

Education and Public Health

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Library-Government Oriental Manuscripts-Library-Triennial Report for
1943-44 to 1945-46-Recorded.

(2) ✓
Government of Madras

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(Education)

G.O. No. 1000, 13th May 1947

Library—Government Oriental Manuscripts Library—Triennial Report for
1943-44 to 1945-46—Recorded.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 17th February 1947,
Re. No. 1412-G-4/46.

Order—No. 1000, Education, dated 13th May 1947.

Recorded.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

M. V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
.. Registrar, University of Madras.
.. Superintendent of Epigraphy.
.. Library of Madras Legislature.

3

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, MADRAS.

R.C. No. 1412-G-4/46, 31st August 1946.

[SUBJECT.—Library—Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras
—Report for the triennium 1943-44 to 1945-46—Reviewed.]

READ—the following paper:—

Letter from Syed Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib Bahadur, M.A., L.T., Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, University Buildings, Triplicane P.O., to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated Madras, the 30th July 1946, R.C. No. 59/46.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the working of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, during the triennium 1943-44 to 1945-46.

2. The Library, which was shifted to Tirupati in April 1942 as a measure of emergency, functioned there till 15th September 1945. At Tirupati the Library was housed in a building belonging to the Thirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams and in the usual course would have remained there till March 1946 but for the fact that the building was required by the Thirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam authorities to accommodate the Arts College newly started by them. Orders were accordingly received on 18th June 1945 for the transfer of the Library to Madras. The difficult task of shifting of the Library with all its valuable contents of a unique nature was performed by the Curator and the members of the staff with utmost care, as the occasion demanded and the transfer was effected without any loss or damage to manuscripts. The packing of all the manuscripts, books and furniture was completed by the 13th of September 1945 and the goods were transported in motor lorries to Renigunta, a distance of about 7 miles, for loading into railway waggons on 16th September 1945. They were received at Salt Cottaurs on 18th September 1945. As the electric lift in the University Library was reported to have gone out of order, it took three days to remove all the boxes, etc., to the second floor of the University Library with much difficulty, through a circuitous passage after engaging a host of coolies. The Library was opened to the public, after re-arranging the manuscripts, etc., by the end of October 1945.

3. Staff.—Since the submission of the last report for the triennium ending 1939-40, there were important additions and changes in the personnel of the staff of the Library. Although some of them do not actually relate to the triennium under report, it may not be out of place to make mention of them. In the place of the Honorary Curator, Government sanctioned in G.O. No. 544, Education, dated 27th March 1942, the appointment of a full-time Curator. Accordingly Dr. A. Sankaran, M.A., Ph.D., Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools, who was appointed as full-time Curator, took charge on 1st July 1942. He was on leave for short periods on two occasions from 19th December 1943 to 18th March 1944 and from 1st July 1945 to 31st August 1945 when Syed Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib Bahadur, M.A., L.T., Assistant Lecturer in Languages, Government Muhammadan College, Madras, officiated as Curator. In G.O. Ms. No. 2169, Education, dated 21st December 1945, Dr. A. Sankaran was appointed as Professor of Sanskrit in the Presidency College, Madras, and he handed over charge to Syed Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib Bahadur on 3rd January 1946.

Sri V. Hanumanthachar, M.A., L.T., Librarian, who was on other duty was reverted to his permanent post in the Library on 1st September 1943 replacing Sri E. Krishna Menon, M.A., L.T., permanent clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras. An additional post of a typist was sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1513, Education, dated 22nd October 1942, to which Sri P. Sampath was appointed on 5th March 1944 as Sri J. Ramachandra Pillai who was appointed on 6th June 1943 left the office on 16th February 1944 on his being selected for the Madras Ministerial Service. A temporary additional staff consisting of an Assistant Librarian with M.A. degree qualification in Persian and Arabic, a Mahrathi Pandit and a Telugu Pandit was sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1176, Education, dated 31st August 1943, for the purpose of preparing the descriptive notices in the Catalogues of Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Mahrathi Manuscripts, and strengthening the Telugu section in the Library. Accordingly P. Habeeb Khan Sahib, M.A., Urdu Munshi in the Presidency College, Madras, was appointed as Assistant Librarian on 16th October 1943. Sri S. N. Joshi, who was working on the staff of the Bharata Itihasa Samsodhaka Mandala, Poona, was appointed as Mahrathi Pandit on 1st September 1944 and as he resigned his appointment on 1st September 1945, Sri K. Thulajaram Rao was appointed as Mahrathi Pandit on 29th November 1945. Sri U. Venkataramayya was appointed as temporary Telugu Pandit with effect from 9th December 1943. In the place of Sri K. E. S. Sambanda Moorthi, clerk, who was transferred to the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Sri K. Chennappa was appointed on 30th June 1942. Sri P. Padmanabha Bhat and Sri M. Shankara Narayana Bhat were transferred to the Government College, Mangalore, as Sanskrit Pandit and Junior Kannada Pandit on 14th January 1943 and 1st August 1942 respectively and in their places Sri V. R. Kalyanasundaram and Syed Abdus Sattar Sahib were appointed and in the place of Sri S. Anantaraman, who was transferred to the Model High School, Teachers' College, Saidapet, Sri P. Subraya Bhat was appointed as Assistant Pandit. Temporary short term vacancies of Assistant Pandits were filled by qualified copyists.

