

E.&P.H. (194 9) Department.

2492

MS SERIES.

(1)

closed
H

G.O. NO. 2492 EDUCATION.

Dated 4th August 1949

Order at No. 13-14 d.7

[Despatch Abstract.]

MUSEUM- Government Museum, Madras-Provision of an Art Gallery for the
Museum-Renting of a portion of the building of the Victoria Technical
Institute Approved.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
M/s	1176.	Edn.	11-5-'48.				

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
M/s	3535.	Edn.	17-11-'49.				

From
Sri A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,
Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Egmore, MADRAS-8.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department,
Fort St. George,
MADRAS -9.

No. 2550-2/48

Dated the 10th November 1948.

Sir,

Sub: Museum - Superintendent Government Museum - Interview-
the Hon'ble Minister of Education.-

-oo00oo-

I have the honour to enclose copies of the
correspondence between Mr. T.R. Ramalinga Chettiar and me regarding
the presentation of four paintings, by him to the Museum. As I have
to discuss the matter with the Hon'ble Minister for Education, I may
kindly be permitted to interview the Minister. I may also be intimated
the date and time when the Hon'ble Minister will find it convenient
to grant me an interview.

Yours faithfully,

A. Aiyappan
SUPERINTENDENT.

Encl: 1

" TRUE COPY "
T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar, B.A., B.L.,
Member, Indian Constituent Assembly

COIMBATORE.
Dated the 18th October 1948.

To
The Superintendent,
Madras Museum,
MADRAS.

Dear Sir,

I see the special committee appointed has recommended the establishment of an Art gallery as part of the Museum and the development of the same. The Retrenchment and Reorganisation Committee has also endorsed the same. I do not know what steps you have taken to give effect to the recommendations. To meet the need for additional space, it was suggested that the building of the Victoria Technical Institute may be asked to be given for housing the Art gallery and the art collections of the Museum. I do not know whether the management of the institute has been approached and what reply they have given. In case arrangements are made for properly housing the Art gallery and exhibiting the pictures there in, I would like to make a present of four pictures one each of Nandalal Bose, Abinathanath Tagore, Sarda Charan Ukil and Rahman Chughtai. I will therefore be obliged if you will kindly let me know how the matter stands.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar.

" TRUE COPY "

Dr. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM,
EGMORE, MADRAS-8.

D.O. No. 2550-1/48 Ar.

Dated the 22nd October 1948.

Dear Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar,

Many thanks for your letter dated the 18th October 1948. As I told you in person the gift of four pictures by the most outstanding artists of India, which you have offered this Museum is the greatest private donation ever made to this Museum. I hope that your condition, namely the arrangement for the proper housing of an art gallery, will be satisfied by the Government starting negotiations with the authorities of the Victoria Technical Institute. Though Government recently told me that they would not spend public funds for an art gallery I have pressed for Government reconsidering their view especially in view of the recommendations on the subject by the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee.

I am seeking an interview with the Hon'ble Minister for Education on the subject of your letter. Meanwhile please let me know whether you have any objection to my releasing the news of your kind offer to the Press.

Thanking you once again for your generosity to this institution.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- A. AIYAPPAN.
SUPERINTENDENT.

To:

Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar, B.A., B.L.,
Member Indian Constituent Assembly,
COIMBATORE.

T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar, B.A. B.L.,
Member, Indian Constituent Assembly.

COIMBATORE,
Dated the 28th October 1948.

Dear Mr. Aiyappan,

Your D.O. No. 2550-1/48 dated, 22nd October 1948.

I have no objection to your publishing the offer made by me that if proper arrangements are made for housing an Art gallery to it. the four pictures

-2-

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar.

" TRUE COPY "

Government Museum,
Egmore, MADRAS -8.
Dated the 11th November 1948.

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent. 11/11/48

[Signature]

5
(V) E.J.P.H.
C₂
Memo. No. 84559-102-Edn., dated, 27-11-48.

Museum — Govt. Museum —
Request of the S. G. M. for an
interview with the Hon'ble Minister
for Education.

P. I. C. 7.

Ref: From the S. G. M., No. 2550-2/48,
dated, 10-11-48.

