

Education and Public Health

(194⁵) Department.

SERIES. Ms.

G.O. No. 1360, Edn.,

1360

Dated 5th September 1945

[Despatch Abstract.]

Government Museum - Collections of Proffessor E.E. Speight,
Purchase - Sanctioned.

Back Papers.

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

Further Papers.

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



18701

Sevastian
Aoyar, April 24. 11.

Dear Mr Thomas Austin,

Speight is disposing of his collection piece meal. Havancon recently bought a set of old china. A set of Japanese prints, a Chinese screen, and some pieces of carving, would make a good item for the Connewara Museum.

I await a call to the committee.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. Cousins

Suggest this to Dept of
Museum — Professor Speight,

015. MSH/r/r
Dr WPH

10581

VE. (M)

Invoice listing
to
28.6.45

From Dr J H Curtis, dated 24.4.45
Museum. Got. collector's A
of Professor Speight

Memo No 18707-A1. of 28.5.45

A copy of the D.O.
from Dr J H Curtis is communicated
to the S. G. M. He is requested to
consider whether the purchase of ~~the~~ his

collections mentioned for the museum
with prove a good addition to the selections
therein. If the Dept. considers it necessary to
inspect the collections himself or depute
an officer for the purpose, he was
do so.

25.4.45
h

25.4.45

26/4/45

20.4.45 S.G.M. (with encl)
Respd.
28.4.45

No. 774-2/45

(3)

REPORT OF DEPARTURE.

1. Name Dr. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,
2. Designation Superintendent,
Government Museum.
3. Probable date of departure 13th May 1945 (Evening)
4. Probable date of return to head quarters of Government 19th May 1945 (Morning)
21791
5. Districts and principal places to be visited if the officer is the head of a department. Ootacamund.



A. Aiyappan
12/5/45

Madras D/ 13th May '45. P.T.

Superintendent
Government Museum.

To The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Dept., Madras.

~~The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor.~~

The Secretary to Government, Education and
Public Health Department.

No 724-3/45
dt 19/5/45

ARRIVAL

REPORT.

1. Name Dr. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.
2. Designation Superintendent,
Government Museum.
3. Place from which coming Ootacamund 22759
4. Date of arrival at the headquarters of Government 19th May 1945 (Morning)
5. Address at headquarters: Government Museum, Madras

Report if any for the S.G.M. may be available
till 1.6.45
23/5/45

MAY 1945

(P.T.O.)

Office
dt 19/5/45

4/5/6

Cur. 18707

EXP. Dept.
A.
From Dr. J. H. Cousins dated 24.4.45.
Sub: Museum - ~~Govt.~~ - collections of
Prof. Speight.

Ref. Memo no. 18707 A-1 E du of 28.4.45.
Memo 18707 A-2 of 4.6.45
The S. G. M. is requested to

furnish the information asked for in the
memo cited above. report the action taken
on the govt memo cited above.

20
The S. G. M.
2.6.45

et/6/45

T. S. G. M.

10

Handwritten notes in Tamil script, including dates like 1875 and 1878, and various administrative markings.

C.F. 32 (a).

Department
From (Name) Sri A. Aiyappan,
M.A., Ph.D.,
Designation Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Station Madras.

Received.....Registered.....
To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George.

Enclosures: No. 44-1/45 AN dated 12th June 1945.

Sir,

18 JUN 1945
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Subject: Collections of Prof. E.E. Speight.
Reference: Government Memorandum No. 18707-A.2
dated the 4th June 1945.

26486

I made a provisional selection of antiquities and prints from Prof. Speight's vast collections which took me four days to look through. On the 1st June 1945, I received his priced list of these antiquities and prints. The price of the selected objects, according to the list, is ~~over~~ Rs. 7,000/-. Several of the articles of Japanese and Chinese origin are not correctly identified and I am now making an effort to see if this can be done. We have no local expert on Far Eastern Art and because of the War, contacts with those outside India are not possible.

P.T.O.

12
Item (4) on p. 1
7 (5)
(new) A

Meanwhile, the general question whether there should be a picture gallery attached to the Museum is also now under consideration by the Committee appointed by Government. I would therefore submit that a decision about the purchase of the selected antiquities may be postponed until after Government have issued orders on the recommendation of the Committee.