4. *Preservation of manuscripts—Dusting and oiling.*—The application of earth oil and kilboo oil for palm-leaf and paper manuscripts respectively which was done in previous years for preserving manuscripts was discontinued, as it was not approved by the Enquiry Committee. The keeper of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum was addressed to recommend an effective method for preserving manuscripts, and according to his suggestion manuscripts were sprayed with the solution of para-nitrophenol and crystals of para-dichlor Benzene were kept in book racks. Enquiries were made of other Manuscripts Libraries regarding effective method of preserving manuscripts on paper and palm-leaf and most of them suggested air-conditioning. Such items of work as the dusting of manuscripts and printed books by the two dusting coolies specially employed for the purpose, fastening to manuscripts of masonite boards purchased from Messrs. Spencer and Company, Madras, renewing thread thaback and preparing fresh descriptive labels for a large number of palm-leaf manuscripts were done regularly. In G.O. No. 885, Education, dated 25th June 1943, it was ordered that paper manuscripts which were in a much injured condition should be mended at the Madras Record Office. Accordingly manuscripts were sent in batches of six at a time and 87 manuscripts were got mended during the triennium under report. Two hundred manuscripts and books were also got bound at the Government Press, Madras, and the Central Jail, Vellore. The question of opening a mending and a binding section in the Library as indicated in the Government Order has not been finally decided and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, will be addressed separately on this point.

5. *Acquisition of manuscripts.*—Notifications were published in the Fort St. George Gazette requesting the owners of manuscripts who were willing to sell their manuscripts or to give them as presentation or on loan to the Library, to correspond with the Curator, to which a few persons responded. Thus

9 manuscripts in Sanskrit containing in all 48 works and 99 manuscripts containing 46 works in Arabic, 76 in Persian and 15 works in old Urdu (Deccani) were purchased. Thirty-five manuscripts in Sanskrit and 15 in Telugu were acquired by presentation made to the Library by Sri M. S. Vaidyanathan, Pandit of this Library, Sri Dabiru Krishna Moorthi and Sri D. S. Kotiswara Rao of Chicacole, respectively. Twenty-seven works bearing on Sanskrit literature being the theses written by various research students were received as presentation to the Library from the Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools. One manuscript in Sanskrit, one in Urdu, five in Persian, and one in Tamil were got on loan and were transcribed for the Library. The number of manuscripts restored during the triennium and added to the stock in different languages was 25 in Sanskrit, 30 in Tamil, 86 in Telugu, 71 in Kannada, 7 in Arabic, 74 in Persian, and 4 in Urdu.

6. *Contingent expenses*—(Vide Statement No. 1).—"Supplies and Services," "Purchase of Printed Books" and "Other Contingencies—Miscellaneous" are the three main heads of contingent expenditure of this Library. The total allotment of Rs. 3,262 * under "Supplies and Services" was utilized mainly for re-copying injured manuscripts in different languages in the Library. In 1943-44 the amount under this head was completely spent by the end of September 1943, and as additional funds were not sanctioned, the restoration of injured manuscripts was suspended for the rest of that year. There was a slight increase in the budget allotment for the other two years. The amount spent for the purchase of manuscripts during the first two years of the triennium was very meagre as the owners of manuscripts could not be persuaded to part with their manuscripts. It was only in 1945-46 that a sum of Rs. 222 was spent for purchasing manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian (vide paragraph 5). A small sum of Rs. 100 was sanctioned each year for the purchase of printed books with which a few reference books in each language were bought. The cost of five periodicals published in India which were supplied to the Library, was paid by the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, though owing to the war, the supply of the periodicals was not so regular as before, and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, had to suspend the payment of the subscription for some journals. A large portion of the amount under "Other Contingencies—Miscellaneous" was spent towards rent for the building occupied by the Library at Tirupati, at Rs. 70 per month, and the shifting of the Library from Tirupati to Madras, Rs. 3,724. The other main items of expenditure under this head during the triennium were the purchase of chemicals for the preservation of manuscripts, wages for coolies employed for dusting manuscripts, purchase of book-stands and binding of manuscripts and books.

7. *Visitors.*—Visitors to the Library, and manuscripts and books consulted by them (vide Statement Nos. 2 and 3). The total number of visitors to the Library during the triennium under report was only 8,829 who consulted 13,979 works, which shows a fall in the number of visitors as well as the number of works consulted by them as compared with the numbers in previous years as shown below:—

	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	Total.
Number of visitors	4,105	5,628	6,054	15,787
Number of works consulted	9,833	11,776	11,549	33,157

For over two years during the triennium the Library remained at Tirupati which is a small town with a limited number of persons interested in Oriental studies. Further the Library was closed to the public for four months from 1st July to 31st October 1945 for shifting it back to Madras. Though the Library is now housed in a portion of the Madras University Buildings and adjacent to the Madras University Library its entrance is not prominent and the accommodation to visitors is very limited. The Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Madras, who conducted the annual office inspection on 18th

December 1945 has remarked in his report that the present entrance to the Library and the accommodation to the visitors are very unsatisfactory. According to the advice of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, efforts were made by the Curator to improve matters in this direction in consultation with the University authorities but they were not fruitful. These factors were to some extent responsible for the decrease in the number of visitors and I am afraid there will not be an appreciable increase in the number of visitors so long as there is no prominent and convenient entrance to the Library and better accommodation for the visitors. Works in language representing different branches of Indian Literature were consulted (*vide* Statement No. 3). Among the visitors to the Library special mention may be made of the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, who was pleased to record in the visitors' book his appreciation of the work in the Library.

8. *Loans of manuscripts and supply of transcripts.*—One hundred and thirty works were issued on loan during the triennium, of which 64 were in Sanskrit, 25 in Telugu, 12 in Tamil, 13 in English, 10 in Kannada, 5 in Persian and 1 in Malayalam, chief among the borrowers being the Professors of the Sri Venkateswara Sanskrit College, and Research Institute, Tirupati, Professors of the Oriental Research Departments of the Madras University, the Adyar Library, Madras, and the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.