P. I. N. 7.

With reference to his
letter read above, the S. G. M.
is informed that he may meet
the Hon'ble Minister for Education
at 3 P.M. on Thursday the 9th December 1948.

The S. G. M.

[Signature]
27/11/48

[Signature]
27/11

[Signature]
26/11/48

[Signature]
26/11/48

[Signature]
26/11/48

6/4/48

Handwritten notes in Tamil script, likely a memorandum or report, covering several lines of text.

Handwritten signature or initials in Tamil script.

Handwritten notes in Tamil script, possibly a signature or initials.

P.5N.7.

Handwritten word or initials in Tamil script.

Mem. No. 84559-2 Cg. Edu., dated, 15-12-48.
E. P.H. 2
Museum - Govt. Museum -
Art Gallery for the Museum -
Gift of pictures by Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chelvar.

With reference to his discussion with the Honble ^{on the 7th December 1948} Minister for Education, regarding the gift of ^{certain} four pictures to the Govt. Museum, Madras, ^{of Coimbatore} by Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chelvar, the S. G. M. is informed that he may accept the offer if he can find separate room ^{in the Museum buildings} to start an Art Gallery. He is also permitted to negotiate with the ^{Council} authorities of the Victoria Technical Institute ^{as to} for their renting at least (P.T.O. a

When they will rent after
a part of their building on the
Pantheon Road for use as an
Art Gallery. The S.G.M. is
requested to submit a report to Gov.
to Gov. on his negotiations.

on the subject in due
course.

The S.G.M.

22/12

From
Sri. A. Aiyappan, M.A. Ph., D.,
Superintendent,
Government Museum,
M A D R A S.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department,
Fort, St George, M A D R A S.

L.No.2550/48-11An.

92 APR 1949

dated 16th April '49.

Sir,

Sub:- Government Museum-Art Gallery for the Museum.

Ref:- Memorandum No.84559/48-3 C2 Education 4-4-49.

The Council of the Technical Institute has agreed
that they would lend wall space in the main Hall of the Building
to hang the portraits which are expected to be removed here
from the Rajaji Hall (Memorandum No-96/47-1 Public (Political-B)
Departments 14-10-1947) The council regrets that no more
space can be found in the Main Hall. There is a long hall be-
hind the main Buildings which with slight alterations, can be
used, temporarily, as an Art Gallery, for which the Council
of the V.T.I. would charge a nominal rent of Rs.15/- per mensem.
Before this long Hall can be used as an art Gallery, it will
require slight structural alterations, the expenditure for
which, the Secretary of the V.T.I. says, should be met by
Government. I am now getting the estimate of costs
prepared to place the whole matter before Government.

E. P. H.

Yours faithfully,

A. Aiyappan
SUPERINTENDENT.

The further communication
mentioned at X above may be awaited
till 15-5-49.
25/4/49

From
Sri. A. Aiyappan, M.A., Ph.D.,
Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Egmore, MADRAS - 8.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort, St. George,
M A D R A S.

No. 2550/48-14An.

Dated the 23rd May 1949.

Sir,

Sub:- Government Museum - Art Gallery for the Museum.

Ref:- Government Memorandum No. 84559/48-3.02 Education
dated 4th April 1949. My letter No. 2550/48-11Ar.
dated 16-4-'49. P. 9 ante.



The alterations referred to in my letter No. 2550/48-11Ar.
dated 16-4-'49, are :-

- * (1) The provision of glazed shutters.
- * (2) The shifting of the entrance from the western end
to the east.
- (3) Provision four pendent lights.
- (4) Laying a foot path.

2. On further consideration of the matter, I find that
items Nos. 1 & 2 are not essential. Visitors can be directed to
the present entrance by the provision of two sign boards. The
remaining items, 3 & 4, and the sign boards will not cost more
than Rs. 300/-. Detailed estimates for these items will be prepared
for this non-recurring item of expenditure.

