

Home (1919) Department.

(C.D.)

Q. 7 SERIES.

G.O. No. *414*

DATED *2-4-19*

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tamil Lexicon.

Approving the proposal of the Syndicate, University of Madras, to discontinue, with effect from the 1st April 1919, the payment of honoraria to members (other than members ex-officio) of the Committee.

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

No. 1627

17 - MAR 1919

Enclosures.



FROM

FRANCIS DEWSBURY, ESQ., B.A., LL.B.,

Registrar, University of Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government,

Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No. 43, Home (Education), dated 13th January 1919, approving the Syndicate's proposals to appoint two Assistant Editors in lieu of a third Joint-editor on the staff of the Tamil Lexicon and requesting proposals on other points in regard to the future conduct and management of the work connected with the Lexicon, I have the honour to communicate, by direction of the Syndicate, the enclosed copy of the report on Mr. Hunter's note on Tamil Lexicon Reorganisation, prepared by the Joint-editors of the Lexicon and approved by the Lexicon Committee and subsequently adopted by the Syndicate.

Mr. Hunter's note was communicated to the Government in my letter No. 9037, dated 10th December 1917, and had reference to (1) scope of the Lexicon (2) staff and (3) the Committee. The report, it will be seen, deals solely and comprehensively with the portion of Mr. Hunter's note on the scope of the Lexicon. As regards staff, the Tamil Lexicon Committee proposes no further action as the present subordinate editorial staff is sufficient. With reference to the Committee, the Syndicate has directed me to request the sanction of the Government for the discontinuance of the payment of the honorarium of Rs 500 per annum to each member with effect from 1st April 1919. From the experience of the working of the Lexicon during the last twelve months, the Syndicate has come to the conclusion that the duties of members of the Committee have not been, and are not likely to be, of a nature so

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onerous as to justify the payment of the honoraria originally proposed. The Lexicon Committee is being informed of the proposal to discontinue this payment.

The Tamil Lexicon Committee has furnished the Syndicate with the following revised estimate of expenditure for 1919-20, which shows an increase of Rs855 over the previous estimate and to which, as reported in my letter No. 1110, dated 14th February 1919, the sum of Rs3,000 should be added to meet the honoraria to members of the Committee for the year 1919-20:-

	Rs.
Travelling charges	148
Stamps	Rs 25 0)
Printing	Rs 200)
Stationery	Rs 500)
Purchase of books	500
Rent	1,680
Establishment	16,740
Allowance	912
Furniture	50
Miscellaneous	200

T o t a l	20,855

In accordance with G.O. No. 248, Home (Education), dated 26th February 1919, application will be made at a later date to Government for such additional funds over and above the original estimate for the Tamil Lexicon for the year 1919-20 as may be necessitated by the actual expenditure during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Francis Ousshing
REGISTRAR.

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS.

Report on Mr. Mark Hunter's Note on Tamil Lexicon re-organisation.

The report of the Joint-Editors on the 'Note by Mr. Mark Hunter on Tamil Lexicon Reorganisation', as presented to the Committee in the meeting held on the 13th July 1918, was taken seriatim and adopted with amendments, as follows:-

- (1) The new Lexicon will be an improvement on Winslow in several respects, viz
 - (a) in the addition of many thousands of new words;
 - (b) in the clearer distinction of words of different origin, though having the same Tamil form;
 - (c) in greater accuracy of definition;
 - (d) in philological comparison, both by reference to derivations, and in presentation of cognate Dravidian forms;
 - (e) in increased quotations from Tamil literature and references to it, which are very numerous;
 - (f) in the transliteration of every word defined;
 - (g) in the alphabetical arrangement whereby every word can be easily found and the duplication of words in Winslow is rendered unnecessary.
- Dr. Collins and Mr. Srinivasachari are carrying on the philological work concurrently with the work of the other department.

- (2) Tamil literary words are nearly all those that have come down from the classical literature of the language with little change of meaning. New words in modern literature are largely confined to colloquial expressions, and these are gathered from printed matter as well as from individual communications from different localities and various departments. Classical words (and meanings) are referred to their sources, the older ones rather than the later ones; and colloquial words need no references except as they are local in their use. Local words are referred to their localities, especially those that are current only in Jaffna.

Thus the staff are making the Lexicon a guide to Tamil literature.

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(3) The various meanings of ^aword are given chronologically when it can be done, otherwise in logical sequence, in accordance with the action taken by the former Committee in June 1916, viz. "Regard should be had to both principles, but the historical order should generally be followed when it can be traced".

(4) Every word defined is transliterated according to the scheme adopted by the former Committee in June 1914 and reported to the Syndicate in October 1916. In this scheme each Tamil letter is represented by an English letter with or without a diacritical mark, without reference to different pronunciations of the letter.

This is in exact accordance with the 'Joint letter' of Dr. Macdonell and eight other British scholars dated the 6th September 1915.