9. There was a very heavy demand, especially during 1945-46 from scholars and learned institutions for the supply of copies of manuscripts available in the Library, the total number of transcripts supplied during the triennium being 75 of which 67 were in Sanskrit, 3 in Tamil and 5 in Telugu. Among those to whom copies of manuscripts were supplied mention may be made of the Universities of Allahabad, Lucknow and Travancore, the Oriental Institute, Baroda, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, the Adyar Library, Madras, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, the Virajananada Vaidika Samsthana, Lahore, His Holiness Sri Jagadguru Sankaracharya Swamigal of Kumbakonam, Pandit Jaideo Sarma of Ajmer, The Rev. J. H. Herras of Bombay, Professor Laddu of Gwalior and Sri Mahamahopadhyaya S. Anantakrishna Sastri of Calcutta. The above list shows the wide popularity that this Library has gained and still maintains among scholars in Oriental learning all over India in respect of its rich collections.

10. *Publications—Catalogues.*—On account of pressure of other work, the Government Press, Madras, could not regularly supply proofs of manuscript matter sent from the Library. Therefore much progress could not be made in the printing and publishing of catalogues and other publications.

11. *Sanskrit.*—The Descriptive Catalogue, Volume XXIX, and the Triennial Catalogue, Volume IX, containing descriptive notices for 500 and 296 works respectively, with introduction, table of contents, subject-index, author-index and general-index were printed and published during the triennium. The printing of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume XXX, containing descriptive notices for 500 works was completed, and the various indexes to these volumes were prepared and sent to the Press. Eighty-six Descriptive slips relating to the Triennial Catalogue, Volume X (a), were fair-copied and sent to the Press.

12. *Tamil.*—The printing of the text of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume VI, containing descriptive notices for manuscript works (1086 to 1473) and the Triennial Catalogue, Volume VIII, containing descriptive notices for 418 works pertaining to three trienniums from 1934-35 to 1942-43 was completed. The table of contents and subject, author and general indexes to the two volumes were prepared and their proofs were corrected and returned to the Press. Two hundred and twenty-five slips for Descriptive Catalogue, Volume VII, were revised and 263 slips relating to Descriptive Catalogue, Volumes VIII and IX were prepared. Fifteen Descriptive Catalogue Slips (Nos. 2736 to 2746) covering pages 1 to 42 relating to the historical records of the Mackenzie Collection were fair-copied and sent to the Press and slips were prepared for 21 records (Nos. 3280-3300).

13. *Telugu.*—The printing of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume IX, containing descriptive notices for 233 works with all the appendices was completed and the volume will be shortly issued from the Press. The entire text of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume X, describing 126 works was printed and the general index and table of contents were prepared. All the slips relating to the Descriptive Catalogue, Volumes XI and XII, numbering 82 and 111 works respectively were prepared, fair-copied and sent to the Press. Two hundred and forty-seven slips were also prepared for Volume XIV, containing descriptive notices on miscellaneous subjects. In the triennial series, the printing of the entire text of the Volume VI containing descriptive notices for 257 works was completed.

14. *Kannada.*—The printing of Descriptive Catalogue, Volume IV, with introduction and indexes was completed and the volume will be issued shortly from the Press. Descriptive Slips Nos. 826 to 1038 relating to Descriptive Catalogue, Volume V, were fair-copied and sent to the Press and of this the first proof of pages 1155 to 1228 was received from the Press and was returned after making the corrections.

15. *Islamic section.*—Descriptive notices were prepared for 261 works in Arabic, Persian and Urdu for the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume II and of these 34 slips were revised, fair-copied and sent to the Press for printing. The first proof of pages 1 to 35 relating to the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume II, Part I, Urdu, was received from the Press. Descriptive Slips Nos. 154 were prepared and fair-copied and are ready for the Press. Descriptive notices on about 100 manuscripts have been prepared.

16. *Mahrathi.*—A revised list was prepared of all the manuscripts in Mahrathi. A General Alphabetical Index of the works in Mahrathi and an index of all the works arranged according to subject were prepared. They will be shortly fair-copied and sent to the Press for printing. Fifty descriptive notices relating to historical letters and kaifiyats included in the Mackenzie Collection of manuscripts were also prepared.

17. *Publication of manuscripts.*—The press copy of the fourth Ahnika of the Mahābhāṣya of Patanjali with Kaiyatas Pradipa and Annambhattas Udyotana (No. 6 of the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Series) covering 138 pages was critically revised, fair-copied and sent to the Government Press for printing and the proofs of pages 153 to 221 were revised and returned to the Press. The Press copy of the matter for the fifth Ahnika covering 174 pages was prepared and it will be compared and sent to the Press as soon as the matter already with the Press is set in types. The press copy of the Sāstradīpika with commentary, Mayūkhāvali (No. 8 of the series) covering 58 pages was revised, fair-copied and sent to the Editor of the *Sri Sankaragurukula Patrika* in which it is being published. The press copy of the further matter covering 88 pages (400 to 487) was also prepared and revised. Though the *Sri Sankaragurukula Patrika* is a "quarterly" journal, the war rendered its publication difficult and rather irregular; and as only about 8 pages of each issue of that journal are ordinarily allotted for the Sāstradīpika with the Mayūkhāvali, 44 pages alone of this work have been published in the period under report. Further owing to the scarcity of paper the Editor of the *Sri Sankaragurukula Patrika* expressed his inability to continue to publish the two other works, namely, the Bālabhārata and the Śringaraprakāśa (Nos. 9 and 12 of the series) in his journal.