3. The Victoria Technical Institute would require us to
pay the monthly rent of Rs. 15/- and the current consumption
charges for the electric lights, which will not be much as the
total number of these is only about 10 and the lights would only
be sparingly used on cloudy days. I have the honour to request
that Government will be pleased to approve of the payment of the
monthly rent of Rs. 15/- for the long hall. For the loan of the
wall space in the Main Hall for hanging the paintings now in the
Rajaji Hall, the Victoria Technical Institute will not be charg-
ing us any rent. If Government approve of my proposal referred to
above, the question of appointing a peon also will arise. After
receiving the orders of Government in the matter, I shall submit
my proposals for the appointment of a peon, along with the esti-
mate referred to in para 2 of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

A. Aiyappan
SUPERINTENDENT.

86/28

2492(10) 13
 Memo. No. ~~2492~~ E.P.H. (C2).
 4-8-49.

Museum — Govt. Museum,
 Madras — Provision of an Art
 Gallery for the Museum —
 Renting of a portion of the
 building of the Victoria Technical
 Institute. Approved

P. 11 d. 7.

Ref: from the S. G. H., No.
 2550/48-14A.M., dated, 23-5-49.

P. 11 d. 7.

The Govt. approve the
 proposal of the S. G. H., ~~mentioned~~
~~in his letter cited~~, that a rent
 of Rs. 15/- (Rupees fifteen only) p.m.
 may be paid to the Council
 of the Victoria Technical
 Institute

14

Institute for a portion of
their building on Pantheon Road
to be used as an Art Gallery
of the Museum and also that a
non-recurring expenditure of
Rs. 300/- (Rupees three hundred
only) may be incurred on the
provision of electric lights,
laying a foot path and erecting
sign boards to facilitate the
hall to be used as an Art Gallery.
The Supdt. is ~~therefore~~ requested
to submit his further proposals
in the matter, mentioned in his
letter cited.

22/7/49

JP 7/4

24/7/49

26/7

To

The S.G.M.
De A. (through P.M.)

P. 11 C. 7.

Abid

Please put up the
papers in A on
B3 of.

18/11/48
Subd. the papers are
put up in the file re.
ad-hoc rules sent
to Public & Legal.

17/11/48
JP

19-11-48

S 8/11/48

He may meet me on Thursday the 9th December
at 3 P.M. In the meantime, the matter referred to in
his letter about securing the Victoria Technical Insti-
tute for the Art Gallery may be looked up and put up.

15A
24.11.48

A Draft Memo. to the S.G.M.
is submitted for approval. After use, further
action should be taken with reference to H.M.'s min.
26/11/48
JP
26/11/48
Subd

(P.T.C.)

P. 11 C. 7. d. No. 84559. From the S. G. M., No. 2550-2/48, dated, 10-11-48.

P. 11 C. 7.

Museum — Govt. — S. G. M. —
Request for an interview with
the Honble Minister for Education.

The S. G. M., in his letter
read above, has forwarded to
P. 3 C. 7. Govt. Copies of the correspondence
between Sri T. A. Ramalinga chettiar
of Coimbatore and himself
regarding the presentation by
the ~~latter~~ ^{former}, of four paintings
to the Govt. Museum and requests
permission to interview H. M. (Edu) to
discuss the matter with him. He also
requests to be informed about
the time and place of the interview.
The file may be circulated to
H. M. (Edu) for orders on the S. G. M.'s
request.

Please put up the
papers in A on
B3 of.

18/11/48
Subd. the papers are
put up in the file re.
ad-hoc rules sent
to Public & Legal.

17/11/48
JP

19-11-48

S 8/11/48

He may meet me on Thursday the 9th December
at 3 P.M. In the meantime, the matter referred to in
his letter about securing the Victoria Technical Insti-
tute for the Art Gallery may be looked up and put up.

15A
24.11.48

A Draft Memo. to the S. G. M.
is submitted for approval. After use, further
action should be taken with reference to H.M.'s min.
26/11/48
JP
26/11/48
Subd

(P.T.C.)

Issued as Memo. No. 84559-1 C2. Edu., dated, 27-11-48 P. 507.

G.O. No. 1176. Edu., dated, 11-5-48, which is required for the examination of this case, is put up in another file and subd. to A.S. Its return may be awaited. The file has been returned.
27/11/48
JP
29-11-48

P.T.O.

3
10

C2

Sub:- Art Gallery - Government Museum - Interview.

Please see the H.M.'s minute on page 1 ante.

