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Educational (1905) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 661

DATED 6-10-05

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ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Catalogue of books.

Communicating to the D.P.S. for compliance
from the Government of India ^{issuing certain instructions for} on the subject of improving the form
etc., of the quarterly Catalogue of books issued by the various local
Governments.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1905.

Spare copies

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 661, 6th October 1905.

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Catalogue of Books.

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction for compliance letter from the Government of India issuing certain instructions for improving the form, etc., of the quarterly catalogue of books issued by the various local Governments.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Letter—from H. G. STOKES, Esq., Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

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

Dated—Simla, the 1st September 1905.

No.—21—30-S./Books.

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have had under consideration the question of improving the form, etc., of the quarterly catalogues of books issued by the various local Governments. A copy of a memorandum prepared by Professor L. Scherman of Munich on the subject is enclosed, together with two notes by the past and present Librarians of the India Office.

2. The Government of India have carefully considered the suggestions contained in these papers. It has not escaped notice that some of them have been already adopted by certain local Governments, but the Governor General in Council is of opinion that the form of the catalogues is susceptible of further improvement.

3. To illustrate the intentions of the Government of India a specimen form has been prepared, from which it will be observed that the matter of the catalogues has been so arranged as to get all the information required under section 18 of Act XXV of 1867 on a single leaf of the proper size for publication as an appendix to the gazettes which the Act makes necessary. In order that it may be easily convertible into catalogue slips for use in libraries the form should be printed on one side of the paper only.

4. I am to invite your attention to the following points in connection with the specimen form mentioned in the foregoing paragraph:—

- (a) the short title of the publication should be given in the original script;
- (b) the date as given on the title page, with the name of the era employed, should be entered;
- (c) the word "lithographed" should follow the size in column 2, e.g., "8°" "Litho.," when necessary, otherwise it will be assumed that the book is printed;
- (d) the number of pages in the Introduction, text, etc., should be separately specified;
- (e) it is intended that in each section of column 2 the descriptions should be arranged in order of their authors' names or of the first word of their title if the books have no real authors. The translator of a book or the person who adds a commentary to it, should not be regarded as the author;
- (f) the following marks will suffice to indicate the "size" of a book, namely, 12°, 8°, 4°, and Fol., with the addition where necessary of the term obl. [oblong];
- (g) if the commentary is in a different language from the text the fact should be stated;
- (h) it should be mentioned whether the book is illustrated or not, but it is needless to give the number of plates;
- (i) it should also be mentioned whether an edition is altered or enlarged from a previous one.

5. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, the present catalogues which are published under section 18 of Act XXV of 1867 may be revised as far as possible in accordance with the specimen form and on the lines indicated above.

ENCLOSURES.

Memorandum by Professor Scherman.

Valuable as are the quarterly catalogues of books issued by the Indian Governments, I venture to make the following few suggestions, as I believe that their usefulness might be considerably increased by rather more systematic descriptions which may easily be supplied.

In making these suggestions I am encouraged by the fact that Sir Charles Lyall and Mr. Tawney concur in recommending them.

I have drafted below a considerable number of headings, not however greater than that already in most cases supplied.

As to periodicals, I leave them out of consideration. They ought to be separately—as at present—indicated, and their cataloguing presents no difficulty. In any case almost the same headings can be used as for ordinary books.

I do not mean to imply that in the case of every book entries must be made under each heading.

Only the last heading calls for a little explanation. According to the degree of confidence that is reposed in the compilers of the lists, permission would be given or withheld to add general criticisms. But at least we ought to be able to expect statements of fact, such as the subject of the book so far as this is not evident from the title, the presence or absence of a literary introduction, the aim of the work whether popular or scientific, etc.

With a little skill it will be possible in a few lines to supply us with most valuable indications.

- (1) Main title (or main part of title) of the book in original script.
- (2) Main title (or main part of title) of the book in Roman transliteration. (The list of Madras gives, as in former times, that of Mysore, which is now discontinued, the title in both the original script and transcription.)
- (3) Language or languages in which the book is written (e.g. text in Sanskrit, commentary in English).
- (4) Whether edition, or translation, or essay.
- (5) Name of the *original* author, (a) of the text, (b) of the commentary.
- (6) Name of the *modern* editor or translator.
- (7) Publisher: (a) Place, (b) Firm.
- (8) Printer: (a) Place, (b) Firm.
- (9) Date of the work as given on the title-page, including name of era employed.
- (10) Number of pages (p) or sheets (s) in precise detail (not merely the total as now).
- (11) Whether illustrated: when by plates, the number of plates (pl) should be given.
- (12) Size (perhaps only 8°, 4° or Fol. 2° and all oblong sizes).
- (13) Number of edition. Whether altered or revised, whether by a different hand.
- (14) Price of the book.
- (15) Number of copies of which the edition consists.
- (16) Name and residence of the proprietor of the copyright (15 and 16 however, from a purely bibliographical point of view, of little interest).
- (17) Remarks on the contents, preface, etc.

Memorandum by Mr. C. H. Tawney, dated 19th December 1902.

I think that Professor Scherman's recommendations are very valuable, even though they may be "counsels of perfection."

One point I should like to emphasize. In recent provincial lists, no account is given of the style or contents of a book. One is not informed whether the novel "White Lotus" is written in good or bad Bengali, whether it gives valuable information about native family life, or is a mere orientalised version of the immortal Reynolds, who shares with Shakespeare the adoration of Indian literati. Similarly one is left to conjecture as to whether the "Nosegay of Knowledge" deals with mathematics or cookery. On the other hand it has come to my notice that books in the native vernaculars, (though such books are now being catalogued,) are not much asked for, and it is therefore of little moment that the recent innovation makes it impossible for me to mark such books with any degree of confidence.