18. *The Mackenzie manuscripts.*—In the report for the triennium ending 1939-40 it was reported that 76 manuscripts in Telugu and 64 in Tamil and Malayalam were summarized by the Indian History department of the Madras University. During the triennium under report, the Library remained at Tirupati and according to the rules of the library, the Mackenzie manuscripts, being in much injured condition, were not issued on loan to the Indian History department. Independently of the scrutiny of these manuscripts by the Indian History department, which is likely to be from a historical point of view, the language sections of this Library, have taken up the examination of the manuscripts

according to the general plan for cataloguing manuscripts. Some progress has already been made in the Tamil section. Five hundred and seventy-five descriptive notices Nos. 2726 to 3300 have so far been prepared and of these 12 slips covering 42 pages in manuscript have been sent to the Press for printing.

19. *Printed books.*—The annual grant for the purchase of printed books during the triennium was only Rs. 100 with which a few reference books were purchased. Interest in Oriental Studies is becoming widespread in recent years and as a result old manuscripts are edited and new books are published. To be more useful to the public, the Library should be well equipped with the latest publications in Oriental learning along with manuscripts. It is, therefore, necessary that the budget provision under this head should be adequately increased. The printed books section of this Library is very poor and inadequate. To improve matters in this direction, annual sanction of a big amount is necessary.

20. *Advisory Committee.*—As the Library remained in Tirupati during the triennium under report, the activities of the Advisory Committee were suspended according to G.O. Ms. No. 750, Education, dated 29th May 1943, communicated in Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Dis. No. 2416 of 1943, dated 4th June 1943.

STATEMENT No. 1 (FINANCIAL STATEMENT).
(1943-44.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education—E. General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties.	591	3	9
XXVI. Education—F. Deduct Refunds	451	0	6

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,333	9	0
Pay of Establishment	9,073	9	0
Travelling Allowance	22	12	0
Compensatory Allowance	489	3	0
Dearness Allowance (Staff)	1,366	7	0
Do. (Menials)	214	15	1
Purchase of printed books	119	1	0
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 812	9	0
Purchase of service stamps	75	0	0
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	2,811	15	9
Total	18,319	0	10

(1944-45.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education—E. General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties	656	9	6
XXVI. Education—F. Deduct Refunds	557	4	0

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,187	5	0
Pay of Establishment	10,618	3	0
Travelling Allowance	161	9	0
Compensatory Allowance	278	16	0
War and Dearness Allowance (Staff)	3,166	12	0
Do. (Menials)	340	11	0
Purchase of printed books	109	15	3
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 1,248	15	6
Purchase of service stamps	175	0	0
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	1,791	16	3
Total	21,078	5	0

STATEMENT No. 1 (FINANCIAL STATEMENT).
(1945-46.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education—E. General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties.	939	7	0
XXVI. Education—F. Deduct Refunds	362	5	0

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,626	10	0
Pay of Establishment	10,339	2	0
Travelling Allowance	437	12	0
Compensatory Allowance	461	4	0
War and Dearness Allowance (Staff)	4,981	11	0
Do. (Menials)	515	11	0
Purchase of printed books	99	9	1
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 1,198	4	8
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	5,029	10	2
Total	26,689	9	11

STATEMENT No. 2.

	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Number of visitors	1,853	1,965	1,630
Number of visitors who came to copy and compare manuscripts	748	892	671
Number of visitors who came to assist persons engaged in comparing and also of others	294	513	263
Total	2,895	3,370	2,564

STATEMENT No. 3.

Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1943-44.

Language.	Number of manuscripts and books read.	Number of manuscripts and books copied or compared.	Total.
English	106	17	123
Sanskrit	1,558	549	2,107
Tamil	379	108	487
Telugu	1,245	578	1,823
Kannada	82	29	111
Malayalam	38	13	51
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani	15	6	21
Total	3,423	1,300	4,723

Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1944-45.

English	126	17	143
Sanskrit	1,786	660	2,446
Tamil	421	105	526
Telugu	1,376	576	1,952
Kannada	191	54	245
Malayalam	77	27	104
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani	220	88	308
Total	4,197	1,527	5,724

STATEMENT No. 3—*cont.*

Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1945-46.

Language.	Number of manuscripts and books read.	Number of manuscripts and books copied or compared.	Total.
English	54	15	69
Sanskrit	885	401	1,286
Tamil	325	104	429
Telugu	792	379	1,171
Kannada	246	78	324
Malayalam	38	14	52
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani ..	137	64	201
Total ..	2,477	1,055	3,532

R.C. No. 1412-G-4/46, dated 31st August 1946.

Reccrded.

2. For a major portion of this triennium the Library was at Tirupati to which place it was shifted in 1942 on account of war-conditions. It was shifted back to Madras only in September 1945. This accounts for the decrease in the number of visitors to the Library.

3. One hundred and ninety-three manuscripts were newly added to the Library and 297 manuscripts were copied from the existing collections during the period under review. The copying of old manuscripts in the Library is an important item of work as it helps to preserve the contents of the decay-
ing old ones.

4. Definite progress was made in indexing and cataloguing manuscripts in Mahrathi and Islamic languages as specially qualified persons were appointed for doing the work.

5. As war conditions imposed severe strain on Government Press and as the Library itself was away from Madras at Tirupati for a long time printing and publication of catalogues and manuscripts could not be speeded up.

S. R. U. SAVOOR,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, University Library Buildings
Madras.

Principals of First Grade Colleges and Teachers' Colleges.

Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools, Madras.

„ Directors of Public Instruction of other Provinces for information.

R.C.No.1412-G4/46.

Office of the
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras, Dated 17--2--1947.

From

Dr. S.R.U. Savor, M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.,
Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Tó

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department.