(5) We do not consider that phonetic transcription is possible in the present state of disagreement among Tamil scholars as to the best scheme of such transcription and of differences of pronunciation in different sections of the Tamil country, as Jaffna, Tinnevely, Madura & Madras.

(6) Pure Tamil words are indicated by being printed in the line without the asterisk, while every non-Tamil word has the asterisk. Every loan word is traced to its source where possible; many such derivations not given in Winslow have been added, and many which have been given incorrectly have been set right.

(7) In the case of genuine Tamil words Dravidian cognates should be given, and that is what is being done, but they are transliterated in Roman characters, as also are Sanskrit words. We think this is the right method rather than that of printing foreign words in their respective scripts. Dravidian Philology has not yet advanced far enough to indicate common Dravidic base forms. Prof. Vikramasinghe would, we think, sustain this view.

(8) The arrangement of words is, and we think rightly, strictly alphabetical, according to the arrangement of Liddell

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and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon and many others.
There is no confusion, as each word is referred to its
source. On the other hand it saves unnecessary du-
plication of words. Many of the derivatives and com-
pounds of a word do under this arrangement follow the
primary word, cross references are freely used.

- (9) Meanings are given in Tamil wherever they are necessary for
a Tamil speaking person, but this can often be done by
synonyms. In defining a word of one language in words
of another language exact synonyms are rare, but in the
same language synonymous words are often available, and
they are sufficient. In this as in many features of
the work, the necessity of interpreting Tamil words in
English requires a different method from that of defin-
ing words in the same language.

(True copy)

Ram. D. S. S.

REGISTRAR.

Home (Ld) 18/1

Lo 4818- From the Registrar, University of Madras no 1627 D. 17.3.19

Subject:- Proposals for the future conduct and management of the work connected with the Tamil Lexicon.

The only point in the University Registrar's letter, on which the orders of Govt are required is the Syndicate's proposal to discontinue the payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee other than members ex-officio. The Syndicate considers that the duties of the members are not so onerous as to justify the payment of honoraria and its proposal may therefore be approved.

2. A draft order is submitted, which, if approved, may be sent to 'Financial' for acceptance.

The file may be sent to the D.P. Dno. for remarks. This is a further attempt to go back on the Scheme approved in G.O. No. 198, S. 16.2.18.

para 2 of the Registrar's letter - p. 1 of

para 2 ibid pp 1-2 of
x of para 3 of the
Secretary's note at p. 4
of the notes with
G.O. no 198 (Sd)
16.2.18

Amounting to Rs 3,000/-
per annum - Vide item
(1) under 'Est. of the estimated
expenditure under the Scheme
proposed by the Syndicate'
at p. 5 of G.O. no 198 (Sd)
16.2.18

Practically the Chief Editorial Staff is reducing itself to the Rev. Chandor alone. It is not free from doubt whether the present step will not portend end to the Controlling Committee also. Sri P. S. Indraswami Aiyar has already resigned & the withdrawal of remuneration may induce others also to give up the membership of the Committee - a factor which might bring back the lexicon business to the old state of affairs which has been much adversely criticised. We have no information as to whether all the work which it was originally intended, should be entrusted to this committee was actually assigned to it and how far ~~it has~~ it has been discharged.

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May 3/19

DD Mys.

The chief editorial staff of the Tamil Lexicon consists of D. Venkatesan and Mr. Chandor. The controlling committee consists of Messrs. Macphail, and Anaswami Aiyar, Pillai of the Madras Law Commission, Messrs. Kuppaswami Sastri and Srinivasulu Iyer of the Presidency College, Madras, Mr. T. Ramakrishna Pillai, retired undersecretary of the High Court,

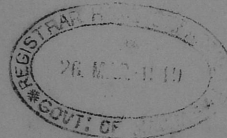
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Mr. Collins
term expires
in June &
he is not to
be re-appointed
for a further
term (as per
p. 104 of the
report).

J. Collins & Mr. Chandler. It is rather intended not contemplated that the present step will put an end to the controlling committee. The only person to whom the point of ~~the~~ remuneration might be a matter of some little importance is Mr. V. S. Swaminatha Iyer who is just retiring from his post as Principal of the Presidency College. He is the least valuable member of the controlling committee but would be ^{some} ~~very~~ ~~valuable~~ as a point assisting the editors in chief and it is possible that his services may be utilized by the Syndicate in some remuneration way suitable to his capacity and increasing years. I recommend the acceptance of the proposal made by the Syndicate, which meets six days hence and will discuss further the work of the Tamil Lexicon.

H. S. 3.19



Home (Ldr) 29/3/19

The D. P. I. recommends the acceptance of the Syndicate's proposal. For orders whether the draft order already put up may issue.

Ld 27/3/19
27/3/19

29/3/19

31/3/19

H. S. 1. 4. 19



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READ AGAIN G.O. No.
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DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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