An admirable new departure has been taken in Madras.

The titles of books are not only given in Roman characters, but in the original Grantha, Telugu, Devanagiri or Hindustani, as the case may be.

Would that this custom were followed in Burma!

It is very difficult to recognise Pal books in the form in which they appear in Burmese lists.

Fortunately, as far as I can see, most Burmese editions of Pali books are of little value.

Memorandum by Mr. F. W. Thomas, dated the 16th May 1905.

I take the opportunity of adding a few remarks. Even in their present form, the catalogues are valued in this country, on the continent, and doubtless also in India. The suggestions of Professor Scherman aim at rendering more complete and exact the information which is supplied. I venture to make a suggestion, the object of which is a saving of expense.

Under ideal conditions, no doubt, every book would be catalogued once only, and a catalogue slip would be issued with each copy: whereby would be spared an immense multiplication of labour. The Indian Governments are in advance of perhaps all others in issuing catalogues of all registered publications. Would it not be possible to make any slight changes in these which may be necessary, in order to render the descriptions of the books, as there given, suitable, when torn out or cut out, for library purposes? If this could be done, and certainly any mechanical difficulties may be easily met, the use of such authorized catalogue slips would effect a saving of money in this library, and probably also in the libraries of India and those elsewhere.

For library purposes, the information asked by Professor Scherman would be more than sufficient. It would be desirable to group together the columns required for library cataloguing, to place first the column for author, where known, and so on. But it is not worth while to enter into details in the case of a suggestion which may be thought, as a whole, impracticable.

Questions of transliteration seem to be raised by Professor Scherman's proposals; and it is impossible not to concur with Mr. Tawney's remark concerning the practice followed in Burma. I venture to suggest that, if any new schemes of transliteration should be put forward, they should not be adopted without reference here. The Indian Governments, the literary reputation of which stands so high in Europe, and which brings so much weight into the decision of such matters, would probably not wish to neglect what may be held by experts, in England and on the continent, to be the most correct principles as regards the representation of the different oriental languages in the Roman alphabet—a subject having of course a very wide interest, common to India and Europe. The subject, as is well known, presents difficulties to natives of the east, who are, perhaps in some cases, responsible for the catalogues in their present form: but the margin for difference of opinion is not in general very great.

Serial number.	Author and title: number of pages: publisher and place of publication: date of publication: date, size and price.	Printer.	Number of copies.	Registration number.	Proprietor of copyright.
ENGLISH BOOKS—Law.					
289	GHOSH (AGHOR NATH) and GHOSH (SARAT CHANDRA). On the Interpretation of Indian Statutes. Based on Indian Case Law, pp. 86. S. K. Lahiri & Co.: Calcutta, 1904. 8". Price, Rs. 10.	Sasibhusan Chakravarti.	500		
Philosophy.					
259	THE SECOND LIFE WAVE. By the Dreamer. Edited by Priyanath Mukhopadhyaya, M.A. pp. 50. Theosophical Publishing Society: Calcutta, 1904. 8". Price, As. 8.	Metcalf Press, Calcutta.	1,00		
BENGALI BOOKS—History.					
769	GUPTA (RAMPRAN). [Mogul Vansa. The Mogul Dynasty.] pp. 4, 408, 37. Bengal Medical Library: Calcutta, [October 15, 1904]. 8". Price, Rs. 2.	N. C. Ghosh	750		
768	MAJUMDAR (KEDARNATH). [Mymensingher Bibaran. The History of Mymensingh.] pp. 4, 171. Published by the author: Mymensingh, [September 15, 1904]. 8". Price, Re. 1.	Sanyal & Co., Calcutta.	1,000		

Order—No. 661, Educational, dated 6th October 1905.

Communicated to the Director of Public Instruction for compliance.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

Copy to the Financial (Books) Department.

Exd. A.F.E.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 661, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
6TH OCTOBER 1905.

[SUBJECT.—Catalogue of books registered under Act XXV of 1867.]

FINANCIAL (BOOKS) DEPARTMENT.

From the Government of India (Home Department), dated 1st September 1905,
No. 21-305-Books.

To the Educational Department.

E.K.G.—23-9-05.

A. GALLETTI—25-9-05.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that this may be circulated for the perusal of the Honourable Members.
It may be circulated to His Excellency on his return.

R.N.—27-9-05.

P. T. THARYAN—28-9-05.

H. D. TAYLOR—29-9-05.

J. T. [HOMSON]—30-9-05.

G. S. [TOKES]—2-10-05.

Yes.

H. D. TAYLOR.

The draft placed below is submitted for approval. After approval the file may be circulated to His Excellency.

R.N.—3-10-05.

P. T. THARYAN—4-10-05.

A. GALLETTI—4-10-05.

Issue.

H. D. TAYLOR—5-10-05.

[G.O., No. 661, Educational, dated 6th October 1905.]

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2.
1,500-3-12-04

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 1679 From the Govt of India H.D. No. 21-305, dated 1-9-1905.
Books

SUBJECT.

Catalogue of Books.

Order on this has issued. With reference to the instructions ⁱⁿ ~~on page 2~~ of the notes in go no. 661 of 6th October 1905, the go. may now be circulated to H.E. the Governor for perusal.

Secretary.

KKL
30.10.05

31.10.5

2-10-05

Unnecessary now, at this late stage.

1-11-05

READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated 190

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1679, From the Govt. of India, Home Dept. No. 21-305 dated 1-9-1905
books.

ORDER

P.S.

No. 661, dated 6-60- 1905.

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15. 10. 05

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DATED

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED.

Order complete.

Letter only.

Order complete with Letter.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PATENT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
ORIGINAL.

N.B. ->

- A = Print in full.
- B = Not to be printed.
- P = Print abstract only.
- = Print heading only.