Sir,

Sub: ~~Library~~ Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras - Report for the triennium 1943-44 to 1945-46.

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of the Report on the working of

the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library during the triennium 1943-44 to 1945-46

together with my review.

for DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

RR.17/2.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
MADRAS.**

R.C. No. 1412-G-4/46, 31st August 1946.

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2. The Library, which was shifted to Tirupati in April 1942 as a measure of emergency, functioned there till 15th September 1945. At Tirupati the Library was housed in a building belonging to the Thirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams and in the usual course would have remained there till March 1946 but for the fact that the building was required by the Thirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam authorities to accommodate the Arts College newly started by them. Orders were accordingly received on 18th June 1945 for the transfer of the Library to Madras. The difficult task of shifting of the Library with all its valuable contents of a unique nature was performed by the Curator and the members of the staff with utmost care, as the occasion demanded and the transfer was effected without any loss or damage to manuscripts. The packing of all the manuscripts, books and furniture was completed by the 13th of September 1945 and the goods were transported in motor lorries to Renigunta, a distance of about 7 miles, for loading into railway waggons on 16th September 1945. They were received at Salt Cottaurs on 18th September 1945. As the electric lift in the University Library was reported to have gone out of order, it took three days to remove all the boxes, etc., to the second floor of the University Library with much difficulty, through a circuitous passage after engaging a host of coolies. The Library was opened to the public, after re-arranging the manuscripts, etc., by the end of October 1945.

3. **Staff.**—Since the submission of the last report for the triennium ending 1939-40, there were important additions and changes in the personnel of the staff of the Library. Although some of them do not actually relate to the triennium under report, it may not be out of place to make mention of them. In the place of the Honorary Curator, Government sanctioned in G.O. No. 544, Education, dated 27th March 1942 the appointment of a full-time Curator. Accordingly Dr. A. Sankaran, M.A., Ph.D., Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools, who was appointed as full-time Curator, took charge on 1st July 1942. He was on leave for short periods on two occasions from 19th December 1943 to 18th March 1944 and from 1st July 1945 to 31st August 1945 when Syed Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib Bahadur, M.A., L.T., Assistant Lecturer in Languages, Government Muhammadan College, Madras, officiated as Curator. In G.O. Ms. No. 2169, Education, dated 21st December 1945 Dr. A. Sankaran, was appointed as Professor of Sanskrit in the Presidency College, Madras, and he handed over charge to Syed Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib Bahadur on 3rd January 1946. Sri V. Hanumanthachar, M.A., L.T., Librarian, who was on other duty was

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not
fulfill

reverted to his permanent post in the Library on 1st September 1943 replacing Sri E. Krishna Menon, M.A., L.T., permanent clerk in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras. An additional post of a typist was sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1513, Education, dated 22nd October 1942, to which Sri P. Sampath was appointed on 5th March 1944 as Sri J. Ramachandra Pillai who was appointed on 6th June 1943 left the office on 16th February 1944 on his being selected for the Madras Ministerial Service. A temporary additional staff consisting of an Assistant Librarian with M.A. degree qualification in Persian and Arabic, a Mahrathi Pandit and a Telugu Pandit was sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 1176, Education, dated 31st August 1943 for the purpose of preparing the descriptive notices in the Catalogues of Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Mahrathi Manuscripts, and strengthening the Telugu section in the Library. Accordingly P. Habeeb Khan Sahib, M.A., Urdu Munshi in the Presidency College, Madras, was appointed as Assistant Librarian on 16th October 1943. Sri S. N. Joshi, who was working on the staff of the Bharata Itihasa Samsodhaka Mandala, Poona, was appointed as Mahrathi Pandit on 1st September 1944 and as he resigned his appointment on 1st September 1945, Sri K. Thulajaram Rao was appointed as Mahrathi Pandit on 29th November 1945. Sri U. Venkataramayya was appointed as temporary Telugu Pandit with effect from 9th December 1943. In the place of Sri K. E. S. Sambanda Moorthi, clerk, who was transferred to the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Sri K. Chennappa was appointed on 30th June 1942. Sri P. Padmanabha Bhat and Sri M. Shankara Narayana Bhat were transferred to the Government College, Mangalore as Sanskrit Pandit and Junior Kannada Pandit on 14th January 1943 and 1st August 1942 respectively and in their places Sri V. R. Kalyanasundaram and Syed Abdus Sattar Sahib were appointed and in the place of Sri S. Anantaraman, who was transferred to the Model High School, Teachers' College, Saidapet, Sri P. Subraya Bhat was appointed as Assistant Pandit. Temporary short term vacancies of Assistant Pandits were filled by qualified copyists.

4 *Preservation of manuscripts—Dusting and oiling.*—The application of earth oil and kilboo oil for palm-leaf and paper manuscripts respectively which was done in previous years for preserving manuscripts was discontinued, as it was not approved by the Enquiry Committee. The keeper of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum was addressed to recommend an effective method for preserving manuscripts, and according to his suggestion manuscripts were sprayed with the solution of para-nitrophenol and crystals of para-dichlor Benzene were kept in book racks. Enquiries were made of other Manuscripts Libraries regarding effective method of preserving manuscripts on paper and palm-leaf and most of them suggested air-conditioning. Such items of work as the dusting of manuscripts and printed books by the two dusting coolies specially employed for the purpose, fastening to manuscripts of masonite boards purchased from Messrs. Spencer and Company, Madras, renewing thread thababack and preparing fresh descriptive labels for a large number of palm-leaf manuscripts were done regularly. In G.O. No. 885, Education, dated 25th June 1943 it was ordered that paper manuscripts which were in a much injured condition should be mended at the Madras Record Office. Accordingly manuscripts were sent in batches of six at a time and 87 manuscripts were got mended during the triennium under report. Two hundred manuscripts and books were also got bound at the Government Press, Madras, and the Central Jail, Vellore. The question of opening a mending and a binding section in the Library as indicated in the Government Order has not been finally decided and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, will be addressed separately on this point.