The Special Committee appointed by the Govt. in 1945 for suggesting improvements to the Govt. Museum, Madras, recommended among other things, that an Art Gallery should be established and that the Victoria Technical Institute building in the Pantheon Road was eminently suitable for being used as an Art Gallery.

1045-210665-270-11

9th (11) on 1630- (A) (G.O. No. 1176 Edu. 11-5-48)

pp 141-142-4- (A)

2. The S.G.M. suggested ~~to the Board~~ ^{in connection with the above recommendation of the Victoria Technical Institute} that negotiations might be started with the Council on the following points:

(1) whether the ^{Victoria Technical Institute} ~~V.T.I.~~ would agree to use their building on the Pantheon Road as a picture gallery;

(2) If they agreed to this, whether they would agree to set apart a part of their funds towards

(a) the initial expenditure

& (b) the recurring expenditure of the picture gallery

and (3) In case the Govt. and the Council of the ^{Institute} ~~V.T.I.~~ came to an agreement on the question of the buildings and the funds, details regarding the management of the Art Gallery would have to be worked out.

The S.G.M. also observed, that if the V.T.I. Council agreed ~~agreed~~ to the first suggestion the most stupendous difficulty in the way of the formation of the Art Gallery namely the cost of a ~~ix~~ large building would be got over and it was hoped that the V.T.I. Council would not have any serious objection to the suggestion.

P 142-4- (A)

3. Before any negotiations were started with the ^{Council of the} ~~V.T.I.~~, the then Joint Secretary (Mr. P.S. Viswanatha Ayyar I.C.S.) visited the Govt. Museum on 11-8-1947 in connection with the recommendations of the Special Committee and ~~recommended~~ ^{recommended} as

4
follows on the subject relating to Art Gallery:

"After discussion it was felt that though this was ^a highly desirable item it was better to try and run it on public support and on a non-official basis and not to make it a charge on Government revenues unless all other sources were first explored."
In the circumstances the Govt. did not propose to take any action on this recommendation.

4. Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar is willing to give a gift of 4 pictures by the most outstanding artists of India on condition, ~~namely, the~~ ^{that} arrangement for the proper housing of an Art Gallery will be ~~satisfied~~ ^{made} by ~~the~~ Government starting negotiations with the authorities of the Victoria Technical Institute.

5. Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar was the Chairman of the R & R Committee. He refers in this connection to the recommendation of the Committee ^{in the Museum} regarding the establishment of an Art Gallery. The recommendation of the R & R Committee runs as follows:

"The Committee considers that the development of an Art Gallery and an Arts Section of the Museum will have to be taken up soon and in a place like Madras with its own civilization and development of fine arts special development can be expected only in a properly equipped Museum."

6. The Supdt. Govt. Museum, states that on the question of an Art Gallery for this Province, he informed the R & R Committee of the views of the Govt. expressed on the subject at "Y" above. He states that since the R. & R. Committee has however ~~expressed~~ pressed the recommendation, the Govt. may reconsider the matter favourably. For orders whether the question will be reconsidered and the negotiations started with the Council of the Victoria Technical Institute on the lines suggested by the S.G.M. ~~at 11/12/48~~ ^{in para 2 on page 3 ante}

d.No. 84559/2/48.
5/ (11)
The file may be circulated to H.M. (Edn.) in connection with the interview with the S.G.M. on 9-12-48.

I understand that Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar has offered the following four pictures:-

- (1) The Head of Shiva by Nandalal Bose,
- (2) A View of a mountain by Avanendranath Tagore,
- (3) A female beggar on silk by Saradacharan Ukil, &
- (4) A woman by Rahman Chughtai.

Of these, the Superintendent tells me that (2) and (4) are very famous things and any Museum will be anxious to have them.

We may accept ~~these~~ the offer of these pictures, but the condition that has been put by Mr.T.A.Ramalingam Chettiar is that we must start an Art Gallery with these pictures. If the Superintendent of the Museum can find separate room to start an Art Gallery, we may accept these pictures.

He wants permission to speak it over to the authorities of the Victoria Technical Institute, so that they may rent atleast a part of the building for the Art Gallery. He also tells me that it has been ~~built~~ beautifully built just to suit an Art Gallery. I think there is no objection to allowing him to talk over with them. He may ^{be asked} do so and report.