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

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent. 12.6.45

Pl. no 'A' above: The Committee met on 9.6.45 and the next meeting is likely to take place in August 45. This may lie over till 1-9-45. A, may perhaps. C.S.S. 13-6-45 see. A above will take time. SGM should be asked for a report before 'A' is decided as soon as possible. A, need not see at this stage. 80 13.6.45

The draft memo below is for app. 15.6.45. 12/6/45 15/6/45

16/10/6

13
Cor. 26486 from the S.G.M. no 24-1/45 R.N. d 12.6.45

Govt. Museum - Collection of Prof. E.E. Speight - purchase.

Mem No: 18707 A/45-3 Edn dated 15-6-45
15/6

The S.G.M. is requested to submit a detailed report on the above subject as early as possible without waiting for the recommendations of the Museum Committee regarding the establishment of picture gallery in the Museum.

perpd
K.M.
15.6.45
50
14.6.45
The S.G.M. ✓

12
12-13-14
A 24/1-18

C.F. 32.

6 - JUL 1945

A DS (a)

From (Name) Sri A. Aiyappan, M.A.,
Ph.D.,
Designation Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Station Madras.

Received _____ Registered _____
To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Enclosures:

No. 81-1/45 AN dated 6th July 1945.

Sir,

Sub: Government Museum- Collection of Prof. E.E.
Speight - Purchase

30929 P13a-11

Reference Memorandum No. 18707 A/45-3 Education
dated 15th June 1945.

Since I feel that the prices quoted by Prof.
E.E. Speight are excessive in some cases, I am request-
ing him to consider whether he will be prepared to
accept somewhat reduced prices for the selected objects.
As soon as these negotiations are completed, the report
called for will be submitted to Government.

S.P.H. (A)

The report from the S.G.M. may be awaited
till 9.8.45

16X2
9/7/45
58
9.7.45

9/7/45

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

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent.

CONFIDENTIAL

From (Name) Sri A. Aiyappan, M.A.,
Ph.D.,
Designation Superintendent,
Station Government Museum,
Madras.

Received.....Registered.....
To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Madras.

Enclosures:

No. 81-2/LSAN dated 23rd July 1945.

Sir,

Sub: Government Museum- Collections of
Professor E.E. Speight - Purchase.

Reference Government Memorandum No. 18707 A/
45-3 Education dated 15th June 1945.

In continuation of my letter No. 81-1/45
AN dated 6th July 1945 I have the honour to report
that Prof. Speight has accepted the reduced prices
offered by me for the following items selected from
among his collections of Far Eastern Art:-

	Prices originally quoted.	Prices now accepted.
	Rs.	Rs.
1) Nine Buddhist Temple scrolls..	270.	225 ✓
2) Six-panel screen, me.	1800.	1000 ✗
3) Five primitive Chinese coins:..	250.	100. ✓
4) Japanese sword guard, me	50.	50 ✓
5) Japanese prints as per list (38, in number)	2525.	2000. ✗
	Rs. 4895. =====	Rs. 3375. =====

Since neither I nor any one of my staff is
conversant with Far Eastern Art, I consulted -
Dr. J. H. Cousins who has seen the whole of Prof. Speight's
collections and has also made purchases from Prof. Speight
for the Travancore Art Gallery. The prices offered
were settled in consultation with Dr. Cousins. I under-
stand that Japanese prints (item 5) are growing rare
in the market and later on they may become difficult
to get.

In this connection, I beg to invite the atten-
tion of the Government to the possible criticism that
sufficient attention is not being given to Indian Art
in this Museum. Owing to difficulties of suitable
accommodation, staff and funds, Dr. Gravely was of the
opinion that this Museum cannot, under existing con-
ditions, expand its activities to include a picture
gallery. Though the committee appointed by Government have
not yet submitted its report, it has unanimously
agreed to recommend that a picture gallery for Indian
and

and Far Eastern Art should be added to the Museum. My recommendation that the specimens of Far Eastern Art from Prof. Speight's collection may be purchased, is made in the light of the recent discussions of the Committee. Otherwise I would have suggested that we should begin by improving our collection of Indian paintings.

3 Items 2 and 5 are very delicate objects. The prints, particularly, are not fit for continued exhibition, as the ~~prints~~ will fade very rapidly under bright natural light. They will have to be framed and carefully stored, most time, and taken out for exhibition for very short periods, ~~for which Government will be addressed later.~~ Frames and storage almirahs will cost not below Rs. 2500/- and it is essential that these should be provided, for which Government will be addressed later.

4 If Government approve of the purchase of the 5 items in the above list, I have the honour to request that additional funds amounting to Rs. 3375/- may be provided as the budget allotment for the purchase of specimens is only Rs. 800/- which will be required for the usual purchases during the course of the year.