5. *Acquisition of manuscripts.*—Notifications were published in the Fort St. George Gazette requesting the owners of manuscripts who were willing to sell their manuscripts or to give them as presentation or on loan to the Library, to correspond with the Curator, to which a few persons responded. Thus 9 manuscripts in Sanskrit containing in all 48 works and 99 manuscripts contain-

ing 46 works in Arabic, 76 in Persian and 15 works in old Urdu (Deccani) were purchased. Thirty-five manuscripts in Sanskrit and 15 in Telugu were acquired by presentation made to the Library by Sri M. S. Vaidyanathan, Pandit of this Library, Sri Dabiru Krishna Moorthi and Sri D. S. Kotiswara Rao of Chicacole, respectively. Twenty-seven works bearing on Sanskrit literature being the theses written by various research students were received as presentation to the Library from the Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools. One manuscript in Sanskrit, one in Urdu, five in Persian, and one in Tamil were got on loan and were transcribed for the Library. The number of manuscripts restored during the triennium and added to the stock in different languages was 25 in Sanskrit, 30 in Tamil, 86 in Telugu, 71 in Kannada, 7 in Arabic, 74 in Persian, and 4 in Urdu.

6. *Contingent expenses*—(Vide Statement No. 1).—"Supplies and Services," "Purchase of Printed Books" and "Other Contingencies—Miscellaneous" are the three main heads of contingent expenditure of this Library. The total allotment of Rs. 3,262 * under "Supplies and Services" was utilized mainly for re-copying injured manuscripts in different languages in the Library. In 1943-44 the amount under this head was completely spent by the end of September 1943, and as additional funds were not sanctioned, the restoration of injured manuscripts was suspended for the rest of that year. There was a slight increase in the budget allotment for the other two years. The amount spent for the purchase of manuscripts during the first two years of the triennium was very meagre as the owners of manuscripts could not be persuaded to part with their manuscripts. It was only in 1945-46 that a sum of Rs. 222 was spent for purchasing manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian (vide paragraph 5). A small sum of Rs. 100 was sanctioned each year for the purchase of printed books with which a few reference books in each language were bought. The cost of five periodicals published in India which were supplied to the Library, was paid by the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, though owing to the war, the supply of the periodicals was not so regular as before, and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, had to suspend the payment of the subscription for some journals. A large portion of the amount under "Other Contingencies—Miscellaneous" was spent towards rent for the building occupied by the Library at Tirupati, at Rs. 70 per month, and the shifting of the Library from Tirupati to Madras, Rs. 3,724. The other main items of expenditure under this head during the triennium were the purchase of chemicals for the preservation of manuscripts, wages for coolies employed for dusting manuscripts, purchase of book-stands and binding of manuscripts and books.

7. *Visitors.*—Visitors to the Library, and manuscripts and books consulted by them (vide Statement Nos. 2 and 3). The total number of visitors to the Library during the triennium under report was only 8,829 who consulted 13,979 works, which shows a fall in the number of visitors as well as the number of works consulted by them as compared with the numbers in previous years as shown below:—

	1939-40.	1938-39.	1937-38.	Total.
Number of visitors	4,105	5,628	6,054	15,787
Number of works consulted	9,833	11,776	11,548	33,157

For over two years during the triennium the Library remained at Tirupati which is a small town with a limited number of persons interested in Oriental studies. Further the Library was closed to the public for four months from 1st July to 31st October 1945 for shifting it back to Madras. Though the Library is now housed in a portion of the Madras University Buildings and adjacent to the Madras University Library its entrance is not prominent and the accommodation to visitors is very limited. The Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Madras, who conducted the annual office inspection on 18th

* Vide Statement No. 1.

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December 1945 has remarked in his report that the present entrance to the Library and the accommodation to the visitors are very unsatisfactory. According to the advice of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, efforts were made by the Curator to improve matters in this direction in consultation with the University authorities but they were not fruitful. These factors were to some extent responsible for the decrease in the number of visitors and I am afraid there will not be an appreciable increase in the number of visitors so long as there is no prominent and convenient entrance to the Library and better accommodation for the visitors. Works in language representing different branches of Indian Literature were consulted (*vide* Statement No. 3). Among the visitors to the Library special mention may be made of the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, who was pleased to record in the visitors' book his appreciation of the work in the Library.

8. *Loans of manuscripts and supply of transcripts.*—One hundred and thirty works were issued on loan during the triennium, of which 64 were in Sanskrit, 25 in Telugu, 12 in Tamil, 13 in English, 10 in Kannada, 5 in Persian and 1 in Malayalam, chief among the borrowers being the Professors of the Sri Venkateswara Sanskrit College, and Research Institute, Tirupati, Professors of the Oriental Research Departments of the Madras University, the Adyar Library, Madras, and the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.

9. There was a very heavy demand, especially during 1945-46 from scholars and learned institutions for the supply of copies of manuscripts available in the Library, the total number of transcripts supplied during the triennium being 75 of which 67 were in Sanskrit, 3 in Tamil and 5 in Telugu. Among those to whom copies of manuscripts were supplied mention may be made of the Universities of Allahabad, Lucknow and Travancore, the Oriental Institute, Baroda, the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, the Adyar Library, Madras, the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, the Virajananada Vaidika Samsthana, Lahore, His Holiness Sri Jagadguru Sankaracharya Swamigal of Kumbakonam, Pandit Jaideo Sarma of Ajmer, The Rev. J. H. Herras of Bombay, Professor Laddu of Gwalior and Sri Mahamahopadyaya S. Anantakrishna Sastri of Calcutta. The above list shows the wide popularity that this Library has gained and still maintains among scholars in Oriental learning all over India in respect of its rich collections.

