many will crown that labour with the success of service." [6-2-'15.]

NOTES.

Home (Ed.) Sec.
Page 14

CN. 4B

From the D.P. J. R. C. No. 576/17, dated
4th April 1917.

Subject - Honorarium for the popular
Series in vernacular published by H. R.
H. Litaramayya.

In the Registrar

The D.P. J states that
books in the series have already been
patronised, that he is not prepared
recommend any further assistance for
Govt. by way of an honorarium to the

A draft order is submitted for approval

In this connection attention is solicited to
the notes in connection with Resolu. D
10-4-17.

which the Honble Mr A.S. Krishna Rao
moved at the meeting of the League
Council held on the 2nd April
in regard to the promotion of
vernacular scientific literature
The Additional Member however with
the resolution

LD

11-4-17 Please forward the G.O. in which
similar application from the Vignana Charya
Kandali was disposed of & also a proof
copy of the proceedings of the meeting
of the Leg. Council in which Mr. Krishna
Rao's resolution was discussed.

(Proposed)
for Leg

24-4-17

(Z)

Go. IV:-

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30.4.17.

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Su
Please see the portion
marked 'B' in Mr. Stone's
Speech in the report of the
Leg. Council Proceedings at
Ship ②. The draft is for
approval.

Q2 May 5/17

READ ALSO:-

C. No. 4 B, From the D. P. I., No. R.C. 576/17 dated the 4-4 1917.

12

191

191

ORDER.

His

No. 600, dated 6-5-1917.

With reference to his letter, dated the 6th January 1917, H.R. Ry. K. Sitaramaiaja, General Editor and Manager, "Sugana Grandha - Ratnavali Series", is informed that the Govt. regret their inability to grant him an honorarium in respect of his publications in the popular science series in vernacular.

To, H.R. Ry. K. Sitaramaiaja B.A. L.T.
19. Bundla Street.
M.T. Madras (A+0)

The D. P. I. (A+0)

recd

20-4-17

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21-4-17

9/5/17
3/5/17

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

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