A draft memo. to the S.G.M. is submitted for approval

Issued as Memo No. 84559-2C2, Edn. d., 15-12-48.

Subd. the S. G. M.'s proposals
may be accepted in this Dept. and the
file

P. 9d.7.

Flrid

P. 11 d. 7.

Ibid

P. 110.7.

E. J. P. H. W. o. No.
84559/48-5C2



жана 2, pH CF

Photo' C3 1/5.7.49
W.V.E para 2. above

P.W.D No. No.

5545 C/49-1



file sent to P.W. and Finance Departments
for remarks prior to circulation.

29/6/49

2962

5
30-6-69

$$S \mid \frac{2}{27} \mid Pw$$

P. 6-D (C)

This Dept may agree to the proposal to pay a rent of Rs. 15 p.m for the hall in the building of the Victoria Technical Institute which is proposed to be used the Superintendent, Govt. Museum has proposed to use as an Art Gallery. The payment of current consumption charges may also be agreed to. The above rent is reported to be only a nominal rent. Hence it is perhaps not necessary to insist on obtaining a certificate of reasonableness of rent from the E.E., P.W.D. Concerned.

2. Regarding the non-recurring expenditure of about Rs. 300/- to be incurred by the Govt in providing four pendant lights and in laying a foot path, the S.G.M states that detailed estimates will be prepared. The E.P.H Dept will no doubt send the file to this Dept when the detailed estimates are received.

3. The file may be passed on to Finance.

5748

$$\frac{C_{10}}{5.9.49}$$

Ans
5.7.44

~~As~~

67.29 Fr

Fin (Exp)

Sri T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar offered to make a gift of 4 pictures in case arrangements ~~was~~^{would be} made for properly housing an Art Gallery and exhibiting the pictures therein. The previous H.M. (Education) after

discussing the matter with the Superintendent, Government Museum, minuted that if the Superintendent of the Museum could find separate room to start an Art Gallery, the pictures might be accepted and that the Superintendent, Government Museum might also be allowed to negotiate with the authorities of the Victoria Technical Institute as to whether they will rent a part of their building on the Pantheon Road for use as an Art Gallery. After consulting the council of the Victoria Technical Institute, the Superintendent, Government Museum has proposed the renting of a hall in the building of the Victoria Technical Institute on a monthly rental of Rs.15/- per mensem. If the proposal is approved, he would later submit proposals for the appointment of a peon and estimates for about Rs.300/- for provision of lights, laying a foot path and erecting signboards. The current consumption charges also will have to be met by Government.

2. A similar proposal to establish an Art Gallery was previously considered in 1946 with reference to the recommendation of a special committee appointed to suggest improvements to the Government Museum. The then Joint Secretary, E & P.H., after visiting the museum noted as follows:-

"After discussion it was felt that though this was a highly desirable item it was better to try and run it on public support and on a non-official basis and not to make it a charge on Government revenue unless all other sources were first explored".

Accordingly the proposal was not approved by Government. The question, however, appears to have been taken up separately for reconsideration with reference to the recommendation of the Retrenchment and Reorganisation Committee. The Government finally decide not to start an Art gallery at the cost of Provincial revenues, ^{may} the present proposal ^{may} have to be dropped. E & P.H. may, therefore, await a decision in the other file.

Para 6 imp. 4 above the marginal remarks against it suggest that there was once a proposal to construct a separate block for the Art Gallery. Para-4-A above is all the commitment for the near future in respect of the Art Gallery this dept. need not object.

15.7.49. E.P.H.



Fin no 44539 2pc-1

d. No. 84559 C2/48

Please see the note of P.W.D. on page 7 ante and the summarising note of Fin. on pages 7-8 ante. The position is as explained by the secy., Fin. Dept. at the foot of page 8 ante. A draft Memo., accepting the proposal of the S.G.H. Contained in his letter on page 11 c.7., is submitted for approval. May be circulated to H.M.(Edu) as already suggested at X at the top of page 7 ante.

22/7/49

25/7/49

26-7-49

26/7/49

H.N.(E+L)

28/7