10. *Publications—Catalogues.*—On account of pressure of other work, the Government Press, Madras, could not regularly supply proofs of manuscript matter sent from the Library. Therefore much progress could not be made in the printing and publishing of catalogues and other publications.

11. *Sanskrit.*—The Descriptive Catalogue, Volume XXIX, and the Triennial Catalogue, Volume IX, containing descriptive notices for 500 and 296 works respectively, with introduction, table of contents, subject-index, author-index and general-index were printed and published during the triennium. The printing of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume XXX, containing descriptive notices for 500 works was completed, and the various indexes to these volumes were prepared and sent to the Press. Eighty-six Descriptive slips relating to the Triennial Catalogue, Volume X (a), were fair-copied and sent to the Press.

12. *Tamil.*—The printing of the text of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume VI, containing descriptive notices for manuscript works (1086 to 1473) and the Triennial Catalogue, Volume VIII, containing descriptive notices for 418 works pertaining to three trienniums from 1934-35 to 1942-43 was completed. The table of contents and subject, author and general indexes to the two volumes were prepared and their proofs were corrected and returned to the Press. Two hundred and twenty-five slips for Descriptive Catalogue, Volume VII, were revised and 263 slips relating to Descriptive Catalogue, Volumes VIII and IX were prepared. Fifteen Descriptive Catalogue Slips (Nos. 2736 to 2740) covering pages 1 to 42 relating to the historical records of the Mackenzie Collection were fair-copied and sent to the Press and slips were prepared for 21 records (Nos. 3280-3300).

13. *Telugu.*—The printing of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume IX, containing descriptive notices for 233 works with all the appendices was completed and the volume will be shortly issued from the Press. The entire text of the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume X, describing 126 works was printed and the general index and table of contents were prepared. All the slips relating to the Descriptive Catalogue, Volumes XI and XII, numbering 82 and 111 works respectively were prepared, fair-copied and sent to the Press. Two hundred and forty-seven slips were also prepared for Volume XIV, containing descriptive notices on miscellaneous subjects. In the triennial series, the printing of the entire text of the Volume VI containing descriptive notices for 257 works was completed.

14. *Kannada.*—The printing of Descriptive Catalogue, Volume IV, with introduction and indexes was completed and the volume will be issued shortly from the Press. Descriptive Slips Nos. 826 to 1038 relating to Descriptive Catalogue, Volume V, were fair-copied and sent to the Press and of this the first proof of pages 1155 to 1228 was received from the Press and was returned after making the corrections.

15. *Islamic section.*—Descriptive notices were prepared for 261 works in Arabic, Persian and Urdu for the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume II and of these 34 slips were revised, fair-copied and sent to the Press for printing. The first proof of pages 1 to 35 relating to the Descriptive Catalogue, Volume II, Part I, Urdu, was received from the Press. Descriptive Slips Nos. 154 were prepared and fair-copied and are ready for the Press. Descriptive notices on about 100 manuscripts have been prepared.

16. *Mahrathi.*—A revised list was prepared of all the manuscripts in Mahrathi. A General Alphabetical Index of the works in Mahrathi and an index of all the works arranged according to subject were prepared. They will be shortly fair-copied and sent to the Press for printing. Fifty descriptive notices relating to historical letters and kaifiyats included in the Mackenzie Collection of manuscripts were also prepared.

17. *Publication of manuscripts.*—The press copy of the fourth Ahnika of the *Mahābhāṣya* of Patanjali with *Kaiyatas Pradipa* and *Annambhattas Udyotana* (No. 6 of the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Series) covering 138 pages was critically revised, fair-copied and sent to the Government Press for printing and the proofs of pages 153 to 221 were revised and returned to the Press. The Press copy of the matter for the fifth Ahnika covering 174 pages was prepared and it will be compared and sent to the Press as soon as the matter already with the Press is set in types. The press copy of the *Śāstradīpika* with commentary, *Mayūkhāvali* (No. 8 of the series) covering 58 pages was revised, fair-copied and sent to the Editor of the *Śrī Śankaragurukula Patrika* in which it is being published. The press copy of the further matter covering 88 pages (400 to 487) was also prepared and revised. Though the *Śrī Śankaragurukula Patrika* is a "quarterly" journal, the war rendered its publication difficult and rather irregular; and as only about 8 pages of each issue of that journal are ordinarily allotted for the *Śāstradīpika* with the *Mayūkhāvali*, 44 pages clone of this work have been published in the period under report. Further owing to the scarcity of paper the Editor of the *Śrī Śankaragurukula Patrika* expressed his inability to continue to publish the two other works, namely, the *Bālabhārata* and the *Śringaraprakāśa* (Nos. 9 and 12 of the series) in his journal.

18. *The Mackenzie manuscripts.*—In the report for the triennium ending 1939-40 it was reported that 76 manuscripts in Telugu and 64 in Tamil and Malayalam were summarized by the Indian History department of the Madras University. During the triennium under report, the Library remained at Tirupati and according to the rules of the library, the Mackenzie manuscripts, being in much injured condition, were not issued on loan to the Indian History department. Independently of the scrutiny of these manuscripts by the Indian History department, which is likely to be from a historical point of view, the language sections of this Library, have taken up the examination of the manuscripts

according to the general plan for cataloguing manuscripts. Some progress has already been made in the Tamil section. Five hundred and seventy-five descriptive notices Nos. 2726 to 3300 have so far been prepared and of these 12 slips covering 42 pages in manuscript have been sent to the Press for printing.