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

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent. 23/7/45

CCF
32/64
Cm 33260 from the S.G.M. No 81-7/45 Dtd 23.7.45. E20410
Govt. Museum - Collections of Prof. E. E. Speight - Purchase.
Memo 18207 A/45 - 4 Etd 10.8.45.
The S.G.M. is requested to state whether he can give an assurance that he will be able to transport the six-panel screen from Kotacamund to Madras without damage and exhibit it in the Museum in such a way that it will not be liable to get damaged.
Dated 10.8.45
To The S.G.M.
80/8.45
10/8/45

~~A/D~~

12

Received.....Registered.....

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George.

DEPT. OF THE ARMY
Enclosures:
21 AUG 1940
Sir,

No. 119-145-AN dated 21st August 1945.

Sub: Prof. Speight's collections - Purchase.

Ref: Government Memorandum No.18707 A/45-4,
Education, dated the 10th August 1945.

37253

I shall be able to transport the screen without damage to Madras.

Damage to pictures is usually caused in two ways:

I. By fungoid and insect pests;

II. By (a) changes in humidity and temperature,
and (b) exposure to direct sun light.

I can give an assurance that damage due to causes I and II(b) will be prevented by proper preservative methods, but not that due to II(a). As we do not yet have

: 2 :

have buildings in which humidity and temperature cannot be controlled, the inevitable though slow deterioration owing to variations in humidity and temperature cannot be stopped. Some palliative measures such as the use of an air-tight exhibition case and silica-gel to absorb moisture can be tried, but they will not assure full protection, though they will reduce the risk considerably.

I may be permitted to add that no picture gallery in India yet has arrangements to regulate humidity and temperature, and the collections which these picture galleries possess are subject to the risks mentioned above. My submission is that if Madras is to have a picture gallery, it should be air-conditioned.

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

A. Aiyappa
2.8.45
Superintendent.

25/55
C.No.33260.A.45. p.17 cb

23
Education & P.H.(A) Dept.

From the S.G.M. No.81-2/45.AN dated 23-7-1945.& No. ... 119-1245 dated 21-8-1945.

Government Museum - Collections of Professor E.E.Speight - Purchase- Sanctioned.

MEMORANDUM No. 1360 Edn. dated 5.9.45
Sanction is accorded to the purchase of the under-

mentioned antiquities from Professor Speight's collections at the prices noted against them:

Antiquities:

	Prices.
1.Nine Buddhist Temple Scrolls	Rs.225/-
2.Five Primitive Chinese coins	Rs. 100/-
3. Japanese sword guard - one.	Rs. 50/-

The articles should be carefully transported from Ootacamund to Madras.

p.t.o.

24
2. The expenditure should be debited to the current year's appropriation under "36(a) Scientific Departments - Museums - A. Museum - 3. Other charges cost of specimens".

Note: Finance may see before issue.

To the S.G.M. ✓
To the A.G. thro' Fin. ✓

Govt. Museum Collections of Prof. E.E. Spright of

Goa. Purchase

p 1 CF 18701 Letter from Dr. Cousins, Dated 24.4.45
p 11 CF 26486 from the S.G.M. No 74-1/45 A.O. d 12.6.45
p 15 CF 30924 do do No 81-1/45 D.O. d 6.7.45
p 17-18 CF 33260 do do No 81-2/45 A.O. d 23.7.45

In his letter on p 1 CF, Dr. Cousins suggested that a set of Japanese prints, a Chinese screen and some pieces of carving from the collections of Prof. Spright of Goa. would be a good addition to the Govt. Museum, Madras. The S.G.M. who was asked to inspect the collections has selected the five items shown on p 17 CF. In consultation with Dr. Cousins he has fixed their price at Rs. 3375. The S.G.M. states that the Museum Committee has recommended that a picture gallery for Indian and Far Eastern Art may be added to the Museum and that it is in the light of the discussions of the Committee that he recommends the purchase of these articles. His proposal for the purchase of these articles may be approved. 2. He states that besides Rs. 3375 required for purchasing these articles an additional allotment of Rs. 2500 would be required for frames and storage almirahs. Packing and freight from Goa. to Madras etc. will be additional charges. He requests that an additional allotment of Rs. 3375 may be made in the current year's budget. The file may be sent to Fin. for remarks. The S.G.M. says that the prints (duplicates) are not to be sent.

30.7.45

are not fit for continued exhibition, as the prints will fade with exposure to natural light. Frames for them will cost a sum not ~~small~~ in proportion ^{with} the cost of the prints (Rs 2000/-). The purchase of the (Japanese) prints appears to be a doubtful proposition & need not be supported.