19. *Printed books.*—The annual grant for the purchase of printed books during the triennium was only Rs. 100 with which a few reference books were purchased. Interest in Oriental Studies is becoming wide spread in recent years and as a result old manuscripts are edited and new books are published. To be more useful to the public, the Library should be well equipped with the latest publications in Oriental learning along with manuscripts. It is, therefore, necessary that the budget provision under this head should be adequately increased. The printed books section of this Library is very poor and inadequate. To improve matters in this direction, annual sanction of a big amount is necessary.

20. *Advisory Committee.*—As the Library remained in Tirupati during the triennium under report, the activities of the Advisory Committee were suspended according to G.O. Ms. No. 750, Education, dated 29th May 1943, communicated in Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, Dis. No. 2416 of 1943, dated 4th June 1943.

STATEMENT No. 1. (FINANCIAL STATEMENT). (1943-44.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education. E—General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties.	591	3	9
XXVI. Education. F—Deduct Refunds	451	6	6

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,333	6	0
Pay of Establishment	9,073	5	0
Travelling Allowance	22	12	0
Compensatory Allowance	489	2	0
Dearness Allowance (Staff)	1,366	7	0
Do. (Menials)	214	15	1
Purchase of printed books	119	5	0
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 812	5	0
Purchase of service stamps	75	6	0
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	2,811	15	9
Total	18,319	7	10

(1944-45.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education—E—General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties ..	656	9	6
XXVI. Education—F—Deduct Refunds	557	4	0

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,187	5	0
Pay of Establishment	10,618	3	0
Travelling Allowance	161	9	0
Compensatory Allowance	278	10	0
War and Dearness Allowance (Staff)	3,166	12	0
Do. (Menials)	340	11	3
Purchase of printed books	109	15	3
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 1,248	12	6
Purchase of service stamps	175	0	0
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	1,791	10	3
Total	21,078	8	0

STATEMENT No. 1 (FINANCIAL STATEMENT). (1945-46.)

Receipts.

	RS.	A.	P.
XXVI. Education—E. General—Miscellaneous—Other items—Copying charges remitted by private parties.	939	7	0
XXVI. Education—F. Deduct Refunds	362	5	0

Expenditure.

Pay of Officers	3,626	10	0
Pay of Establishment	10,339	2	0
Travelling Allowance	437	12	0
Compensatory Allowance	461	4	0
War and Dearness Allowance (Staff)	4,981	11	0
Do. (Menials)	515	11	0
Purchase of printed books	99	9	1
Charges for restoring and transcribing manuscripts	* 1,198	4	8
Contingencies—Miscellaneous	5,029	10	2
Total	26,689	9	11

STATEMENT No. 2.

	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Number of visitors	1,853	1,965	1,630
Number of visitors who came to copy and compare manuscripts	748	892	671
Number of visitors who came to assist persons engaged in comparing and also of others	294	513	263
Total	2,895	3,370	2,564

STATEMENT No. 3.

Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1943-44.

Language.	Number of manuscripts and books read.	Number of manuscripts and books copied or compared.	Total.
English	106	17	123
Sanskrit	1,558	549	2,107
Tamil	379	108	487
Telugu	1,245	578	1,823
Kannada	82	29	111
Malayalam	38	13	51
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani	15	6	21
Total	3,423	1,300	4,723

Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1944-45.

English	126	17	143
Sanskrit	1,786	660	2,446
Tamil	421	105	526
Telugu	1,376	576	1,952
Kannada	191	54	245
Malayalam	77	27	104
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani	220	88	308
Total	4,197	1,527	5,724

STATEMENT No. 3—cont.
Number of manuscripts and books consulted in 1945-46.

Language.	Number of manuscripts and books read.	Number of manuscripts and books copied or compared.	Total.
English	54	15	69
Sanskrit	885	401	1,286
Tamil	325	104	429
Telugu	792	379	1,171
Kannada	246	78	324
Malayalam	38	14	52
Persian, Arabic and Hindustani	137	64	201
Total	2,477	1,055	3,532

R.C. No. 1412-G 4/46, dated 31st August 1946.

Recorded.

2. For a major portion of this triennium the Library was at Tirupati to which place it was shifted in 1942 on account of war-conditions. It was shifted back to Madras only in September 1945. This accounts for the decrease in the number of visitors to the Library.

3. One hundred and ninety-three manuscripts were newly added to the Library and 297 manuscripts were copied from the existing collections during the period under review. The copying of old manuscripts in the Library is an important item of work as it helps to preserve the contents of the decayed old ones.

4. Definite progress was made in indexing and cataloguing manuscripts in Mahrathi and Islamic languages as specially qualified persons were appointed for doing the work.

5. As war conditions imposed severe strain on Government Press and as the Library itself was away from Madras at Tirupati for a long time printing and publication of catalogues and manuscripts could not be speeded up.

S. R. U. SAVOOR,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, University Library Buildings, Madras.
,, Principals of First Grade Colleges and Teachers' Colleges.
,, Superintendent of Sanskrit Schools, Madras.
,, Directors of Public Instruction of other Provinces for information.

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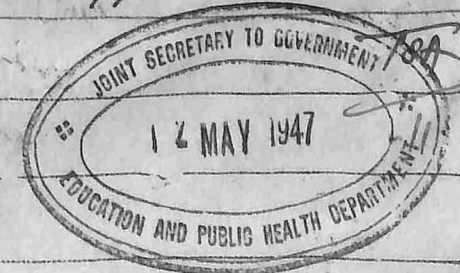
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