The SGM may be authorised to purchase only items 1 & 4.

3/7/45

The proposal of D.S., E.P.H. to omit the purchase of item (5) on p 17 CF. may be accepted.

2. From para 3 of the report of the Supdt., Govt Museum on p 18 CF, it appears that the purchase of item (2) on p 17 CF, viz six-panel screen, may also be omitted as it is stated to be very a very delicate object and it is not likely therefore either to stand its transport from Cozy to the Madras Museum or last long in the Museum.

3. If this suggestion is accepted, the cost of the remaining three articles work out to Rs 375/-, excluding ~~the cost of~~ freight and packing charges which is not given. The Supdt., Govt Museum, ^{may} meet this expenditure from the current year's appropriation of Rs 800/- for purchase of specimens and ^{apply} come up to the Govt. later on for additional funds, if necessary.

3. If, ~~however~~ ^{considered necessary} it is decided to purchase all the four items recommended by the D.S., E.P.H., the cost will be Rs 1375/-, excluding packing and freight charges. Even then, the Supdt., Govt Museum, ~~can meet the expenditure from the total provision of Rs 37,700 under "36 a Museum - 3 other charges"~~ and come up to Govt. later on for addl. funds for purchase of specimens. E.P.H. may be requested to see

Obtain orders in circulation, including below



See below
P 17 CF (The article is a very delicate object, only)

item (1)	225
(2)	100
(4)	50
	375

36 a A 3 - other charges - purchase of specimens
D.S.
6.8.45

item (2)	375 + 1000
	1375



In. no. 35764 E.P.H.
8.8.45

8 p 2 ante

[37253]

This can hardly be answered now.
27/8/45

P 21-22 CF

P 17 CF

6.8.45

35164

9.8.45

55855

In. no. 35764 E.P.H.

9 AUG 1945

2

If only items 1, 3, and 4, costing Rs. 375, are to be bought, O^r to A1 is not necessary. If item 2 or item 3 is to be bought, A1 may see. Fin. need not object to the purchase of item 2, as proposed by E.P.H., if the S.G.M. is able to give an assurance that he will be able to transport it from Cozy without damage & exhibit it in the Museum in such a way that it will not be liable to get damaged. D.S.
8.8.45 E.P.H.

This Dept. has not considered it necessary to purchase item (5) on p 17 CF. As regards item (2), the S.G.M. may be asked for a report with reference to '15' above. The draft memo below is for approval.

10/8/45

[Memo no. 13207 A/45-4 E.P.H. of 10.8.45 to 16.8.45]

From the S.G.M. No 119.1/45 A.N. 521-8-45

The S.G.M. has reported that the transport of the six-panel screen from Cozy to Madras can be made without any damage to the article in question, but is exhibited in the museum with the subject to the changes in humidity and temperature though the other damages usually caused to pictures can be prevented. To prevent the damage which may result from changes in humidity and temperature the S.G.M. suggests that the picture gallery should be air conditioned. Unless this is provided for it seems the purchase of the six-panel screen which is reported to be a very delicate object may be postponed. If this picture is not also purchased the value of the other two pictures will be Rs 375 including packing and freight charges as it can be met from the current year's appropriation, additional fund being applied for later if necessary. For order.

The file relates to the purchase of some 25% of Prof. Speight's collection. (See Ref.) The SGM's report after inspection and consultation with Dr. Cousins, is at 7/8/45. His reply from reference on 19/8/45 (on the basis of suggestion above)

is at 21, 22 of.

As items will involve too much exp³
his dept. suggests that it may be given up.

As regards item 2, a six panel screen, the SSM
says he can transport it to Madras without damage
but has a doubt whether its preservation will be
possible without an air-conditioned room. In any
case, an air-tight case will be necessary.

In view of whether this ^{screen} should be purchased.

Items 1, 3 & 4 may be purchased.

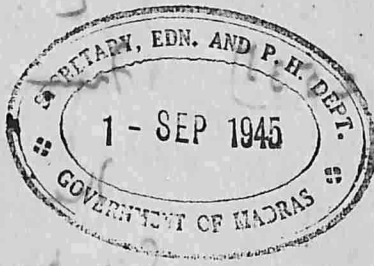
[Signature]
27/8/45

Items 1, 3 & 4
may be bought.

[Signature]

A₂

A₁
(purchased)



E.P.H(A) Dept

A draft ^{when} ~~memo~~ is subd. for approval.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Handwritten notes]